

Chapter 6: Home Rule Movement

Short Answers

CSM 02: History of India and Indian National Movement

Compiled by Prof. Ashok Vishandass

This chapter contains:

- Indian Home Rule Society
- Revolutionary Activities
- Revolutionary Activities Abroad
- Swadeshi Movement and Boycott Movement
- Failure of Swadeshi and Boycott Movement
- Repressing Swadeshi Movement
- Anti-Partition Campaign under Extremists
- International Influence
- Era of Militant Nationalism
- Seditious Meeting

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1. Indian Home Rule Society

The **Indian Home Rule Society (IHRS)** was a **British-based Indian organization** that sought to promote **self-rule in British India**. It was founded in London in **1905**. **Shyamji Krishna Varma** founded the organization with the support of a number of prominent Indian nationalists in Britain at the time, including Bhikaji Cama, Dadabhai Naoroji, and S.R. Rana, and was intended to be a rival organization to the British Committee of the Indian National Congress, which was the main avenue of loyalist opinion at the time. In this article, we will discuss the **Indian Home Rule Society (1905)** which will be helpful for UPSC exam preparation.

1.1 Background

- **Lokmanya Tilak's** work left a lasting impression on Shyamji Krishna Varma. During the Age Bill Controversy of 1890, he was a staunch supporter of Tilak.
- Shyamji established friendly relations with Tilak, inspiring him to join the **Nationalist Movement** in the following decade.
- The Congress Party's timid and futile cooperative policy did not appeal to Shyamji. He despised the Congress Party's petitioning, praying, protesting, cooperating, and collaborating policy, which he saw as demeaning and shameful.
- The British Government's atrocities against Indians during the **Poona plague crisis in 1897** stunned and shocked Shyamji. At this point in his life, he saw full justification for the Nathu brothers' and Tilak's Nationalist stance.
- When he saw them sentenced to barbaric imprisonment, he saw his future as well, ending up in prison-like others. His immediate decision was to abandon his lucrative career and immigrate to England in order to fight for freedom from afar.
- He had only one goal in mind: to train and inspire India's young sons and daughters to fight for the liberty of their Motherland.
- He resolved to devote all of his money, time, scholarship, literary power, and, most importantly, his life to selflessly serving his Motherland.
- He intended to launch uncompromising propaganda in order to gain support for India's independence in England and Europe.
- When he first arrived in London, he stayed at the Inner Temple and spent his spare time reading Herbert Spencer's writings. He purchased an expensive house in HighGate in 1900.
- **His house became a base for all of India's political leaders.** Gandhiji, Lenin, Tilak, Lala Lajpat Rai, Gopal Krishna Gokhale, and other leaders of the Indian Independence Movement paid him visits to discuss the Indian Independence Movement.
- He avoided the Indian National Congress by maintaining contact with rationalists, free thinkers, national and social democrats, socialists, Irish republicans, and others.
- When a free press defense committee was formed in 1898 to resist police attacks on the liberty of all opinions, Shyamji generously contributed to its funds.
- Shyamji began a new career as a full-fledged propagandist in 1905. He made his debut with the publication of the first issue of his English monthly "**The Indian Sociologist**," an organ of liberty and political, social, and religious reform.

- This powerful ideological monthly played a significant role in mobilizing the masses against British rule and inspiring many more intellectual revolutionaries in India and abroad to fight for India's independence.
- Shyamji founded a new organization called "**The Indian Home Rule Society**" on February 18, 1905.

1.2 Features

- On February 18, 1905, the Indian Home Rule Society, or IHRS, was founded in London **to promote the cause of self-rule in British India.**
- It was meant to be a rival organization to the British Committee of the Indian National Congress, which was the main outlet for loyalist sentiment at the time.
- The Indian Home Rule Society was a metropolitan organization **modeled after Victorian-era public institutions.**
- It **had a written constitution and stated goals** of securing Home Rule for India and promoting genuine Indian propaganda in this country by any means possible.
- The IHRS was open to Indians only and enjoyed widespread support among Indian students and other Indian populations in the United Kingdom.
- It **recruited young Indian activists** and maintained close ties with Indian revolutionary movements.
- The first meeting was held at Shyamji's residence in Highgate, and the meeting unanimously decided to establish "**The Indian Home Rule Society**" **with the goal of:**
 - Ensuring India's sovereignty.
 - Carrying out propaganda in England using all available means in order to achieve the same goal.
 - Spreading of knowledge of freedom and national unity among the people of India.

1.3 About Shyamji Krishna Varma

- **Shyamji Krishna Varma (4 October 1857 – 30 March 1930)** was a London-based Indian revolutionary fighter, patriot, lawyer, and journalist who founded the Indian Home Rule Society, India House, and The Indian Sociologist.
- Krishna Varma, a Balliol College graduate, was a well-known scholar of Sanskrit and other Indian languages. He had a brief legal career in India and served as the Divan of several Indian princely states.
- He had disagreements with Crown authority, was dismissed as a result of a rumored conspiracy of British colonial officials in Junagadh, and chose to return to England.
- Shyamji founded the:
 - **Indian Home Rule Society:** The Indian Home Rule Society (IHRS) was an Indian organization founded in London in 1905 to promote self-rule in British India. Shyamji Krishna Varma founded the organization with the help of Bhikaji Cama, Dadabhai Naoroji, and S.R. Rana.
 - **India House:** In London, he founded India House. It was a student residence that operated between 1905 and 1910 in order to promote nationalist views among Indian students in the United Kingdom.

- **Indian Sociologist:** In London, he founded 'The Indian Sociologist', a monthly publication that became a forum for nationalist ideas.

1.4 Conclusion

Shyamji founded the "Indian Home Rule Society" which served as the epicenter for recruiting young Indian activists and carrying on the propaganda in England for securing home rule for India by maintaining close ties with Indian revolutionary movements. It helped in spreading knowledge of freedom and national unity among the people of India.

2. Revolutionary Activities

India's struggle for independence was accompanied by many **revolutionary activities** that had been raised from different parts of the country. Revolutionaries are those people who believed in **overthrowing the British Government** by means of mass movements. Several internal and external influences worked on the minds of the youth in India during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, resulting in the emergence of revolutionary ideology. **The revolutionary movement in India began in Bengal, Maharashtra, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Orissa, Bihar, and Madras provinces, but it was primarily active in Bengal, Maharashtra, and Punjab** because these regions were more politically active than the rest of the country. In this article, we will discuss the **Revolutionaries Activities** which will be helpful for UPSC exam preparation.

2.1 Reasons for Emergence of Revolutionary Activities

- The activities of revolutionary heroism started as a **by-product of the growth of militant nationalism**. The first phase acquired a more activist form as a fallout of the Swadeshi and Boycott movement and continued till 1917.
- The **second phase** began as a result of the fallout of the Non-cooperation **Movement**.
- After the open movement's demise, the younger nationalists who had been a part of it found it impossible to drop out and fade into the background.
- The **1905 Bengal Partition** was forced in the teeth of moderate protest. A group of nationalism had now realized the futility of prayer and petition to the Government.
- They were convinced with the extremist's critique of moderate politics and sneered at the political mendicancy of Congress moderates.
- The extremist had rightly emphasized the need to go beyond prayer and petition and advocate the need for a more militant program. They had put forward the ideas of boycott and passive resistance. They had aroused the youth for direct and self-sacrifice.
- The extremists were unable to give a practical expression to these ideas. They had also failed to organize any effective body that could direct the revolutionary energies of the youth in a positive direction.
- Moreover, the youth had participated actively in the Swadeshi Movement in the hope that the extremist's methods of boycott, swadeshi and passive resistance would lead the country to Swaraj.
 - Instead, the Swadeshi Movement not only failed in achieving the goal of Swaraj, but it could also even reverse the partition of Bengal.
- Another factor that contributed to the rise of revolutionary terrorism was the **brutal repression of the Swadeshi by the government**. The **Congress split in 1907** facilitated this further and the government launched an all-out attack on the extremists.
- Since all avenues of peaceful political protest were closed to them due to government repression, the youth believed that in order to achieve nationalist goals of independence, the British had to be physically expelled.

2.2 Ideology

- The activities, writings, and speeches of this period's revolutionaries reveal a strong religious bias, romanticism, and emotionalism.
- Many of them were convinced that "pure political propaganda would not suffice for the country, and that people needed to be spiritually prepared to face dangers." However, their religion was not the same as that of the majority of the country's people.
- There were flaws in the early revolutionaries' ideology, as well as flaws in their reliance on religious teachings to advance the cause of revolution, but it is also beyond doubt that the emancipation of India through armed struggle was the supreme goal for the staunch revolutionaries.
- This aspect should not be overlooked or undervalued when evaluating the early stages of the revolutionary movement.
- Individual heroic actions such as **organizing assassinations of unpopular officials as well as traitors** and informers among the revolutionaries themselves; **conducting swadeshi dacoities** to raise funds for revolutionary activities; and (during the First World War) **organizing military conspiracies** with the expectation of assistance from Britain's enemies were all part of the revolutionary methodology.
- The plan was to instill fear in the rulers' hearts, rouse the people, and remove their fear of authority.
- The revolutionaries hoped to inspire the populace by appealing to patriotism, particularly among the idealistic youth who would eventually drive the British out.
- They began the search for a revolutionary ideology and a revolutionary program by drawing lessons from our own history as well as the histories of other countries' revolutions.
- They did not preach social reform, but rather broke down the barriers of time-honored customs. They revolted against anything that attempted to obstruct the revolutionary movement's onward march.

2.3 Bengal

- The first revolutionary organizations were formed in **1902 in Midnapore** (under **Jnanendra Nath Basu**) and **Calcutta** (under **Promotha Mitter** and including **Jatindranath Banerjee, Barindra Kumar Ghosh**, and others).
- In **April 1906**, **Anushilan's inner circle** (Barindra Kumar Ghosh, Bhupendranath Dutta) launched the weekly **Yugantar** and staged a few ill-fated 'actions.' By 1905-06, a number of newspapers were advocating revolutionary violence.
- **Sandhya and Yugantar in Bengal, and Kal in Maharashtra**, were among the newspapers and journals advocating revolutionary activity.
- The Yugantar group made an **abortive attempt on the life** of a very unpopular British official, **Sir Fuller** (the first Lieutenant Governor of the new province of Eastern Bengal and Assam, though he had resigned from the post on August 20, 1906).
- There were attempts to **derail the train** carrying the lieutenant-governor, **Sri Andrew Fraser, in December 1907**.
- **Prafulla Chaki and Khudiram Bose** threw a bomb at a carriage carrying a particularly sadistic **white judge, Kingsford, in Muzaffarpur in 1908**.

- There was no sign of Kingsford in the carriage. Instead, two British ladies were assassinated.
- Prafulla Chaki committed suicide, while Khudiram Bose was tried and executed.
- The entire Anushilan group was apprehended, including the Ghosh brothers, Aurobindo and Barindra, who were tried in the Alipore conspiracy case, which was also known as the **Manicktolla bomb conspiracy or the Muraripukur conspiracy**.
- **Barrah dacoity** was founded in 1908 by **Dacca Anushilan** under the leadership of **Pulin Das** to raise funds for revolutionary activities.
- **In December 1912, Rashbehari Bose and Sachin Sanyal** staged a spectacular **bomb attack** on **Viceroy Hardinge** as he made his official entry into the new capital of Delhi in a procession through Chandni Chowk.
- The western Anushilan Samiti found a good leader in Jatindranath Mukherjee, also known as **Bagha Jatin**, and rose to prominence as the **Jugantar** (or Yugantar).
- Jatin revitalized connections between the central organization in Calcutta and other locations in Bengal, Bihar, and Orissa.
- During World War I, the Jugantar party arranged for the import of German arms and ammunition through sympathizers and revolutionaries in other countries.
- In what has come to be known as the '**German Plot**' or the '**Zimmerman Plan**,' Jatin asked Rashbehari Bose to take command of Upper India in order to foment an all-India insurgency.

2.4 Maharashtra

- The first of the revolutionary activities in Maharashtra was the organization of the **Ramosi Peasant Force** by **Vasudev Balwant Phadke** in **1879**, which aimed to rid the country of the British by instigating an armed revolt by disrupting the communication lines.
- **Bal Gangadhar Tilak** spread a spirit of militant nationalism, including the use of violence, through Ganpati and Shivaji festivals, as well as his journals **Kesari** and **Mahratta**, during the 1890s.
 - In 1897, two of his disciples, the **Chapekar brothers, Damodar and Balkrishna**, murdered the **Poona Plague Commissioner, Rand**, and one **Lt. Ayerst**.
- **Vinayak Damodar Savarkar and his brother Ganesh Damodar Savarkar** founded the **Abhinav Bharat Society** (Young India Society) in 1904.
 - It was founded as "**Mitra Mela**" in Nasik while Vinayak Savarkar was still a student at Fergusson College in Pune.
 - The society grew to include several hundred revolutionaries and political activists with branches in various parts of India, eventually extending to London after Savarkar went to study law.
- Following a few assassinations of British officials, the Savarkar brothers were convicted and imprisoned. In 1952, the society was formally disbanded.
- **Madanlal Dhingra assassinated Lt. Col. William Curzon-Wyllie**, the political aide-de-camp to the Secretary of State for India, on the evening of **1 July 1909**, at a meeting of Indian students at the Imperial Institute in London. Dhingra was arrested, tried, and executed.

- **Anant Laxman Kanhare assassinated AMT Jackson**, the district magistrate of Nasik, in India in the historic "**Nasik Conspiracy Case**" in 1909.

2.5 Punjab

- Extremism in Punjab was fueled by issues such as **frequent famines** combined with an **increase in land revenue and irrigation tax**, zamindars' practice of 'begar,' and events in Bengal.
- **Lala Lajpat Rai**, who brought out **Punjabi**, and **Ajit Singh** (Bhagat Singh's uncle), who organized the extremist **Anjuman-i-Mohisban-i-Watan** in Lahore with its journal, **Bharat Mata**, were among those active here.
- Extremism in Punjab died down quickly after the governments struck in May 1907 with a ban on political meetings and the deportation of Lala Lajpat Rai and Ajit Singh.
- After this, Ajit Singh and a few others associates- Sufi Ambaprasad, Lalchand, Bhai Parmanand, Lala Hardayal developed into full-scale revolutionaries.

2.6 Decline of Revolutionary Activities

After 1918, the Revolutionary Activities came to a temporary halt due to several reasons:

- Stern Government repression along with a series of draconian laws.
- Lack of popular response.
- World War-I ended and the government released all political prisoners arrested under the Defense of India Act.
- The discussion began on the new Constitutional Reforms (Government of India Act 1919) which generated an atmosphere of compromise.
- Gandhi arrived on the national scene and emphasized non-violent means which also halted the place of revolutionary activities.

2.7 Conclusion

Revolutionary activities emerged as the most significant legacy of Swadeshi Bengal, having an impact on educated youth for a generation or more. However, an overemphasis on Hinduism kept Muslims at bay. Furthermore, it fostered irrational heroism. The lack of mass participation, combined with the movement's narrow upper-caste social base in Bengal, severely limited the scope of revolutionary activity. In the end, it crumbled under the weight of state repression.

3. Revolutionary Activities Abroad

Revolutionary activities continued unabated even abroad. Following the assassination of District Magistrate Rand, **Shyamji Krishna Verma of Kathiawar** traveled to London and established the **Home Rule Society**. **V.D. Savarkar** went to London in 1906 and joined the '**Indian Society**.' It advocated for revolutionary terrorism. The **role of the Gadar Party** in revolutionary activities around the world cannot be overstated. **Lala Hardayal**, a revolutionary young man from Punjab, **founded the Gadar Party** and also published *The Gadar*, a weekly newspaper. Its goal was to spark a revolution in India that would liberate the country from British rule. In this article, we will discuss the **Revolutionary Activities Abroad** which will be helpful for UPSC exam preparation.

3.1 Background

- During World War I, Indian revolutionaries in exile sought assistance from the German government.
- They also sought assistance from Muslims in Iran, Iraq, and Afghanistan to overthrow the British empire in India.
- **Sardar Ajit Singh and Sufi Amba Prasad traveled to the Middle East** to rally the defeated Indian soldiers.
- Raja Mahendra Pratap led an Indo-German mission to Afghanistan, where he established a free government.
- The **Komagata Maru case fueled revolutionary terrorism**. This Japanese ship, which had brought revolutionary Sikhs to Canada, was denied anchoring in a Canadian port and was forced to return to Calcutta.
 - The passengers protested by refusing to board a train bound for Punjab, which had been arranged by the British government.
 - Some of them died as a result of the government's harsh measures. All of these events fueled the terrorist movement in Punjab.
 - In Punjab, revolutionary terrorists committed political atrocities in Amritsar, Jullundur, and Ludhiana.
- These revolutionary activities continued until 1945 when Subhas Chandra Bose died mysteriously.
- Revolutionary activities, both domestic and international, were thwarted because they were limited to India's educated middle class. There were specific causes that contributed to the failure of revolutionary activities.

3.2 Features

- The need for shelter, the possibility of publishing revolutionary literature that would be exempt from the Press Acts, and the desire for arms drove Indian revolutionaries to travel abroad.
- Shyamji Krishna Varma founded the Indian Home Rule Society - 'India House' - in London in 1905 as a center for Indian students, a scholarship scheme to bring radical youth from India, and a journal called '**The Indian Sociologist**.'

- Members of India House included revolutionaries such as Savarkar and Hardayal.
- In 1909, Madanlal Dhingra of this circle assassinated India Office bureaucrat Curzon-Wyllie. Soon, London became too dangerous for the revolutionaries, especially after Savarkar was extradited and imprisoned for life in the Nasik conspiracy case in 1910.
- New centers emerged on the continent - **Paris, and Geneva** from where **Madam Bhikaji Cama, a Parsi revolutionary** who had developed contacts with French socialists and who brought out Bande Mataram, and Ajit Singh operated.
- After 1909 when Anglo-German relations deteriorated, **Virendra Chattopadhyaya** chose Berlin as his base.

3.3 Indian Home Rule Society

- The Indian Home Rule Society was an **informal Indian Nationalist movement** that started in **London**.
- It was founded by **Shyamji Krishna Varma**.
- **After the assassination of William Hutt Curzon Wyllie** by an India House member named Madan Lal Dhingra, the India House ceased to be a powerful organization.
- This event marked the start of the London Police's crackdown on the house's activities, and a number of its activists and patrons, including Shyamji Krishna Varma and Bhikaji Cama, fled to Europe to continue their work in support of Indian nationalism.
- Har Dayal was one of the Indian students who moved to the United States.
- During World War I, the House's network was critical to the nationalist revolutionary conspiracy in India.

3.4 Ghadar Party

- The **Ghadar Movement** was a pivotal event in the history of the Indian freedom struggle. The Ghadar Party was a **political revolutionary organization** founded in the **United States of America** by migrated Indians.
- The formation of the Ghadar Party was primarily the work of Sikhs.
- **Sohan Singh, Kartar Singh, Abdul Mohamed Barakatullah, and Rashbehari Bose** were among the prominent leaders who laid the groundwork for the establishment of an Indian political organization in the United States and Canada.
- Due to India's poor economic situation in the nineteenth century, hundreds of Indians migrated to western countries.
- They moved to economically strong countries such as the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, and Australia in search of better economic opportunities.
- Thousands of Sikhs immigrated to the United States and Canada in the nineteenth century and settled there permanently. There were numerous reasons for Indians to migrate to western countries.
- One of the major reasons for emigration was the British Indian Government's exploitative policy, which worsened the economic conditions of the poor and middle classes.

3.5 Komagata Maru Incident

- The Komagata Maru incident involved the **Japanese steamship Komagata Maru**, on which a group of British Raj citizens attempted to emigrate to Canada in 1914 but were denied entry.
- When they were forced to return to Calcutta (present-day Kolkata), India, they were fired upon by British police, resulting in the deaths of 20 Sikhs. Gurdit Singh, a wealthy Punjabi businessman, chartered the ship.
- In 1914, the Komagata Maru sailed from British Hong Kong to Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, via Shanghai, China, and Yokohama, Japan, carrying 376 passengers from Punjab, British India.
- Only 24 of them were admitted to Canada, but the remaining 352 passengers were not allowed to disembark, and the ship was forced to return to India.
- The passengers included 340 Sikhs, 24 Muslims, and 12 Hindus, all of whom were British subjects.
- This was one of several instances in the early twentieth century when exclusion laws in Canada and the United States were used to keep Asian immigrants out.

3.6 Singapore Mutiny

- The 1915 Singapore Mutiny, also known as the **1915 Sepoy Mutiny or the Mutiny of the 5th Light Infantry**, was a mutiny against the British in Singapore by up to half of a regiment of 850 Indian Muslim sepoys during World War I.
- Among the scattered mutinies during this period, the most notable was in Singapore on **February 15, 1915**, by Punjabi Muslim 5th Light Infantry and the 36th Sikh battalion under **Jamadar Chisti Khan, Jamadar Abdul Gani, and Subedar Daud Khan**.
- It was crushed after a fierce battle in which many were killed. Later, 37 persons were executed and 41 were transported for life.

3.7 Conclusion

The revolutionary terrorist movement in India had a significant impact on Congress and the British government. Revolutionary terrorist organizations limited their strengths in order to remain more agile and effective. However, the movement had an impact on India: its people, the Congress, and the British rulers. The revolutionary activities spread throughout the country. Maharashtra, Bengal, Punjab, and Madras were transformed into revolutionary hotspots. Revolutionary activities continued unabated even abroad. Following the assassination of District Magistrate Rand, Shyamji Krishna Verma of Kathiawar traveled to London and established the Home Rule Society.

4. Swadeshi Movement and Boycott Movement

The Swadeshi movement was a self-sufficiency movement that was a part of the **Indian independence movement** and helped to shape Indian nationalism. The Swadeshi movement began in **1905 as a unified reaction to Bengal's partition and lasted until 1908**. It was, in fact, the most successful of the pre-Gandhian movements. After the British Government's decision to **partition Bengal** was made public in **December 1903**, there was widespread dissatisfaction among Indians. In response, the Swadeshi movement was formally launched on **August 7, 1905**, from Town Hall Calcutta, with the goal of **reducing reliance on foreign goods** in favor of domestic production. In this article, we will discuss the **Swadeshi and Boycott Movement (1905-1908)**, which will be useful for UPSC exam preparation.

4.1 Swadeshi Movement - 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 the **pledge to boycott foreign goods** was first made.

4.2 Swadeshi Movement - Partition of Bengal

- The **partition of Bengal** was the most significant event during **Lord Curzon's** reign. It was done primarily for administrative convenience. From 1899 to 1905, Lord Curzon served as **Viceroy of India**.
- **On October 16, 1905**, the partition of Bengal province took effect during his viceroyalty.
- Some people recognised Lord Curzon's true motivation and launched the anti-partition movement.
- They made the **anti-partition movement** not to be divided, and because this was the spirit of nationalism among Indians, they dubbed it the Swadeshi movement.
- The Swadeshi movement was a popular strategy for ending British rule and improving the country's economic conditions.

4.3 Swadeshi Movement - Nature of the Movement

- The Bengal leaders believed that demonstrations, public meetings, and resolutions would have little impact on the rulers.
- More positive action was required to reveal the intensity of popular feelings and display them at their best. Swadeshi and boycott were the solutions.
- **Swadeshi, or the use of Indian goods**, and the boycott of British goods were declared and pledged at mass meetings held throughout Bengal.
- Public burnings of foreign cloth were organized in many places, and shops selling foreign cloth were picketed.

- During its peak, Swadeshism infused the entire fabric of our social and domestic lives. Marriage presents containing foreign goods, the likes of which could be manufactured in the United States, were returned.
- The emphasis on self-reliance, or **Atma Sakti**, was an important aspect of the Swadeshi Movement.
- National Education was another self-sufficient, constructive activity undertaken at the time.

4.4 Extent of Mass Participation

- **Bengali students** played an important role in the Swadeshi agitation. They practiced and propagated Swadeshi and led picketing campaigns against shops selling foreign clothing.
- The government made every effort to silence the students. Orders were issued to penalize schools and colleges whose students participated actively in the Swadeshi agitation.
- Students who were found guilty of participating in nationalist agitation faced disciplinary action. Many of them were fined, expelled from schools and colleges, arrested, and occasionally beaten with lathis by police.
- The active participation of women in the Swadeshi agitation was a notable feature of the movement.
- **Women from the urban middle classes**, who are traditionally home-centered, joined processions and picketing. They were to take an active role in the nationalist movement from then on.
- Many prominent Muslims, including **Abdul Rasul, a well-known barrister, Liaquat Hussain, a well-known agitator, and Guznavi, a businessman**, joined the Swadeshi Movement. Maulana Abul Kalam Azad joined a revolutionary terrorist organisation.
- Many other middle- and upper-class Muslims, led by the **Nawab of Dhaka** (who was given a loan of Rs 14 lakh by the Government of India), remained neutral or even supported Partition on the grounds that East Bengal would have a Muslim majority.
- The officials encouraged the Nawab of Dhaka and others to adopt a communal attitude.
- Lord Curzon stated in a speech in Dhaka that one of the reasons for partition was "to invest the Mohammedans in Eastern Bengal with a unity which they have not enjoyed since the days of the old Mussalman Viceroys and Kings."

4.5 Anti Partition Campaign under Moderates

- During this time, men like Surendranath Banerjea, K.K. Mitra, and Prithwishchandra Ray provided leadership.
- Petitioning the government, holding public meetings, writing memoranda, and spreading propaganda through pamphlets and newspapers such as Hitabadi, Sanjibani, and Bengalee were all used.
- Their goal was to put enough pressure on the government through an educated public in India and England to prevent the unjust partition of Bengal from taking place.

- 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.
- Soon after, the movement spread to other parts of the country, with **Tilak leading in Poona and Bombay, Lala Lajpat Rai and Ajit Singh in Punjab, Syed Haider Raza in Delhi, and Chidambaram Pillai in Madras.**

4.6 Anti Partition Campaign under Extremists

- After 1905, the Extremists gained control of the Swadeshi Movement in Bengal.
- The moderate-led movement had produced no results.
- The divisive tactics of both Bengal governments had irritated nationalists.
- The government had resorted to suppressive measures, which included atrocities on students-
 - many of whom were given corporal punishment;
 - ban on public singing of Vande Mataram;
 - restriction on public meetings;
 - prosecution and long imprisonment of swadeshi workers;
 - clashes between the police and the people in many towns;
 - arrests and deportation of leaders; and
 - suppression of freedom of the press.

4.7 Government Acts for Repressing Swadeshi Movement

- Repressive measures were taken by the government to suppress the Swadeshi and the Boycott Movement.
- The Government Banned Holding of rallies, taking out processions, censored newspapers and imprisoned the leaders of the national movement.
- The Government passed various acts to curb the growth of movement:
 - **Seditious Meeting Act (1907)**
 - **Criminal Law Amendment Act (1908)**
 - **Indian Newspapers (Incitement to Offenses) Act (1908)**
 - **Explosive Substances Act (1908)**
 - **Indian Press Act (1910)**

4.8 Swadeshi Movement - Significance

- The Swadeshi movement was quite different from previous movements led by national leaders. This movement **pursued a programme of direct political action in opposition to the policy of 'prayer and petition.'**
- During its early stages, the Swadeshi movement attempted to have Bengal's partition annulled.
- However, **its efforts eventually expanded to include the goal of achieving complete freedom from foreign domination itself.**
- The 'boycott' aspect of the Swadeshi movement aimed at economically pressuring Manchester mill-owners so that they could put pressure on the British government to annul Partition.

- However, as time passed, the 'boycott' did not remain limited to British goods alone. It was used on a larger scale to encompass everything foreign, particularly British.
- The Swadeshi movement's **cultural significance** was also significant. During the Swadeshi period, Bengali literature flourished.
- Rabindranath Tagore and Rajanikanto Sen's patriotic compositions and creations magically touched the patriotic sense of the masses.

4.9 Swadeshi Movement - Impact

- It resulted in a **significant decrease in foreign imports** from 1905 to 1908.
- The movement resulted in the **rise of extreme nationalism** among young people, who turned to violence in order to put an end to British dominance.
- It compelled the British regime to make some concessions to Indians in the form of **Morley-Minto reforms in 1909**. Gopal Krishna Gokhale was instrumental in developing these reforms.
- Swadeshi Institutions have been established. The Bengal National College, as well as a number of national schools and colleges across the country, were founded in the spirit of **Rabindranath Tagore's Shantiniketan**.
- The **National Council of Education** was established in **August 1906** to organize the national education system. A **Bengal Institute of Technology** was established to provide technical education.
- It resulted in the establishment of **swadeshi textile mills, soap and match factories, tanneries, banks, insurance companies, and shops**, amongst other things.
- It also helped to revitalize the Indian cottage industry. The revival of Indian industries coincided with a resurgence in the use of indigenous goods.
- Foreign goods such as clothing, sugar, salt, and other luxury items were not only boycotted, but also burned.
- The Swadeshi movement also resulted in a social boycott of both buyers and sellers of foreign goods.

4.10 Swadeshi Movement - Issues

- The Swadeshi movement was poorly directed and **failed to unite Hindus and Muslims** as a result of the work of Nawab Salimullah of Dhaka and the establishment of the **Muslim League**.
- Separate electorates became an issue in order to gain political mileage for Muslims. As a result, the Swadeshi movement **lacked a large mass base**.
- The **peasants' grievances**, such as the lack of uniformity in the land revenue system, tenant rights, and the prevention of land grabbing, **were not addressed by the Swadeshi movement**, and thus the peasants did not become a part of the Swadeshi movement.
- However, the partition of Bengal from 1903 to 1908 served as a catalyst for the Swadeshi Movement.

4.11 Swadeshi Movement - Reasons for Failure

- The British government **repressed the revolutionaries**. This severe repression caused the movement to withdraw from the public sphere.
- There was **no formal party structure**, and as a result, an important part of the movement that could have been led by its office bearers was missing.
- The movement's prominent leaders were arrested, leaving the movement without a leader.
- **Aurobindo Ghosh and Bipin Chandra Pal**, two towering leaders, were also retired.
- The **Surat split in 1907** shattered the leadership's unity.
- The movement was unable to keep the masses enthralled.
- It was only **confined to the upper middle class** and could never truly reach the masses because it had no effect on the peasantry.
- Non-cooperation and passive resistance could not be put into practise.
- The movement was unable to maintain the high pitch that it had achieved.

4.12 Conclusion

The social composition of the Swadeshi movement defied easy categorization on the basis of class. While sympathy from zamindars or landlords was widely discussed, the mid-level tenure holder was more active. The movement was led by the Bengali middle class, but unlike its British counterpart, this middle class had no ties to capitalist industry or agriculture. The only thing that distinguished the early nationalist leadership was their exposure to Western education and, as a result, their attraction to nationalist ideology.

Initially, the partition plan was opposed using traditional 'moderate' methods such as press campaigns, numerous meetings and petitions, and large conferences. The obvious and total failure of such techniques prompted a search for new forms, including a boycott of British goods, rakhi bandhan, and arandhan.

5. Reasons for Failure of Swadeshi and Boycott Movement

There were many **reasons which led to the failure of the Swadeshi and Boycott Movement**. The open phase (as opposed to the underground revolutionary phase) of the Swadeshi and Boycott movement was nearly over by 1908. This is supported by the fact that by 1908, **mass agitation had ceased**, and anti-imperialist protest had evolved into **revolutionary acts of violence carried out** by small groups of educated young men. The **Swadeshi Movement** arose from the **anti-partition movement**, which was in opposition to the British administration's decision to partition Bengal. However, the reason for the **partition of Bengal** was more political, as Indian nationalism grew stronger. The partition took effect in 1905 and was intended to weaken Bengal, which was regarded at the time as the nerve center of **Indian nationalism**. In this article, we will discuss the **reasons for the failure of the Swadeshi and Boycott Movement** which will be helpful for UPSC exam preparation.

5.1 Swadeshi Movement - Features

- After all other forms of constitutional agitation, such as vocal protests, appeals, petitions, and conferences, failed to persuade the British to concede the unanimous national demand, the Bengalis turned to the boycott movement as a last resort.
- The boycott's original intent was primarily economic. It had two distinct but related goals in mind.
- The first was to put pressure on the British public by threatening them with a financial loss if British goods were boycotted, particularly **Manchester cotton** goods, for which Bengal provided the richest market in India.
- Second, the boycott was regarded as necessary for the revival of indigenous industry, which, being in its infancy, could never grow in the face of free competition from foreign countries with highly developed industries.
- With the passage of time, the economic boycott faded into the background, and it evolved into an idea of non-cooperation with the British in all fields, with the goal of political regeneration of the country and the distant goal of absolute freedom looming large in the eyes of the more advanced section.
- Similarly, Swadeshi has outgrown its original goal of promoting Indian industry.

5.2 Swadeshi Movement - Effects

Positive Effects

- As a result of the movement, indigenous goods have been revitalized.
- The boycott of foreign goods increased the demand for domestic goods. The mill owners of Bombay and Ahmedabad came to the movement's aid.
- The Boycott movement in Bengal provided a driving force and momentum to India's cotton mills, and the opportunity that this provided was capitalized on by mill owners.
- It complained at the time that the Bombay mill-owners made a huge profit at the expense of what they called "**Bengali Sentimentalism**," or the practice of buying indigenous cloth at any cost.

- Bengal had to supplement the supply from Bombay mills with coarse handloom production.
- The weaving industry in Bengal was thriving until the British wrecked it after establishing their rule over the province in the 18th century.
- The economic boycott movement appeared to be a good opportunity to revitalize that industry. The clothes produced were coarse, but the Bengalis accepted them in the true spirit of the Swadeshi Movement.

Negative Effects

- The boycott and burning of foreign goods were two of the movement's negative consequences.
- Though Manchester cloth was the primary target, the movement expanded to include other British manufacturers such as salt and sugar, as well as luxury goods in general.
- The ideas of Swadeshi and economic boycott were kept alive and brought to every door through newspaper articles, processions, popular songs, the enlistment of volunteers to keep vigil, and on occasion bonfires of foreign cloth, salt, and sugar.
- The flames were regarded as a unique way of amusing prominent public figures, and the bonfires that greeted them were regarded as extremely valuable in terms of instilling enthusiasm for the movement.
- Anyone caught using foreign sugar received a fine. Foreign cigarettes were purchased and consumed on the streets.
- Brahmins refused to participate in religious ceremonies in homes where European salt and sugar were used, and Marwaris were warned against importing foreign items.

5.3 Reasons for Failure

- Recognizing the revolutionary potential, the government reacted harshly. Between 1907 and 1908, the majority of the movement's **key leaders were either imprisoned or deported.**
- Any mass movement, especially when **confronted with severe repression**, cannot continue indefinitely at the same level of militancy and self-sacrifice.
- **Internal squabbles**, particularly the split in the Congress, the apex all-India organization, weakened the movement.
- It **lacked an effective organizational structure** and a party structure.
- The movement was unable to establish an effective organization or party structure.
- It introduced a slew of techniques associated with Gandhian politics, such as non-cooperation, passive resistance, filling British jails, social reform, and constructive work, but it failed to give these techniques a disciplined focus.
- The movement remained largely confined to the upper and middle classes and zamindars, **failing to reach the masses, particularly the peasantry.**
- It was **unable to gain the support of the majority of Muslims**, particularly the Muslim peasantry. Hindus and Muslims were divided along class lines, with the former as landlords and the latter as peasants.

- Though the Swadeshi Movement had spread beyond Bengal, the rest of the country was not yet ready to embrace the new political style and stage.
- People were roused by the movement, but they didn't know how to channel the newly released energy or how to find new ways to express popular resentment.
- By 1908, most of the movement's leaders had been arrested or deported, and Aurobindo Ghosh and Bipin Chandra Pal had retired from active politics.
- Tilak was sentenced to six years in prison, Punjab's Ajit Singh and Lajpat Rai were deported, and Chidambaram Pillai was detained.

5.4 Swadeshi Movement as a Turning Point

- It was a '**leap forward**' in more ways than one. Students, women, workers, and some urban and rural residents who had previously been excluded from participation took part.
- During the Swadeshi Movement, all of the major trends of the national movement emerged, from conservative moderation to political extremism, from revolutionary activities to incipient socialism, from petitions and prayers to passive resistance and non-cooperation.
- The richness of the movement was not limited to politics, but also included art, literature, science, and industry.
- People were awakened from their slumber, and they learned to take bold political stands and participate in new forms of political work.
- The Swadeshi campaign challenged colonial ideas and institutions' hegemony.
- The future struggle would rely heavily on the gained experience.

5.5 Conclusion

The movement was led by the Bengali middle class, but unlike its British counterpart, this middle class had no ties to capitalist industry or agriculture. The only thing that distinguished the early nationalist leadership was their exposure to Western education and, as a result, their attraction to nationalist ideology. The category of bhadralok was thus more of a social category referring to educated men rather than a specific class, despite the fact that they were mostly well-off. Their nationalist ideology sought to reach out to the masses, but its limitations were determined by their class position, resulting in the movement's failure.

6. Government Acts for Repressing Swadeshi Movement

The government launched a massive offensive against the extremists. Between 1907 and 1911, various **government acts were enacted for repressing Swadeshi movement and to curb anti-government activity**. The **Seditious Meetings Act of 1907**, the **Indian Newspapers (Incitement to Offences) Act of 1908**, the **Criminal Law Amendment Act of 1908**, and the **Indian Press Act of 1910** were among the laws enacted. In this article, we will discuss in brief about various Acts which were enacted for repressing the Swadeshi Movement.

6.1 Seditious Meetings Act

- The Seditious Meetings Act was a 1907 act of the Imperial Legislative Council of the British Raj enabling the government to prohibit political meetings.
- It was enacted to make better provision for the prevention of public meetings likely to promote sedition or to cause a disturbance of public tranquility.
- This act was passed when British Government intelligence discovered the presence of the Ghadar Movement which had formed for the purpose of fomenting political violence in India.

6.2 Criminal Law (Amendment) Act

- It is an act to provide for the more **speedy trial of certain offences**, and for the prohibition of associations dangerous to the public peace.
- Here **“unlawful association”** means an association:
 - which encourages or aids persons to commit acts of violence or intimidation or of which the members habitually commit such acts, or
 - which has been declared to be unlawful by the State Government.
- The state could arrest and imprison, and/or impose fine on people if s/he is a member of an unlawful association, or takes part in meetings of any such association, or contributes or receives or solicits any contribution for the purpose of any such association.
- This Act may be called the **Indian Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1908**.

6.3 Indian Newspaper (Incitement to Offences) Act

- This act was triggered by the **Extremist nationalist activity** during and after the Swadeshi movement of 1906.
- The Act was passed in 1908 which **empowered the magistrates to confiscate the press** for publishing articles that promoted violence.
- The local government was authorized to terminate any declaration made by the printer and publisher of the newspaper which had been found offender under the **Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867**.
- Newspapers were allowed to move to the High Courts within 15 days.

6.4 Explosive Substances Act (1908)

- The Explosives Substances Act was passed under the Governor Generalship of Minto of Earl, in 1908.
- Government was apprehensive about imminent violent uprisings after the Swadeshi Movement. The act banned Indians from keeping explosive substances.
- In this Act, the expression “explosive substance” shall be deemed to include any materials for making any explosive substance; also any apparatus, machine, implement or material used, or intended to be used, or adapted for causing, or aiding in causing, any explosion in or with any explosive substance; also any part of any such apparatus, machine or implement.

6.5 Indian Press Act

- It was an act to provide for better control of the press. This act resurrected the worst aspects of the **Vernacular Press Act (VPA)**.
- The British government's attitude toward the Indian press changed over time.
- From 1908 to 1935, numerous press laws were enacted in an attempt to curb the anti-British tone of the Indian press.
- The resurgence of political terrorism forced the British to take a hard line against Indian nationalists.
- **On February 4, 1910, Lord Ridley**, the Home Member, introduced a Bill to prohibit the distribution of anti-government literature.
- **On February 9, 1910, Lord Minto II**, Viceroy of India, enacted the Indian Press Act of 1910.
- The Indian Press Act of 1910 was enacted in British India, and it imposed rigorous censorship on all types of publications.
- The principal tools of control imposed by the Press Act were financial securities that could be confiscated if any of the legislation's extraordinarily broad provisions were broken.

6.6 Conclusion

These acts resulted in the suppression of the extremists. They were not in position to organize a strong political party at that time. Many of the nationalist leaders gave a break to their activism while many others were imprisoned. However, the movement was able to popularize the ideas of nationalism and awakened the common man to the questions of liberty. Students and professionals became, for the first time, active members of the national movement.

7. Anti-Partition Campaign under Extremist

The Anti-Partition Campaign under Extremist started from 1905 onwards. Extremist politics emerged within the Congress during the anti-partition Bengal agitation. When the British government refused to annualize the partition of Bengal in the face of mass protests from the people of Bengal, arousing sympathy from the Indian people, many young leaders, known as **Neo-Nationalists or Extremists**, became disillusioned. **Lala Lajpat Rai, Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Bipin Chandra Pal, and Aurobindo Ghosh** were important extremist leaders. They were labeled extremists because they believed that only by taking risks could they achieve success. In this article, we will discuss the **Anti Partition Campaign under Extremist** which will be helpful for UPSC exam preparation.

7.1 Background

- The Extremists had no faith in British benevolence and firmly believed that the remedy to Indian problems lay in the hands of Indians themselves. They demanded a clear-cut manner of swaraj or self-rule.
- After 1905, in Bengal, the leadership of the anti-partition movement soon passed into the hands of extremists like B.G Tilak, Bipin Chandra Pal, Aurobindo Ghosh, etc. This was due to several reasons-
 - The **Moderate methods had yielded no results**;
 - The government of East Bengal was actively supporting communalism and even tried to crush the nationalist movement;
- The **government had resorted to suppressive measures**, including atrocities against students, many of whom were subjected to corporal punishment;
 - a ban on public singing of Bande Mataram;
 - restrictions on public meetings;
 - prosecution and long imprisonment of swadeshi workers;
 - clashes between police and citizens in many towns;
 - arrests and deportation of leaders;
 - and suppression of press freedom.

7.2 Rise of Extremists

- From 1905 until 1908, the **Extremists (or the Garam Dal)** gained a dominant influence over the Swadeshi Movement in Bengal; this period is also known as the "**Era of Passionate Nationalists.**"
- This Extremist group was led by **Lala Lajpat Rai, Bal Gangadhar Tilak, and Bipin Chandra Pal (Lal-Bal-Pal).**
- As the leadership of the movement came into the hands of the extremist, they gave a call for **extending the boycott movement from foreign goods and educational institutions to other areas such as legislative councils and municipalities, government services, etc** which would shake the foundation of British hegemony in India.
- This was called **Non-cooperation** and termed as **Passive Resistance** or refusal to render any voluntary service to the government by Bipin Chandra Pal.

- In April 1904, Aurobindo Ghosh further extended the idea in a series of articles in Vande Mataram and propounded the theory of 'organized and relentless boycott' including civil disobedience of unjust laws.
- The Extremist call for swaraj relegated all other matters to the background, including the demand for unification of Bengal.
- Now the central question of Indian politics was independence from foreign rule while the partition of Bengal became the secondary one.
- Clearly, it was the partition of Bengal that occasioned the emergence of Swaraj as the national goal.
- Tilak coined the phrase "Freedom is my birthright, and I will have it."

7.3 The Extremist Programme

- The Extremists, emboldened by Dadabhai Naoroji's declaration at the Calcutta session (1906) that the Congress's goal should be self-government or swaraj, called for passive resistance in addition to swadeshi and a boycott of government schools and colleges, government service, courts, legislative councils, municipalities, and government titles, among other things.
- As Aurobindo put it, the goal was to "make administration under present conditions impossible by an organized refusal to do anything that will help either British commerce in the exploitation of the country or British officialdom in the administration of it."
- The militant nationalists attempted to turn the anti-partition and Swadeshi Movement into a mass struggle, coining the slogan "India's Independence from Foreign Rule."
- As a result, the Extremists elevated the concept of the Indian independence to the center of Indian politics. Independence was to be attained through self-sacrifice.

7.4 New Forms of Struggle By Extremist

- Boycott of Foreign Goods included the boycott and public burning of foreign cloth, the boycott of foreign-made salt or sugar, the refusal of priests to perform ritual marriages involving the exchange of foreign goods, and the refusal of washermen to wash foreign clothes.
- Major methods of mass mobilization, public meetings, and processions emerged which were forms of popular expression.
- Samitis, such as Ashwini Kumar Dutta's Swadesh Bandhab Samiti (in Barisal), has emerged as a popular and effective means of mass mobilization.
- V.O. Chidambaram Pillai, Subramania Siva, and a group of lawyers founded the Swadeshi Sangam in Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu, to inspire the local people.
- Through magic lantern lectures, swadeshi songs, physical and moral training for their members, social work during famines and epidemics, school organization, swadeshi craft training, and arbitration courts, this Samiti raised political consciousness among the masses.
- The plan was to use traditional festivals and events to reach out to the public and spread political messages.

- **Tilak's Ganapati and Shivaji festivals**, for example, became a vehicle for swadeshi propaganda not only in western India but also in Bengal.
 - **Traditional folk theater forms** were also used in Bengal for this purpose.
- **Self-sufficiency, or 'Atma shakti,'** was promoted. This implied re-establishment of national dignity, honor, and confidence, as well as the social and economic revitalization of the villages.
 - In practice, it entailed social reform and campaigns against caste oppression, early marriage, the dowry system, alcohol consumption, and so on.
- **Bengal National College** was founded in the spirit of Tagore's Shantiniketan, with Aurobindo Ghosh as its principal. Soon after, national schools and colleges sprouted up all over the country.
- **Satishchandra Mukherjee's contribution** to national education should not be overlooked. His newspaper **Dawn**, which had been in circulation since **1897**, and his **Dawn Society**, which had been founded in **1902**, had already been spreading the **message of self-help in industry and education**.
 - Mukherjee established the **Bhagabat Chatuspathi** in **1895**, laying the groundwork for the national education movement.
 - He was a key figure in the formation of the **National Council of Education** and later became a lecturer at the Bengal National College, eventually becoming its principal after Aurobindo resigned.
- The **National Council of Education** was established on August 15, 1906, to organize a system of literary, scientific, and technical education along national lines and under national control.
- Education was to be delivered through the use of **vernaculars**.
- For technical education, a **Bengal Institute of Technology** was established, and funds were raised to send students to Japan for advanced study.
- The swadeshi spirit was also manifested in the establishment of swadeshi textile mills, soap and match factories, tanneries, banks, insurance companies, and shops, among other things. These businesses were founded on patriotism rather than business acumen.
- Songs were written by Rabindranath Tagore, Rajnikant Sen, Dwijendralal Ray, Mukunda Das, Syed Abu Mohammad, and others inspired nationalists of all stripes.
- **Tagore's Amar Sonar Bangla**, written on this occasion, later inspired Bangladesh's liberation struggle and was adopted as the country's national anthem.
- **In painting, Abanindranath Tagore** defied Victorian naturalism's hegemony over the Indian art scene by drawing inspiration from Ajanta, Mughal, and Rajput paintings.
- **Nandalal Bose**, who had a significant impact on Indian art, was the **first recipient of a scholarship from the Indian Society of Oriental Art**, which was founded in 1907.

7.5 Conclusion

When the partition of Bengal was announced in 1905, the conditions for the emergence of militant nationalism had thus been created, and the Indian national movement had entered its second stage. All other issues, including the demand for Bengal's unification, were pushed to the sidelines by the extremist call for Swaraj. With the partition of Bengal

becoming a secondary issue, the central question of Indian politics became independent of foreign rule. Clearly, the partition of Bengal was the catalyst for the emergence of swaraj as a national goal.

8. International Influences - Era of Militant Nationalism

The **international influences and the events outside India** had a significant impact on the rise of **militant nationalism in India**. The humiliating treatment of Indians in British colonies, particularly in South Africa, created British fillings. Further national movements in **Egypt, Persia, Turkey, and Russia gave Indians new hope and inspiration**. The rise of modern Japan after 1868 demonstrated that a backward Asian country could develop independently of Western influence. In this article, we will discuss the **International Influences on Militant Nationalism** which will be helpful for UPSC exam preparation.

8.1 Growth of Militant Nationalism

- Politically conscious Indians were convinced that the purpose of the British Rule was to exploit India economically.
- The moderates' traditional methods of praying, petitioning, and holding public meetings had failed, and by 1908, political extremism had also declined, giving way to militant nationalism.
- During the 1890s, a series of events such as **severe famine (1896-1900), bubonic plague in Deccan**, and riots caused Indians to become anxious and dissatisfied with the colonial government.
- A slew of **repressive laws were passed**. Section 124A was strengthened, and the Criminal Procedure Code and the Post Office Act were amended to give the government more authority.
- Curzon's costly Durbars in the midst of famines, his Indian Universities Act of 1904, his attack on the elected members of the Calcutta Corporation, his expedition to Tibet at the expense of Indian revenue, and finally the partition of Bengal in the face of strong national opposition sparked outrage across the country.
- The Western educational system increased societal awareness. However, increased education has resulted in **increased unemployment and poverty**, causing people to be dissatisfied and fueling the trend of radical nationalism.
- As a result of the spread of westernization, a number of leaders emerged who recognised the loss of Indian cultural and national identity that was submerging into the colonial pattern.
- A number of leaders, including **B.C.Chatterjee, Swami Vivekananda, and Dayanand Saraswati**, portrayed the **better side of Indian culture and tradition**, dispelling the myth of western superiority.
- **International events** also had an impact. Russia and Italy were defeated by Japan and Ethiopia respectively. Such occurrences shattered the myth of Western superiority and invincibility.

8.2 International Influences - An Overview

- 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.
- The popular sentiment was expressed in the **Karachi Chronicle** on June 18, 1905, as follows: "**What one Asiatic has done, others can do.**"
 - If Japan can easily defeat Russia, India can easily defeat England.
 - Let us drive the British into the sea and join the ranks of the world's great powers alongside Japan.
- **Revolutionary movements in Ireland, Russia, Egypt, Turkey, and China, as well as the South African Boer War**, convinced Indians that a united people willing to make sacrifices could challenge even the most powerful despotic governments.
- Patriotism and self-sacrifice were more important than anything else.

8.3 International Influences - Impact

Contemporary international events exercised a powerful influence on the middle of younger generations in India-

- They despised the humiliating treatment meted out to Indians in other British colonies, particularly in South Africa.
- **The Boer War (1899-1902) in South Africa** showed the Indians that united people willing to make sacrifices could challenge even the most despotic governments.
- They felt inspired by the nationalist movements in Turkey, Egypt, Persia, Ireland, China and Russia.
- The confidence of Indians immensely increased upon seeing the defeat of the Italian army and Russia. It showed that even a small Asian country could defeat the biggest military power of Europe.
- Such events pricked the balloon of British superiority and gave the Indians new hope and aspirations.

8.4 Conclusion

'Swaraj' was the extremist goal. At that time, this meant either complete autonomy or independence from British control, or total Indian control over administration but not necessarily independence from Britain's imperial reign. They were vehemently opposed to Britain's imperialistic policies in India. They were proud of their Indian culture and history. They sought inspiration and courage from the ancient scriptures.

9. Era of Militant Nationalism

The **era of militant nationalism** started from **1905 onwards till 1909**. In the 1890s, a radical trend of a militant nationalist approach to political activity began to emerge, and by 1905, it had taken concrete form. As a result of this trend, a **revolutionary wing** emerged. The militant nationalists caused a break in the national movement by employing more radical methods of agitation than the earlier moderates. **Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Aurobindo Ghosh, Bipan Chandra Pal, and Lajpat Rai** were prominent leaders during this period of the national movement. In this article we will discuss the various facets of **Era of Militant Nationalism** which will be helpful for UPSC exam preparation.

9.1 Growth of Militant Nationalism

- **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.

9.2 Swadeshi Movement & Boycott Movement

- **The Swadeshi movement** was a self-sufficiency movement that was a part of the **Indian independence movement** and helped to shape Indian nationalism.
- The Swadeshi movement began in **1905 as a unified reaction to Bengal's partition and lasted until 1908**. It was, in fact, the most successful of the pre-Gandhian movements.
- After the British Government's decision to **partition Bengal** was made public in **December 1903**, there was widespread dissatisfaction among Indians.
- In response, the Swadeshi movement was formally launched on **August 7, 1905**, from Town Hall Calcutta, with the goal of **reducing reliance on foreign goods** in favor of domestic production.
- 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 the **pledge to boycott foreign goods** was first made.

9.3 Formation of All India Muslim League

- The **All India Muslim League** (also known as the Muslim League) was a political party **founded in British India in 1906**.
- Its strong advocacy, beginning in 1930, for the establishment of a separate **Muslim-majority nation-state**, Pakistan, resulted in the British Empire partitioning India in 1947.
- The party arose from the need for political representation of **Muslims in British India**, particularly in the event of massive Hindu opposition to Bengal's partition in 1905, which was sponsored by the Indian National Congress.
- During the annual meeting of the **All India Muslim Education Conference in Ahsan Manzil in 1906**, the **Nawab of Dhaka, Khwaja Salimullah**, proposed the formation of a political party to protect the interests of Muslims in British India.
- All India Muslim League, was a political organisation that led the movement for the establishment of a separate Muslim nation during the partition of British India (1947).
- Initially encouraged by the British and generally supportive of their rule, the league adopted self-government for India as its goal in 1913.
- For decades, the league and its leaders, most notably **Mohammed Ali Jinnah**, advocated Hindu-Muslim unity in a united and independent India.
- It wasn't until 1940 that the League of Nations called for the establishment of a separate Muslim state from India's planned independent state.
- Because it feared that an independent India would be dominated by Hindus, the league advocated for a separate nation for India's Muslims.
- Jinnah and the Muslim League led the fight for the partition of British India into separate Hindu and Muslim states, and the league became Pakistan's dominant political party after the country's independence in 1947.

9.4 Surat Session of INC

- At the **Surat session of INC in 1907**, held on the banks of the **Tapti River**, the **Indian National Congress split into two factions: extremists and moderates**.
- Lokmanya Tilak, Lajpat Rai, and Bipin Chandra Pal led the extremists, while Gopal Krishna Gokhale led the moderates.
- **The moderate and extremist delegates of the Congress** met in Surat in an atmosphere charged with excitement and anger.
- The ridicule and venom heaped on the moderates by the extremists in the mass meetings held in Surat a few days before the session, and the extremists were energized by the rumor that the moderates wanted to scuttle their Kolkata resolutions.
- The Congress session began with extremists objecting to the duly elected president for the year, **Rash Behari Ghosh**.
- The split was unavoidable because both sides came to the session prepared for a fight.

- The extremists initially dominated the session, but they soon accepted Dr. Rash Behari Ghosh as president and offered to cooperate. However, the meeting was called to a halt. Congress became divided.

9.5 Indian Councils Act 1909 (Morley Minto Reforms)

- **The Indian Councils Act (1909), also known as the Morley-Minto Reforms,** were a set of reforms devised by and named after the **Viceroy Lord Minto and the Secretary of State for India, John Morley.**
- They both agreed that reforms were needed to appease both moderates and Muslims. They were preceded by two major events.
- **This act amended the Indian Councils Acts of 1861 and 1892.**
- It significantly **increased the size of the Central and Provincial Legislative Councils.** The Central Legislative Council's membership was increased from 16 to 60. The number of members in provincial legislative councils varied.
- It kept the Central Legislative Council's official majority but allowed provincial legislative councils to have a non-official majority.
- It **increased the deliberative powers of legislative councils** at both levels. Members could, for example, ask supplementary questions, move budget resolutions, and so on.
- It allowed Indians to join the executive councils of the Viceroy and Governors for the first time. **Satyendra Prasad Sinha** was the **first Indian** to be appointed to the **Viceroy's Executive Council.** He was appointed to the position of law member.

9.6 Conclusion

Militant nationalism was a distinct stage in the anti-colonial struggle. It introduced new methods of political agitation, used popular symbols for mobilisation, and attempted to broaden the movement's base.

10. Seditious Meetings Act (1907)

Seditious Meetings Act 1907 was one of the acts which were rolled out to curtail the progress of the **Swadeshi movement**. It is an Act to consolidate and amend the law relating to the prevention of public meetings likely to promote sedition or to cause a disturbance of public tranquility. In this article, we will discuss the **Seditious Meetings Act 1907** in detail which will be helpful for UPSC exam preparation.

10.1 Important provisions of the Act

- The Seditious Meetings Act was a 1907 act of the Imperial Legislative Council of the British Raj enabling the government to prohibit political meetings.
- It was enacted to make better provision for the prevention of public meetings likely to promote sedition or to cause a disturbance of public tranquility.
- This act was passed when British Government intelligence discovered the presence of the Ghadar Movement which had formed for the purpose of fomenting political violence in India.
- **Vickerman Rutherford** raised the act in the **British House of Commons** in February 1908, questioning its effects on "the interests of good relations between the rulers and the ruled."
- The Act was defended by **Donald Mackenzie Smeaton**, who stated that "the **Regulation of 1818 and Subsidiary Local Regulations** conferring similar powers were of immense value in and after the pacification of Burma in ridding the country not only of enemies of the Government, but of enemies of the people."

10.2 Consequences of this Act

- The Act, along with other series of oppressive acts against Press freedom and liberty resulted in the suppression of the extremists.
- They were not in position to organize a strong political party at that time.
- Fizzling out of the Swadeshi movement
- Arubindo Ghosh, one of the extremists left the ground and went to Pondicherry.
- Bipin Chandra Pal also left politics temporarily.
- Lala Lajpat Rai went to England.
- The idea of extremist nationalism was put down temporarily. It later rose as Militant Nationalism.
- Barindra Ghosh and Ullaskar Dutt were sentenced to rigorous imprisonment.
- Senapati Bapat and Ras Behari Bose went underground.

10.3 Conclusion

The act was extended until March 31, 1911, when it was replaced by the Prevention of Seditious Meetings Act, 1911. No Court lower than that of a Presidency Magistrate, a Magistrate of the First Class, or a Sub-Divisional Magistrate shall hear any case under this Act.
