

LAHORE SESSION

Under the changed atmosphere due to the death of Lala Lajpat Rai, a historic session of the congress was held at Lahore under the presidentship of Pandit Nehru. It was at this session that the congress adopted the resolution demanding for complete Independence for India. It was in this session that it was decided to launch a Civil Disobedience Movement to achieve complete Independence. It was also decided that 26 January should be observed as The Independence Day every year all over the country and consequently **26 January 1930** was observed as the first Independence Day. The same day is now being observed as the Republic Day since 1950.

As was decided in the Lahore session Mahatma Gandhi in March 1930 started the Civil Disobedience Movement due to the following reasons:

1. All the methods of meetings forwarding resolutions to the government, peaceful demonstration, hartals had failed.
2. British promise time and again that they would give responsible government to the people but what they actually gave was nothing but a farce.
3. British government continued the policy of repression.
4. The idea of complete independence could never be achieved without challenging the British.

So, Mahatma Gandhi chooses to break the salt law in 1930 as a symbol of disobedience to the unjust government. He started from his Asharam at Sabarmati to Dandi a small village on the seashore of Gujarat which was popularly known as **Dandi March**. He made the salt from the sea water at Dandi and violated the salt law. At his call the people began to defy laws and orders of the government, there were hartals, strikes and demonstrations all over the country, people boycotted the foreign goods, congress was declared illegal. All leading congressmen including Gandhi and Pandit Nehru were put behind the bars. Lathi charges, arrest and heavy fines became the order of the day.

But these repressive measures failed to crush the movement and created political unrest in the country. The British government was forced to call the **First Round Table Conference in London** in 1930 to solve the constitutional problems of India. Nothing came out of it as the congress did not take part. As a result a pact was signed between **Lord Irwin and Mahatma Gandhi** in **March 1931** popularly known as **Gandhi Irwin Pact**. Gandhiji agreed to stop the Civil Disobedience Movement and attended **The Second Round Table Conference held in London in September 1931**.

The British government announced the communal award in 1932 and gave separate electorate to the Harijans. Gandhiji undertook fast unto death in the jail. Both Hindus and Harijans got

alarmed and signed the Poona Pact and agreed to have joint electorate. **The Third Round Table Conference** was held at **London** in **1932**. It failed because the congress did not take part in it.

Demand for Pakistan by the Muslim League

The relation between the Congress and the League, the Hindus and the Muslims took a turn for the worst during this period. When the Congress Ministries resigned from the office in 1939, the League felt happy. It celebrated 22 December 1939 as the Day of Deliverance. M.A Jinnha's two nation theory began to find favour with the Muslims. At the Lahore session in 1940 Jinnah passed a resolution demanding a separate homeline that is Pakistan.

Quit India Movement ,1942

In August 1942 Gandhiji started his quit India movement to cripple the British war machinery. The government arrested Gandhiji and other leader of the congress. Second World War came to an end in 1945. The Muslim league boycotted the election of the constituent assembly in July 1946 and observed Direct Action Day on 16th August 1946 to achieve Pakistan. There were Hindi Muslim riots all over the country. It was the black chapter in the history of India.

On 20 February 1947, Mr. Atlee made a statement which astonished India and the world. He declared that the British would quit by 1948. Lord Maountbatten arrived in India in March 1947 as the new viceroy and discussed with the Indian leaders and came to the conclusion that partition alone could solve the Indian problems. So on 3 June 1947, Lord Mount Batten announced his plan which was based on the division of India into two parts India and Pakistan. The congress leaders accepted his plans with a heavy heart to avoid large scale bloodshed going in the country.

As a result the British rule in India came to an end on 15 August 1947.

Republic Day

Pt. Nehru had declared that free India would be a Sovereign, Democratic, Republic based on the sovereign will of the people guaranteeing them social, economic and political justice, equality of opportunity and freedom of expression, belief and faith. The constituent assembly took three years to complete its work. The new Constitution of India was ready on 25 November, 1949 but it was put into force on 26 January 1950 when India was declared as a Sovereign Democratic Republic with Dr. Rajinderprasad as his first president.