

MOVEMENTS ORGANISED BY WOMEN, STUDENTS AND THE MARGINAL PEOPLE IN 20TH CENTURY

When did for the first time the Indian womenfolk come forward play an active role in the politics of the country?

The first occasion when the womenfolk of India came forward to play an active role in the country was the anti-partition agitation. It was during the anti-Partition agitation that womenfolk, so long confined in household activities, came forward to play an active role in politics.

How did Saraladebi Choudhurani contribute to the cause of India's freedom struggle?

Saraladebi's single contribution lay in the formation of youth groups. Besides, Saraladebi by spreading the gospel of nationalism and maintaining close links with the revolutionary secret societies contributed to the cause of India's struggle for freedom.

How did the womenfolk of Calcutta observe the day of Partition as the day of protest?

Throughout Bengal women observed the day of Partition as a 'day of protest'. On the day of Partition about 500 women gathered on the day of Partition in North Calcutta to watch the foundation

of the Federation Hall, which was a symbol of unity of the Bengali people. Not only this women observed the day as the day of 'Arandhan' (No cooking day)

How did Basanti Debi participate in the Non Co-operation Movement ?

The Non-Cooperation Movement was an opportunity when women were politicized with leadership abilities. During the movement Bengali women under the leadership of Basanti Debi organized a demonstration before the shops selling foreign goods. Also Basanti Debi along with others hawked khaddar (homespun cloth) in the Calcutta streets.

What incident immortalized Midnapur in the freedom movement during the Quit India Movement ?

The incident that immortalized Midnapur in the history of the freedom movement during the Quit India Movement was the heroic feat of Matangini Hazra, a 73-year-old lady. In September 1942 Matangini Hazra urged the crowd onward and refused to stop. In fact she led the crowd in capturing the court and Police Station of Tamluk.

How did the women take part in the Anti-partition Movement ?

It was during the Anti-partition Movement the Indian women from the middle class family for the first time came out from the confinements of their

household activities and participated actively in the agitation that ensued. They aimed at promoting national interest, boycotted the use of foreign goods, encouraged the use of Swadeshi or indigenous products, observed 'arandhan' or 'no-cooking' on the day of Partition of Bengal. Some of the women even helped the revolutionaries secretly by providing them with shelter and weapons.

What role did Sarala Devi Chaudhurani play during the Anti-partition Movement?

Sarala Devi Chaudhurani, the grand daughter of Debendranath Tagore played an important role during the antipartition movement by setting up 'Lakshmi Bhandar', an organisation producing indigenous goods and observing 'Biraotumi Brata', 'Babapaditya Utsab' etc. She also established connection with 'Suhrid Samiti' of Mymensingh a secret revolutionary society and wrote essays in 'Bharati' to inspire the women. In 1911 she formed the Bharat Stree Mahamandal for the unity and self development of women and she also set up a gymnasium in her house to provide physical training.

Who gave the call for 'arandhan' and why?

On 16th October 1905, Ramendra Sundar Tribedi the great author and scientist gave the call for 'arandhan'. He asked the womenfolk of Bengal to abstain from cooking on that day as a form of protest against partition.

He also wanted to observe the day as a 'day of national mourning' - for the Indians.

Why is 16th October 1905 important?

The partition of Bengal that was announced on 20th July 1905 became effective on and from 16th October 1905 and the leaders of the Anti-partition Movement observed the day as a day of national mourning all over Bengal. Inspired by Rabindranath Tagore, the Bengalees tied rakhi on each other's wrist and celebrated 'Rakhi Bandhan' to champion the cause of unity among the Hindus and Muslims. Romendra Sundar Tribedi even asked the womenfolk of Bengal to observe 'arandhan' or 'no-cooking' on that day.

What was the Dandi March?

Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi and seventy-eight of his followers marched on foot from Sabarmati Ashram to Dandi on the sea coast, a village in Gujarat on 12th March 1930 in order to violate the salt law. At Dandi, he violated the salt law imposed by the British government and manufactured salt from sea water on 6th April 1930. This event is famous in history as the Dandi March.

What was the Carlyle Circular?

The Chief Secretary to the government of Bengal, R.W. Carlyle issued a circular in 1905 that prohibited students of government funded

Schools and colleges to participate in any political movement. It was further stated that the student would be punished for associating themselves with the Swadeshi Movement. This was known as the ~~Carlyle~~ Carlyle Circular.

Why is Usha Mehta famous?

Usha Mehta was a notable freedom fighter who played a significant role in the movements launched by the Indian National Congress under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi. She was instrumental in setting up the radio transmitter called the 'voice of freedom' in Bombay. Through the radio transmitter she propagated the message of Mahatma Gandhi and broadcast other national ideologies and news of the war of independence among the people.

Why is Matangini Hazra remembered in history?

Matangini Hazra also known as Gandhi Bai, a 73 years old lady from Medinipur played a heroic role during the Quit India Movement in 1942. She led a crowd in capturing the police station and court of Tamluk. She held high the national flag even while embracing bullets that led to her death. She is also known as the 'Laxmi Bai of Medinipur'.

Nature of Student Movement

Students' movement began in India in the second half of nineteenth century. The editor of Hindoo Patriot, Harish Chandra Mukherjee and eminent writers like Girish Chandra Ghosh, Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay and Rangalal Banerjee, wrote profusely to instill patriotism among the students.

Satyendranath Tagore, in his article 'Amar Balyokatha' wrote about student awakening.

During the nationalist period, various patriotic songs, poems and plays had influenced the student community.

According to Krishna Kumar Mitra, Ananda Anandmohan Basu was the first sponsor of students organisation, but

~~the~~ 'Student Association' was formed in Calcutta with the initiative of Susendranath Banerjee. In this way, students movement started assuming definite features and characters

Characteristics and Features

If we analyse the growth of students' movement during 20th cent twentieth century the notable feature that will be observed is that, from Partition of Bengal to World War I the main

basis of students movement was anti-british, political movement. Spontaneous protests of individuals culminated into united and well-organised students movement. During this time, the students' answered to the calls of national leaders and joined the ~~not~~ National Movement. The students of Brajamohan College founded by Ashwini Kumar Dutta took part in freedom movement in 1905. Khudiram Bose and Prafulla Chaki were accused for their attempt to murder of Kings Ford.

They also conducted the movement by themselves whenever it was needed. During freedom movement, when there were idealistic differences of opinions between the left and the right winged politics, the students got involved whole-heartedly. The students' movement of this time was also noted for its secular and non-communal character. It was free from all kinds of conservative ~~ideas~~ ideas and from the influence of national leaders. The students primarily protested against unfair dealings, injustice, discrimination and deprivation in society. Growth of separate student organisation was an important feature of ~~the~~ post World War I students movement.

There self-sacrifice, service, fearlessness and truthful, progressive nature gave a unique character to the students movement. Students movement before 1919 had two main features, namely, during Swadeshi Period, there extreme enthusiasm about boycotting British goods helped to enhance anti-british feelings all around and secondly, the young students community were greatly influenced by revolutionary movements, Russian Revolution (1917) and equality and socialist ideals.

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In which year and by whom was the Deepali Sangha established? When was the Deepali Sangha Student's Sangha formed?

Leela Roy (Nag) established the Deepali Sangha in 1923 in Dhaka consisting of 12 members.

Deepali student's Sangha was formed in 1926

Why was Deepali Sangha established?

Deepali Sangha, established by Leela Roy (Nag) in Dhaka in 1923, aimed at inculcating the spirit of patriotism among women to help the needy and promote education among them. It played a vital role in the emancipation of women of Bengal. Branches of this organisation were established all over Bengal even in the remote areas for achieving their purpose.

Why is Kalpana Dutta remembered in history?

Kalpana Dutta (1913 to 1915) of Chittagong popularly known as 'Agnikanya' was an associate of Surya Sen during the Chittagong Armoury Raid (1930). She also took active part during the Civil Disobedience Movement (1930) that was launched by Mahatma Gandhi. She was arrested by the police for her plans to destroy the jail with dynamite in order to release the revolutionaries and the 'Dynamite Conspiracy Case' was initiated against her by the British government. As a result she was sentenced to life long

imprisonment and after her release she joined the Communist Party of India.

Why is Bina Das remembered in history?

The famous women revolutionary Bina Das, (1911 to 1986) a student St. John Diocesan School Calcutta was a member of the Chhatri Sangha a revolutionary organisation in Calcutta founded by her sister Kalyani Das. She shot five bullets at Governor Stanley Jackson, in 1932, but her attempts misfired. As a result, she was prosecuted and sentenced to nine years' of rigorous imprisonment. It must be added that she wrote two autobiographical books in Bengali 'Srinkhal Jankar' and 'Pitridar' and edited the magazine 'Nandini Mandira'.

Why is Lakshmi Swaminathan famous?

Lakshmi Swaminathan, a medical practitioner from Madras, who became Lakshmi Saigal by marriage was entrusted with the job of the women's brigade of the Azad Hind Fauj, known as the 'Jhansi Brigade'. Also known as Captain Lakshmi, she made the ~~Jha~~ 'Jhansi Brigade' strong by recruiting willing women from Malay and Burma. She was arrested in 1946 by the British and kept in the Red Fort in Delhi and in 1998 she was awarded the title of 'Padmabibhusan' by the Indian government.

How did the students carry on the programme of boycott during the Anti-partition Movement?

One of the most important features of students' movement during the Anti-partition Movement was boycott of all foreign goods and picketing. Even Rabindranath Tagore, asked the students of all categories to join in the mass boycott movement. They set up around seventy five branches from where they sold Swadeshi products. They even boycotted the schools and colleges run by the British government and took part in revolutionary activities.

What was the Bengal Volunteers?

In 1928, during the Calcutta Session of Congress Subhas Chandra Bose founded a volunteer group and it was with a few of these youths that Hem Chandra Ghosh of Barisal formed the Bengal volunteers or the BV party. The most heroic activity of the party during the freedom movement was the 'Corridor warfare' that was undertaken by Benoy, Badal and Dinesh to kill inspector general of prison Mr Simpson at the Writers' Building.

What is known as the 'Corridor Warfare'?

The members of the BV Party Benoy Krishna Bose, Badal Gupta and Dinesh Gupta who had committed a no. of terrorist activities, embarked on to kill Colonel Simpson, the then Inspector of Prison on 8th December 1930 at the Writers' Building. The encounter that followed took the lives of Colonel Simpson, Badal Gupta

and Bengy Bose. Dinesh was brought to trial and hanged to death and this event is known as the 'Corridor Warfare'.

Why was Rashid Ali Day observed?

Captain Rashid Ali, an important officer of the Azad Hind Fauj was sentenced to seven years of rigorous imprisonment after his prosecution in a court by the British government which resulted in mass protest in Calcutta by the labourers, students, workers of tramways. A procession was taken out on 11th Feb 1946 for this purpose, when around 300 students and 48 common p men were killed by the British police. As a result, a strike was organised on 12th Feb 1946 by the All India Students ~~Federation~~ Federation, the Muslim Students' League and also the Communist Party of India is protesting against the mass assassination and demanding the release of Captain Rashid Ali from prison. This was later celebrated as the Rashid Ali Day.

Who was Jyotiba Phule? Name the organisation set up by him.

The Dalit or the depressed class of people in India belonging to the Hindu community were subject to economic, social, political and cultural deprivation for a very long time. The first person who started a movement in favour of these people was Jyotiba Phule. He started his movement

in 1872 and formed an organisation for this purpose called the 'Satya Shodhak Samaj' in 1873

Who were known as the Dalits?

The fifth caste of the Hindu caste system are the untouchables who are known as Dalits. The word Dalit originated from a Sanskrit root word 'dal' meaning the oppressed and in reality also they are the most exploited and the poorest people of the Indian society. Mahatma Gandhi had used the word 'Harijan' or children of god instead of Dalit.

When was the Poona Pact signed and between whom?

On September 25th 1932 the Poona Pact was signed. The pact was signed by Rajendra Prasad, G.D. Birla, Walchand Hirakchand, Madan Mohan Malaviya, Thakur Das Tej Bahadur Sapru, M.R. Jayakar, B.R. Ambedkar represented the Hindu depressed classes.

Who gave leadership to the Mahad Satyagraha?
Why did this Satyagraha take place?

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar gave leadership to the Mahad Satyagraha in 1927. The movement took place in order to allow the 'untouchables' to use water from a public water tank in Mahad, in Maharashtra. The day i.e. 20th March 1927 is observed as social Empowerment day in India.

What was Communal Award?

The British Prime Minister Ramsay Mac Donald who considered himself as the 'friend of the

Indians' announced the Communal Award on 16th August 1932. after the failure of the Third Round Table Conference. The Communal Award granted separate electorates in India for the Forward caste, Scheduled caste, Muslim, Buddhists, Sikhs, Indian Christians, Anglo Indians etc and it applied the principle of weightage. The 'Communal Award' was severely criticised by Mahatma Gandhi who felt it to be detrimental to both Hinduism and the Dalit people. The Poona Pact changed some provisions of the Communal Award.

Why is Harichand Thakur remembered ?

Harichand Thakur was the founder of the Namasudra Movement in Faridpur, Bangladesh. He tried to develop the sense of self respect and self consciousness among the Namasudras and his disciples, as known as the 'Matua'. He urged the Namasudras to take education and conducted movement against the exploitation of the Brahmins, landlords, priests etc upon the Namasudras.

Why is Guruchand Thakur remembered ?

Guruchand Thakur, the son of Harichand Thakur was instrumental in changing the name of the Chandals to Namasudra (census report 1911). He is regarded as the father of the 'Namasudra Reform Movement'. Under the presidency of Guruchand the first Namasudra conference took place at Khulna in 1881 and he also founded a primary school and Higher English School for the Matuas at Oriahandi, Faridpur.

4 marks question

Analyse the role of women in the Anti-partition Movement.

Anti-partition movement in Bengal (1905) saw the active participation of western educated women belonging to the higher caste middle class families of the Indian society. Even female members of the Tagore family like Swarna Kumari Debi and her daughter Sarala Devi made significant contributions in the period. Swarna Kumari's Sakhi Samity and Sarala's Lakshmi Bhandar, an organisation that produced Swadeshi goods, Bharat Stree Mahamandal for unity and self development of women, introducing introduction of Bixastami Brata, Pratapaditya Utsav and Sarala's articles in 'Bharati' inspiring the women are worth mentioning. The women boycotted the use of foreign goods promoted the Swadeshi products and even broke the glass bangles in their hands as a mark of protest. On the day the partition became effective i.e. 16th October 1905, they observed 'astandhan' or 'no-cooking' following the instruction of Ramendra Sundar Tribedi. Some of the women like Nanibala Debi (aunt of Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyay) even provided shelter and weapons to the revolutionaries secretly.

However, it must be noted that most of the women participated in the Anti-partition movement within the confinements of their household and only a few came out in the open. Also there was hardly any participation from the lower caste, uneducated and conservative families.

What was the role of women in the Non-cooperation Movement?

Women throughout the country responded to the call of Mahatma Gandhi and joined the Non-Cooperation Movement in 1920-22. Gandhiji emphasised on women's participation through Khadi Movement for he thought it was important for the rural women to be involved in cottage industry and become economically independent. He wanted the women to take equal participation with the men. The women attended meetings, took part in processions, organised picketing and even courted arrest boldly during the movement in all over the country. Indian women like Sarojini Naidu, Annie Besant, Kamala Debi Chattopadhyay, Urmila Debi, Basanti Debi became icons of the movement. More than 1000 women revolted against the visit of Prince of Wales in 1920 in Bombay and Basanti Debi in Calcutta was arrested for organising a demonstration against the visit of 'Prince of Wales'. The Muslim ~~were~~ women, though limited in number, also joined the movement and the Marwari women in Calcutta donated money and gold generously to the 'Tilak Swaraj Fund' during the Non-cooperation Movement.

Discuss the contribution of women in the Civil Disobedience Movement.

Women's participation assumed a comprehensive form during the Civil Disobedience Movement launched by Mahatma Gandhi in 1930. Members of All India Women's Conference, National Council of Women involved themselves in the movement, spread education and demanded government regulation securing equal rights for women. The main purpose of the women's movement was political reformation and protests against imperialism. Women, during the movement participated in protest marches, picketed in front of the shops selling foreign clothes and liquors, boycotted foreign goods and manufactured salt. Women like Kamala Debi Chattopadhyay, Basanti Debi, Urmila Debi, B. Amma, Sarojini Naidu, Arantikebai Gokhale etc had played significant role in the movement. Sarojini Naidu stormed the Dharasana Salt Works and in Bengal Women Satyagraha Committee and Navu Satyagraha Samity were established. A large number of women from rural and urban area, Christian, Muslim women from different parts of India participated in the movement.

During the Civil Disobedience Movement police oppression and atrocities were quite alarming and out of 80,000 people who were arrested 17,000 were women.

Discuss the role of women in the Quit India Movement

The Quit India Movement launched by Mahatma Gandhi in 1942 was kept alive by the Indian women as most of the men taking part in the movement got arrested. Women participated through multiple ways to keep alive the spirit of the movement. Women leaders like Sarojini Naidu, Sucheta Kripalani organised and encouraged the movement from hiding. Aruna Asaf Ali courted arrest while breaking the salt law and hoisted the tri-colour flag in the Kranti Maidan of Bombay on August 9th 1942. Usha Mehta founded the radio transmitter 'Voice of Freedom' and propagated the messages of Mahatma Gandhi. Matangini Hazra, the 73 years old widow from Medinipur not only formed the Bhagini Sabha with 20,000 women, she also led women volunteers to occupy the Tamruk police station. She became a martyr and even at the time of embracing a bullet, she held the national flag high and chanted 'Vande Mataram'. Other women like Bhogeswari Phukanani, Amar Kaur, Rani Chanda, Nandita Kripalani and a large number of peasant women who protested against the tax and land revenue made remarkable contributions in the Quit India movement.

Write a note on Pritilata Waddadar.

Pritilata Waddadar (1911 to 1932) was one of the revolutionary women of India from Bengal who became a martyr. From her student days she was an ardent worker of the Deepali Sangha of Dhaka and 'Chhatra Sangha' of Calcutta. She accompanied Surya Sen during the Chittagong Armoury Raid in 1930. Along with Surya Sen, Apurba Sen and others she assassinated Captain Cameron. She also took part in the battle of Jalalabad Hill (1930) and Battle of Dalghat (1932). In 1932 on 24th September, Pritilata successfully led a group of young men and raided a European Club in Chittagong. This led to a direct confrontation with the police and while many of the revolutionaries escaped, Pritilata was badly ~~wounded~~ wounded and had no other way alternatives but to be arrested by the British police. To avoid that she consumed Potassium Cyanide and committed suicide. Her sacrifice influenced the revolutionaries in future.

Write a note on Chittagong Armoury Raid.
OR

Why is Surya Sen remembered in history.

Surya Sen, also known as Masterda was instrumental in reviving the revolutionary movement in Bengal after the death of

Bagha Jatin (1916) and his most significant achievement was the Chittagong Armoury Raid (1930). He was associated with people like Loknath Bal, Ganesh Ghosh, Ananta Singha, Kalpana Dutta, Pritilata Waddedast etc and he formed Indian Republican Army to fight against the government. On April 18th, 1930, Surya Sen along with his associates hoisted the national flag and chanted Vande Mataram, proclaimed Indian Republican Government at Chittagong and attacked four centres like - military armoury, police armoury, telegram and telephone office and a European Club. On the evening of 22nd April 1930 the police started taking their repressive actions and after continuous bombing from both sides the British were forced to retreat. The Gorkha regiment of the police however arrested Surya Sen on 16th February 1933 and on 12th January 1934 he was hanged in Chittagong jail. Fourteen people were given life sentence in Chittagong Armoury Case and Jatin Das died in Lahore Jail after fasting for 63 days.

What was the role of the students in the Anti-Partition Movement?

Anti-partition Movement was started in Bengal after the announcement of Partition of Bengal by Lord Curzon in 1905 and the students took an active part in it. Procession and meeting in College street was organised by 6000 students of Calcutta at the initiative of Ripon College and baristers like Abdul Rasul and Liaquat Hossain addressed the meeting.

Both the Hindu and Muslim students fought together and boycotted government schools and colleges organised picketing of shops selling foreign goods. It was for the first time the students came out in the streets for political as well as national cause. Rabindranath Tagore, in a Rakhibandhan ceremony urged the students to participate in the mass boycott movement. Alarmed by the strength of the student movement, the British government passed the Carlyle Circular prohibiting the students from joining the movement. This led to further agitation and boycott of the Calcutta University and setting up of the National Council of Education took place. The Dawn Society was also established by SC Mukherjee to train the youths on patriotism and Sachindra Chandra Bose set up the Anti Circular Society to provide education to the students who were removed from the government run institutions.

What was the role of the students in the Non-cooperation Movement?

The students both Hindu and Muslim participated in the Non-cooperation Movement started by Mahatma Gandhi in 1920. They boycotted schools and colleges, organised street corner meetings and promised not to return to their classes till independence was achieved. In Bengal the students launched strikes and boycott under the leadership of Subhash Chandra Bose in Medinipur under 'Dehapan' Birendranath Sasmal. In Bombay the students welcomed the 'Prince of Wales' by organising a 'hartal' in 1921. Many students who participated in the Non-cooperation Movement joined the national institutions. No student organisation was there during the time of the Non-cooperation Movement and their participation was limited mainly to Bengal and Punjab. After the incident of Chauri-Chaura many of the students were disillusioned and lost their faith on Mahatma Gandhi and many of them got inclined to the revolutionary and leftist movements.

Discuss the role of the students in the Civil Disobedience movement.

Students played an important role in the Civil Disobedience Movement. In UP it was beyond the control of the Congress leaders, in Assam it was aggressive, in Bombay it was passive and in Bihar also the students were not much active.

However in Bengal, the students observed 12th March 1930 when Gandhiji started the Dandi March as a special day. All Bengal students organisation organised the Salt Satyagrah. a meeting was held by Jatintra Mohan Sengupta in Calcutta which were attended by 700 students and Jatintra Mohan broke government law by reading prohibited political booklets. Students of Howrah Jilla School, Hooghly Mission College, Dhaka University were arrested and severely tortured by police. In Tamiluk and Kathi, the girls boycotted schools and colleges for six months. The students programme on boycott and picketing alarmed both the business community and the government during the Civil Disobedience Movement. When the movement was temporarily withdrawn in 1931 and the Gandhi-Irwin Pact was signed at that point the students felt betrayed and leaned more towards the revolutionary movements.

What were the teachings of Hari Chand Thakur?

Hari Chand Thakur was the founder leader of the Namasudra Movement in Faridpur. He called his disciples 'Matus' and tried to develop self respect and awareness among his fellow peeps. He asked his followers to observe the 'Twelve orders' during the movement against the upper castes namely Brahmin, Zamindars, Priests etc. He wanted the Namasudras to receive education.

Hari Chand insisted his followers to speak the truth. He wanted them to treat women as mother and he urged his followers to remain liberal to all religions. He wanted them to respect parents like god, love the world, never to discriminate on racial grounds. He asked them to sit in prayer every day and sacrifice oneself to God. He also insisted to utter the name of Lord at work, hold the six cardinal passions in control and not to practise asceticism in a garb. He also told them to try and establish the temple of 'Hari'

Write a note on the self-respect Movement

E.V. Ramasamy commonly known as T. Periyar, a social activist in the then Madras Presidency and politician initiated the self respect movement in India. The movement aimed at achieving a society where the backward castes have equal human rights and self respect and were not subject to social ostracism. Periyar strongly devoted himself to the movement against Brahmanism and the movement became popular not just in Tamil Nadu but also in Malaysia and Singapore. In Singapore the Tamil Reform Association promoted the principle of the self respect movement among the local Tamils through schools and publications. The political parties like Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) and All India Anna Dravida Munnetra (AIADMK) owe their origins to the Self-respect movement.

Write a note on Matua Movement.

Hari Chand Thakur, the founder leader of the Namasudra Movement in Faridpur, Bangladesh called his disciples 'Matua'. He tried to instill self respect and awareness among them. He instructed his followers to observe 'Twelve Orders' and fought against the exploitations of the upper caste Hindus - the Brahmins, the zamindars, the other landed people etc. Hari Chand Thakur urged his followers to receive proper and formal education and the primary objectives of the movement was to uplift the deprived and downtrodden people. The movement also emphasised on attainment of peace of mind and further it aimed at removing the inequalities that existed in the Indian Society. After the death of Hari Chand his son Guruchand Thakur who carried on the Matua movement was known as the 'father of Namasudra Renaissance'. He took the initiative to replace the name of Namasudra from Chandal in the census Report of 1911. He also sent a delegation to the governor of Bengal and Assam in 1907, stating the condition of the Namasudras and appealed to provide government jobs for the Namasudras.

Analyse the role of the students during the Quit India Movement.

The Quit India Movement was started by Mahatma Gandhi in 1942 and ended in 1944 and the students spontaneously participated in it in Bengal, Bihar, UP, Gujarat, Orissa and other provinces. The students in Aligarh University and Benaras Hindu University organised campaigns to inspire the people to participate in the movement. In South India also students carried on strikes for a continued period of time and five students were killed by the police. During the Quit India Movement, the Students - Peasant Workers League was formed. Wide spread strikes took place in Calcutta, Dhaka and Assam too. Armed rising of the students occurred in Maharashtra, Mysore and Lucknow. Violence broke out in Ajmergarh, Balia, Gorakhpur, Patna, Gaya, Bhagalpur, Munger, Champaran and Shahabad. Students Federation and the Congress Socialist Party were banned during the Quit India Movement and it was the Communist Party, the Forward Bloc, the RSP who carried on the student's movement. The Vanar Sena, an association of school students in Gujarat also came up during the Quit India Movement.

Write a note on the debate between Gandhi and Ambedkar on dalit rights.

Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi and Dr. B. R. Ambedkar addressed the problem of 'Dalits' or untouchables in two different ways: in response to British proposal based on Dr. Ambedkar's suggestion of creating a separate electorate for the 'Dalits' in the Indian Parliament, M.K. Gandhi began his 'fast unto death' for M.K. Gandhi 'untouchability' was a social problem that had to be settled by the Hindu community itself while for Dr. B.R. Ambedkar the 'untouchables' only could speak for themselves and hence he advocated for their 'Communal representation'. The real problem surfaced in 1932 during the Round Table Conference where Dr.

Ambedkar ended up supporting a separate electorate for the untouchables. After a series of communal riots and slaughtering of a large number of 'dalits' announcement of the 'Communal Award' by Ramsay MacDonald and M.K. Gandhi's 'hunger strike' - Dr. B.R. Ambedkar agreed to give up the Dalit's right to exclusively elect their own leaders and the Poona Pact of 1932 was signed.

It was under the 'Pressure tactics' of M.K. Gandhi that Dr. B.R. Ambedkar signed the Poona Pact and later he himself expressed his unhappiness over his action. At the end, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar was successful in uplifting the status of the Dalits - the 15th Article of the Indian Constitution stated that there should not be any caste discrimination.

and secularism would be maintained. The reservation of the scheduled caste and scheduled tribes in education and government services were secured too.

Discuss the role of women in India's freedom struggle during the 20th century

20th century brought about radical and revolutionary changes in the role of Indian women and many of them belonging to educated upper and middle class families participated in India's freedom struggle.

The role of women specially in Bengal during the Anti-partition Movement 1905 was mostly confined within the limits of the household resulting in boycott of use of foreign products. They even observed 'strandhan' on 16th October 1905 in Bengal following the instruction of Ramendra Sundar Trebedi as a mark of protest against the British. Some of the active women like Sarala Devi Chaudhuri set up the Lakshmi Bhandar to encourage the sale of indigenous products during the period.

Responding to call of Mahatma Gandhi, women in large number participated in the Non-cooperation movement (1920), Civil Disobedience Movement (1930) and Quit India Movement (1942). In the Non-cooperation movement, Gandhiji stressed on women's participation in the Khadi Movement. The women boycotted foreign products, encouraged Swadeshi, picketed before shops selling foreign goods and liquor, organized meetings, processions and demonstrations. They even popularised weaving and spinning at the villages. More than one thousand women staged a demonstration against the visit of Prince of Wales in 1920. During the Civil Disobedience Movement the women launched marches,

manufactured salt, picketed before shops selling foreign goods and liquor, boycotted foreign products.

Sarojini Naidu, herself led a campaign and stormed at the Dharasana Salt Work. Women from every communities (Hindu, Muslim, Parsee, Sikh, Christian etc) participated in the movement and it was noted that out of 80,000 people imprisoned during the movement 17,000 were women.

The participation of women in the Quit India Movement was spontaneous and widespread and even school going girls took active part in the Movement. Roles of Sucheta Kripalani, Aruna Asaf Ali, Usha Mehta, Matangini Hazra deserve special mention in the context. Women also participated in the armed revolutionary movements and notable among them were Pritilata Waddadar, Kalpana Dutta, Bina Das and others. These women even dared to make attempts on the lives of some of the important British official of the time.

Though the women participated actively along with the men in India's freedom struggle they were denied the right to take any decision. They always worked under the leadership of the important male leaders of the time.

Discuss the role of women in India's armed rebellion.

OR

Discuss the role of women in India's armed revolutionary struggle.

Women had actively participated in the armed revolutionary movements during the period from the first decade of the twentieth century to the third decade. Spread of education helped in generating

revolutionary spirit among these women who were strong and self confident and ready to sacrifice their lives for the cause of their nation. Kumudini Mitra the daughter of Krishna Kumar Mitra published a magazine in 1907 named 'Suprabhat' to encourage the revolutionary women of Bengal. Nanibala Debi, the widowed aunt of revolutionary Anarendra Nath Chattopadhyay dared to communicate information to a political prisoner in jail and even gave shelters to the revolutionaries. Women also joined the Anushilan Samiti and Yugantar Samiti to carry out armed revolution. The role of Sarala Devi Chaudhurani was also important and she set up the Lakshmi Bhandar and organised 'Birsatmi Brata', 'Pratapaditya Brata' in order to arouse national sentiments. In December 1923, Leela Nag established Deepali Sangha in Dhaka, with the aim of emancipation of women, enhancing women's education, instill revolutionary political ideals in the minds of its members and train them in Bratachari, Drill, parade, sword fighting, lathi wielding etc. Pritilata Waddedar, Kalpana Datta, Bina Das were closely associated with Deepali Sangha and Chhatra Sangha. Pritilata was an associate of Masterda Surya Sen in the Chittagong Armoury Raid, she also raided the European Club in Chittagong in 1932 along with a group of Young men and committed suicide by consuming potassium cyanide.

before getting arrested by the British Police. Kalfana Dutta, another revolutionary who planned to destroy the jail with a dynamite for releasing the revolutionaries, was arrested by the police and the Dynamite Conspiracy Case was started against her. She was sentenced to life long imprisonment and after her release in 1939 she joined the Communist Party of India. Two school girls of Coomilla Suniti Choudhury and Santi Ghosh killed district magistrate Mr C.G.V. Steven on December 1931 and Ujjala Majumder attempted to murder Mr Anderson, the Governor of Darjeeling and was imprisoned for 14 yrs. In 1932, Bina Das made an attempt on the life of Stanley Jackson, the Governor of Bengal and was prosecuted and sentenced to nine years' rigorous imprisonment. Lakshmi Saigal was another notable woman who was made the leader of the women's brigade of Azad Hind Fauj called 'Jhansi Brigade' by Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose.

Give an account of the women's brigade of Azad Hind Fauj

The women's regiment of the Indian National Army or Azad Hind Fauj was called the 'Jhansi Brigade'. It aimed to put an end to the British rule in India with assistance from Japan. Inspired by the bravery of 'Rani of Jhansi' the regiment

was named so and Smt. Lakshmi Swaminathan, a medical practitioner, who later on became Lakshmi Saigal was made the leader of this brigade by Subhash Chandre Bose. Thousands of women responded to the call of Subhash Chandre Bose at a meeting in Singapore on July 1943 and joined the regiment. The Rani of Jhansi regiment was trained as an infantry and it drew volunteers from Malaya and Burma. The cadets received military and combat training, drill marches as well as training in rifles, hand grenades etc. Training in jungle warfare and nursing were also given to the cadets. The Jhansi Brigade of Dr. Lakshmi Saigal consisted of 856 women on July 1943. Her campaign against the British began on 23rd October and these women were instrumental in establishing the 'Red Cross Unit' also. Some of the Bengali women in the Jhansi Brigade were Sipra Sen, Rama Bhattacharya, Meera Ganguly etc. During the campaign of the Azad Hind Fauj in Imphal in 1945 a contingent of the Jhansi Brigade was sent there to fight against the British army. In March 1946, Dr. Lakshmi Saigal was arrested and kept in the Red Fort. After the surrender of Azad Hind Fauj, the Jhansi troops from Burma were allowed to disband and the remainder retreated with the Japanese forces. The Rani of Jhansi regiment was later disbanded and Dr. Lakshmi Saigal was awarded with the title 'Padmabibhushan' in 1998.

What was the role of the students in the Swadeshi and Boycott Movement? What role did the National Council of Education play in this context?

Lord Curzon's plan of Partition of Bengal in 1905 caused a massive uprising known as the 'Swadeshi Movement' and the student community took an important part in it. Krishna Kumar Mitra was the first to announce the proposal of 'Boycott' through 'Sanjeevani' and the proposal was accepted at a meeting in Khulna. The aim of boycott was to create economic pressure on England. In Bengal the 'Boycott Movement' spread like wildfire and the students not only boycotted the government institutions, they also organised demonstrations and protest and picketed before the shops selling British goods. 16th October 1905, i.e. the day of partition was observed as a day of national mourning and a general strike, fasting, arandhan, rakhi bandhan were observed throughout Bengal.

The Boycott movement soon gave rise to the Swadeshi Movement. A great initiative was taken for the production and sale of Swadeshi goods.

Alarmed by the growing spirit of the student communities the British government passed the infamous Carlyle Circular in 1905, prohibiting the students to associate with any political movement and threatened to take punitive actions against those institutions which failed to prevent their students' participation in politics. But this

could hardly dissuade the students and it was in this context that Sachindra Prasad Basu set up the Anti-Circular Society (1905) which encouraged the national leaders to formulate national education policy. At a meeting arranged by the Dawn Society in 1905 the decision to form the National Council of Education was adopted. The National Council of Education was founded with the objective of organising an elaborate system of education on national lines and under national control. Accordingly the nationalists established educational institutions where literary, technical and physical education could be imparted to the students.

What was the role of the students in the armed revolutionary movement in Colonial India?

The students of India who were influenced by the Socialism, Russian Revolution, Democracy, Imperialism and Revolutionary ideas played a significant role in the armed revolutionary movement in colonial India.

Armed rebellion against the British rulers began from the beginning of the 20th century with revolutionary groups arising in Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, UP, Bihar, Madras and especially in Bengal during the time of Partition of Bengal in 1905.

The Jugantar group of Aurobindo Ghosh, Basu Ghosh etc. and its inner circle Anushilan Samity was instrumental in a number of revolutionary activities. The most notable political terrorism of these parties were the Alipore Bomb Case and the attempt of Khudiram Bose and Prafulla Chaki

to assassinate Kingsford. By mistake, instead of Kingsford, Mrs Kennedy and her daughter were killed in the venture and Khudiram Bose was arrested and Prafulla Chaki shot himself dead. Khudiram was tried and hanged. The death of Khudiram, a 16 year old boy, was mourned with emotional protest by all sections of the Bengales Students' movement from 1918 to 1938 was marked by different features and according to the government report, 190 national schools and colleges and its 15,000 students joined the Anti-partition Movement. The President of the students' union of Bangabasi College Jatin Das died in Lahore jail after fasting for 64 days, the founder of the 'Nab Jawan Bharat Sabha' Bhagat Singh, a college student was hanged in 1931 at the end of the trial of 'Lahore Conspiracy Case' Khudhiram was the first student martyr from Punjab. Several students organisations like 'Lahore Students' Union (1927) All India Students' Federation (1936), Delhi Students' Union (1931) and Indus Students' union were formed. All Bengal Students' Association was formed under the leadership of Jyotindra Mohan Sengupta, Bengal Presidency Students Association was formed under the leadership of Subhash Chandra Bose, 'Bengali Students League' was formed by Biswanath Mukhopadhyay

and the first Parliament of students was constituted in Calcutta University in 1942, which was presided over by Pratap Chandra. Mention must be made of the revolutionary act of Benoy Bose, Badal Gupta and Dinesh Gupta who entered the Writers' Building on 8th December 1930 and fatally shot Simpson, the Inspector general of Prison. The encounter that took place between the police and the revolutionaries became known as the Corridor Warfare. Another revolutionary Bina Das also made an attempt on the life of the then Governor general of Bengal Stanley Jackson. The attempt ended in a failure but Bina Das was arrested, prosecuted and sentenced to nine years of rigorous imprisonment.

Thus the student's movement of the 20th century had empowered the freedom movement of India and in future many eminent politicians, leaders, ministers and administrators had evolved out of those students' movements.