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मानविकी एवं समाजविज्ञान की द्विभाषी शोध-पत्रिका

Nagpur Session of Congress (1920): Watershed on the Issue of Leadership in Central Provinces

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The Indian national congress founded in 1885, was a sort of Native Parliament for the people to wage their struggle against mighty British Empire. Therefore, one of its objectives was "the determination of the lines upon and methods by which during the twelve months it was desirable for native politicians to labor in the public interests."¹ However the annual sessions after 1919 gave altogether a new direction to the political life of India.

The incident of Jallianwala Bagh Massacre became the turning point in the History of India. It was because of publication of Hunter Committee Report synchronized with the publication of the treaty of Sevres that a loyalist like Gandhi turned into a rebel. Now Gandhi made up the mind that 'co-operation of any shape or form with this satanic government is sinful'.² In July 1920, Gandhi announced that Non-Cooperation would be inaugurated on August 1, 1920. He instructed that day of fasting and prayer, be observed the day before.³ Lokmanya Tilak promised his support to Non-Cooperation programmes.⁴ Unfortunately he passed away at midnight preceding the dawn of august 1, 1920. The whole nation stood still. Meetings were held at Nagpur, Raipur, Bilaspur, Jabalpur, Saugor, Balaghat, Khandwa and elsewhere in Central Provinces, in which people paid their homage to the departed soul.⁵

The Programmes of Non-Cooperation was approved and accepted by the Central Provinces Congress in its meeting held on 22nd August 1920.⁶ On 30th August, 1920 Gandhi, Shaikat Ali and other prominent leaders passed through Raipur on way to attend the special session of the Congress at Calcutta. The special session of the congress was held at Calcutta from 4th to 9th of September, 1920 under the president ship of Lala Lajpat Rai. It was called upon to consider the issue of non-Cooperation and Boycott.⁷ From Madhya Pradesh Thakur Chhedilal, Ravishankar shukla, Dr. E. Raghavendra Rao, Dr. Sheo Dulare Mishra and Sarvadutta Bajpai of Hindi region and G.S. Khaparde, a close associate of Tilak and other so many delegates attended the special session.⁸

In Calcutta session Gandhiji moved the momentous resolution of Non-Cooperation and Boycott of council elections, law courts and educational institutions. Here Gandhiji placed his scheme of withdrawing all support to the government until the