Vidya Bhawan balika Vidyapeeth shakti utthan aashram Lakhisarai Study material for class 10th Date:-21/05/20. History Nationalism in India

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The role of Mahatma Gandhi in the Nationalist movement

:- After returning from South Africa, Gandhiji played a leading role in the Indian National Movement from 1916 till his death.

- a) He successfully involved the masses in the Satyagraha movements at Champaran, Kheda and Ahmedabad to rise the voice of the peasants and workers.
- b) He organised nationwide movements like non-cooperation and civil disobedience and Quit India Movement to pressurise the colonial government to withdraw from India.
- c) He mobilised the people to unite for a mass struggle. His call was responded to with wholehearted support.
- d) He took up the cause of depressed classes and called them harijans and dignified their work.

e) His Unique method of Satyagraha based on truth and non-violence was appreciated even by the Britishers. his method included boycott of British Institutions like Legislative Council, law courts, schools, colleges, etc. picketing the shops selling foreign goods, rennuciation of titles awarded by the British, non-payment of taxes, etc.

The Simon commission

A statutory commission under sir John Simon was constituted by the tory government in Britain to look into the functioning of the constitutional system in India and suggest changes. But it was opposed by the Indians on the following lines.

- a) All the members of the commission were Englishmen.
- b) It did not provide any hope of Swaraj to Indians.

The Gandhi-Irwin pact

:- the civil disobedience movement started by Gandhiji faced brutal response from the British. There were large scale attacks on the Satyagrahis. Even women and children were not spared and beaten badly. Thousands of the protesters arrested.

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