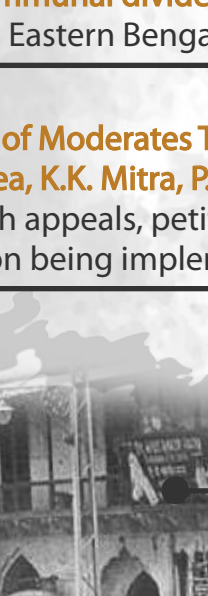


# Swadeshi MOVEMENT

## in India (1905-1908)



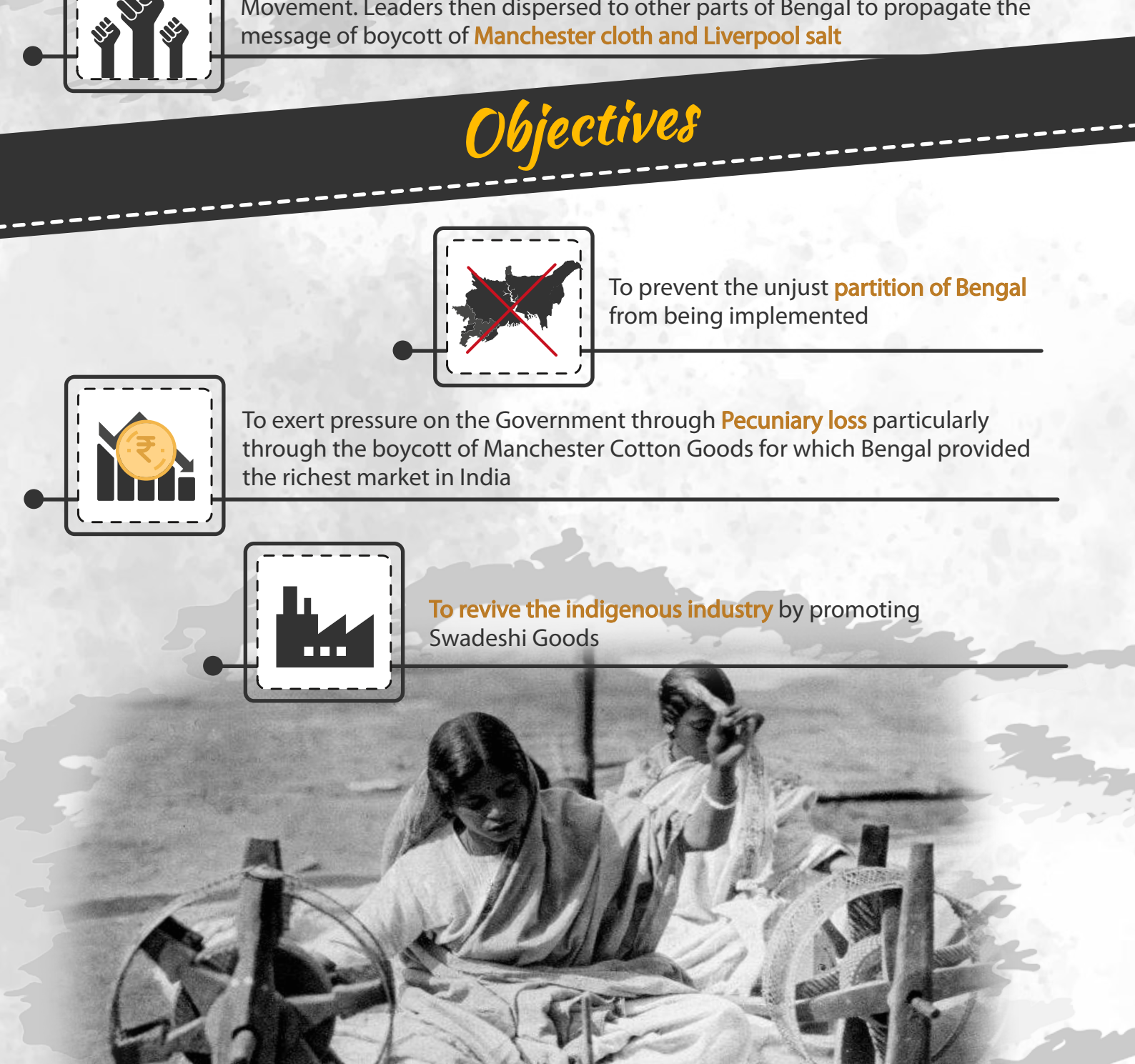
### Background



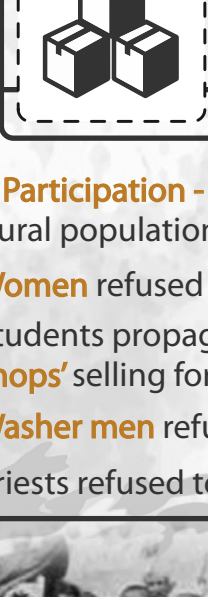
The Swadeshi Movement had its origin in **Anti-Partition Movement**, started to oppose Partition of Bengal



Bengal, the major province in British India, had become the **nerve centre of Indian Nationalism**. In 1903 the Viceroy of India, Lord Curzon decided to divide Bengal

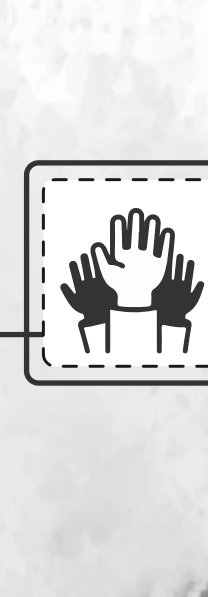


Ignoring a loud public opinion against partition, Lord Curzon issued an order on **July 20<sup>th</sup>, 1905** dividing Bengal into two – **East Bengal and Bengal** stating official reason that Bengal with its huge population was difficult to manage administratively



Partition of Bengal was formally enforced on **October 16<sup>th</sup>, 1905**

### Why was the Swadeshi Movement launched?



**Exposure to Real Motives behind Partition** – Indian Nationalist understood that the partition was on the basis of **Language and Religion** and British intended –

- To weaken Bengal and Bengali intelligentsia by reducing Bengalis (17 million) into a **Minority in Bengal** itself by including Hindu & Oriya people (37 million)
- To create **communal divide** as the Western Bengal was to be a **Hindu majority** area and the Eastern Bengal was to be a **Muslim majority** area



**Failure of Moderates Techniques (1903 - 05)** – Moderates like **Surendra Nath Banerjee, K.K. Mitra, P.C. Ray and Dwijendra Tagore** opposed partition through appeals, petitions and press campaigns. But it couldn't prevent Partition being implemented

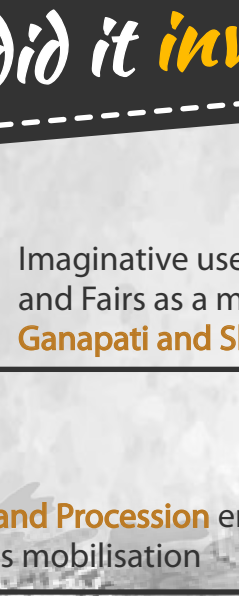


To support Anti Partition Movement that was launched on **7<sup>th</sup> August, 1905** in a massive gathering held at Calcutta Town Hall, Bengal. As a reaction to Partition, People fasted, walked barefooted singing 'Bande Matram', Hindu & Muslims tied Rakhis on each other's hands as a symbol of unity of the two halves of Bengal



**Need for more Positive Action** - The Bengalis adopted boycott of British goods & use of Swadeshi goods as last resort. It was the Formal Proclamation of Swadeshi Movement. Leaders then dispersed to other parts of Bengal to propagate the message of boycott of **Manchester cloth and Liverpool salt**

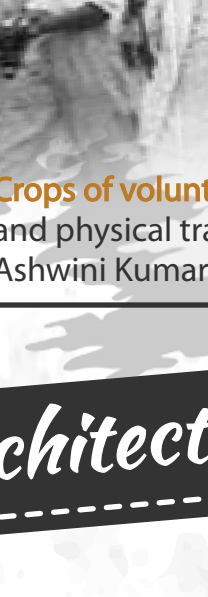
### Objectives



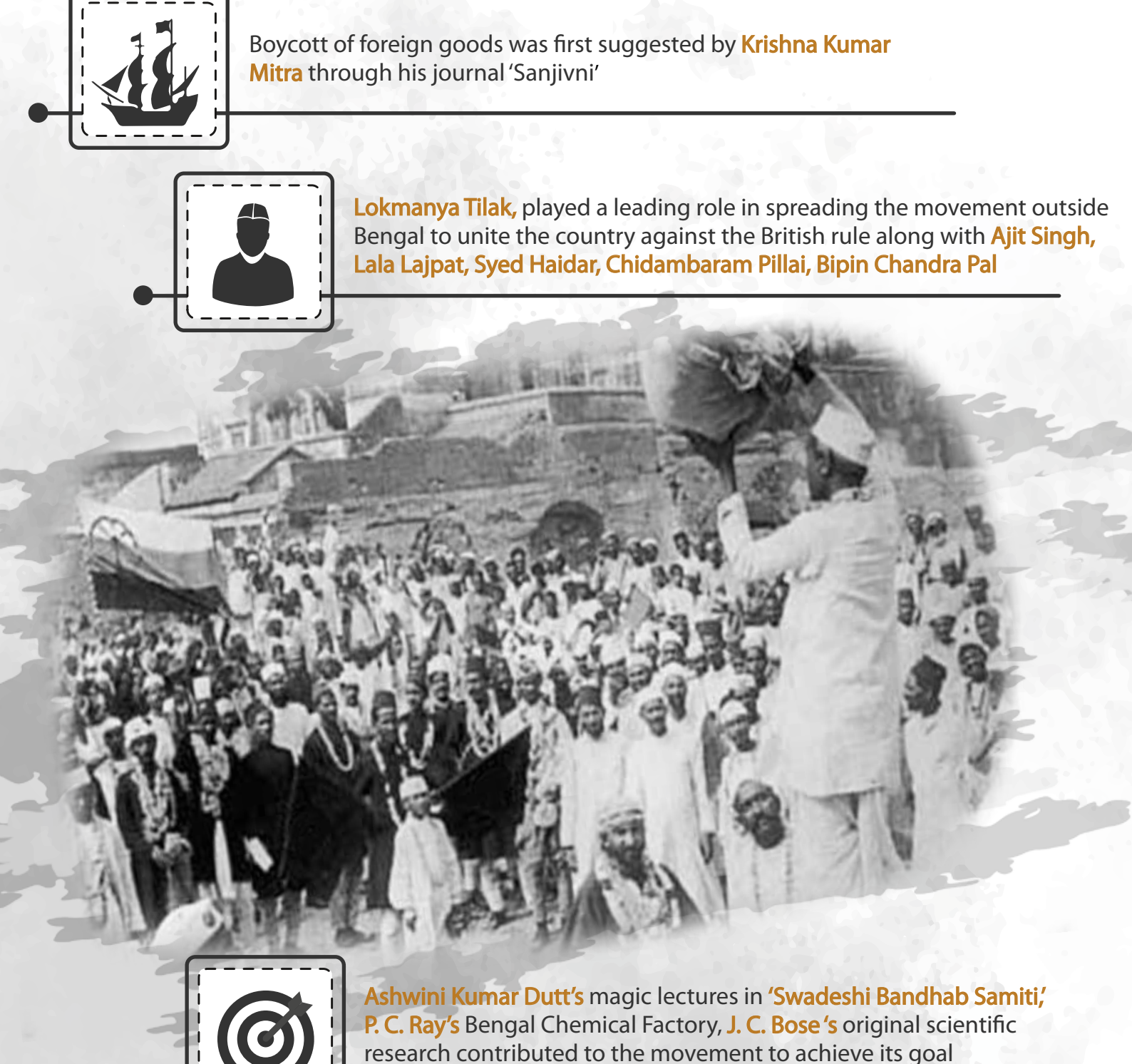
To prevent the unjust **partition of Bengal** from being implemented



To exert pressure on the Government through **Pecuniary loss** particularly through the boycott of Manchester Cotton Goods for which Bengal provided the richest market in India



To **revive the indigenous industry** by promoting Swadeshi Goods



### Nature of Swadeshi Movement



**Boycott of Foreign Goods** i.e. sugar or salt, publicly burning of foreign cloth



**Mass Participation** - Women, Students and the large section of urban and rural population actively participated for the first time in politics -

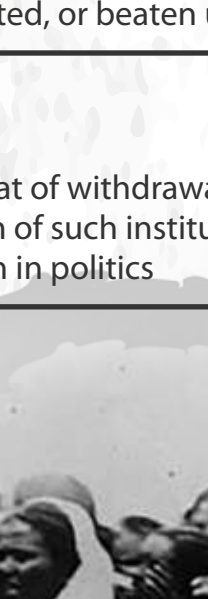
- **Women** refused to wear foreign bangles
- Students propagated Swadeshi by organising '**peaceful picketing of shops**' selling foreign cloth
- **Washer men** refused to wash foreign clothes
- Priests refused to ritualize marriages involving **exchange of foreign goods**



**National Movement** – Spread in other parts of the country i.e. in **Poona and Bombay** under **Tilak**, in **Punjab** under **Lala Lajpat Rai and Ajit Singh**, in **Delhi** under **Syed Haider Raza**, in **Madras** under **Chidambaram Pillai**



**'Self-Reliance' or 'Atmasakti'** was the main focus of Swadeshi Movement as an assertion of National dignity, e.g. development of indigenous alternatives, campaigns against casteism, early marriages etc.



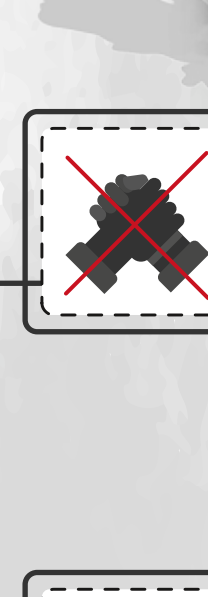
**Militant Movement** - After 1905, the extremists took to the movement from merely boycott to passive resistance e.g. boycott of English colonies by **Teachers**, educational institutions by **Lawyers** etc.



### How did it involve masses?



Imaginative use of traditional popular Theatre forms, Festivals and Fairs as a means of reaching out to the masses. E.g. **Tilak's Ganapati and Shivaji festivals in Bengal**



**Public meeting and Procession** emerged as major methods of mass mobilisation

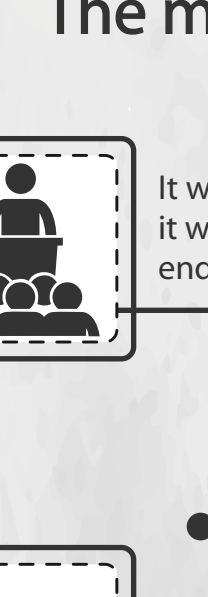


**Crops of volunteers or Samitis** generated political consciousness through moral and physical training, arbitration, social works etc. Swadeshi Bandhab Samiti of Ashwini Kumar Dutta claimed to settle 523 disputes through arbitration by 1906

### Architects of Swadeshi Movement



Boycott of foreign goods was first suggested by **Krishna Kumar Mitra** through his journal 'Sanjivini'



**Lokmanya Tilak**, played a leading role in spreading the movement outside Bengal to unite the country against the British rule along with **Ajit Singh, Lala Lajpat, Syed Haider, Chidambaram Pillai, Bipin Chandra Pal**



**Ashwini Kumar Dutta's** magic lectures in '**Swadeshi Bandhab Samiti**', **P.C. Ray's** Bengal Chemical Factory, **J. C. Bose's** original scientific research contributed to the movement to achieve its goal

### What were the outcomes of Swadeshi Movement?



**Indigenous Enterprises** - The movement was started with boycott of Manchester cloth but extended to promotion of indigenous goods. Consequently Swadeshi Textile Mills, Soap, Match Factories, Tanneries, Banks, Insurance Companies, Shops etc were set up



**National Education** - National educational Institutions like **Bengal National Collage** (Arvind Ghosh as Principal) National Council of Education for literary, scientific and technical education, Bengal Institute of Technology etc were opened



**Revival of Art, Culture and Religion** –

- **Patriotic Songs** of Rabindranath Tagore, Rajnikant Sen, Mukunda Das, Syed Abu Mohammad popularized the national spirit
- '**Vande-Mataram**' became the theme song of the Swadeshi Movement
- '**Togre's Amar Sonar Bangla**' written on this occasion was later adopted by Bangladesh as its national anthem



**Powerful Press** - Vernacular Press like the **Bengalee, Hitabadi, Sanjivani**, the **Indian Mirror** etc openly opposed the partition of Bengal. **Amrita Bazaar Patrika** prepared a petition with public will to be submitted to the government

### How did it influence Nationalist Politics?



**Indian National Congress** condemned the partition of Bengal and supported Swadeshi Movement



Under the leadership of militant nationalists "**Self- Government**" or "**Swaraj**" became the goal of Swadeshi movement that Congress formally declared at **Calcutta Session (1906)** under presidency of Dadabhai Naoroji



Birth of **Revolutionary Nationalism** e.g. Attempt to murder of magistrate by Prafulla Chaki & Khudiram Bose, Establishment of secret terrorist societies like **Anushilan Samiti**

### How did British Empire react?



**Disciplinary actions taken against the students** with many of them being fined, expelled, arrested, or beaten up by the police



**Carlyle Circular** - Threat of withdrawal of grants and scholarships including disaffiliation of such institutions which failed to prevent students' participation in politics



**Ban on shouting of 'Vande Matram** and holding public meetings in certain areas



Frequent **Police 'lathi charge'** on mass gatherings,



**Control on Press** through the "Newspaper Act" which enabled their seizure



Arrest of **Swadeshi Leaders** like Tilak, Chidambaram Pillai etc

### Why did the movement fizzle out?



**Severe Government Repression**



**Lack of effective organisation** to sustain the movement and utilise the newly released energy in mass participation



**Leaderlessness by 1908** as Tilak was arrested, Aurobindo Ghosh, Bipin Pal got retired from politics



**Lack of Muslim Support** except few upper class Muslims like Abdul Rasul, the barrister, Liaquat Hussain, the popular agitator etc.



Formation of **All India Muslim League** due to divisive tactics of British during Swadeshi Movement was a blow to Hindu Muslim unity



**No active participation from the peasantry**, the movement was largely confined to upper and middle classes and zamindars



**Allegations of Religious Communalism** because of use of traditional festivals, customs and institutions for mobilising the masses



**Ideological differences** between Moderate-Extremist over the pace of the movement and techniques of struggle eventually resulted in splitting of INC in 1907 at Surat

### Consequences



**Reunion of Bengal** in 1911 to curb the menace of revolutionary terrorism

### What is the historical Significance of Swadeshi Movement?

The movement was a turning point in modern Indian history -



It was the best expression of **Extremist Politics** in Indian history in the sense it was **Non Political Constructive Swadeshi** with emphasis on self development endeavours and Political Extremism with its emphasis on Passive Resistance



Moderates first time went beyond their **conventional political methods** e.g. mobilised labour strikes, etc



It witnessed the shift from old methods of prayer and petition to that of **Passive Resistance** i.e. violation of unjust laws etc



It invoked the **Golden Past** to arouse nationalist passions, historical figures like **Shivaji, Ranjit Singh, Siraj-ud-daula** etc were idolised as champions of national glory



To counter the colonial logic that British Rule is preparing Indians for Self Government, the movement proved that the Indians already had a **strong tradition of Self Rule** e.g. Indian **Aryan traditions** and **concept of dharma** that restricted arbitrary powers of King



Instead of weakening the Congress, it acted as a **magic potion to revitalise** it. Congress agreed with extremists and declared its goal of "**Swaraj**" in 1906



Instead of dividing the Bengalis, the movement brought into existence a **Swadeshi Coalition** by consolidating the Calcutta leaders and their East Bengal followers



More importantly, it **awakened the conscience of people** at large and they were ready to challenge the British Supremacy in all spheres

### Conclusion



"Swadeshi Movement led to the beginning of organised **Political Movement in India**. Gandhian Movements like **Non-Cooperation movement** were based on Swadeshi movement"

