Role of Muslim league in British India

Why in news?

Recently anniversary of All India Muslim League was observed in December 30.

What was the background of formation of AIML?

> *All India Muslim league (AIML) was formed by **Nawab Salimullah Khan on** December 30, 1906, in Dhaka.*

- **AMU** – Aligarh Muslim University provided the first institutional mechanism for mobilizing Muslims to protect their political economic interest.
- **Political leadership –** By the beginning of 20th century, Rich and powerful Muslims in India had begun to realize the need for political leadership and representation within the community.
- **Partition of Bengal in 1905** – Opposition of Bengal partition by congress made the elite Muslims the need to form organization to protect their interest.
- **Divide and Rule Policy** – It exacerbated religious tensions to maintain control, encouraging ALML formation.
- **Lack of Representation** - Muslims felt underrepresented in government institutions and decision-making processes.
- **1906 Simla deputation -** In 1906,a group of Prominent Muslims met Lord Minto, then Viceroy of India, , to demand more political representation for Muslims.

How Lucknow pact strengthened AML?

- **Lucknow pact** - In December 1916, the Congress under Bal Gangadhar Tilak and the Muslim League under Muhammad Ali Jinnah signed the Lucknow Pact.

> Lucknow session of 1916 was the first Congress session attended by Gandhiji after his return to India from South Africa in 1915.

- **Recognition to AML** – The pact gave indirect recognition to Muslim league as the sole representative of Muslims in India.
- **Separate electorate** – Congress agreed to the separate electorate demand of the league.
- **Reservation in central council** – 1/3rd reservation was provided to Muslim league in central legislative council.
- **Leadership Role** - Muhammad Ali Jinnah, who played a key role in the pact, emerged as a prominent leader, further consolidating the League's position.

- **Communalism** - The pact institutionalized communal representation, which laid the groundwork for future communal politics.

What was the impact of Lahore resolution?

- **Lahore Resolution** – Adopted by All-India Muslim League in 1940, It formally called for an independent state for India's Muslims.

March 23 is observed as Pakistan National Day to commemorate this resolution.

- **Transformation of league** - From the Lucknow pact to the Lahore Resolution, both the League and Jinnah had transformed entirely.
- **Independent States for Muslims** – Grouping of geographically contiguous Muslim majority regions in North Western and Eastern Zones of (British) India as 'independent states'.
- **Protection of Minority Rights** - The resolution emphasized the need to secure political, economic, and cultural rights for Muslims in minority regions.
- **Impact on secularism** - Its passage marked a formal articulation of the demand for a separate nation for Muslims, distinct from the vision of a united, secular India promoted by the Indian National Congress.
- **Partition of India** – After the resolution, Muslim league demanded nothing but partition of India and separate country for Muslims.

How the league achieved partition of India?

- **Cripps Mission 1942 -** AIML rejected the Cripps proposal demanding a separate state for Muslims.
- **CR or Rajaji Formula 1944** – It was proposal by C. Rajagopalachari to resolve the political divide between the INC and the AIML.
- It proposed a plebiscite in Muslim-majority areas to determine their future, with the option of joining a separate nation.
- AIML rejected the formula due to its insufficient demand for a clear partition of India into two sovereign states.
- **Wavell Plan 1945**- AIML demanded for sole representation of Indian Muslims and the need for parity between caste Hindus & Muslims in the Executive Council.
- **Cabinet Mission Plan (1946) -** It proposed a united India with a weak central government and strong provincial autonomy.
- AIML initially accepted it but later withdrew its support, demanding a complete partition of India.
- **Direct Action Day (1946) -** when the British invited Nehru for interim government , Jinnah called for a nationwide strike & protest, which turned violent in Calcutta, leading to widespread riots & communal violence.
- **Partition of India** – June 3 plan decided the partition of British India into two independent sovereign states.

Quick Notes

Jinnah's Political Career

- Joined, INC in 1906 and served as its secretary in 1907.
- Became a member of the Imperial Legislative Council.
- Resigned from INC in 1920 due to disagreements with Mahatma Gandhi's policies, particularly his non-cooperation movement.
- **Jinnah's Role in League**
  - Initially advocated for Hindu-Muslim unity and a united India.
  - Led the AIML in demanding India's partition & played a vital role in its creation in 1947.

Reference

Indian Express | Muslim League

