

## **Quadrant II**

**Programme: Bachelor of Arts**

**Subject : History**

**Paper Code: HSC 105**

**Unit: I**

**Paper: Indian National Movement (1857-1947)**

**Module Name: Early Political Associations**

**Module No: 07**

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### **Summary**

The political Associations and activities in pre-Congress period in India and abroad regarding the Indian freedom struggle made it mandatory to form an All-India Association that would lead the country against the foreign rulers. These early Associations had, though, important contribution in terms of arousing the political will and demands of the Indian public, but their area and activities, were limited. They mainly questioned local issues and their members and leaders were also limited to one or adjoining provinces.

Some of the prominent Political Associations which played very important role in arousing general will and laying down a path towards modern Nationalism are as following-In July 1838, the "Zamindari Association", also known as the "Landholders Society", was established to safeguard the interests of the landlords. Landholders' Society was limited in its objectives i.e. covered demand of Landlords only. In April 1843, another political association under the name of the Bengal British India Society was founded. Its objective was "the collection and dissemination of information relating to the actual condition of the people of British India".

The British Indian Association of Calcutta (1851), was formed in 1851 by the merger of Bengal British India Society and the Landholders' Society. It was established to convey Indian grievances to the British Govt. The Madras Native Association (1852), After the establishment of Deccan Association, Madras acted next by establishing, the Madras branch of the British Indian Association in February 1852. Within a few months, its name was changed to the Madras Native Association as it decided to act independently of the parent body. On the lines of British India Association of Calcutta, on 26 August 1852, Bombay Association was founded with the object of 'reminding from time to time the government authorities in India or in England for the removal of existing evils, and for the prevention of proposed measures which may be deemed injurious or for the introduction of enactment which may tend to promote the general interest of all connected with this country'. The Bombay Association sent a petition to the British Parliament urging the formation of new legislative council to which Indians should also be represented. In the year 1866, East India Association was founded by Dadabhai Naoroji in London. The objective of East India Association was to discuss the problem and questions related to India and to influence the British leaders towards the development of India. The Poona Sarvajanik Sabha was established in 1867 at Poona. It has the objective of serving as a bridge between the Government and the people. India League was established by Sisir Kumar Ghose in 1875. The aim of India league was to instill the feeling of Nationalism amongst the people. Surendranath Banerjee and Anand Mohan Bose founded the Indian Association of Calcutta in 1876. This association was aimed to unify Indian people on a common political programme and create a strong public opinion on political questions. The Bombay Presidency Association- Pherozeshah Mehta, K.T. Telang, Badruddin Tyabji and others formed the **Bombay Presidency Association** in 1885. The reactionary policies of Lytton and the Ilbert Bill controversy caused political commotion in Bombay and led to the formation of Bombay Presidency Association. Madras Mahajan Sabha- In 1884 Madras Mahajan Sabha was established by Viraraghavachari, P. Ananda- charlu and B. Subramaniya Aiyer, to co-ordinate the activities of local association and to 'provide a focus for the non-official intelligence spread up through the Presidency'.

