

- In May 1873 an **Agrarian League** was formed in the **Yusufshahi Pargana** of Pabna district, Patna (East Bengal).
 - Rent strikes were organised, funds were raised and the struggle spread throughout Patna and to other districts of East Bengal.
 - The struggle was **mainly legal resistance and little violence**.
- The discontent continued till 1885 when the Government by the **Bengal Tenancy Act of 1885** enhanced the occupancy rights.
- The struggle was supported by **Bankim Chandra Chatterjee**, **R.C. Dutt** and the **Indian Association** under **Surendranath Banerjea**.
- **Deccan Riots (1875):**
 - The Deccan peasants uprising was directed mainly against the excesses of the **Marwari** and **Gujarati money lenders**.
 - The ryots suffered heavy taxation under the **Ryotwari system**. The land revenue was also raised by 50% in 1867.
 - **Social Boycott:** In 1874, the ryots organised a **social boycott movement** against the moneylenders.
 - They refused to buy from the moneylenders' shops and cultivate their fields.
 - The barbers, washermen, and shoemakers refused to serve them.
 - This social boycott spread rapidly to the villages of Poona, Ahmednagar, Solapur and Satara and was transformed into agrarian riots with systematic attacks on the moneylenders' houses and shops.
 - The Government succeeded in repressing the movement. As a conciliatory measure, the **Deccan Agriculturists Relief Act** was passed in 1879.

20th Century Peasant Movements (Gandhian Phase)

- **Champaran Satyagraha (1917):**
 - The peasantry on the indigo plantations in the **Champaran** district of Bihar was excessively oppressed by the European planters and compelled to grow indigo on at least 3/20th of their land and sell it at prices fixed by the planters.
 - In 1917, **Mahatma Gandhi** reached Champaran and began to conduct a detailed inquiry into the condition of the peasantry.

- He defied the orders of district officials for leaving Champaran.
- In June 1917, the Government appointed an enquiry committee with Gandhiji as one of the members.
 - The enactment of the **Champaran Agrarian Act, 1918** freed the tenants from the special imposts levied by the indigo planters.
- **Kheda Satyagraha (1918):**
 - It was chiefly **directed against the Government**.
 - In 1918, the crops failed in the **Kheda district of Gujarat** but the government refused to remit land revenue and insisted on its full collection.
 - Gandhiji along with **Sardar Vallabhai Patel** supported the peasants and advised them to withhold payment of revenues till their demand for its remission was met.
 - The satyagraha lasted till June 1918. The Government conceded the demands of the peasants.
- **Moplah Rebellion (1921):**
 - The **Moplahs** were the **Muslim tenants** inhabiting the Malabar region where most of the landlords were Hindus.
 - Their grievances centred around **lack of security of tenure, high rents, renewal fees** and other oppressive exactions.
 - The Moplah movement merged with the ongoing **Khilafat agitation**.
 - Mahatma Gandhi, **Shaukat Ali** and **Maulana Abul Kalam Azad** addressed Moplah meetings.
 - Many Hindus were seen by the Moplahs to be helping the British authorities. The anti-government and anti-landlord movement **acquired communal overtones**.
 - Communalisation isolated the Moplah from the Khilafat & **Non-Cooperation Movement**.
 - The movement was called off by December 1921.
- **Bardoli Satyagraha (1928):**
 - Enhancement of land revenue by 30% in the Bardoli district of Gujarat by the British government led to the organisation of a **'No-Revenue Campaign'** by the Bardoli peasants under the **leadership of Vallabhai Patel**.
 - A woman in Bardoli **gave Vallabhai Patel the title of 'Sardar'**.

Note: