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What creates people's power?

- Ambedkar would mention two ways in which power works. He explained that one is internal and the other is external consciousness.
- External consciousness is exhibited through the structure of laws. Internal consciousness is formed by the opinion accumulated among the people, existing habit, continued custom, followed tradition etc.
- No authority can be exercised unless both are in sync.

People's Power:

- During the Coral Mill strike in connection with the liberation of Bipin Chandra Pal, VOC wanted to celebrate the occasion but the rulers continued to invite him for hearings and negotiations.
- But he did not show the primary focus on talking to the ruling class.
- The reason for that is his priority given to the internal consciousness of the people. VOC felt this as early as 1908.
- "The satyagrahis are more inclined to vent their anger through the press than to redress their grievances through the authorities".
- Iyengar, the Diwan (in-charge) of the Travancore state, also accused the satyagrahis that it was wrong to start the satyagraha in haste when the problem should have been raised in the assembly and resolved.
- TK Madhavalan brought resolutions in the assembly many times and they failed. Later he led the satyagraha to create public opinion. This is also a sign of realization that people's power is great.
- Similarly, an idea was put forward to hold a public referendum on whether or not the oppressed should be allowed to enter Vaikom Temple Street and act on the result.
- Whatever the outcome of the referendum, the satyagrahis will abide by it. But Gandhi was quick to say that it was not necessary for Vaidikar to abide by the result of the referendum.
- Gandhi's aim was to create public opinion in this regard. Vaidikars cannot stand against the popular opinion that has developed like that.
- From this we can understand that Gandhi realized the power of popular opinion even before the advent of suffrage.

Conceptualization:

- Likewise, "Temple Street Entry Rights can be obtained by filing a suit in the Civil Court.
- At one point, the Travancore government asked why there was an unnecessary satyagraha
- Gandhi said of it thus: If in future a suit in court is to settle the matter of the right or custom of the so-called untouchables to be barred from the roads around the temple, it will have to be tried under the Travancore Ordinary Criminal Code. But before that I am confident that public opinion can be formed with the help of the government. And thereby it becomes unstoppable".
- So people before the case goes to court
- Gandhi thought that it was safer to form an opinion positively.
- Propaganda is very important in changing public opinion in a positive way.
- Gandhi's expression that public opinion is like explosives is famous. Gandhi said it during Vaikom Satyagraha. Election season is an important time for people to realize their strength and act.

India is attaining global focus on ship repair

- Western countries have started looking to India for maintenance and repair of their naval ships.

Key Agreement:

- A Master Shipyard Repair Agreement (MSRA) was signed between the US and L&T in 2023.
- Similarly, an agreement was made with Britain in 2022.

Why India?

- As piracy, missile attacks, and drone attacks continue to occur in the Indo-Pacific region, the United States and Britain have brought additional ships to patrol the region.
- In case of repair in these ships, going to the home country for repair is not only time consuming but also costly. Carrying out the same work in India is convenient in many ways. The cost is also low.
- Thus, those countries are said to be opting for the maintenance and repair work of their ships in India.
- There is a political reason behind this. China, with its powerful navy, dominates the South China Sea.
- This has forced the US to keep its navy strong against China and Russia.

What are the benefits to India?

- Western countries choosing India for their ship repair is seen as a major move in India's growth journey.
- Besides, it showcases to the world India's capability in international shipbuilding and repair.
- It also leads to improved military relations with the United States and Britain.
- China continues to pose a threat to India, depending on the border issue. India is strengthening its military infrastructure to counter China.