6 G.S. Khaparde's Fifth and Last Visit to Shirdi
19-20 March 1918

From the end of May 1917 until March 1918, when he made his fifth and final visit to Shirdi, Khaparde remained deeply engaged in political activity aimed at promoting the Home Rule League and advancing the Nationalist cause. Wherever he and Tilak campaigned throughout the country, they were greeted with extraordinary demonstrations of popular enthusiasm. Such was the case on 4-6 October 1917, when they participated in the meeting of the All India Congress Committee held at Allahabad, where as many as fifty thousand fervent supporters reportedly took part in the welcoming procession, which featured elephants, horses, motorcars, carriages, and other ceremonial displays.[1]

During the joint session of the All India Congress Committee and the Committee of the Muslim League, discussions centered upon the selection of secretaries for a deputation to the Secretary of State for India, the Honorable Edwin Samuel Montagu, and Khaparde was chosen as a representative of Berar.[2] The purpose of the deputation was to present demands concerning self-government and expanded political rights, in conjunction with the August Declaration issued by Montagu, which promised the gradual introduction of responsible government in India and eventually led to the Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms and the Government of India Act of 1919.

A diary entry dated 6 November 1917, written while he was in Surat, also foreshadows the later support of both Khaparde and the Nationalists for the Khilafat movement, the pan-Islāmic protest campaign that emerged in 1919 in defense of the Ottoman caliph as a symbol of unity for the Muslim world.

1 As Khaparde wrote on 1 December 1917, while in Dharangaon, "the tremendous processions and very big meetings had by then become usual [...]"; Kunte, *Source Material*, 418.

2 See Kunte, *Source Material*, 413.

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