

Indian National Congress

These notes are your ultimate revision weapon to revise Indian National Congress history. We've distilled years of previous exam questions (PYQs) into one powerful, concise resource. Everything you need to know, nothing you don't.

- **PYQs, Decoded:** All key concepts from past exams, organized and simplified.
- **Revise in Record Time:** Short, precise, and designed for last-minute review.
- **Focus on What Matters:** Master high-probability topics and boost your confidence.

Indian National Congress (INC): Foundation and Key Facts

1. Foundation and Establishment



- **Founder:** Allan Octavian Hume (A.O. Hume), a retired British civil servant.
- **Precursor Organization:** The Indian National Union, founded by A.O. Hume in 1884.
- **Date of Establishment:** 1885.
- **Viceregal Context:** Established during the viceroyalty of **Lord Dufferin** (1884-1888), who ridiculed the early Congress as representing a "short-sighted minority."

First Session (1885):

- **Date:** 28 December 1885.
- **Venue:** Gokuldas Tejpal Sanskrit College (Vidyalaya) in Bombay (Mumbai).
 - *Note:* The original plan to meet in Poona was changed due to a cholera outbreak.

- **Key Figures:**

- **President:** Womesh Chandra Banerjee (W.C. Banerji).
- **General Secretary:** A.O. Hume.
- **Name Origin:** The name 'Indian National Congress' was suggested by Dadabhai Naoroji.
- **Notable Absence:** Surendranath Banerjee was absent due to his involvement with the rival Indian Association.

2. Early Sessions and Composition

- **Second Session (1886):**

- **Venue:** Calcutta (Kolkata).
- **President:** Dadabhai Naoroji.
- **Composition:** 33 Muslim delegates participated.

- **1896 Session (Calcutta):**

- **President:** Rahimtulla M. Sayani (Second Muslim President).
- **Significance:** The song 'Vande Mataram' was first sung at this session.

- **Initial Objective:** To increase political participation for educated Indians and provide a platform to discuss social, civil, and political issues.

- **British Outreach (1889):** A British Committee of the INC was set up in London, headed by **William Digby**. It published the weekly journal "India".

3. Presidents of the INC

President	Session & Year	Significance
W.C. Banerjee	Bombay, 1885	First President
Dadabhai Naoroji	Calcutta, 1886	Second President; suggested the name 'INC'

Badruddin Tyabji	Madras, 1887	First Muslim President
George Yule	Allahabad, 1888	First British (European) President
Alfred Webb	1894	President in 1894
Rahimtulla M. Sayani	Calcutta, 1896	Second Muslim President; 'Vande Mataram' first sung
Annie Besant	Calcutta, 1917	First Woman President
Lala Lajpat Rai	Calcutta (Special), 1920	Only member of the "Lal-Bal-Pal" trio to become President
C.R. Das	Gaya, 1922	Was in prison when nominated for the 1921 session
Abul Kalam Azad	1923	Youngest President (elected at age 35)
Sarojini Naidu	Kanpur, 1925	First Indian Woman President
Jawaharlal Nehru	Lucknow, 1936	First advocated for socialism
Subhash Chandra Bose	Haripura, 1938	Advocated for the Roman script for Hindi
Abul Kalam Azad	1940-1946	Longest-Serving President (six consecutive years)
J.B. Kripalani	Meerut, 1947	President at Independence

Notable Non-Presidents:

- **Bal Gangadhar Tilak:** A major leader who was **never elected** President. He famously proclaimed "Swaraj is my birthright" at the 1916 Lucknow Session.
- **Sir Syed Ahmad Khan:** Was **never associated** with the INC and was opposed to it.

4. Significant Sessions and Resolutions

Session & Year	President	Significance
Lucknow, 1916		• Reunion of Moderate and Extremist factions after a 9-year split. • Lucknow Pact signed with the Muslim League. • Tilak declared "Swaraj is my birthright."
Calcutta, 1917	Annie Besant	First session presided over by a woman.
Amritsar, 1919	Motilal Nehru	• Last session attended by Bal Gangadhar Tilak. • The new Constitution of the Congress was drafted here (by Gandhi, assisted by N.C. Kelkar and I.B. Sen).
Calcutta (Special), 1920	Lala Lajpat Rai	Approved Gandhi's non-cooperation movement.
Nagpur, 1920	C. Vijay Raghav Chariar	First time Congress declared policy towards Indian Princely States (advocated for responsible government).
Bankipur, 1912		The 27th session; A.O. Hume was referred to as the founder.
Calcutta, 1911		The national anthem, "Jana-Gana-Mana," was first sung here.

5. Internal Views and Criticism

- **Lala Lajpat Rai:** Criticized the early Congress, stating it was "neither inspired by the people nor devised or planned by them."
- **Lord Curzon:** The Viceroy expressed his ambition to see the Congress meet a "peaceful demise."
- **Mahatma Gandhi:** Suggested the INC should be wound up after India attained independence.

Know More About Indian National Congress:

- [Indian National Congress – Old Year Questions and Answers](#)
- [Indian National Congress One Liner Questions & Answers](#)

