

Congress: Benaras, Calcutta, and Surat Session

These notes are your ultimate revision weapon to revise Congress: Benaras, Calcutta, and Surat Session 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.

Key Leaders of the Indian National Movement & The Surat Split (1907)



I. Key Leaders

A. Gopal Krishna Gokhale

- **Early Life & Education:**
 - Born on May 9, 1866, in Ratnagiri, Maharashtra.
 - Graduated from Elphinstone College at the age of 18 (1884).
- **Career & Positions:**
 - Professor of Economics and History at Fergusson College, Poona, at age 20.
 - Associate editor of the 'Sudharak' newspaper.
 - Secretary of the Sarvajanik Sabha and the Provincial Conference at age 25.
 - Secretary of the Indian National Congress at age 29.
 - A leading witness before an important Royal Commission at age 31.

- Member of the Bombay Legislative Council at age 34.
- Member of the Imperial Legislative Council at age 36.
- **Role in Indian National Congress:**
 - President of the Indian National Congress in 1905 (Benaras Session).
- **Associations & Ideology:**
 - Protege of social reformer Mahadev Govind Ranade.
 - Member of the Deccan Education Society.
 - Campaigned for greater Indian influence in political decisions.
 - Founded the 'Servants of India Society' in 1905.
- **Legacy:**
 - Mahatma Gandhi regarded him as his political guru (master).

B. Dadabhai Naoroji

- **Titles & Recognition:**
 - Formally known as the 'Grand Old Man of India'.
- **Career & Positions:**
 - First Indian to be appointed Professor of Mathematics and Physics at Elphinstone College, Bombay.
 - Worked as a Professor of Gujarati at University College, London.
 - First Asian to be elected to the British House of Commons (1892) as a member of the Liberal Party.
- **Role in Indian National Congress:**
 - President of the INC three times: 1886 (Calcutta), 1893 (Lahore), and 1906 (Calcutta).
- **Contributions & Writings:**
 - Laid the foundation for women's education in Bombay.
 - Started a Gujarati journal, 'Rast Goftar'.
 - Wrote the famous book 'Poverty and Un-British Rule in India', published in 1901.
- **Ideology:**
 - At the 1906 Calcutta Session, he declared Swaraj (self-government) as the goal of the Congress.

C. Bal Gangadhar Tilak

- **Role in the Indian National Congress:**
 - A prominent Extremist leader.
 - Never presided over a session of the Indian National Congress.
- **Ideology & Slogans:**
 - Famously said, "Swaraj is my birthright and I shall have it."
 - Often credited with popularizing the demand for Swaraj.

II. Indian National Congress Sessions and Resolutions

Session Year	Location	President	Key Resolutions & Facts
1905	Benaras	Gopal Krishna Gokhale	
1906	Calcutta	Dadabhai Naoroji	• The word 'Swaraj' was uttered for the first time as a national demand. • The goal of Swaraj was adopted (Moderates interpreted it as self-governing British colony status).
1907	Surat	Ras Bihari Ghosh	• The Congress split into two wings: Moderates and Extremists.

III. Important Organizations

Servants of India Society

- Founded by **Gopal Krishna Gokhale** in **1905**.
- Produced notable social workers like Srinivas Shastri, N.M. Joshi, and others.

IV. The Surat Split of the Indian National Congress (1907)

1. The Event:

- The formal division of the Indian National Congress into two factions in **December 1907**.
- Occurred during the **Surat Session** of the Congress.

2. The Factions and Their Leaders:

- **The Moderates (Soft-liners):**
 - Led by **Gopal Krishna Gokhale, Ras Bihari Ghosh, Ferozeshah Mehta, and Surendranath Bannerjee**.
- **The Extremists (Hard-liners):**
 - Led by **Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Lala Lajpat Rai, and Bipin Chandra Pal** (collectively known as **Lal-Bal-Pal**).

3. Leadership of the Session:

- The President of the contentious 1907 Surat Session was **Ras Bihari Ghosh** (a Moderate leader).

4. Causes of the Split:

- Primary reason: The **extremists' lack of faith** in the capacity of the moderates to negotiate with the British Government.
- Triggered by disagreements over:
 - **Strategies** of the Congress movement.
 - **Objectives** and goals of the Congress.
 - The level of **participation of the people** in the movement.
- Key immediate issue: The **Extremists' desire to extend the Swadeshi and Boycott Movement** beyond Bengal, which the **Moderates opposed**.

5. Outcome and Later History:

- The split led to a period of separation between the two groups.
- The two factions eventually **reunited in 1916** at the **Lucknow Session** of the Congress.

Know More About Congress: Benaras, Calcutta, and Surat Session:

- [Congress: Benaras, Calcutta, and Surat Session -Old Year Questions and Answers](#)
- [Congress: Benaras, Calcutta, and Surat Session One Liner Questions & Answers](#)

