

A very warm welcome to everyone, I am Vinod Kankonkar from C.E.S. College of Arts and Commerce, Cuncolim, Goa. Today you will be learning about TYBA History Paper for the semester V and the paper code is HSC105. The title of the paper is Indian National Movement from 1857 to 1947. The title of the Unit is Foundation of Indian national Congress. The module number is 8.

The outline of this module will be first, I will introduce the topic. Then I will explain the causes of foundation of the Indian National Congress (INC), Theories of Indian National Congress, working of INC, Important sessions conducted by the INC, failures of INC and lastly, I will conclude the topic.

The learning outcome of this module will be the students will analyse the causes for the foundation of the Indian national Congress. The students will distinguish between the theories of the foundation. of INC, Students will analyse the working nature of the INC and they will identify the reason for the failure of Indian National Congress.

## **INTRODUCTION**

Indian National Congress is one of the oldest and the most prominent political party. INC played a very important role in the freedom struggle of India. It gave a platform to many leaders to exhibit their political skills. Leaders like Gokhale, Lokmanya Tilak, Mahatma Gandhi and many more were associated with INC.

### **The foundation of the Indian National Congress.**

Indian National Congress was founded on 20th December 1885, at Gokuldas Tejpal Sanskrit College. Bombay by Allan Octavian Hume (A. O. Hume) a retired British Civil Servant. The first session was attended by 72 members. The first President of the Indian National Congress was Womesh Chandra Banerjee. A.O. Hume became the General Secretary of INC.

### **Theories for the Foundation of Indian National Congress.**

The prime two theories of foundation of INC are Nationalistic theory and Safety Valve theory.

### **Nationalistic Theory**

After the Revolt of 1857, many political associations were set up, such as Poona Sarvajanik Sabha, Indian Associations, Madras Mahasabha, Bombay Presidency Association, etc. All these associations were regional and involved in solving the local issues. However, national issues were ignored. British policies affecting the national interest. Exploitations racial discriminations was targeted on the masses. All these factors led to anger towards the colonial rule. The people felt the need to set up a national organization which could raise their voice and fight for their rights and equality. The Acts passed by the British Government such as Vernacular Act in 1878, Arms Act. In 1878, Ilbert Act in 1884. All this acts. aimed to suppress the masses and to keep the people of India under their control. Thus, this led to the formation of the Indian National Congress. People had a faith in INC as it was made of educated and intellectual leaders who could raise their voice against the British colonial rule. A sense of nationalism arose among the people against the British rule. Then you have a safety valve theory.

### **Safety Valve Theory**

Lala Lajpat Rai coined the word safety Valve for Indian National Congress in his newspaper *Young India* in 1916. As per this theory, the foundation of the INC did not have any nationalistic approach, but it was a brainchild of Viceroy Lord Dufferin.

The revolt of 1857 gave a severe setback to the British Empire even though the revolt was suppressed, but the British was always under the threat that what if the people from different communities of India comes together and come up with a new revolt.

So, Lord Dufferin with the help of A.O Hume decided to set up one such organization who could work as a bridge between the Indians and the British. Even if the people or the masses of India are not happy with the British government they should not react in very aggressive mode. They should raise their voice in a soft manner and to reduce this anger to. make the anger of the people low the idea of Indian National Congress came up in the mind of the Lord. Dufferin The demands of the Indians should pass through the INC in the form

of through petitions not through revolt. INC was supposed to work as a safety valve, which was similar to that a pressure cooker. INC leaders made the masses believe that the British rule is for the betterment of the nation and not further disaster. Thus A. O. Hume met 12 leaders in Madras in 1884 and told them the objective of this meeting. It was decided to meet on last three days of December that is 28<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> December and form the Indian National Congress. Poona was decided as the venue of the meeting but later due to outbreak of Cholera, the venue was shifted to Bombay. It was decided that the demands of the Indians should pass through the INC through petitions. If the people are unsatisfied with the government, they should not show any aggressive reaction The INC leaders made the masses believe that the British rule is for their betterment and to improve their standard of living.

### **The working of Indian National Congress**

The Indian National Congress meeting was to be held annually on the last three days of December. The President was to be chosen through elections. In the session the national concern issues were discussed and at the end of the session, the resolutions were passed. The regulations pass would be presented before the British government through the petitions.

The proceedings of the session would be published on a local newspaper.

### **Demands made by INC**

Separation of judiciary from executive, Civil Service exam to be held in India, direct elections for Legislative Assembly, the reduction of taxes, freedom of press and reduction of military expenses.

### **Methods of Moderate Leaders**

Moderate Leaders are those initial Congress members who remain very active between 1885 to 1905 who were always maintain a very good relationship with the British, they were inspired with British education, ideology and believed that Indian can grow only under British. But certain policies of British government were affecting the common Indian thus to oppose those policies they adopted triple P approach: Petition, Prayer and Protests. Moderate leaders had a great

faith in the colonial rule. They believe that the British rule would take India on the path of development. They remain loyal to the British government and their protests was not aggressive in nature. The INC was supported by the British officials such as Sir William Weddenberg, George Yule. INC was fully under the supervision of British government. According to prominent scholars, if the INC was against the policy of British, Lord Dufferin would have suspended it soon. It means, Lord Dufferin gave his concern to the foundation of the INC because he knew very well that the INC will not work against the British rule.

### **Important Sessions of INC**

The first session of INC was held in the year 1885 at Bombay. The president was Womesh Chandra Banerjee. The second session was held in the year 1886 at Calcutta and its President was Dada Bhai Nouroji. The third session was in 1887 at Madras. It was presided by Badruddin Tyabji. The fourth session was in 1888 at Allahabad. and it was presided by George Yule. The first British president of Indian National Congress was George Yule. The fifth session was in 1889 at Bombay at Bombay and it was presided by William Widdernburn. The sixth session was in 1890 at Calcutta. It was presided by Feroz shah Mehta. Surojani Naidu, became the first Indian women President of INC. The important sessions of INC was in 1907 led to split of INC and INC was divided into 2- Moderates and Extremist.

### **Failures of INC**

INC remained as the party of classes and not the masses. It failed to connect with the masses. It remained loyal to the British government and the split in the INC.

To conclude, the INC members remained loyal to the colonial power. INC was to become the voice of the Indians, but it was not failed to do so. Most of the national leaders associated with the ANC left the party due to differences to form their own organization.