Important Indian National Congress Sessions

Introduction

- The Indian National Congress was founded at Bombay in December 1885.
- The early leadership – Dadabhai Naoroji, Pherozeshah Mehta, Badruddin Tyabji, W.C. Bonnerji, Surendranath Banerji, Romesh Chandra Dutt, S. Subramania Iyer, among others – was largely from Bombay and Calcutta.
- A retired British official, A.O. Hume, also played a part in bringing Indians from the various regions together.
- Formation of Indian National Congress was an effort in the direction of promoting the process of nation building.
- In an effort to reach all regions, it was decided to rotate the Congress session among different parts of the country.
- The President belonged to a region other than where the Congress session was being held.

Sessions

- **First Session**: held at Bombay in 1885. **President**: W.C. Bannerjee
  Formation of Indian National Congress.
- **Second Session**: held at Calcutta in 1886. **President**: Dadabhai Naoroji
- **Third Session**: held at Madras in 1887. **President**: Syed Badruddin Tyabji, first muslim President.
- **Fourth Session**: held at Allahabad in 1888. **President**: George Yule, first English President.
- **1896**: Calcutta. **President**: Rahimtullah Sayani
  National Song ‘Vande Mataram’ sung for the first time by Rabindranath Tagore.
- **1899**: Lucknow. **President**: Romesh Chandra Dutt.
  Demand for permanent fixation of Land revenue.
- **1901**: Calcutta. **President**: Dinshaw E.Wacha
  First time Gandhiji appeared on the Congress platform.
- **1905**: Benaras. **President**: Gopal Krishan Gokhale
  Formal proclamation of **Swadeshi movement** against government
- **1906**: Calcutta. **President**: Dadabhai Naoroji
  Adopted four resolutions on: Swaraj (Self Government), Boycott Movement, Swadeshi & National Education
- **1907**: Surat. **President**: Rash Bihari Ghosh
  - Split in Congress- Moderates & Extremist
  - Adjournment of Session
- **1910**: Allahabad. **President**: Sir William Wedderburn
  M.A Jinnah decried the separate electorate system introduced by act of 1909
- **1911**: Calcutta. **President**: B.N. Dhar
  First time recital of Jan-Gan-Man in Congress session
- **1915**: Bombay. **President**: Sir S.P. Sinha
  Constitution of the Congress was altered to admit the delegates from the extremist section
- **1916**: Lucknow. **President**: A.C. Majumdar
  - Unity between two factions-Moderates and Extremists of Congress
  - Lucknow Pact signed between Congress and Muslim League to build political consensus
- **1917**: Calcutta. **President**: Annie Besant, First Woman President of Congress
- **1918 (Special session)**: Bombay. **President**: Syed Hasan Imam
  The session was convened to deliberate the contentious **Montagu–Chelmsford Reforms** Scheme
- **1919**: Amritsar. **President**: Motilal Nehru
  Congress extended support to Khilafat Movement
- **1920 (Special Session)**: Calcutta. **President**: Lala Lajpat Rai
  Mahatma Gandhi moved the Non cooperation resolution
- **1920**: Nagpur. **President**: C. Vijayaraghavachariar
  - Reconstitution of Working committees of Congress on Linguistic basis
  - MA Jinnah left the Indian National Congress
- **1922**: Gaya. **President**: C.R. Das
  - CR Das and other leaders broke away from INC
  - Formation of Swaraj Party
- **1924**: Belgaum. **President**: M.K. Gandhi
  Only Session presided over by Mahatma Gandhi
- **1925**: Kanpur. **President**: Sarojini Naidu, First Indian Woman President
- **1927**: Madras. **President**: Dr. M.A. Ansari
  - Passed a resolution against the use of Indian troops in China, Iran and Mesopotamia.
  - Passed a resolution against boycott of Simon Commission
  - Adoption of resolution on Purna Swaraj
• **1928:** Calcutta. **President:** Motilal Nehru
  Formation of All India Youth Congress

• **1929:** Lahore. **President:** Jawahar Lal Nehru
  ◦ Passed the resolution on ‘Poorna Swaraj’,
  ◦ **Civil Disobedience movement** for complete independence to be launched
  ◦ **26 January** to be observed as ‘Independence Day’.

• **1931:** Karachi. **President:** Vallabhbhai Patel
  ◦ Resolutions on Fundamental Rights and National Economic Programme
  ◦ Endorsement of Gandhi-Irwin pact
  ◦ Gandhi nominated to represent INC in the **Second Round Table Conference** to be held in London

• **1934:** Bombay. **President:** Rajendra Prasad
  Amendment in the Constitution of Congress

• **1936:** Lucknow. **President:** Jawahar Lal Nehru
  Push towards socialist ideas by Jawahar Lal Nehru

• **1937:** Faizpur. **President:** Jawahar Lal Nehru
  First Session to be held in a village

• **1938:** Haripura. **President:** Subhas Chandra Bose
  National Planning Committee set up under Jawahar Lal Nehru.

• **1939:** Tripuri. **President:** Rajendra Prasad
  ◦ Subhas Chandra Bose was re-elected but had to resign
  ◦ Rajendra Prasad was appointed in his place
  ◦ Subhash Chandra Bose formed **Forward Bloc**

• **1940:** Ramgarh. **President:** Abul Kalam Azad
  Civil Disobedience movement to be launched at appropriate time and circumstances.

• **1941–45:** This Period is marked by events i.e. **Quit India movement**, RIN Mutiny & INA trials.
  ◦ Phase of constitutional negotiations such as Cripps Mission, Wavell Plan and Cabinet Mission.
  ◦ On account of these events during this phase **no congress session was held.**

• **1946:** Meerut. **President:** J.B Kripalani
  ◦ Last session before independence
  ◦ J.B Kriplani was the president of INC at independence.

For Mindmap watch:
MIND MAP
FOR UPSC
Indian National Congress Sessions
(1885-1946)
HISTORY

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