

Course Name- B.A.L.L.B.2nd sem

Subject- History

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Topic- Formation of Indian National congress

Introduction

- The Indian National Congress founded in 1885 was the institutionalized form of emergent Indian nationalism.
- It was the first organized expression of Indian nationalism on an all-India scale.
- The birth of the Indian National Congress was not a sudden event or a historical accident but the result of a gradual effort of a number of educated Indians of Bengal and other regions who were very much dissatisfied and disgusted by the exploitative nature of the alien British rule.
- In India, we notice a process of the beginning of political awakening since 1860, which took a major leap forward in 1870-1880 and finally led to the founding of the Indian National Congress in December 1885. R.C. Majumdar aptly observes, "The national conference held in Calcutta in 1883 forestalled it in all essential aspects."

The objectives of the Indian National

- The first step in the direction of founding of Indian National Congress was initiated by Hume in March 1883 by appealing to the graduates of the Calcutta University to come together to form an association for the moral and political regeneration of the Indians. In his appeal he stressed “self-sacrifice and unselfishness as the only unfailing guides to freedom and happiness”. In response to his appeal, Indian National Union was formed in 1884 under his leadership. Subsequently, it turned into Indian National Congress.
- I. The promotion of personal intimacy and friendship among workers from various comers of India.
- II. The eradication of all prejudices from the minds of every Indian towards the others and to foster sentiments of national unity among all the inhabitants of India.
- In the beginning, the Indian National Congress stood for piecemeal reforms by submitting petitions, resolutions and deputation to satisfy the demands of the Indians expressing their faith in the political liberalism of the British Raj.

The Indian National Congress through resolution demanded for:

- i) The appointment of a commission to inquire into the working of the Indian government,
- (ii) The abolition of the India council of the Secretary of state for India,
- (iii) Creation of legislative councils of the north-west provinces and Awadh and the Punjab,
- (iv) Enhancement of the number of elected members in the central and provincial legislative councils with the right of interpolation and discussion of the budget and the creation of a standing committee in the house of commons to look into the demands of the people,
- (v) Reduction of military expenditure and equitable division of expenditure between India and England,
- (vi) Introduction of simultaneous Public Service Examinations in England and India and raising age of the candidates who wish to appear for ICS. Till 1905, the Indian National Congress, demanded only for piecemeal reforms through petitions and prayers.

- The first session of the All India Congress began on 28th December 1885 at Gokuldas Tejpal Sanskrit College. Eminent barrister of Calcutta, Mr. Woomesh Chandra Banerjee presided over it. Seventy two invited delegates from different parts of India assembled in this first session. Mr. Hume was elected as the first general secretary of the Indian National Congress. Nine resolutions were passed in this first session.
- Though Indian National Congress made a very humble beginning, yet it gradually developed into a powerful organisation. With its birth, the struggle for India's liberation was started in an organised manner. Mahatma Gandhi subsequently 'made it a mass organisation from a class organisation of few urban educated middle class people.
- gave representation to the people of different parts of India belonging to different walks of life. National Congress attempted to fulfill their hope and aspirations. India could be liberated from the British colonial rule by starting a non-violent movement under the banner of National Congress.

Conclusion

On the basis of the goal, strategy and technique adopted by the Indian National Congress, the national movement of India was divided as moderate phase (1885-1905), extremist phase (1905 to 1918) and the revolutionary phase and finally the Gandhian phase (1919 to 1947).