

History Major

3rd semester

Paper :- 2nd Major; HISMAJ2024

Paper Title :- National Movement in India

Unit :- 1

Name of Topic :- Formation of Indian National Congress.

Introduction :-

Founded on 28 December 1885, it was the first modern nationalist movement to emerge in the British Empire in Asia and Africa. From the late 19th century, and especially after 1920, under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi, the Congress became the principal leader of the Indian independence movement.

The Indian National Congress was established when 72 representatives from all over the country met at Bombay in 1885. Prominent delegates including - Dadabhai Naoroji, Surendra Nath Banerjee, Badruddin Tyabji, Pherozshah Mehta, W.C. Banerjee, S. Ramaswami and Ramesh Chandra Sutta. The Englishman Allan Octavian Hume, a former civil servant, was one of the founding members of the Indian National Congress. This English retired British Indian civil service officer founded the Indian National Congress in order to form a platform for

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The first president of Indian

National Congress was W. C. Banerjee -
Umesh Ch. Banerjee. The first session of
the Congress took place in Bombay, from 28
to 31 December 1885.

The main theory of the Congress
was - safety valve theory. The theory posits
that it would function as a "safety valve" for the
escalating discontent among Indians. This
notion was endorsed by extremist leaders,
including Lala Lajpat Rai.

Objectives of the Indian National Congress

(i) The primary objective of the INC
was to promote and enhance Indian participa-
tion in governmental affairs. As the country's
first large-scale political movement, the INC
aimed to establish friendly connections
among nationalist political activists from
different regions of the nation. It sought
to foster a sense of national unity that tran-
scended barriers of caste, religion and province.

(ii) The INC had multiple goals, inclu-
ding the compilation and submission of a
list of general demands to the government.
Additionally, the organization aimed to
organise and shape public opinion across

a country. It actively worked towards creating and promoting an anti-colonial nationalist ideology while upholding a strong sense of national unity among all citizens, irrespective of their religions, caste or provincial identities.
