



QUICK REVISION MODULE  
(UPSC PRELIMS 2024) MODERN INDIAN HISTORY

# CONGRESS 4 - VARIOUS SESSIONS, PRESIDENTS AND IMPORTANT OUTCOMES

## 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. Subramanialyer, among others – was largely from Bombay and Calcutta.
- A retired British official, A.O. Hume, played crucial part in bringing Indians from the various regions together.
- 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.

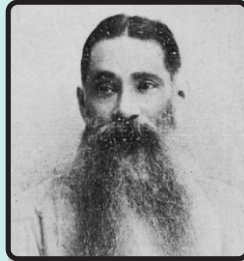
## PERIOD 1 : MODERATE PHASE (1885- 1904)

Year and Place

President

Important Outcomes/  
Details

Bombay Session,  
1885



W.C. Bonnerjee

- First session, attended by 72 delegates.
- Objectives of the Congress outlined.

Calcutta Session,  
1886



Dadabhai Naoroji

- Merger of National Congress and National Conference took place.
- Congress decided to set up Provincial Congress Committees across the country.

Madras Session,  
1887



Syed Badruddin Tyabji

- Appeal was made to the Muslims to join hands with other national leaders.
- **First Muslim President.**

Calcutta Session,  
1896



Rahimtulla Sayani

- National Song 'Vande Mataram' sung for the first time by Rabindranath Tagore.

Lucknow Session,  
1899



Romesh Chandra  
Dutt

- Congress demanded that the British government put a stop to the 'drain of wealth' from India to England that had been taking place as a result of colonial rule.
- Demand for permanent fixation of Land revenue

Calcutta Session,  
1901



Dinshaw E. Wacha

- First time Mahatma Gandhi appeared on the Congress platform.
- He urged the Congress to support the struggle against racial discrimination and exploitation in the country.

## PERIOD 2 : NATIONAL MOVEMENT (1905-1918)

Year and Place

President

Important Outcomes/  
Details

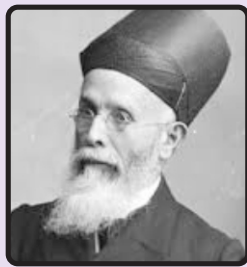
Benaras Session,  
1905



Gopal Krishna  
Gokhale

- Divisions between the 'moderates' led by Gopal Krishna Gokhale and Surendranath Banerjee and the 'extremists' led by Bal Gangadhar Tilak came to the fore in this session.
- Expressed resentment against the partition of Bengal and proclamation of Swadeshi movement in Bengal.

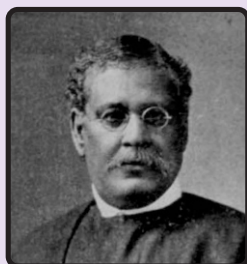
Calcutta Session,  
1906



Dadabhai Naoroji

- The word 'swaraj' mentioned for the first time.
- Resolution supporting the programme of swadeshi, boycott and national education was passed.

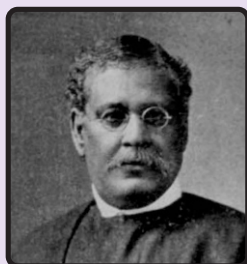
Surat Session,  
1907



Rash Behari Ghosh

- **Surat Split** (split in the INC into the Moderates and the Extremists)

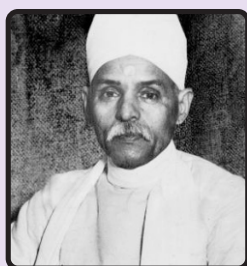
Madras Session,  
1908



Rash Behari Ghosh

- Constitution of the Congress drawn.

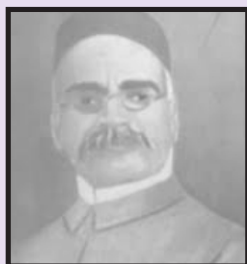
Lahore Session,  
1909



Madan Mohan Malaviya

- Disapproval over separate electorates (of Morley Minto Reforms)

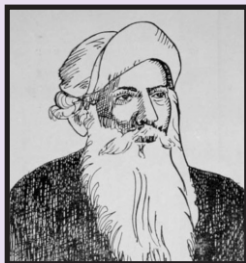
Calcutta Session,  
1911



Bishan Narayan Dhar

- Jana **Gana Mana'** sung for the first time

Lucknow Session,  
1916



Ambicacharan Mazumdar

- Lucknow Pact signed – joint session with the Muslim League.
- Reunion of the Moderates and the Extremists.

Calcutta Session,  
1917



Annie Besant

- First woman president of the INC.

### PERIOD 3 : ERA OF MASS NATIONALISM (1918-27)

**Year and Place**

**President**

**Important Outcomes/  
Details**

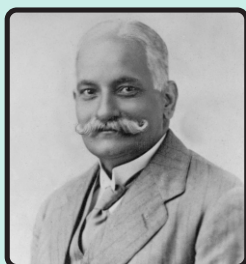
Special Session 1918,  
Bombay



Sayed Hasan Imam

- Termed the Montague-Chelmsford reforms as disappointing.
- It demanded a Declaration of Rights for the people of India.

Amritsar Session,  
1919



Motilal Nehru

- Congress extended support to Khilafat Movement.
- Jallianwala Bagh massacre strongly condemned.

Special Session  
1920, Calcutta



Lala Lajpat Rai

- Congress approved a non-cooperation programme.
- The programme included boycott of schools, foreign cloths legislative councils, etc.

**Note:** Second phase could include mass civil disobedience.

Nagpur Session,  
1920



C. Vijayaraghavachariar

- Shift from goal of attainment of self-government through constitutional means to have the attainment of swaraj through peaceful and legitimate means.

- **Important organisational changes:**

- Congress working committee (CWC) of 15 members was set up to lead the Congress.

- Provincial congress committees on linguistic basis were organised.

- Ward committees was organised; and entry fee was reduced to four annas.

Gaya Session,  
1922

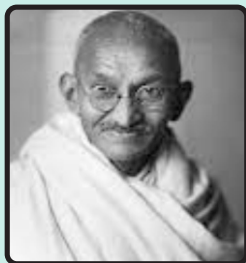


C.R. Das

- CR Das and other leaders broke away from INC.

- Formation of **Swaraj Party**.

Belgaum Session,  
1924



M.K.Gandhi

- Only Session presided over by Mahatma Gandhi.

Kanpur Session,  
1925



Sarojini Naidu

- First Indian Woman President.

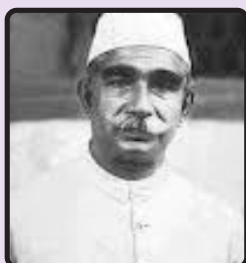
## PERIOD 4 : TOWARDS FREEDOM (PURNASWARAJ)

Year and Place

President

Important Outcomes/  
Details

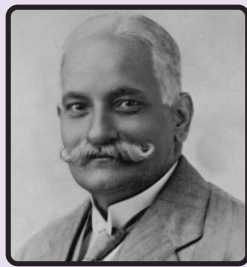
Madras Session,  
1927



M.A. Ansari

- Passed a resolution against boycott of Simon Commission.
- In a separate resolution, the Creed of the Congress was defined: "the goal of the Indian people is complete National Independence".
- Passed a resolution against the use of Indian troops in China, Iran and Mesopotamia.

Calcutta Session,  
1928



Motilal Nehru

- Congress gave the British a warning that a civil disobedience movement would start if India was not granted dominion status by December 31, 1929.
- Formation of **All India Youth Congress**.

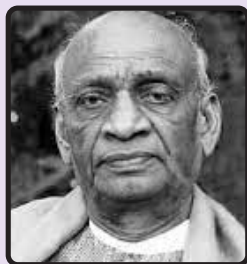
Lahore Session  
1929



Jawaharlal Nehru

- **Complete independence or Purna Swaraj** was declared as the aim of the Congress.
- Congress Working Committee was authorised to launch a programme of civil disobedience.
- **January 26, 1930** was fixed as the first Independence (Swarajya) Day, to be celebrated everywhere.
- The Round Table Conference was to be boycotted.

Karachi Session,  
1931

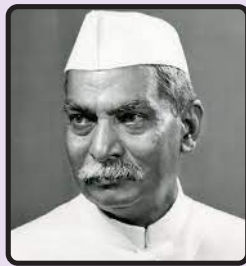


Vallabhbhai Patel

- Delhi Pact or Gandhi-Irwin Pact was endorsed.
- The goal of purna swaraj was reiterated.
- Two resolutions were adopted—one on Fundamental Rights and the other on National Economic Programme.
- **Resolution on Fundamental Rights** guaranteed:

- › Free speech, press, compulsory education.
- › Right to form associations, assemble, universal adult franchise.
- › Protection to culture, language, script of minorities and linguistic groups.
- › **Resolution on National Economic Programme included:**
  - › Substantial reduction in rent and revenue in the case of landholders and peasants, exemption from rent for uneconomic holdings.
  - › Better conditions of work including a living wage.
  - › Right to workers and peasants to form unions.
  - › State ownership and control of key industries, mines and means of transport.

Bombay Session,  
1934



Rajendra Prasad

- › Changes in the Congress constitution.
- › **Wearing of Khadi was made a necessary criterion for elective membership.**
- › Delegates were to be elected at the rate of 1 per every 500 primary members, thereby making them representatives of the people.

Lucknow Session,  
1936 (April)



JawaharLal Nehru

- › President urged the Congress to adopt socialism as its goal.

Faizpur Session,  
1936 (Dec)



Jawahar Lal Nehru

- The session held in a **village** for the first time.

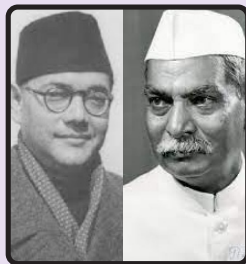
Haripura Session,  
1938



Subhash Chandra  
Bose

- Resolution adopted that the Congress would give moral support to those who were agitating against the governance in the princely states.
- **National Planning Committee** set up under JawaharLal Nehru.

Tripuri Session,  
1939



Subhash Chandra Bose  
( later Rajendra Prasad)

- Rajendra Prasad took over as president after Subhash Chandra resigned.
- Subhash Chandra Bose formed **Forward Bloc**.

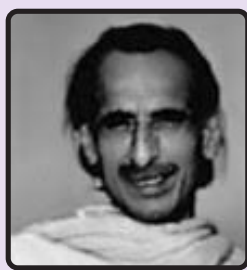
Ramgarh Session,  
1940



Abul Kalam Azad

- Civil Disobedience movement to be launched at appropriate time and circumstances.

Meerut Session,  
1946



J.B Kripalani

➤ Last session before independence.

## Note:

- The sessions for the years 1930 (reason: CDM), 1935 (reason: Elections) and 1941- 1945 (reason: QIM, Negotiations were already undergoing etc.) could not be held.
- At the time of the first session of the INC, Lord Dufferin was the Viceroy.

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