

Early Political Organisations and Formation of Indian National Congress

Important points for B.A III, Paper VI

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Early Political Organisations

- In 1838 **Land Holder's Society** was founded in Calcutta.
- The main purpose of the society was to safeguard their rights under the Permanent Settlement. Its original objective was to defeat by legal means the attempt of the Government to resume rent-free-lands.
- Its initial name was Zamindar Association but later its name was changed to Land Holder's Society .

British Indian Society- 1839

- The society was founded in London.
- The free traders formed this association to draw the attention to the despotic and medieval character of the company' administration.

Bengal British Indian Association-1843

- It was founded on the advice of George Thompson. Thompson was brought to India from England by Dwarkanath Tagore.
- George Thomas was the Secretary of British Indian Society.
- It was the first political association of India. It mainly represented the aristocratic class. The basic objectives of the organisation were to collect and disseminate information relating to the condition and welfare of the people.
- It was founded by William Adam on the advice of George Thompson.

British Indian Association-1851

Founders, Radha Kant Deb was the President, Devendra Nath Tagore was the Secretary.

- It had an All India outlook. It had great faith in the British goodwill and sense of justice.
- The association agitated for the inclusion of Indians in the Legislative Council and demanded the recognition of the principle of equality.

Bombay Association 1852

Founders, Jagannath Shankar Seth was the President, other prominent member was Dadabhai Naoroji.

- Its aim was to ascertain the wants of the people, to suggest to the authorities measures to advance public welfare.

Madras Native Association- 1853

- They demanded to withdraw the changes in the Permanent and Ryotwari Settlement.
- They also demanded reduction of the Public Expenditure.

Indian Association- 1876

- Surendranath Banerjee, Anand Mohan Bose, Sibnath Shastri and Krishna Mohan Banerjee were its founders.
- The Bengalee was the main mouthpiece of the association.

Central Mohammadan National Association

- It was founded in 1878 at Calcutta.
- It was founded by Sayyid Amir Ali.

Indian Union-1884

- Founded by A. O. Hume
- Its first conference was held at Poona.

Indian National Congress-1885

- Founded at Gokul Das Tejpal Sanskrit College at Bombay, by A.O.Hume.
- Other important founding members were -Dadabhai Naroji, Feroz Shah Mehta, Badruddin Tayabji and Womesh Chandra Banerjee.
- The word Indian National Congress was given by Dadabhai Naoroji.
- Congress means an assembly of some people, it is derived from American History.
- The entire period of Congress can be divided into 3 parts
 - a) Moderates- 1885-1905
 - b) Extremists- 1905-1916
 - c) Gandhian phase-1916-1947.

Objectives

- Fusion into one national whole of all the different and discordant elements that constituted the population of India.
- Gradual regeneration among all lines of the nation, thus declared.
- Consolidation of union between England and India.
- Improvement and consolidation of feeling of national unity irrespective of caste, religion and province.

Indian National Social Conference was founded in 1887 by M.G.Ranade. Its first session was held in Madras in December 1887.

The foundation of the Indian National Congress in 1885 was not a sudden event, or a historical accident. It was the culmination of a process of political awakening that had its beginnings as early as in the year 1838, later many associations came up in 1860's and 1870's, and took a major leap forward in the late 1870's and early 1880's. the year 1885 marked a turning point with the formation of Indian National Congress. Thus the foundation of the Congress was the national culmination of the political work of the previous years.