

(The Indian National Congress)

The Indian National Congress (INC) often called the Congress Party or simply Congress, is a political party in India with widespread roots. Founded in 1885 it was the first modern nationalist movement to emerge in the British Empire in Asia and Africa.

A retired British Indian Civil Service (ICS) Officer Allan Octavian Hume (A.O. Hume) founded the Indian National Congress in order to form a platform for civil and political dialogue among educated Indians. Hume embarked on an endeavour to get an organisation started by reaching out to selected alumni of the University of Calcutta.

On December 28, 1885, the Indian National Congress (INC) was founded at Populdas Tejpal Sanskrit College in Bombay, with 72 delegates in attendance. Hume assumed office as the General Secretary and Womesh Chunder Bonnerjee of Calcutta was elected President.

[- Policies of INC during 1885 - 1905 -]

Civil Rights - The Congress leaders realised the value of freedom of speech and press, the right to organise processions, meetings and similar other rights.

Administrative reforms - The Congress leaders urged the government to remove certain administrative abuses and run public welfare measures.

Constitutional rights - The humble demand for secure constitutional rights was raised which includes -
to increase the power of legislative councils and
to include elected Indian representatives.

Economic reforms - In the economic sphere, Congress blamed the wrong policies of the British that resulted in rising poverty and economic disparity in India. The Congress also put forward ~~the~~ certain specific suggestions for the economic improvement of the country and its people. These included the introduction of modern industry, Indianisation of public services etc.