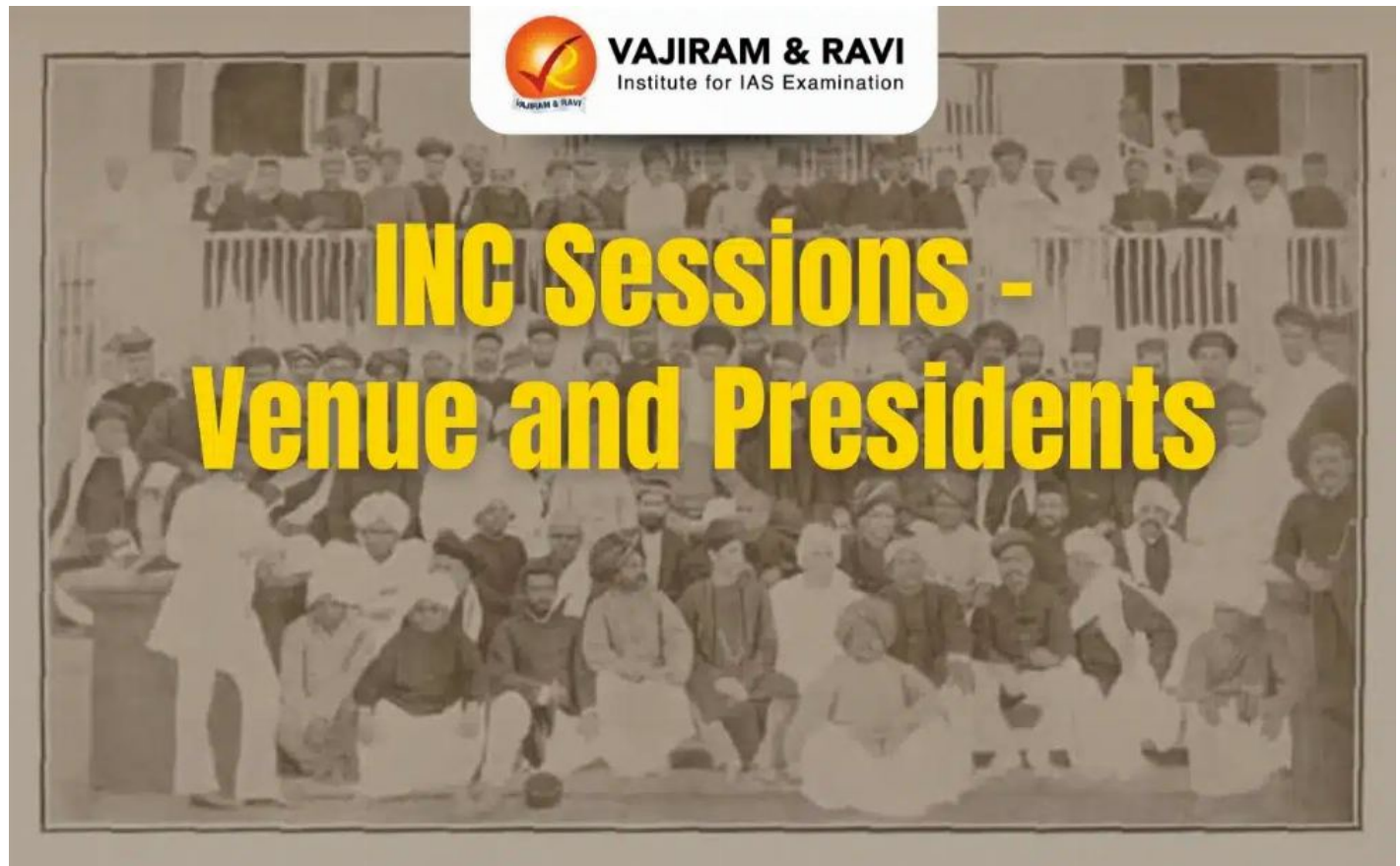


INC Sessions List, Year, Venue, Presidents, UPSC Notes

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The Indian National Congress (INC) emerged as the main political platform that brought the country together against British colonial authority and played a pivotal role in India's freedom movement. Founded in **1885**, the INC became the driving force behind the nationalist movement, guiding the course of India's demand for independence.

Over the decades, the Congress held numerous sessions across the country, where key decisions were made on strategies and the future direction of the movement. These sessions, attended by prominent leaders, not only influenced the course of Indian history but also reflected the political climate of the time.

Indian National Congress (INC)

The Indian National Congress (INC) was founded on 28 December 1885 by **Allan Octavian Hume**, initially as a platform for civil and political discussion among educated Indians. Over time, it evolved into the primary force behind India's independence movement. The Congress held **annual sessions**, usually in December, where leaders from across India gathered to discuss policies and strategies. Additionally, **special sessions** were also convened during critical moments, such as the **Non-Cooperation Movement** (1920), reflecting the INC's adaptability in key political junctures.

The following table highlights the year, place, presidents, and significance of each major session of the Indian National Congress:

Year	Place	President	Significance
1885	Bombay	Womesh Chandra Bonnerjee	- 72 social reformers, journalists, and lawyers convened at Gokuldas Tejpal Sanskrit College in Bombay for the INC's inaugural session.
1886	Calcutta	Dadabhai Naoroji	- Merger of INC and National Conference -Decided to set up Provincial Congress Committees across the country.
1887	Madras	Badruddin Tyabji	To promote unity and cooperation among the various regional groups, the appeal was made to the Muslims to join INC.
1888	Allahabad	George Yule	First English President of INC.
1889	Bombay	Sir William Wedderburn	INC's British Committee was founded in Britain.
1890	Calcutta	Pherozeshah Mehta	The first woman to graduate from Calcutta University, Kadambini Ganguly, spoke at the Congress in 1890.
1891	Nagpur	P. Ananda Charlu	—
1892	Allahabad	Womesh Chandra Bonnerjee	Congress criticized the Indian Councils Act of 1892
1893	Lahore	Dadabhai Naoroji	—
1894	Madras	Alfred Webb	—
1895	Pune	Surendranath Banerjee	There was a significant increase in the number of attendees for this session.
1896	Calcutta	Rahimatullah M. Sayani	“Vande Mataram” , the national song was sung for the first time; Passed a resolution blaming the British for the famine that had devastated many parts of India.
1897	Amraoti	C. Sankaran Nair	Congress slammed the British for the arrest of Bal Gangadhar Tilak.
1898	Madras	Ananda Mohan Bose	—

1899	Lucknow	Romesh Chunder Dutt	Congress demanded that the British government should stop the ' drain of wealth ' from India to England.
1900	Lahore	N.G. Chandavarkar	—
1901	Calcutta	Dinshaw Eduljee Wacha	- For the first time, Mahatma Gandhi appeared on the Congress platform. - Gandhi ji, a South Africa-based lawyer, then pleaded with Congress to back the fight against racial exploitation and injustice in the Country.
1902	Ahmedabad	Surendranath Banerjee	—
1903	Madras	Lal Mohan Ghosh	—
1904	Bombay	Sir Henry Cotton	Congress expressed strong disapproval of Lord Curzon's misuse of Indian revenues for his aggressive policy in Tibet and vehemently protested the Curzon administration's plan to partition Bengal.
1905	Banaras	Gopal Krishna Gokhale	- The divisions between the moderates and the extremists came to the fore; - Adopted Swadeshi resolution.
1906	Calcutta	Shri Dadabhai Naoroji	For the first time, Congress declared Swaraj as its aim.
1907 (Suspended)	Surat	Rash Behari Ghosh	Congress was split into two - the moderates and the extremists.
1908	Madras	Rash Behari Ghosh	—
1909	Lahore	Madan Mohan Malaviya	Congress opposed the Indian Councils Act of 1909's proposal to create separate electorates based on religion.
1910	Allahabad	Sir William Wedderburn	—
1911	Calcutta	Bishan Narayan Dar	It was the first time that " Jana Gana Mana ," the national anthem of India, was performed.
1912	Bankipore	Raghunath Mudholkar	—
1913	Karachi	Nawab Syed Mohammed Bahadur	—

1914	Madras	Bhupendra Nath Bose	Congress demanded that Indians be allowed to have higher positions in the army.
1915	Bombay	Satyendra Prasanna Sinha	To allow the delegates from the extremist section to be admitted, the Congress's constitution was appropriately changed.
1916	Lucknow	Ambica Charan Mazumdar	Unification of the moderates and extremists.
1917	Calcutta	Annie Besant	Congress got its first woman President.
1918	Delhi	Madan Mohan Malaviya	—
1918 (Special Session)	Bombay	Syed Hasan Imam	Congress expressed disappointment with the Montague-Chelmsford Reform. It called for the Indian people to have a Declaration of Rights.
1919	Amritsar	Motilal Nehru	Congress declared that it was in sympathy with the victims of the Jallianwala Bagh massacre.
1920 (Special Session)	Calcutta	Lala Lajpat Rai	INC approved the Non-Cooperation Movement (NCM).
1920	Nagpur	C. Vijayaraghavachariar	- Congress intensified the NCM. -The importance of using non-violent means was emphasized.
1921	Ahmadabad	Hakim Ajmal Khan (Acting President for C.R. Das)	Gandhiji was declared the only executive authority of the Congress and given full AICC authority.
1922	Gaya	Deshbandhu Chittaranjan Das	Intense debate on the issue of council entry led to CR Das and others breaking away from INC and forming the Swaraj party.
1923 (Special Session)	Delhi	Maulana Abul Kalam Azad	Decided to permit members to run for office in the next elections.
1924	Belgaum	M.K. Gandhi	The Only INC session presided over by Mahatma Gandhi.
1925	nope	Mrs. Sarojini Naidu	Sarojini Naidu became the first Indian woman to preside over the Congress.
1926	Guwahati	S. Srinivasa Iyengar	—
1927	Madras	M.A. Ansari	Congress resolved to boycott the Simon Commission.

1928	Calcutta	Motilal Nehru	- The first All India Youth Congress was formed. - Resolution to adopt the Motilal Nehru report's suggestion to grant Dominion Status to India within two years.
1929	Lahore	Jawaharlal Nehru	Congress declared Purna Swaraj as its ultimate goal.
1931	Karachi	Vallabhbhai J. Patel	- Congress passed a resolution on Fundamental Rights and the National Economic Program. -It also endorsed the Gandhi-Irwin Pact.
1933	Calcutta	Mrs. Nellie Sengupta	—
1934	Bombay	Dr. Rajendra Prasad	Wearing a Khadi was established as a rule for elected members.
1936	Lucknow	Jawaharlal Nehru	Urged Congressman to adopt Socialism .
1937	Faizpur (Bombay Presidency)	Jawaharlal Nehru	The first Congress Session in a rural area .
1938	Haripura	Subhash Chandra Bose	- Rejected the federal structure given by Gol 1935. - Under the chairmanship of Nehru the National Planning Committee formed.
1939	Tripuri	Subhash Chandra Bose	Following Subhas Chandra Bose's resignation, Rajendra Prasad assumed the presidency.
1940	Ramgarh	Maulana Abul Kalam Azad	The Congress objected to India being labelled as a belligerent nation to the war efforts.
1946	Meerut	J.B. Kripalani	Last INC session before Independence.

INC Sessions - Venue and Presidents UPSC PYQs

Question 1) The 1929 Session of the Indian National Congress is of significance in the history of the Freedom Movement because the (**UPSC Prelims 2014**)

- (a) attainment of Self-Government was declared as the objective of the Congress
- (b) attainment of Poorna Swaraj was adopted as the goal of the Congress

(c) Non-Cooperation Movement was launched

(d) the decision to participate in the Round Table Conference in London was taken

Ans: (b)

Question 2) Consider the following statements **(UPSC Prelims 2015)**

1. The first woman President of the Indian National Congress was Sarojini Naidu.
2. The first Muslim President of the Indian National Congress was Badruddin Tyabji.

Which of the statements given is/are correct?

(a) 1 only (b) 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: (b)

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