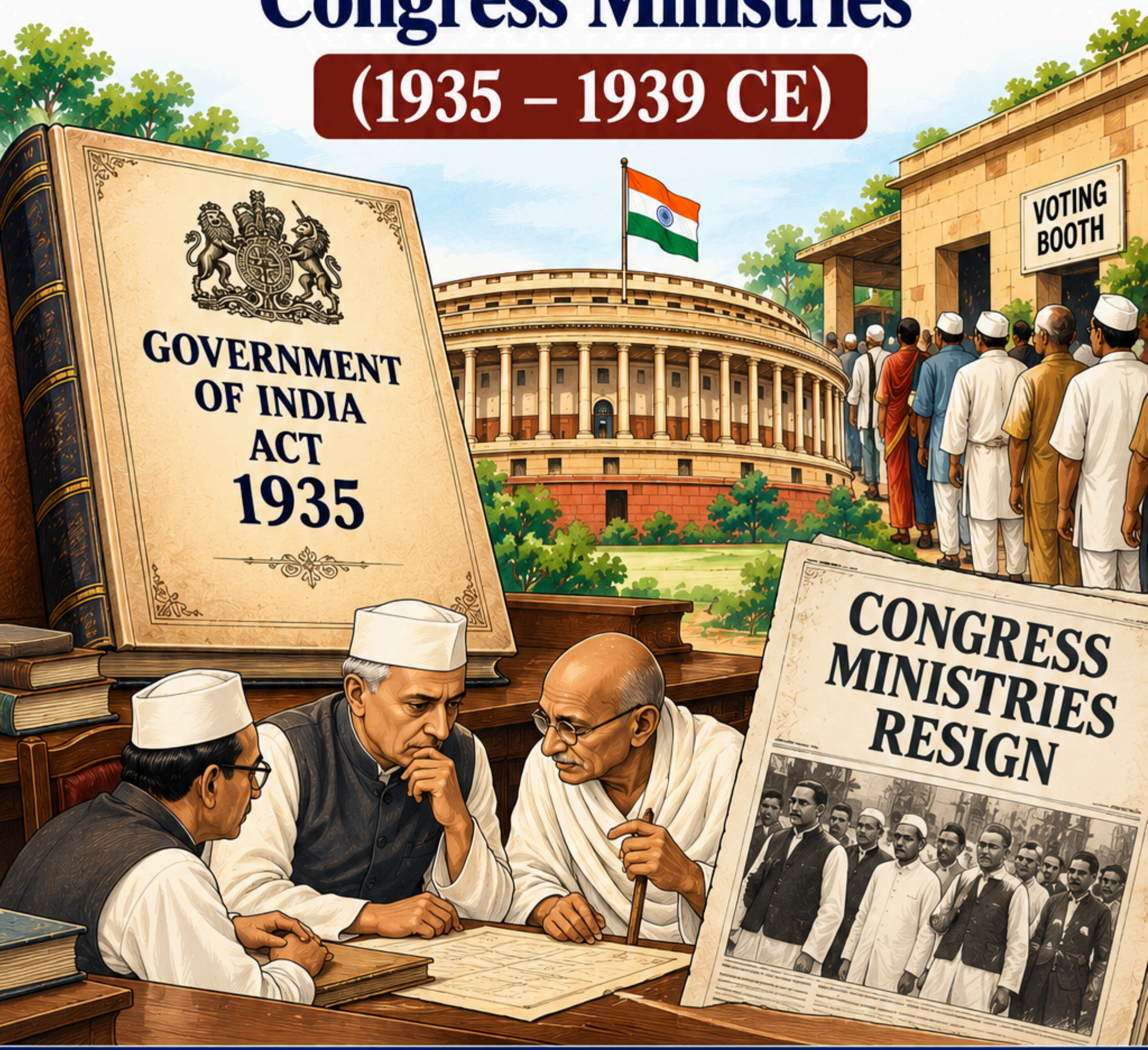
CREATOR ACADEMIA

The Government of India Act of 1935, Provincial Elections of 1937, and the Resignation of Congress Ministries

(1935 – 1939 CE)



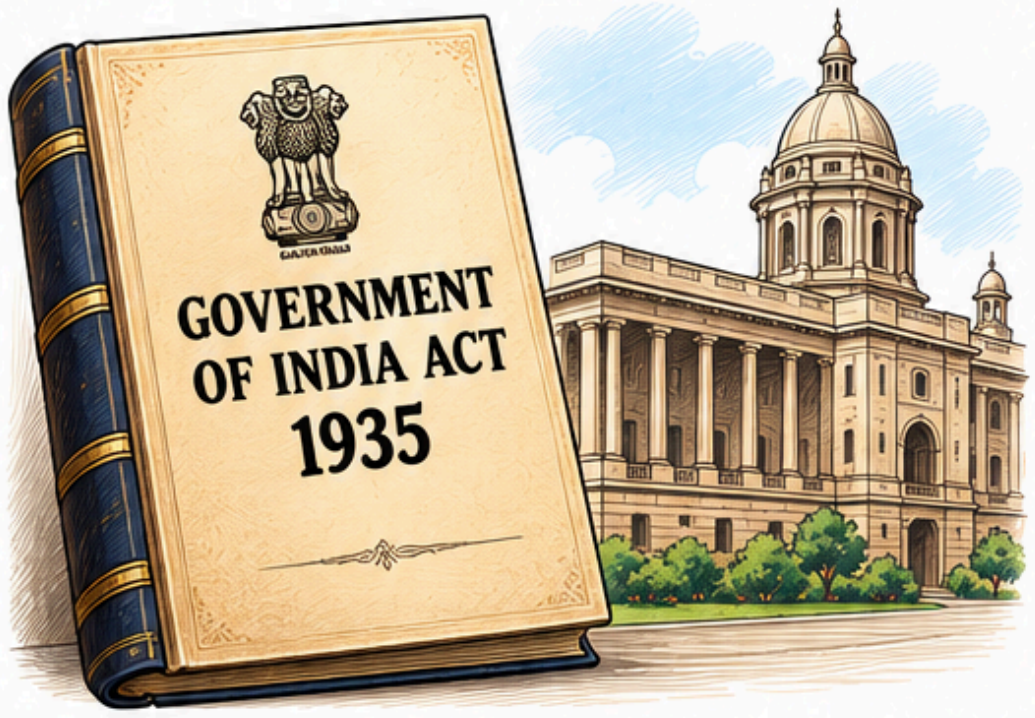
The Government of India Act of 1935, Provincial Elections of 1937, and the Resignation of Congress Ministries (1935 – 1939 CE)

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Introduction

Background

- The failure of the **Civil Disobedience Movement (1930–1934)** forced the British to rethink their constitutional strategy in India.
- The **Simon Commission (1927)** and the **Round Table Conferences (1930–1932)** had failed to satisfy Indian aspirations for self-government.
- As a result, the British introduced a new constitutional framework through the **Government of India Act of 1935**.



Key Developments (1935 – 1939)

- **1935** — Government of India Act of 1935 introduced.
- **1937** — Provincial elections held under the new Act.
- **1937** — Congress formed ministries in several provinces.
- **1938–1939** — Internal differences within the Congress, including the Tripuri Crisis.
- **1939** — Outbreak of World War II and resignation of Congress ministries.

Significance

- Marked a **shift from mass civil disobedience** to **constitutional politics**.
- Provided **limited provincial autonomy** and **expanded elections**.
- Gave the **Congress** an opportunity to **govern provinces** and gain administrative experience.
- Highlighted the **contradictions** between **British imperial interests** and **Indian demands** for real self-government.
- Set the stage for **new political developments** leading to the final phase of the freedom struggle.

Key Themes

- **British constitutional reforms** and their limitations.
- **Electoral politics** and the rise of provincial governance.
- Role and performance of **Congress ministries**.
- Growing **ideological differences** within the Congress.
- Impact of international events, particularly **World War II**, on Indian politics.

Broader Context

- The period (1935–1939) was a **crucial phase** in India's struggle for independence.
- It demonstrated both the **possibilities and limitations** of working the constitutional framework provided by the British.
- It also exposed **deep political divisions**, especially between the **Congress** and other political forces like the **Muslim League**.
- The resignation of Congress ministries in 1939 marked the end of this phase and prepared the ground for the next phase of the freedom movement during World War II.

The Government of India Act of 1935, Provincial Elections of 1937, and the Resignation of Congress Ministries (1935 – 1939 CE)

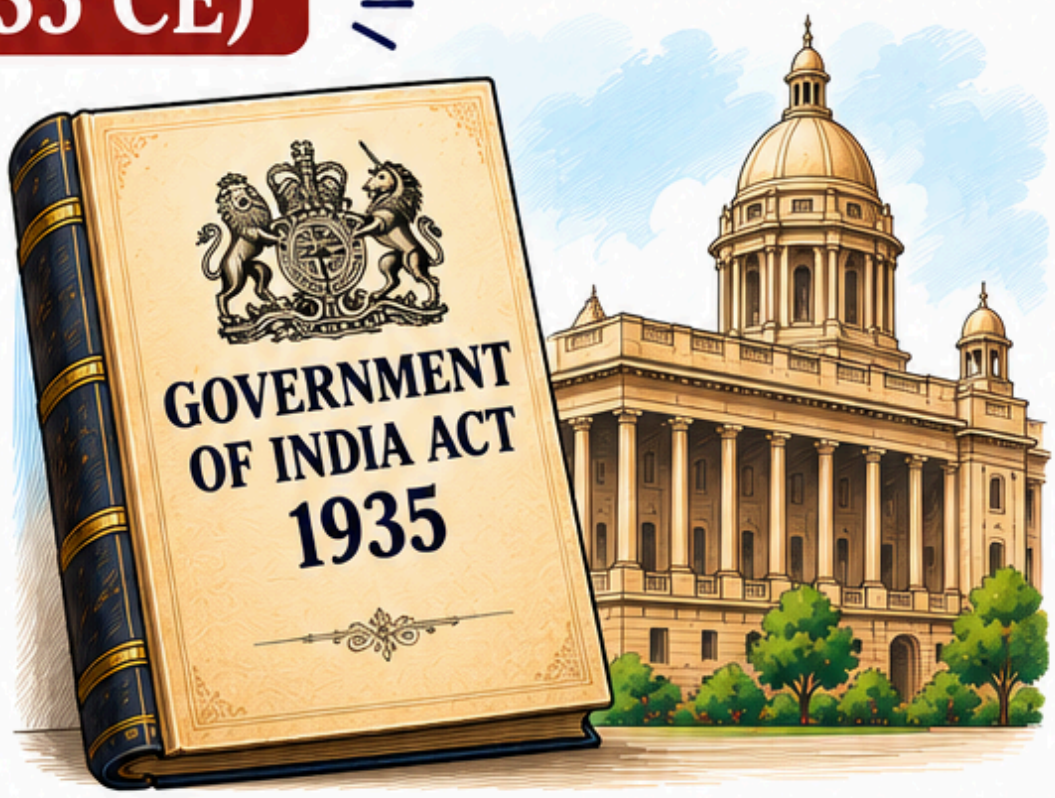
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1. The Government of India Act of 1935

(1935 CE)

What was it?

- The Government of India Act of 1935 was the **most comprehensive constitutional measure** introduced by the British in India.
- It laid down a **new framework for the governance of India**, replacing the Government of India Act of 1919.
- It aimed to grant **limited self-government** while retaining British control over crucial matters.



Origin and Context

- Based on the recommendations of the **Simon Commission (1927)** and further discussions in the **Round Table Conferences (1930–1932)**.
- Intended to address Indian demands for greater autonomy after the failure of previous reforms.
- Enacted by the British Parliament in 1935.

Nature of the Act

- A **colonial constitution**, framed unilaterally by the British.
- Granted a **federal structure** in design, but it was **never fully implemented.**
- Introduced **provincial autonomy**, but retained strong **central control** in the hands of the Governor-General.

Key Features (Overview)

1. Proposed an **All-India Federation** (with British Indian provinces and princely states).
2. Introduced **provincial autonomy**.
3. Provided for a **bicameral legislature** at the Centre.
4. **Expanded the franchise** compared to the 1919 Act.
5. Retained **safeguards for British interests**.

The Act represented a cautious attempt by the British to accommodate Indian demands while maintaining imperial control.

The Government of India Act of 1935, Provincial Elections of 1937, and the Resignation of Congress Ministries (1935 – 1939 CE)

CREATOR ACADEMIA

1. The Government of India Act of 1935 (1935 CE)

A. Key Provisions of the Act

1 All-India Federation (Proposed)

- Envisaged a **federal structure** with **British Indian provinces** and **princely states.**
- Accession of princely states was **voluntary.**
- This federal part was **never implemented** as princely states did not join.



2 Provincial Autonomy

- Introduced **dyarchy** at the **provincial level** in place of diarchy.
- Provincial subjects were divided into **reserved and transferred subjects.**
- Ministers were responsible to the **provincial legislatures.**



3 Bicameral Legislature at the Centre

- Introduced a **bicameral legislature** consisting of:
  - **Council of State** (Upper House)
  - **Federal Assembly** (Lower House)
- Members were partly elected and partly nominated.



4 Expanded Franchise

- Increased the number of electorate from about **3.2 crore** (1919 Act) to around **10.5 crore** people.
- Introduced a wider, but still **limited, franchise** (about **14%** of the population).



5 Division of Powers

- Introduced **threefold division** of **subjects:**
  - **Federal List**
  - **Provincial List**
  - **Concurrent List**
- Residuary powers were vested in the **Governor-General** (unlike in other federations, where they usually lie with the Centre or States).



6 Role of the Governor-General

- Held extensive powers and could override ministerial decisions.
- Could proclaim **emergency** and take direct control of provinces.
- Acted as the real executive authority at the Centre.



7 Separate Electorates and Communal Representation

- Continued **separate electorates** for Muslims, Sikhs, Europeans, Indian Christians, Anglo-Indians, etc.
- Provided for **reserved seats** for depressed classes (later modified).
- Strengthened **communal and special representation,** further deepening social divisions.



8 Safeguards for British Interests

- Control over **defence, external affairs** and **financial stability** remained with the British.
- **Special responsibilities and discretionary powers** were given to the Governor-General.



The Government of India Act of 1935, Provincial Elections of 1937, and the Resignation of Congress Ministries (1935 – 1939 CE)

CREATOR ACADEMIA

1. The Government of India Act of 1935 (1935 CE)

B. Nationalist Condemnation of the 1935 Act

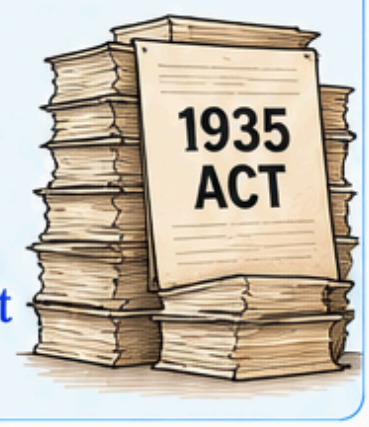
1 Not a Step towards Independence

- The Congress and other nationalist leaders felt that the Act **did not grant real self-government.**
- It retained **British control** over defence, external affairs and financial matters, making it an instrument to perpetuate colonial rule.



2 Complex and Cumbersome

- The Act was considered **overly complex**, with complicated constitutional machinery.
- It was seen as **impractical and difficult to implement** in India's conditions.



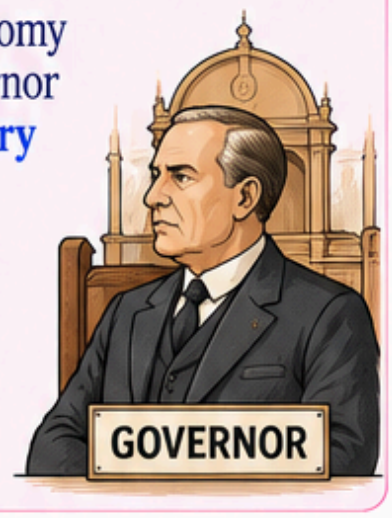
3 Federal Scheme Considered Unrealistic

- The proposed All-India Federation depended on the accession of princely states, which was **voluntary.**
- Nationalists believed that the federal scheme was **unrealistic** and a **device to protect the interests of the princes and the British.**



4 Provincial Autonomy Seen as Limited

- Although provincial autonomy was introduced, the Governor retained **wide discretionary powers.**
- This could be used to override the decisions of the elected ministries, making autonomy **only nominal.**



5 Continuation of Repressive Features

- The Act did not provide for **fundamental rights.**
- It retained **repressive laws** and gave wide powers to the government to suppress dissent.
- Nationalists saw it as a tool to **curb the freedom movement.**



6 No Provision for Responsible Government at the Centre

- The central government remained responsible to the **British Parliament,** not to an Indian legislature.
- This was seen as a **major drawback,** as it denied Indians real control at the national level.



7 Rejected by the Congress

- The Indian National Congress unanimously rejected the Act, calling it **"a charter of slavery".**
- It demanded a **fully responsible government** and a **constituent assembly** to frame a constitution for independent India.



The Government of India Act of 1935, Provincial Elections of 1937, and the Resignation of Congress Ministries (1935 – 1939 CE)

CREATOR ACADEMIA

2. The Landmark Provincial Elections of 1937 (1937 CE)

1 First Elections under the 1935 Act

- Held in **early 1937**, these were the **first provincial elections** under the Government of India Act of 1935.
- Conducted in **11 out of 13 British Indian provinces** Sind was separated in 1936).
- Marked a **new phase** of **electoral politics** and mass political participation.



2 Provinces Where Elections Were Held

- Elections were held in **11 provinces:**
  - Madras
  - Bombay
  - United Provinces (UP)
  - Bihar
  - Central Provinces and Berar (CP)
  - Orissa
  - Assam
  - North-West Frontier Province (NWFP)
  - Punjab
  - Bengal
  - Sind

3 Electorate and Franchise

- Total electorate was about **10.5 crore** (around **14% of** the total population).
- Franchise was **limited**, based on property, income, education and other qualifications.
- Separate electorates continued.



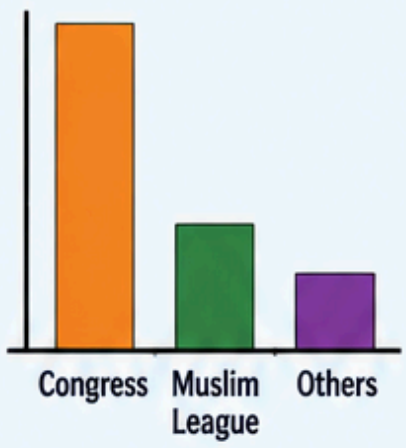
4 Major Political Parties

- **Indian National Congress** contested on a broad national platform.
- **All India Muslim League** contested mainly in Muslim-majority areas.
- Other parties included the **Unionist Party, Justice Party, Krishak Praja Party**, etc.



5 Overall Results

- Congress won a **clear majority** in several provinces (e.g., UP, Bihar, CP, Orissa, Madras, Bombay).
- The **Muslim League** performed **poorly**, winning a limited number of seats, except in Bengal and Sind.
- Regional parties had significant influence in Punjab, Bengal and Sind.



6 Significance

- Demonstrated the **growing political influence** and mass base of the Congress.
- Exposed the **limited appeal** of the Muslim League outside Muslim-majority provinces.
- Created **new opportunities and challenges** for the Congress, leading to the question of forming ministries in the provinces.



The Government of India Act of 1935, Provincial Elections of 1937, and the Resignation of Congress Ministries (1935 – 1939 CE)

CREATOR ACADEMIA

2. The Landmark Provincial Elections of 1937 (1937 CE)

A. The Congress Ministries

1 Formation of Congress Ministries

- The Congress emerged as the **largest party** in several provinces in the 1937 elections.
- It formed ministries in **7 provinces** after initial hesitation and negotiations with the Governor.
- These were the **first popularly elected ministries** in British India.



2 Provinces with Congress Ministries

Province	Chief Minister (Premier)
United Provinces (UP)	Govind Ballabh Pant
Bihar	Sri Krishna Sinha
Madras	C. Rajagopalachari
Central Provinces and Berar (CP)	N. B. Khare
Orissa	Biswanath Das
Bombay	B. G. Kher
North-West Frontier Province (NWFP)	Dr. Khan Sahib

3 Initial Hesitation

- The Congress was **initially reluctant** to form ministries as it felt the Act did not give real power.
- It demanded assurance that Governors would not interfere in the functioning of ministries.
- After receiving certain assurances, it decided to accept office in **July 1937**.



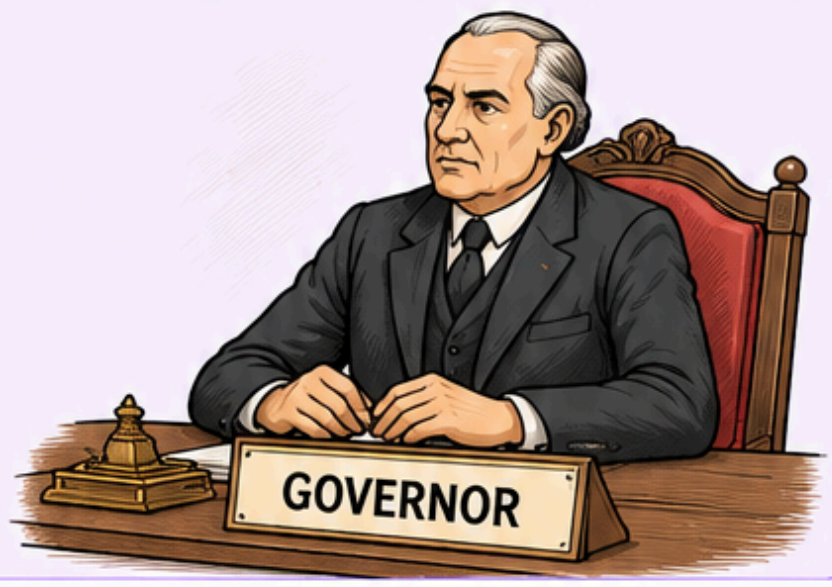
4 Significance

- Marked the entry of the Congress from a movement based on **mass agitation** to **practical governance**.
- Provided an opportunity to implement **pro-people policies** within the limited framework of the 1935 Act.
- Exposed the **contradictions** between nationalist ideals and the constraints of colonial rule.



5 Limitations

- Real power still rested with the **Governors**, who had **special powers** and could override ministerial decisions.
- Important subjects like **defence**, **external affairs** and **financial stability** remained under British control.
- The ministries had to function within the **restrictive provisions** of the Government of India Act of 1935.



The Government of India Act of 1935, Provincial Elections of 1937, and the Resignation of Congress Ministries (1935 – 1939 CE)

CREATOR ACADEMIA

2. The Landmark Provincial Elections of 1937 (1937 CE)

B. The Office Acceptance Debate

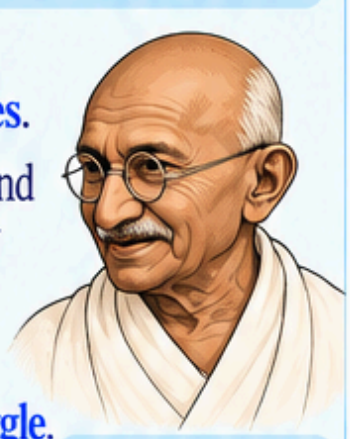
1 The Dilemma

- After the 1937 elections, the Congress faced a crucial decision whether to accept office and form ministries or to boycott them.
- There was a debate on whether accepting office would mean legitimising a colonial constitution.



2 Arguments for Accepting Office

- Use provincial autonomy to implement pro-people policies.
- Provide relief to the masses and demonstrate Congress' ability to govern.
- Turn the legislatures into a platform for anti-colonial struggle.
- Prevent reactionary and communal forces from coming to power.



Mahatma Gandhi favoured accepting office with certain conditions.

3 Arguments against Accepting Office



Subhas Chandra Bose opposed accepting office.

- The Act was fundamentally flawed and did not give real power to Indians.
- Accepting office would mean cooperation with British rule.
- It could divert the Congress from the larger goal of complete independence.
- Ministries would be under the control of Governors, who could dismiss them.

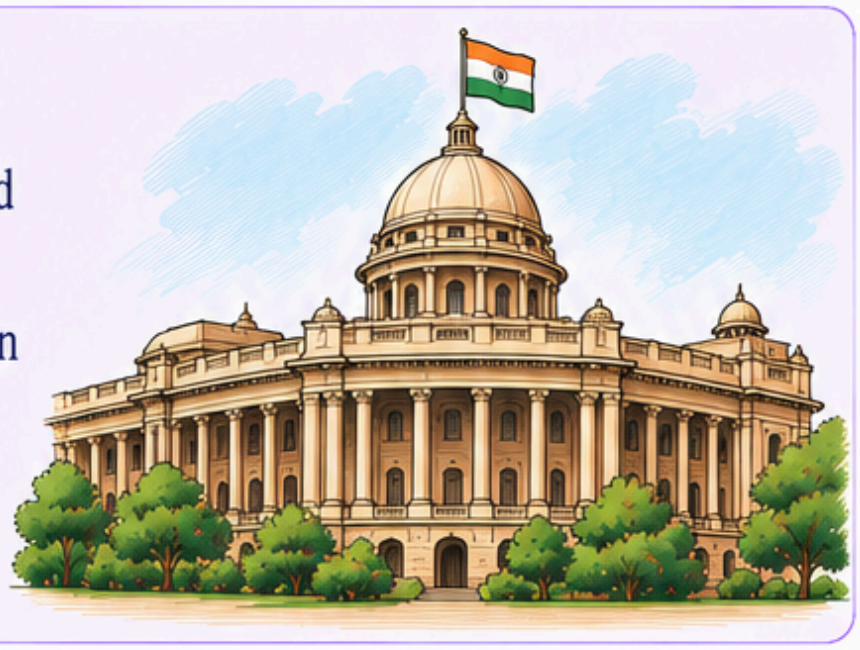
4 Negotiations and Assurances

- The Congress sought assurances from the British that the Governors would not interfere in the day-to-day functioning of ministries.
- The British refused to give a clear and unconditional assurance, but gave some verbal indications of non-interference.
- After prolonged discussions, the Congress decided to accept office.



5 Final Decision

- In July 1937, the Congress Working Committee decided to accept office in the provinces.
- It was a tactical decision to serve the people, strengthen its mass base and use the opportunities within the Act.
- Congress ministries were subsequently formed in 7 provinces.



The Government of India Act of 1935, Provincial Elections of 1937, and the Resignation of Congress Ministries (1935 – 1939 CE)

CREATOR ACADEMIA

3. Work and Legacy of the 28-Month Congress Ministries (1937 – 1939 CE)

1 Period and Extent

- Congress ministries functioned for about **28 months** (**July 1937 – October 1939**).
- Formed in **7 provinces**: UP, Bihar, Madras, CP, Orissa, Bombay and NWFP.



2 Major Measures and Reforms

- Released many **political prisoners**.
- Reduced **land revenue** in several provinces.
- Took steps for **debt relief** to protect peasants.
- Promoted **primary education** and expansion of schools.
- Implemented **social reforms** (e.g., prohibition in some provinces).



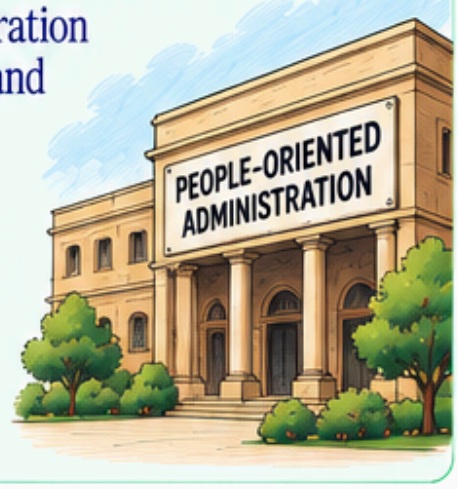
3 Policies for Peasants and Workers

- Attempted to **reduce rural indebtedness**.
- Passed **tenancy and agrarian reforms** in some provinces.
- Showed sympathy towards **workers** and encouraged **trade union** activities.



4 Administrative Initiatives

- Tried to make administration more **people-oriented** and **responsive**.
- Encouraged the use of **vernacular languages**.
- Took steps to improve **public health** and **local self-government**.



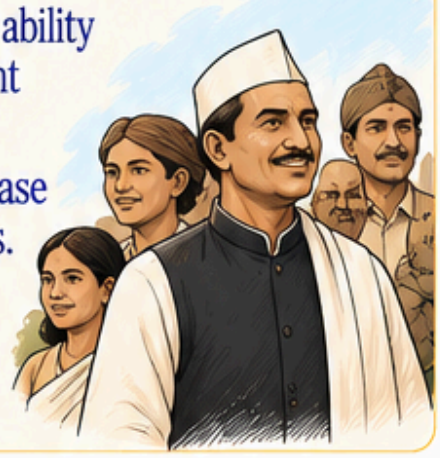
5 Limitations and Constraints

- Real power still rested with the **Governors**, who could override ministerial decisions.
- Key subjects like **defence**, **external affairs** and **financial stability** were outside their control.
- Limited **financial resources** restricted the scope of reforms.



6 Achievements

- Demonstrated Congress' ability to **govern** and implement **pro-people policies**.
- Strengthened its mass base in rural and urban areas.
- Created a generation of experienced leaders in administration.



7 Legacy

- Though short-lived, the ministries left a **positive legacy** of reform and people-oriented governance.
- They exposed both the **possibilities and limitations** of working within the framework of the 1935 Act.
- The experience strengthened the Congress for future struggles, including the demand for complete independence.



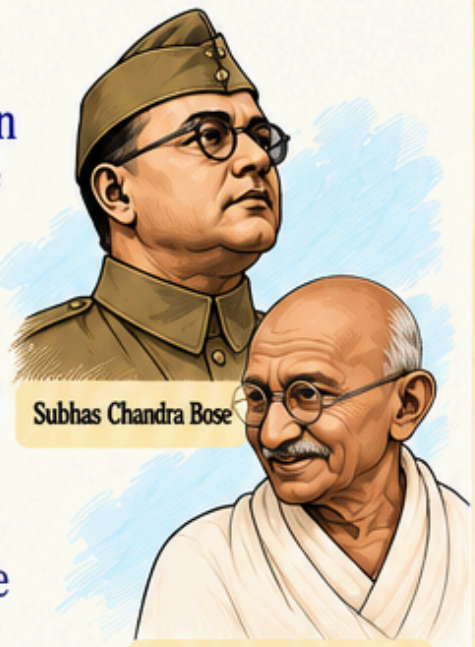
The Government of India Act of 1935, Provincial Elections of 1937, and the Resignation of Congress Ministries (1935 – 1939 CE)

CREATOR ACADEMIA

4. Internal Ideological Clashes: The Tripuri Crisis (1938 – 1939 CE)

1 Background

- Differences emerged within the Congress on the future course of the freedom struggle.
- Subhas Chandra Bose represented a more **radical and militant approach**.
- Mahatma Gandhi and his supporters favoured a more **cautious** and constitutional approach.



2 Haripura Session (1938)

- Subhas Chandra Bose was elected President of the Indian National Congress at the **Haripura Session (February 1938)**.
- He advocated for immediate and more **aggressive struggle** against British rule.
- He also emphasised planning and **socialist policies** for India.



3 Tripuri Session (1939)

- In January 1939, Subhas Chandra Bose was **re-elected** as Congress President at the **Tripuri Session**, defeating Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya, who was supported by Gandhi.
- The result was seen as a challenge to Gandhi's leadership.
- The session was marked by serious differences and organisational tensions within the Congress.



4 Growing Differences

- Gandhi and his supporters were **unhappy** with Bose's election and his policies.
- Bose wanted a stronger and **more immediate mass struggle**.
- Gandhi favoured a **gradual approach** and believed India was not yet ready for a direct confrontation with the British.



5 Resignation of Bose

- Due to **lack of support** from the Working Committee, Bose found it difficult to function as President.
- In **April 1939**, he resigned from the post.
- Later, he formed the **Forward Bloc** in **May 1939** to mobilise left-leaning and radical elements within the Congress.



6 Significance of the Tripuri Crisis

- Exposed deep **ideological differences** within the Congress.
- Showed the clash between **radical and moderate approaches**.
- **Weakened the unity** of the Congress at a crucial time.
- Set the stage for further developments, including Bose's break with the Congress and the **formation of the Forward Bloc**.



The Government of India Act of 1935, Provincial Elections of 1937, and the Resignation of Congress Ministries (1935 – 1939 CE)

CREATOR ACADEMIA

4. Internal Ideological Clashes: The Tripuri Crisis (1938 – 1939 CE)

A. The Haripura Session (1938 CE)

1 When and Where

- Held in **February 1938** in **Haripura (Gujarat)**.
- **Subhas Chandra Bose** was **elected President** of the Indian National Congress.



Subhas Chandra Bose
(Congress President, 1938)

2 Significance

- Marked the rise of a more **radical and militant leadership** within the Congress under Bose.
- Reflected growing **student and youth support** for a stronger struggle against British rule.



3 Presidential Address

- Bose emphasised the need for **complete independence (Purna Swaraj)**.
- Called for **national planning** and **rapid industrialisation**.
- Stressed the use of **science and technology** for economic development.
- Advocated a stronger and more active struggle against British colonial rule.



4 Key Ideas and Proposals

- Set up a **National Planning Committee** to prepare a plan for India's economic development.
- Focused on **state-led industrial growth** and reduction of poverty.
- Highlighted the importance of **economic self-reliance**.
- Advocated for a more **assertive and militant approach** in the freedom struggle.



5 Response and Support

- Received enthusiastic support from **youth, students and left-leaning groups** within the Congress.
- Was seen as a new direction for the Congress with a focus on **economic and social transformation**.



6 Legacy

- Strengthened **Bose's popularity** and leadership within the Congress.
- Clearly brought out **ideological differences** between Bose and the Gandhian leadership.
- Laid the groundwork for the later **Tripuri Crisis (1939)**, when these differences intensified.



The Government of India Act of 1935, Provincial Elections of 1937, and the Resignation of Congress Ministries (1935 – 1939 CE)

CREATOR ACADEMIA

4. Internal Ideological Clashes: The Tripuri Crisis (1938 – 1939 CE)

B. The Presidential Election and the Tripuri Stalemate (1939 CE)

1 Presidential Election (1939)

- Subhas Chandra Bose sought re-election as Congress President for a second term.
- He was opposed by the Gandhian group, which supported **Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya** as their candidate.
- The election was seen as a contest between Bose's radical approach and the Gandhian moderate line.



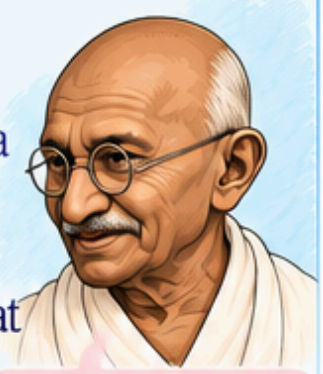
Subhas Chandra Bose (candidate)



Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya (Gandhian candidate)

2 Result and Reactions

- **Subhas Chandra Bose won the election,** defeating Pattabhi Sitaramayya (by a significant margin).
- Mahatma Gandhi famously remarked that Pattabhi's defeat was his **personal defeat.**
- The result deepened the divisions within the Congress between the **radical and moderate groups.**



"Pattabhi's defeat is my defeat."
– Mahatma Gandhi

3 The Tripuri Session (March 1939)

- The Congress Working Committee met at **Tripuri** (in present-day Madhya Pradesh) in **March 1939.**
- Bose, though re-elected, faced **strong opposition** from the Gandhian group within the Working Committee.
- Due to **ill health,** Bose could not effectively lead the session.
- The session ended in a **stalemate,** with no resolution to the internal conflict.



4 Growing Crisis

- The Working Committee, dominated by Gandhian supporters, **refused to cooperate** with Bose.
- Bose found it difficult to function as President.
- Differences over strategy, particularly on the issue of **immediate struggle** against the British, intensified.
- The **ideological rift** between Bose and Gandhi became irreconcilable.



5 Outcome

- Due to the opposition and lack of support, Subhas Chandra Bose **resigned** from the post of Congress President in **April 1939.**
- This marked the culmination of the internal ideological clashes within the Congress.
- Later, Bose went on to form the **Forward Bloc** in **May 1939.**



6 Significance

- Exposed the deep **ideological differences** within the Congress.
- **Weakened the unity** of the Congress at a crucial time.
- Paved the way for the formation of the **Forward Bloc.**
- Highlighted the **contrasting visions** of Bose and Gandhi on the future course of the freedom struggle.



The Government of India Act of 1935, Provincial Elections of 1937, and the Resignation of Congress Ministries (1935 – 1939 CE)

CREATOR ACADEMIA

5. Outbreak of World War II and the Resignation Crisis (1939 CE)

1 Outbreak of World War II

- World War II began on **1 September 1939** when **Germany attacked Poland.**
- Britain declared war on Germany on **3 September 1939**, marking the beginning of World War II.
- The war was a global conflict between the **Axis powers** (Germany, Italy, Japan) and the **Allied powers** (Britain, France, etc.).



2 Linlithgow's Declaration (3 September 1939)

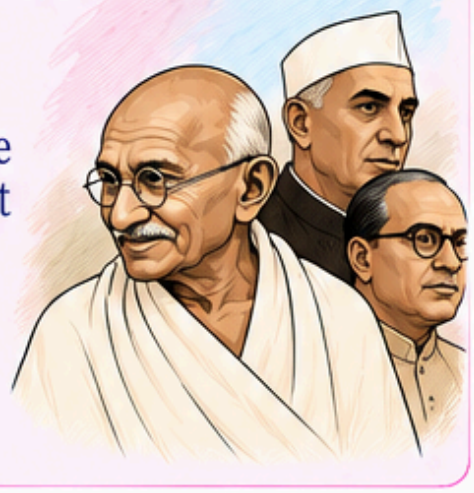
- Viceroy Lord Linlithgow declared that India was at war with Germany on **3 September 1939**.
- The decision was taken **unilaterally**, without consulting Indian leaders or legislatures.
- This showed the continued disregard for Indian opinions despite the 1935 Act.



Lord Linlithgow
(Viceroy of India)
(1936 – 1943)

3 Congress's Reaction

- The Congress **strongly protested** the unilateral decision.
- It demanded that no Indian support could be given to the war without a clear statement of **war aims** and a promise of **independence.**
- The British did not accept these demands.



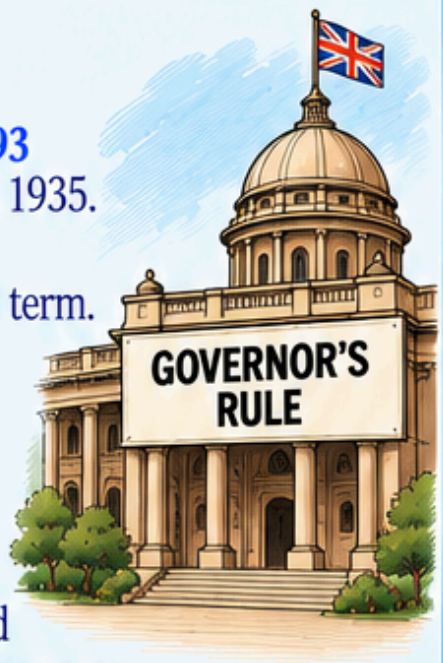
4 Resignation of Congress Ministries

- In **October 1939**, the Congress ministries in **all 7 provinces resigned** in protest.
- The Congress could not associate itself with a war for **imperialist interests.**
- The resignations marked the end of the **28-month-long Congress ministries.**



5 Consequences

- Governors took direct control of the provinces under **Section 93** of the Government of India Act, 1935.
- The resignation weakened the Congress's position in the short term.
- It provided an opportunity for the **Muslim League** to expand its influence.
- It marked a new phase in the freedom struggle, with a shift towards a more mass-based and militant approach in the coming years.



6 Significance

- Exposed the **limited and false nature of provincial autonomy** under the 1935 Act.
- Deepened the **mistrust** between the British and the Congress.
- Strengthened the demand for **complete independence.**
- Set the stage for new strategies and movements in the 1940s.



The Government of India Act of 1935, Provincial Elections of 1937, and the Resignation of Congress Ministries (1935 – 1939 CE)

CREATOR ACADEMIA

5. Outbreak of World War II and the Resignation Crisis (1939 CE)

A. Unilateral War Declaration

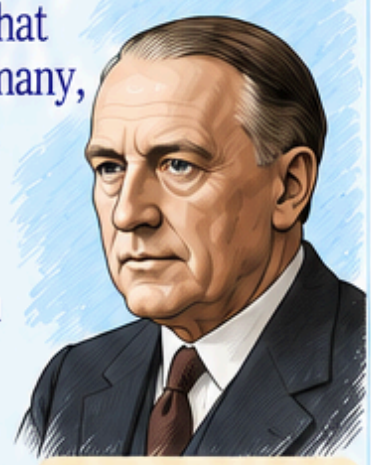
1 Outbreak of World War II

- World War II began on **1 September 1939** when **Germany attacked Poland.**
- It soon became a global conflict involving the **Axis powers** (Germany, Italy, Japan) and the **Allied powers** (Britain, France, etc.).
- The war had far-reaching political, economic and military consequences.



2 Linlithgow's Unilateral Declaration (3 September 1939)

- On **3 September 1939**, Viceroy Lord Linlithgow declared that India was at war with Germany, **without consulting Indian leaders or legislatures.**
- The decision was taken **unilaterally** by the British government.
- This showed the continued **disregard for Indian opinion** despite the promises of constitutional reforms.

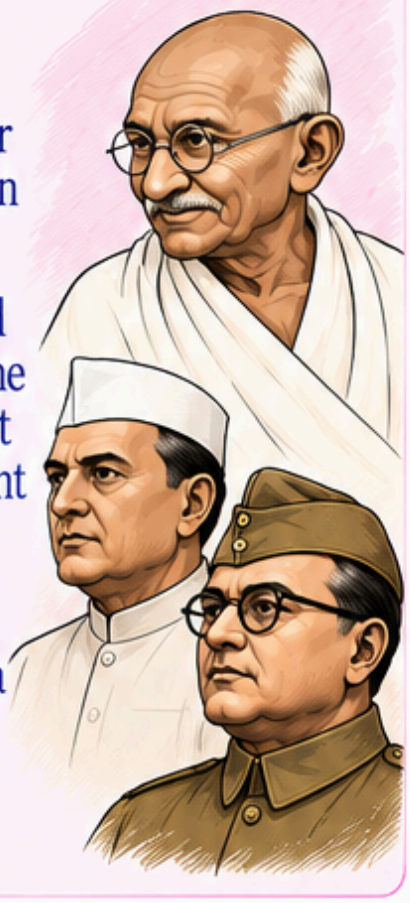


Lord Linlithgow
(Viceroy of India)
(1936 – 1943)

B. The Congress Stance and Demands

3 Congress's Initial Reaction

- The Congress **strongly protested** the unilateral declaration.
- It criticised the British for involving India in a major war **without consulting** any Indian representatives.
- Congress felt that India could not be expected to support the war without a clear statement of **war aims** and a commitment to **India's independence.**
- It demanded that the British government should treat India as a **partner, not a subject,** in the war effort.



4 Congress Demands

- The Congress set out certain **conditions for cooperation** in the war:



1. A clear declaration of **war aims,** including the recognition of India's right to **full independence** after the war.
2. Immediate transfer of real power to an **Indian national government** at the Centre.
3. **Consultation** with Indian leaders in the conduct of the war.
4. The framing of a **new constitution** by a fully representative Indian constituent assembly.

The Government of India Act of 1935, Provincial Elections of 1937, and the Resignation of Congress Ministries (1935 – 1939 CE)

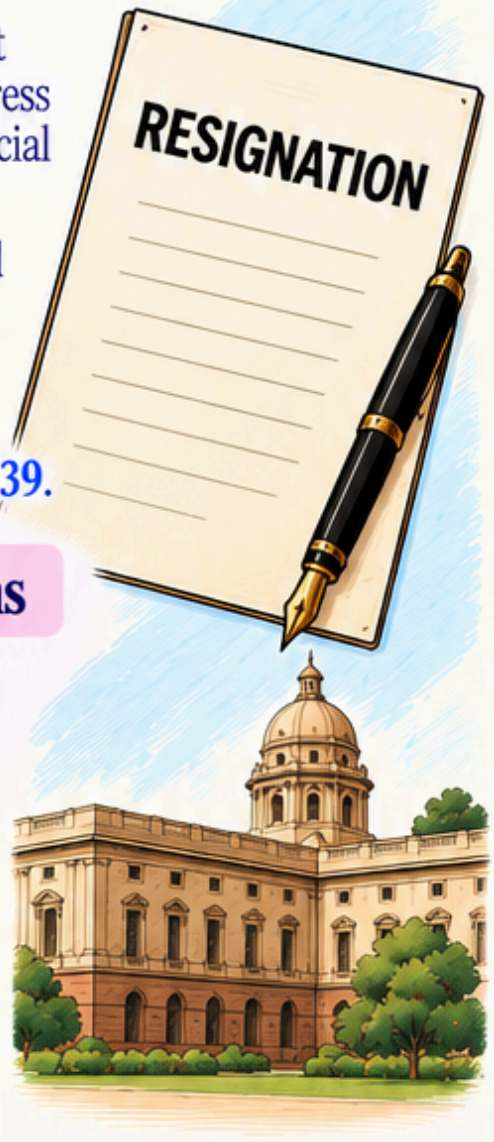
CREATOR ACADEMIA

5. Outbreak of World War II and the Resignation Crisis (1939 CE)

C. Resignation of Congress Ministries

1 Decision to Resign

- After the British refused to accept the Congress demands, the Congress decided to resign from the provincial governments.
- The Working Committee met and resolved that it was impossible to continue in office under such circumstances.
- Resignations began in **October 1939**.



2 Extent of Resignations

- Congress ministries **resigned** in **all 7 provinces** where they were in power:
  - United Provinces
  - Bihar
  - Central Provinces
  - Bombay
  - Madras
  - Orissa
  - North-West Frontier Province

3 Significance

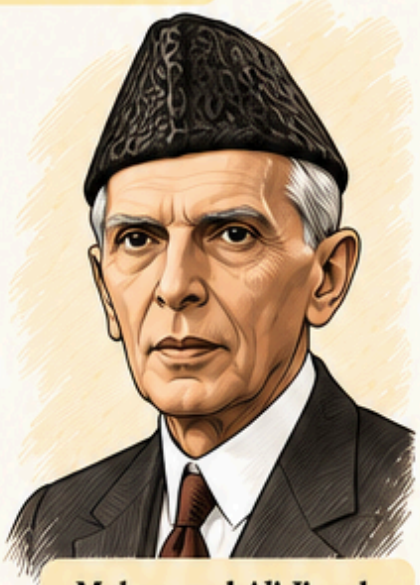
- Marked the **end** of the **28-month-long Congress ministries (1937 – 1939).**
- Exposed the **limited power** given to Indians under the 1935 Act.
- Showed the **growing rifts** between the British government and the Congress.
- Strengthened the Congress's demand for **real power and independence.**



D. The Muslim League's "Day of Deliverance"

1 Call for 'Day of Deliverance'

- Muhammad Ali Jinnah and the Muslim League welcomed the resignation of Congress ministries.
- **22 December 1939** was observed as the **"Day of Deliverance" (Yaum-e-Nijat)** across India.
- It was celebrated to mark the end of what the Muslim League described as the **"Congress Raj"** in the provinces.



Muhammad Ali Jinnah
(Founder, Muslim League)

2 Reasons

- The Muslim League alleged that the Congress ministries had followed a policy of **Hindu domination** and neglected Muslim interests.
- The resignation was seen as a **relief** from Congress governance.
- The League used the occasion to expand its political base and present itself as the **sole representative** of **Indian Muslims.**



The Government of India Act of 1935, Provincial Elections of 1937, and the Resignation of Congress Ministries (1935 – 1939 CE)

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QUICK EXAMINATION FACTS

1 • Government of India Act was passed in **1935**.



2 • Provincial elections were held in **1937**.



3 • Congress formed ministries in **7 provinces** after the elections.



4 • Subhas Chandra Bose was elected Congress President at the Haripura Session in **1938**.



5 • Subhas Chandra Bose was re-elected Congress President in **1939**.



6 • Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya was the Gandhian candidate in the **1939** presidential election.



7 • The Congress Working Committee met at Tripuri in **March 1939**.



8 • World War II began on **1 September 1939**.



9 • Britain declared war on Germany on **3 September 1939**.



10 • Viceroy Lord Linlithgow declared that India was at war with Germany on **3 September 1939**, without consulting Indian leaders.



11 • Congress demanded a clear statement of **war aims** and a promise of **Indian independence** after the war.



12 • The British **refused** to accept the Congress demands.



13 • Congress ministries resigned in **October 1939**.



14 • Resignations took place in **all 7 provinces**.



15 • The Muslim League observed **22 December 1939** as **'Day of Deliverance'** to celebrate the resignation of Congress ministries.



16 • The resignation deepened the differences between the Congress and the Muslim League.



The Government of India Act of 1935, Provincial Elections of 1937, and the Resignation of Congress Ministries (1935 – 1939 CE)

CREATOR ACADEMIA

MCQs

1 **Which of the following Acts provided for provincial autonomy and formed the constitutional basis for the elections of 1937?**

(A) Regulating Act of 1773
(B) Government of India Act of 1919
(C) Government of India Act of 1935
(D) Indian Councils Act of 1909

Answer: (C)

Explanation:

- The Government of India Act of 1935 introduced provincial autonomy, expanded the franchise and provided for provincial elections.
- It formed the constitutional basis for the elections held in 1937.

2 **In which year were the provincial elections held under the Government of India Act of 1935?**

(A) 1935
(B) 1936
(C) 1937
(D) 1939

Answer: (C)

Explanation:

- The provincial elections were held in 1937 under the provisions of the Government of India Act of 1935.
- The Indian National Congress emerged as the single largest party in most provinces.

3 **Who was elected as the President of the Indian National Congress at the Haripura Session?**

(A) Mahatma Gandhi
(B) Jawaharlal Nehru
(C) Subhas Chandra Bose
(D) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

Answer: (C)

Explanation:

- Subhas Chandra Bose was elected President of the Indian National Congress at the Haripura Session in 1938.
- He advocated a more radical and forward-looking approach.

4 **Subhas Chandra Bose was re-elected as the Congress President in 1939, defeating whom in the presidential election?**

(A) Jawaharlal Nehru
(B) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel
(C) C. Rajagopalachari
(D) Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya

Answer: (D)

Explanation:

- In the 1939 presidential election, Subhas Chandra Bose defeated Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya, who was the candidate supported by the Gandhian group.
- Bose's victory led to the Tripuri Crisis due to differences with the Congress Working Committee.

5 **In which month and year did the Congress ministries resign from the provincial governments in protest against India being dragged into World War II without consultation?**

(A) July 1939
(B) August 1939
(C) September 1939

Answer: (D)

Explanation:

- The Viceroy declared India at war with Germany on 3 September 1939, without consulting Indian leaders.
- In protest, the Congress ministries in all seven provinces resigned in October 1939.

The Government of India Act of 1935, Provincial Elections of 1937, and the Resignation of Congress Ministries (1935 – 1939 CE)

6 **Which of the following was the immediate reason for the resignation of the Congress ministries in 1939?**

(A) Failure of the Cripps Mission
(B) Demand for separate electorates
(C) India being declared at war without consultation
(D) Imposition of the Rowlatt Act

Answer: (C)

Explanation:
- The British declared India at war with Germany on **3 September 1939** without consulting Indian leaders.
- In protest against this unilateral decision and the refusal to accept their demands, the Congress ministries resigned.

7 **On which date did Viceroy Lord Linlithgow declare that India was at war with Germany?**

(A) 1 September 1939
(B) 2 September 1939
(C) 3 September 1939
(D) 5 September 1939

Answer: (C)

Explanation:
- Viceroy Lord Linlithgow announced on **3 September 1939** that India was at war with Germany.
- This was done unilaterally, without consulting Indian leaders or legislatures.

8 **The Congress ministries resigned from the provincial governments in how many provinces in 1939?**

(A) 5
(B) 6
(C) 7
(D) 8

Answer: (C)

Explanation:
- The Congress ministries resigned in all **7 provinces** where they were in power (United Provinces, Bihar, Central Provinces, Bombay, Madras, Orissa and North-West Frontier Province) in **October 1939**.

9 **Which of the following demands was made by the Congress in 1939 in exchange for cooperation in the war effort?**

(A) Immediate transfer of real power to an Indian national government
(B) Restoration of the diarchy system
(C) Separate electorates for Muslims
(D) Abolition of the provincial governments

Answer: (A)

Explanation:
- The Congress demanded a clear statement of war aims, including the recognition of India's right to **full independence** after the war.
- It also demanded the immediate transfer of real power to an **Indian national government** at the Centre.

10 **Which political organisation observed 22 December 1939 as the 'Day of Deliverance' (Yaum-e-Nijat)?**

(A) Indian National Congress
(B) Muslim League
(C) Hindu Mahasabha
(D) Forward Bloc

Answer: (B)

Explanation:
- The Muslim League, under the leadership of Muhammad Ali Jinnah, observed **22 December 1939** as the **'Day of Deliverance'** to celebrate the resignation of the Congress ministries.
- It considered the resignation as the end of **"Congress Raj" in the provinces.**

The Government of India Act of 1935, Provincial Elections of 1937, and the Resignation of Congress Ministries (1935 – 1939 CE)

11 **Which of the following was NOT a province where a Congress ministry was formed after the 1937 elections?**

(A) United Provinces
(B) Bihar
(C) Punjab
(D) Madras

Answer: (C)

Explanation:
- The Congress formed ministries in United Provinces, Bihar, Madras, Central Provinces, Bombay, Orissa and North-West Frontier Province.
- In **Punjab**, the **Unionist Party** formed the government, not the Congress.

12 **Who was the Viceroy of India when World War II began?**

(A) Lord Irwin
(B) Lord Willingdon
(C) Lord Linlithgow
(D) Lord Wavell

Answer: (C)

Explanation:
- Lord Linlithgow was the Viceroy of India from **1936 to 1943**.
- He declared India to be at war with Germany on **3 September 1939** without consulting Indian leaders.

13 **Which international event triggered the resignation of the Congress ministries in 1939?**

(A) Great Depression
(B) Spanish Civil War
(C) Outbreak of World War II
(D) Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor

Answer: (C)

Explanation:
- The outbreak of World War II on **1 September 1939** and the unilateral declaration of war by the British government led to the resignation of the Congress ministries.
- The Congress opposed India being dragged into the war without consultation.

14 **Which of the following was NOT one of the main demands of the Congress in 1939 after the outbreak of World War II?**

(A) A clear statement of war aims
(B) Immediate transfer of real power to an Indian government
(C) Recognition of India's right to full independence after the war
(D) Inclusion of Indian representatives in the British war cabinet

Answer: (D)

Explanation:
- The Congress demanded a clear statement of war aims, immediate transfer of real power to an Indian national government, and recognition of India's right to full independence after the war.
- It **did not specifically demand** inclusion of Indian representatives in the **British war cabinet**.

15 **The 'Day of Deliverance' (Yaum-e-Nijat) was observed on which date to celebrate the resignation of Congress ministries?**

(A) 26 January 1939
(B) 23 March 1939
(C) 22 December 1939
(D) 15 August 1940

Answer: (C)

Explanation:
- The Muslim League, under the leadership of Muhammad Ali Jinnah, observed **22 December 1939** as the **'Day of Deliverance'** to celebrate the resignation of the Congress ministries.
- It considered the resignation as the end of "Congress Raj" in the provinces.

The Government of India Act of 1935, Provincial Elections of 1937, and the Resignation of Congress Ministries (1935 – 1939 CE)

16 **Which of the following statements about the Congress ministries (1937–1939) is correct?**

(A) They were formed in all the provinces.
(B) They were formed in a majority of the provinces where Congress secured a majority.
(C) They were formed only in the Central Provinces.
(D) They were formed under the direct control of the Government of India.

Answer: (B)

Explanation:
- Congress formed ministries in the provinces where it secured a majority, which included **7 provinces**.
- It did not form ministries in all provinces and refused to join coalition ministries under conditions imposed by the British in some provinces.

17 **Which session electing Subhas Chandra Bose as the Congress President was held in 1938?**

(A) Lucknow Session
(B) Karachi Session
(C) Haripura Session
(D) Tripuri Session

Answer: (C)

Explanation:
- Subhas Chandra Bose was elected President of the Indian National Congress at the **Haripura Session in 1938**.
- This session marked a more radical and forward-looking approach under his leadership.

18 **The Congress Working Committee met in which city in March 1939, where differences with Subhas Chandra Bose came to the fore?**

(A) Lucknow
(B) Bombay
(C) Tripuri
(D) Calcutta

Answer: (C)

Explanation:
- The Congress Working Committee met at **Tripuri in March 1939**.
- At this meeting, serious differences emerged between Subhas Chandra Bose and the Gandhian group, leading to a political crisis within the Congress.

19 **Which of the following best describes the British government's attitude towards the Congress demands after the outbreak of World War II?**

(A) It immediately accepted all the Congress demands.
(B) It offered dominion status to India.
(C) It refused to accept the Congress demands.
(D) It announced immediate transfer of power.

Answer: (C)

Explanation:
- The British government refused to accept the Congress demands for a clear statement of war aims and a promise of Indian independence after the outbreak of World War II.
- This led to the **resignation** of the Congress ministries in **October 1939**.

20 **Which of the following leaders was associated with the Muslim League's call for the 'Day of Deliverance' (Yaum-e-Nijat)?**

(A) Jawaharlal Nehru
(B) Subhas Chandra Bose
(C) Muhammad Ali Jinnah
(D) C. Rajagopalachari

Answer: (C)

Explanation:
- Muhammad Ali Jinnah, the leader of the Muslim League, called for the 'Day of Deliverance' (Yaum-e-Nijat) on **22 December 1939** to celebrate the resignation of the Congress ministries.
- The Muslim League considered it the end of **"Congress Raj"** in the provinces.

The Government of India Act of 1935, Provincial Elections of 1937, and the Resignation of Congress Ministries (1935 – 1939 CE)

21 **Which of the following provinces was NOT ruled by a Congress ministry after the 1937 elections?**

(A) United Provinces
(B) Bihar
(C) Punjab
(D) Madras

Answer: (C)

Explanation:
- The Congress formed ministries in several provinces, including United Provinces, Bihar and Madras.
- In **Punjab**, the Unionist Party formed the government, and the Congress did not come to power.

22 **Which of the following best explains the significance of the 1937 provincial elections in the context of Indian nationalism?**

(A) They marked the end of British rule in India.
(B) They gave Indians full independence.
(C) They provided a platform for the Congress to demonstrate its administrative capability.
(D) They abolished the system of separate electorates.

Answer: (C)

Explanation:
- The 1937 elections gave the Congress an opportunity to form ministries in a large number of provinces and demonstrate its **administrative ability**.
- This strengthened its position as the main nationalist party.

23 **What was the immediate response of the Congress to the British declaration of India's entry into World War II in September 1939?**

(A) It supported the war unconditionally.
(B) It demanded immediate independence.
(C) It accepted the decision without protest.
(D) It offered cooperation without any conditions.

Answer: (B)

Explanation:
- The Congress protested against the unilateral declaration of war and demanded a clear statement of war aims and a promise of **Indian independence**.
- It refused to support the war effort without these assurances.

24 **Which of the following was a key reason for the resignation of the Congress ministries in 1939?**

(A) Imposition of the Simon Commission
(B) Failure of the Cripps Mission
(C) Britain's refusal to accept Congress demands regarding war aims and independence
(D) Introduction of the Rowlatt Act

Answer: (C)

Explanation:
- The Congress ministries resigned in **October 1939** because the British government refused to accept their demands for a clear statement of war aims and a promise of Indian independence.
- This was seen as a disregard for Indian opinion and aspirations.

25 **The Muslim League's call for the 'Day of Deliverance' was a response to which of the following?**

(A) The outbreak of World War II
(B) The resignation of Congress ministries
(C) The announcement of the August Offer
(D) The failure of the Congress to form a government in 1937

Answer: (B)

Explanation:
- The Muslim League observed **22 December 1939** as the 'Day of Deliverance' (Yaum-e-Nijat) to celebrate the resignation of the Congress ministries.
- It considered the resignation as the end of **"Congress Raj"** in the provinces.

The Government of India Act of 1935, Provincial Elections of 1937, and the Resignation of Congress Ministries (1935 – 1939 CE)

26 **Which of the following was the title given by Subhas Chandra Bose to the period after the resignation of Congress ministries in 1939?**

(A) Congress Raj
(B) Interregnum
(C) Freedom Crisis
(D) Phase of Struggle

Answer: (B)

Explanation:
- Subhas Chandra Bose described the period after the resignation of Congress ministries as an **'Interregnum'** – a period between two regimes.
- He believed it was a phase of political uncertainty and an opportunity to intensify the struggle for independence.

27 **How many provinces had Congress ministries resigned from in October 1939?**

(A) 5
(B) 6
(C) 7
(D) 9

Answer: (C)

Explanation:
- The Congress ministries resigned from all **7 provinces** where they were in power in **October 1939**.
- These provinces were United Provinces, Bihar, Central Provinces, Bombay, Madras, Orissa and North-West Frontier Province.

28 **Which of the following was a demand raised by the Congress before withdrawing its ministries in 1939?**

(A) Immediate transfer of real power to Indians
(B) A written assurance of dominion status
(C) Inclusion of Congress representatives in the British War Cabinet
(D) Withdrawal of the Viceroy's emergency powers

Answer: (A)

Explanation:
- The Congress demanded a **clear statement of war aims**, immediate transfer of real power to an Indian national government, and recognition of India's right to full independence after the war.
- The British did not accept these demands.

29 **Which of the following leaders was NOT associated with the Congress ministries formed after the 1937 elections?**

(A) C. Rajagopalachari
(B) Govind Ballabh Pant
(C) B. G. Kher
(D) Sir Sikandar Hayat Khan

Answer: (D)

Explanation:
- Sir Sikandar Hayat Khan was associated with the **Unionist Party** and became Premier of **Punjab**, not the Congress.
- C. Rajagopalachari (Madras), Govind Ballabh Pant (United Provinces) and B. G. Kher (Bombay) were associated with Congress ministries.

30 **Which province was ruled by the Unionist Party after the 1937 elections?**

(A) Bengal
(B) Punjab
(C) Sind
(D) Assam

Answer: (B)

Explanation:
- In **Punjab**, the Unionist Party, led by Sir Sikandar Hayat Khan, formed the government after the 1937 elections.
- It was a coalition of Muslim, Hindu and Sikh landlords, and the Congress did not form a ministry in this province.

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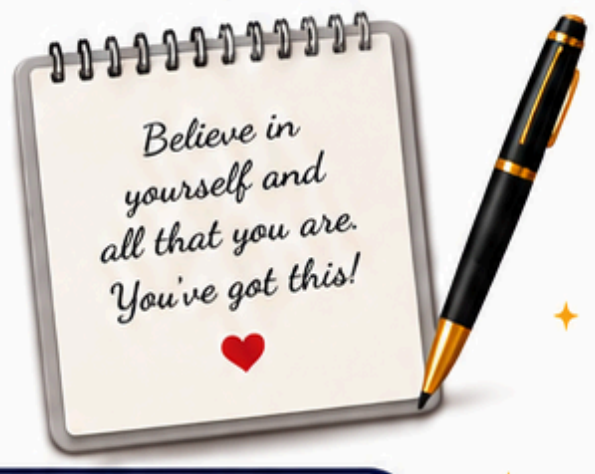
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