

Growth of Modern Nationalism

and the Foundation of the Indian National Congress



**Pre-Congress
Associations**



**Safety Valve
Theory**



**Moderate Phase
(1885 – 1905 CE)**



1 Meaning of Modern Nationalism

- A sense of **collective identity** and belongingness among people of a nation.
- Based on common history, culture, territory, economic interests and political aspirations.
- In India, it emerged as a response to British colonial rule and aimed at ending foreign domination.



2 Historical Context

- **18th century:** Decline of Mughal Empire and rise of British power in India.
- **19th century:** Consolidation of British rule through political, economic and administrative measures.
- British policies led to deep discontent among Indians, which gradually gave rise to nationalist sentiments.



3 Nature of Indian Nationalism

- Initially confined to educated middle class.
- **Gradually** spread to wider sections of society.
- It was a product of both Indian response and global ideas of nationalism, liberalism and democracy.



Introduction

4 Significance

- Created a sense of unity among people from diverse regions, religions and cultures.
- Laid the foundation for organized political action against British rule.
- Ultimately led to the formation of the Indian National Congress in 1885.



5 Influencing Factors (Growth of Nationalism)

- British policies of political, economic and racial exploitation.
- Spread of Western education and liberal ideas.
- Growth of print press and modern communication.
- Social and religious reform movements.
- Development of means of transport and administrative unification.



6 From Discontent to Organized Politics

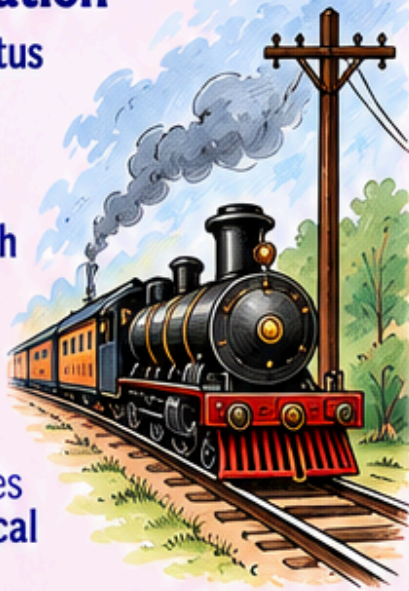
- Growing discontent against British rule created a need for a common platform.
- Various political associations emerged in different parts of India.
- These developments prepared the ground for the establishment of the Indian National Congress (1885).



➤ 1. Factors Responsible for the Growth of Modern Nationalism ➤

1 Administrative and Economic Unification

- Unified administrative apparatus and codified legal systems (IPC 1860, CrPC 1861).
- Standardized currency, postal systems and electric telegraph lines.
- Expansion of railways broke geographical isolation.
- Facilitated interaction among leaders from different provinces and created a common political solidarity.



2 Impact of Western Education and Thought

- Spread of English education exposed Indians to Western liberal, rational and democratic ideas.
- Ideas of thinkers like John Locke, Jean-Jacques Rousseau, Thomas Paine, John Stuart Mill and Giuseppe Mazzini influenced Indian youth.
- Created an all-India intelligentsia sharing a common lingua franca.



3 Role of the Print Press and Vernacular Literature

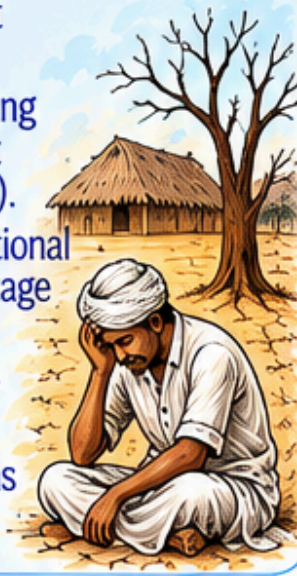
- Periodicals like The Hindu, Amrita Bazar Patrika, The Bengalee, Voice of India, Kesari and Mahratta exposed colonial exploitation.
- Popularized democratic ideals and spread nationalist ideas.
- Galvanized critical public opinion.



Factors Responsible for the Growth of Modern Nationalism

4 Economic Exploitation and De-industrialization

- Widespread peasant impoverishment.
- Recurrent devastating famines (e.g., Great Famine of 1876–78).
- Destruction of traditional handicrafts and cottage industries.
- Heavy land revenue assessments.
- Alienated all sections of Indian society.



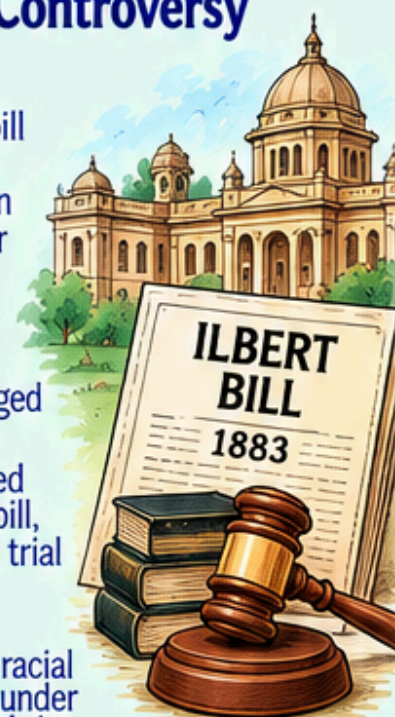
5 Reactionary Policies of Lord Lytton (1876 – 1880)

- Organized the lavish Imperial Delhi Durbar (1877) while millions were perishing from famine.
- Reduced the maximum age limit for ICS examination from 21 to 19 years (1877) to restrict Indian entry.
- Enacted the Vernacular Press Act (1878) ("Gagging Act") to muzzle indigenous newspapers.
- Passed the discriminatory Arms Act (1878), making it a criminal offense for Indians to carry firearms without a license (Europeans exempted).



6 The Ilbert Bill Controversy (1883 – 1884)

- Sir C. P. Ilbert introduced a bill (devised under Lord Ripon) to remove racial discrimination in the judiciary by allowing senior Indian magistrates to try European offenders.
- Anglo-Indian communities launched a fierce, racially charged agitation against the bill.
- British Government surrendered to pressure and amended the bill, allowing Europeans to demand trial by a jury with at least 50% European members.
- Showed Indian leadership that racial equality could not be attained under colonial administration, highlighting the need for an all-India political organization.



➤ 2. Pre-Congress Political Associations ➤

1 Regional Political Associations

- Established in different parts of India from the 1830s onwards.
- Raised issues of administrative reforms, racial discrimination and Indian rights.
- Laid the foundation for an all-India political organization by creating a political awareness among the people.



2 Composition and Leadership

- Comprised mainly of educated Indians, professionals, landlords, merchants and social reformers.
- Leadership came from the emerging Indian middle class.
- Some associations were influenced by social and religious reform movements.



3 Aims and Objectives

- To discuss and articulate the grievances of Indians.
- To demand greater Indian representation in administration.
- To promote political, social and economic reforms.
- To create a sense of unity and common political consciousness among Indians.



Pre-Congress Political Associations

4 Methods of Work

- Petitions, memorials and representations to the British government.
- Public meetings and discussions.
- Use of print media to spread political ideas.
- Focused on constitutional and moderate methods of political reform.



5 Significance

- Played an important role in the political awakening of Indians.
- Provided a platform for educated Indians to articulate their views.
- Helped in creating a network of political workers across different regions.
- Paved the way for the formation of the Indian National Congress in 1885.



2. Pre-Congress Political Associations

A. Political Forums in Bengal

1 Landholders' Society (1838)

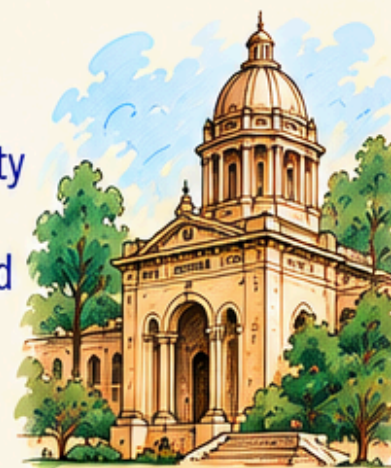
- **Founded by:** Zamindars of Bengal (led by Dwarkanath Tagore).
- **Main objective:** To protect the interests of the Indian landlords.
- **Methods:** Petitions and representations to the British government.
- **Significance:** One of the earliest political associations in India.



Led by
Dwarkanath
Tagore

2 British Indian Association (1851)

- **Formed by:** Merger of the Landholders' Society and the Bengal British India Society (in 1851).
- **Leaders:** Radhakanta Deb and Devendranath Tagore.
- **Objectives:** To safeguard the interests of landlords and educated Indians.
- **Methods:** Constitutional and moderate means like petitions, memorials and deputations.



Key Leaders:
Radhakanta Deb
and
Devendranath Tagore

3 Bengal British India Society (1843)

- **Founded by:** Educated Indians, including George Thompson and other reform-minded Indians.
- **Objective:** To discuss political, social and economic issues.
- **Methods:** Public meetings, petitions and representation to the British authorities.
- **Significance:** Later merged with the Landholders' Society to form the British Indian Association (1851).



Political Forums in Bengal

4 Other Important Associations in Bengal

- **Bharatiya Samaj (1839)**
 - ▶ **Founded by:** Radhakanta Deb.
 - ▶ **Objective:** Social and political reform.
- **Tattwabodhini Sabha (1839)**
 - ▶ **Founded by:** Debendranath Tagore.
 - ▶ **Objective:** Religious, social and political reform.
- **Young Bengal Movement (1820s – 1830s)**
 - ▶ **Led by:** Henry Derozio.
 - ▶ **Significance:** Created a spirit of rationalism, freedom of thought and political consciousness among the youth.



5 Overall Significance of Bengal's Political Forums

- Bengal was the pioneer in the formation of political associations.
- These associations raised issues of administrative reforms, racial discrimination and Indian rights.
- Created a platform for political discussion and public opinion.
- Laid the ideological and organizational foundation for the Indian National Congress in 1885.



➤ 2. Pre-Congress Political Associations ➤

B. Political Forums in Bombay and Madras & C. Political Forums in London

1 Bombay Association (1852)

- **Founded by:** Jagannath Shankarseth and other prominent Indians.
- **Objectives:** To discuss political, social and economic issues.
- **Methods:** Petitions and representations to the British government.
- **Significance:** One of the earliest political associations in western India.



Led by
Jagannath
Shankarseth

2 Madras Native Association (1852)

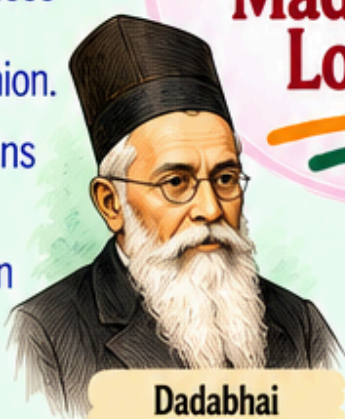
- **Founded by:** Gajulu Lakshminarasu Chetty and other prominent Indians in Madras.
- **Objectives:** To represent the interests of Indians and create political awareness.
- **Methods:** Petitions to the government and public meetings.
- **Significance:** An important early political forum in southern India.



Led by
Gajulu Lakshminarasu
Chetty

3 East India Association (1866)

- **Founded by:** Dadabhai Naoroji in London.
- **Objectives:** To create awareness about Indian issues in Britain and influence British public opinion.
- **Methods:** Lectures, publications and discussions.
- **Significance:** First organization in England to systematically present Indian problems to British society.



Dadabhai
Naoroji

Political Forums in Bombay, Madras and London

4 London Indian Society (1865)

- **Founded by:** Shyamji Krishna Varma and other Indian nationalists.
- **Objectives:** To discuss Indian political questions and create a platform for Indian students in Britain.
- **Methods:** Meetings, lectures and publications.
- **Significance:** Helped in spreading nationalist ideas among Indian students and intellectuals in England.



Shyamji Krishna
Varma

5 India League (1875)

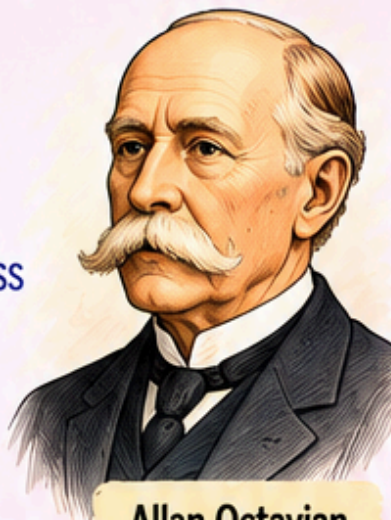
- **Founded by:** Sisir Kumar Ghosh (in London).
- **Objectives:** To mobilize British public opinion in favour of Indian interests.
- **Methods:** Public lectures, writings and propaganda.
- **Significance:** Strengthened the Indian nationalist voice in Britain.



3. Foundation of the Indian National Congress (1885 CE)

1 Initiative and Key Person

- Initiated by **Allan Octavian Hume**, a retired British civil servant.
- Hume believed in creating a platform for Indians to express their grievances.
- Supported by Indian leaders such as **Dadabhai Naoroji**, **W.C. Bonnerjee**, **Dinshaw Wacha**, **Surendranath Banerjee** and others.



Allan Octavian Hume

2 Reason for Establishment

- Growing discontent among Indians due to British policies.
- Need for an all-India platform to discuss political, social and economic issues.
- To promote unity among Indians from different regions, religions and communities.
- To present Indian demands in a constitutional and peaceful manner.



3 First Session

- Held in **December 1885** at Bombay (now Mumbai).
- Initially planned to be held in Pune, but shifted to Bombay due to a cholera epidemic.
- Presided over by **Womesh Chandra Bonnerjee (W.C. Bonnerjee)**.
- 72 delegates from different parts of India attended the session.

Foundation of the Indian National Congress (1885 CE)

4 Objectives

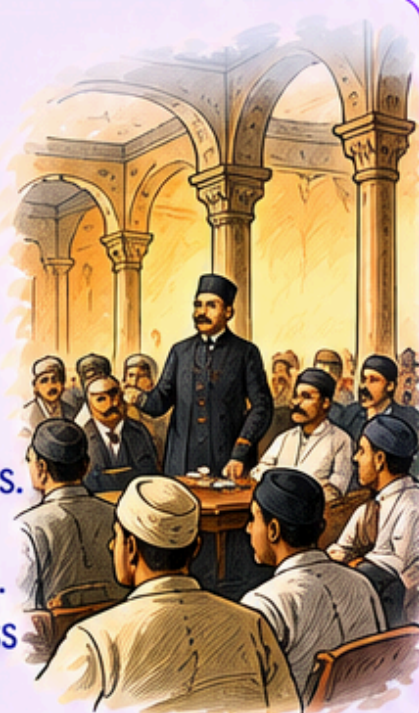
- To promote greater political unity among Indians.
- To discuss and articulate Indian grievances.
- To demand a larger share in administration for Indians.
- To work for social, economic and political reforms through constitutional means.



UNITY
DISCUSSION
REFORMS

5 Significance

- Marked the beginning of an organized all-India political movement.
- Provided a platform for political discussion and national integration.
- Brought together educated Indians from different regions.
- Laid the foundation for the growth of Indian nationalism.
- Set the stage for future mass movements.



6 Key Personalities

- Allan Octavian Hume** (British civil servant, initiator)
- Womesh Chandra Bonnerjee** (First President)
- Dadabhai Naoroji** (Senior leader, later President)
- Dinshaw Wacha** (Prominent leader)
- Surendranath Banerjee** (Prominent leader)

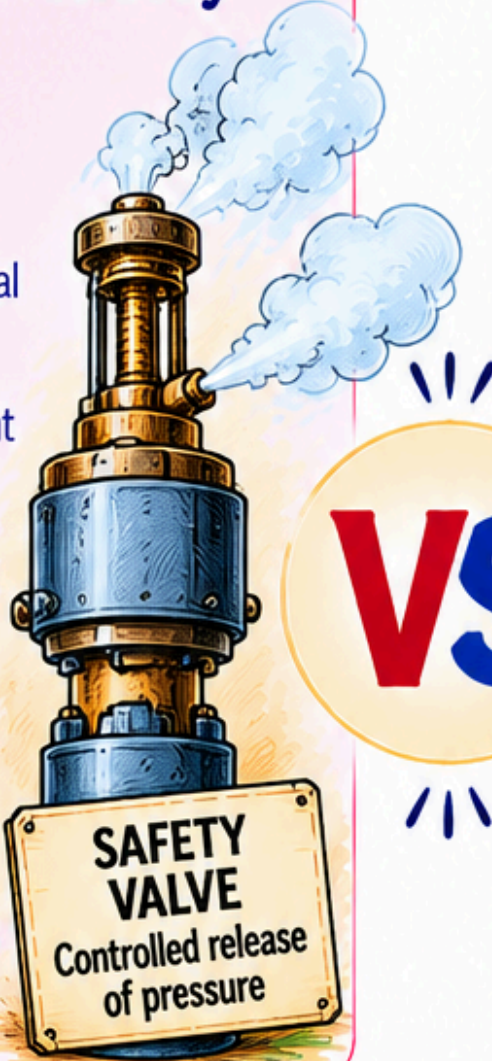


4. Foundational Theories:
“Safety Valve” vs. “Lightning Conductor”

1

“Safety Valve” Theory

- **Proponent:** Sir Henry Cotton (former Chief Commissioner of Assam).
- **Main Idea:** The Indian National Congress was created by the British as a **safety valve** to release the growing discontent and prevent violent revolution.
- **Viewpoint:** It provided a platform for Indians to vent their grievances through peaceful and constitutional means, thereby maintaining British rule.
- **Criticism:** Over-simplifies the role of the British; ignores the genuine nationalist sentiments of Indian leaders.



VS

2

“Lightning Conductor” Theory

- **Proponent:** Bal Gangadhar Tilak and other nationalist leaders.
- **Main Idea:** The Indian National Congress was not a creation of the British, but a natural outcome of the growing Indian nationalism.
- **Viewpoint:** It acted as a lightning conductor to channelize and organize the rising national feelings, preventing them from taking a violent form.
- **Significance:** Highlights the nationalist character of the Congress and its role in unifying Indian public opinion.



3

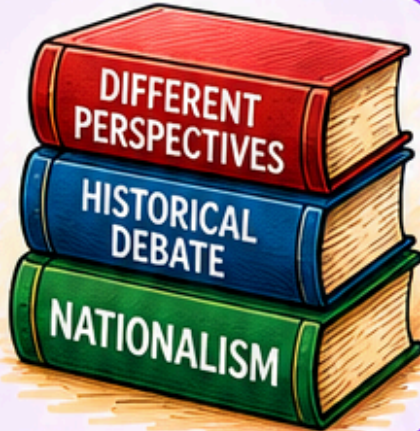
Key Differences

Basis	Safety Valve Theory	Lightning Conductor Theory
Proponent	Sir Henry Cotton	Bal Gangadhar Tilak
Origin	British-inspired	Indian-inspired
Purpose	To release discontent and prevent revolution	To channelize and organize nationalist sentiments
Nature of Congress	A device of the British	A natural product of Indian nationalism
Perspective	Downplays nationalist role	Emphasizes nationalist role

4

Overall Significance

- Both theories offer important perspectives on the origin and nature of the Indian National Congress.
- The truth lies somewhere in between — the Congress provided a platform for legitimate political expression while also serving the broader cause of Indian nationalism.
- Debate reflects the differing views of the British and Indian nationalist leaders.
- Regardless of the theory, the Congress became a significant force in the political awakening of India.



5. The Moderate Phase of the Congress (1885 – 1905 CE)

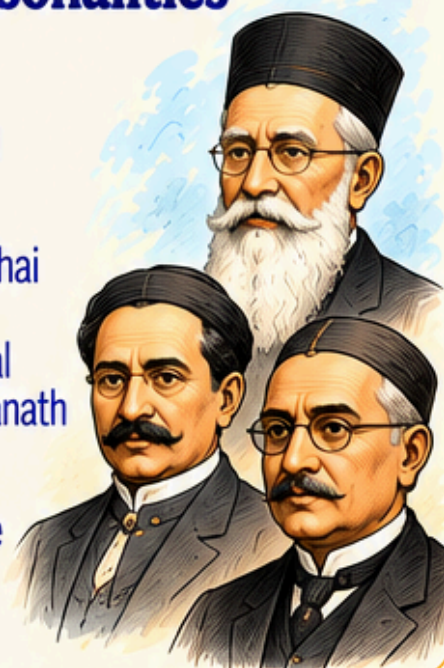
1 Time Period and Context

- Spanned from 1885 to 1905.
- Marked the early phase of the Indian National Congress.
- Characterized by moderate and constitutional methods of political struggle.
- Focused on political awareness, unity and reforms within the British Empire.



2 Leading Personalities

- Dominated by educated Indians, professionals and social reformers.
- Important leaders: Dadabhai Naoroji, W.C. Bonnerjee, Pherozeshah Mehta, Gopal Krishna Gokhale, Surendranath Banerjee and others.
- Known for their moderate and liberal outlook.



3 Aims and Objectives

- To promote political unity among Indians.
- To discuss and articulate Indian grievances.
- To demand greater Indian representation in administration.
- To secure civil rights and freedoms.
- To work for social, economic and political reforms.



The Moderate Phase of the Congress (1885 – 1905 CE)

4 Methods and Approach

- Believed in constitutional and peaceful methods.
- Used petitions, memorials, public meetings and representations.
- Worked within the framework of the British Empire.
- Preferred dialogue, discussion and persuasion over confrontation.
- Relied on intelligence, rational arguments and moral pressure.



5 Key Demands

- Indianization of the civil services.
- Legislative reforms and greater representation of Indians.
- Separation of judicial and executive functions.
- Reduction in military expenditure.
- Protection of Indian industries and promotion of economic development.
- Expansion of education and social reforms.



6 Significance

- Laid the intellectual and ideological foundation of Indian nationalism.
- Created a platform for political discussion and national unity.
- Gave political training to a generation of Indian leaders.
- Helped in spreading nationalist ideas among the educated class.
- Despite limitations, it marked the beginning of an organized all-India political movement.



5. The Moderate Phase of the Congress (1885 – 1905 CE)

A. Philosophy and Beliefs of the Moderates

1 Faith in British Liberalism

- Believed in the justice, fairness and liberal traditions of the British people.
- Thought that the British government would redress genuine Indian grievances.
- Expected that continued loyalty and cooperation would lead to greater self-government for India.



2 Constitutional Methods

- Believed in peaceful, constitutional and legal means.
- Used petitions, memorials, public meetings and representations.
- Opposed violent methods and revolutionary activities.



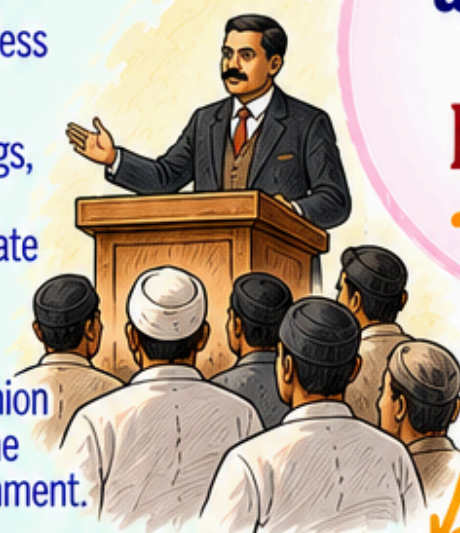
3 Belief in Gradual Reforms

- Advocated gradual and progressive reforms.
- Believed that Indians should first be given a larger share in administration.
- Expected that self-government would come in a phased manner through political education and experience.



4 Political Education of the People

- Believed in creating political consciousness among Indians.
- Used public meetings, press and political discussions to educate the masses.
- Thought that an informed public opinion would strengthen the cause of self-government.



Philosophy and Beliefs of the Moderates

5 Loyalty and Cooperation

- Believed in working within the framework of the British Empire.
- Maintained a tone of loyalty and cooperation, while pressing for reforms.
- Thought that Indians could achieve their demands through reasonable dialogue and persuasion.



6 Belief in Unity and National Integration

- Stressed on the unity of Indians across regions, religions and communities.
- Tried to create a common platform to discuss issues of national importance.
- Believed that a united India could more effectively present its demands to the British government.



7 Focus on Social and Economic Reforms

- Recognized the need for social reforms such as removal of social evils and promotion of education.
- Highlighted economic issues like high taxation, drain of wealth, and deindustrialization.
- Believed that social and economic progress was essential for the overall development of India.



5. The Moderate Phase of the Congress (1885 – 1905 CE)

B. Methodology: The “3 Ps” Approach

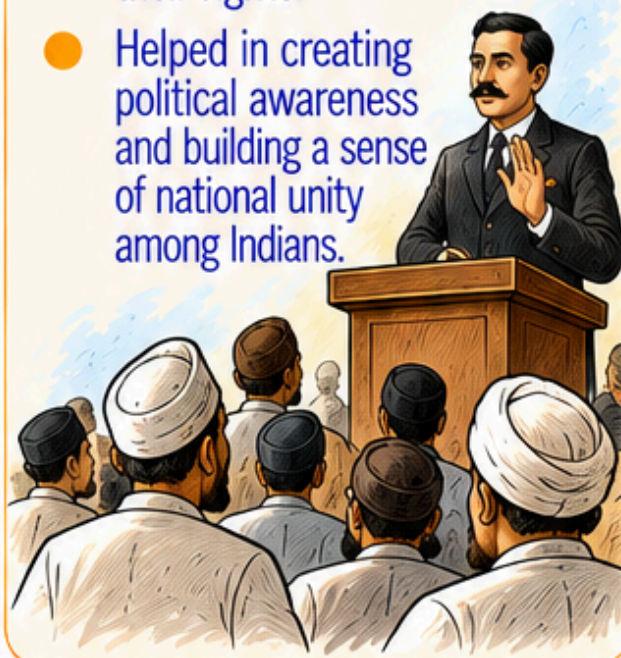
1 Petitions (Formal Appeals)

- Submitted petitions, memorandums and representations to the British government.
- Highlighted Indian grievances and demanded administrative, legislative and economic reforms.
- Based on the belief that the British government would respond to reason and justice.



2 Public Meetings (Mass Awareness)

- Organized public meetings, political gatherings and conferences.
- Used these platforms to discuss Indian problems and educate people about their rights.
- Helped in creating political awareness and building a sense of national unity among Indians.



3 Press (Spread of Ideas)

- Used newspapers, journals and magazines to voice their demands and criticize government policies.
- English-language as well as vernacular press was actively used.
- Helped in shaping public opinion and creating a politically informed society.



Key Feature

- Peaceful, constitutional and moderate methods of political struggle.
- Based on faith in British liberalism, justice and fair play.

The “3 Ps” Approach

Significance

- Provided a disciplined and organized way to articulate Indian demands.
- Created political awareness among the educated class and wider public.
- Laid the foundation for future phases of the national movement.

Limitations

- Appeals and petitions rarely led to immediate or substantial changes.
- Limited reach among the masses (mainly urban, educated elite).
- Over-reliance on British goodwill and gradual reforms.
- Did not directly challenge the British rule.



6. Major Contributions of the Moderates

1 Created a Platform for Political Unity

- Brought together Indians from different regions, religions, languages and social groups.
- Created an all-India political platform for the first time.
- Helped in the emergence of a sense of national identity and unity among Indians.



2 Politicized and Educated the People

- Introduced Indians to the ideas of rights, freedoms, constitutional government and representative institutions.
- Used public meetings, press, pamphlets and political discussions to spread political awareness.
- Created a politically informed middle class which later became the backbone of the national movement.



3 Highlighted Indian Grievances

- Raised important political, economic and administrative issues before the British government.
- Criticized repressive laws, racial discrimination and high taxation.
- Exposed the drain of wealth from India and the exploitative nature of British rule.



4 Demanded Constitutional and Administrative Reforms

- Demanded greater Indian representation in legislative councils.
- Urged separation of judiciary and executive functions.
- Opposed the Indian Civil Services (ICS) exam being held only in England.
- Demanded reforms in revenue, land and military policies.



Major Contributions of the Moderates

5 Developed the Use of Constitutional Methods

- Popularized peaceful and constitutional means such as petitions, appeals, public meetings and representations.
- Believed in dialogue, persuasion and rational argument.
- Laid the foundation for a tradition of democratic and constitutional politics in India.



6 Freedom of Press and Public Opinion

- Used newspapers and journals to criticize government policies and spread nationalist ideas.
- Strengthened the vernacular and English press in India.
- Helped in creating a well-informed public opinion.



7 Economic Critique of British Rule

- Analyzed the exploitative economic policies of the British (Drain of Wealth).
- Highlighted issues like high land revenue, deindustrialization, famine and poverty.
- Their economic analysis, especially by Dadabhai Naoroji, laid the intellectual foundation for future nationalist movements.



8 Laid the Foundation for Future Movements

- Created the organizational framework of the Indian National Congress.
- Developed political leadership and a class of experienced leaders.
- Set the stage for the later phases of the freedom struggle (Extremist, Gandhian and Mass Movements).

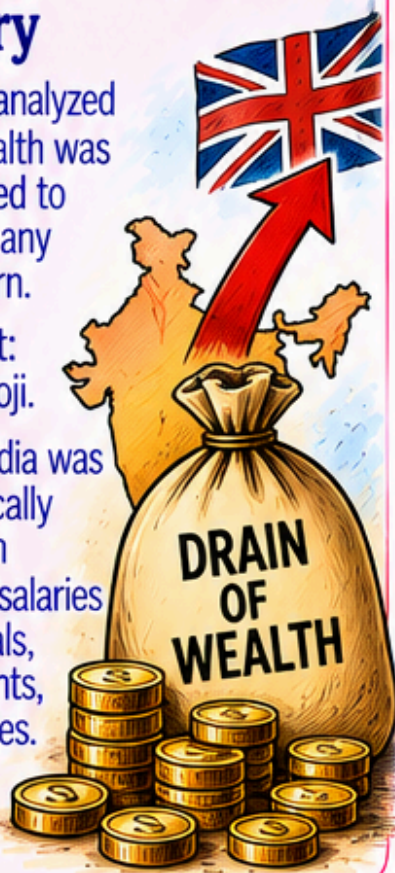


6. Major Contributions of the Moderates

A. Economic Critique of British Imperialism

1 Drain of Wealth Theory

- Systematically analyzed how India's wealth was being transferred to Britain without any equivalent return.
- Major exponent: Dadabhai Naoroji.
- Showed that India was being economically drained through home charges, salaries of British officials, interest payments, and trade policies.



2 Critique of British Economic Policies

- Criticized high land revenue, which burdened Indian peasantry.
- Opposed discriminatory tariff policies that harmed Indian industries.
- Highlighted deindustrialization due to British policies.
- Exposed the negative impact of free trade on Indian handicrafts and traditional industries.



3 Impact on Indian Economy

- Highlighted issues like poverty, famine, unemployment and low per capita income.
- Criticized the export of raw materials and import of finished goods.
- Showed the destruction of indigenous industries and exploitation of Indian resources.
- Demanded economic reforms for the welfare of Indians.



B. Constitutional and Legislative Reforms

1 Greater Indian Representation

- Demanded a larger share of Indians in legislative councils.
- Appealed for inclusion of elected Indian representatives.
- Opposed the official majority and nominated members.



2 Reforms in Legislative Councils

- Sought expansion of legislative councils at the central and provincial levels.
- Demanded the right to discuss the budget.
- Asked for the power to move resolutions on public issues.



3 Indianization of the Civil Services

- Demanded simultaneous Indian Civil Services (ICS) examination in India and England.
- Opposed racial discrimination in recruitment.
- Sought greater opportunities for Indians in higher administrative posts.



4 Judicial and Administrative Reforms

- Demanded separation of the judiciary from the executive.
- Called for reduction in military expenditure.
- Sought reforms in police administration to make it more accountable.



5 Use of Constitutional Methods

- Believed in petitions, memorials, discussions and representations to bring reforms.
- Trusted British liberal opinion and the justice of the British people.
- Worked strictly within the constitutional framework and opposed violent methods.

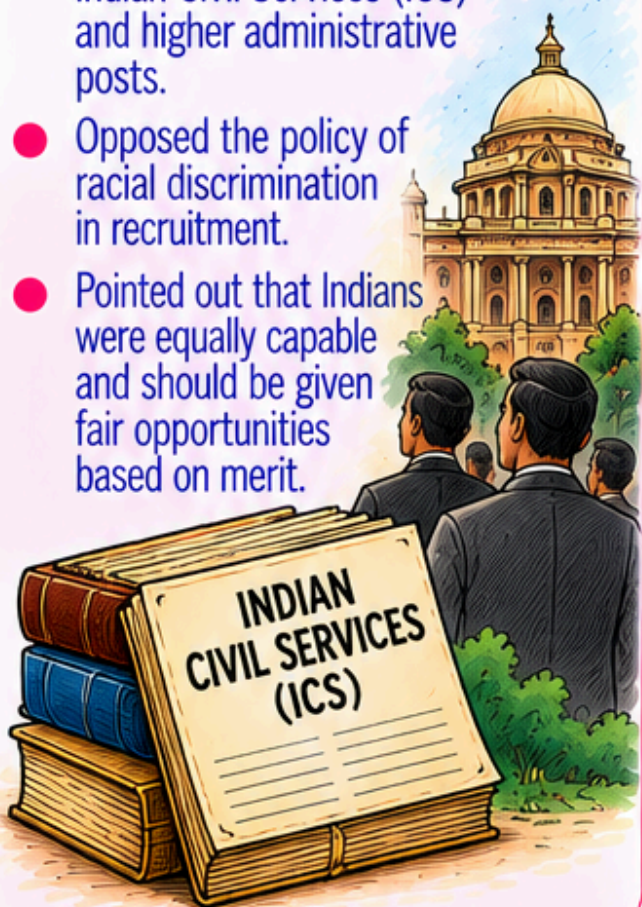


6. Major Contributions of the Moderates

C. Administrative and Military Demands

1 Indianization of Higher Services

- Demanded a larger share for Indians in the Indian Civil Services (ICS) and higher administrative posts.
- Opposed the policy of racial discrimination in recruitment.
- Pointed out that Indians were equally capable and should be given fair opportunities based on merit.



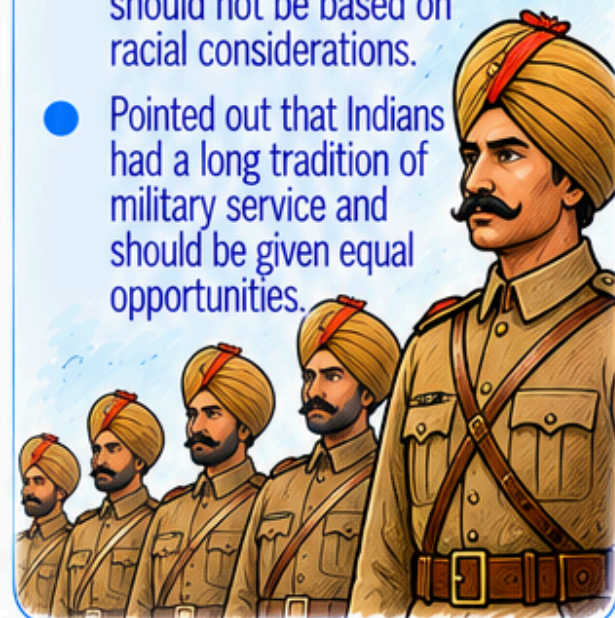
2 Reduction in Military Expenditure

- Criticized the excessively high military expenditure which placed a heavy burden on Indian revenues.
- Argued that India was being used for imperial wars, and Indians had to bear the financial cost.
- Demanded a reduction in military spending and its proper utilization for the welfare and development of Indians.



3 Reorganization of the Army

- Demanded a greater proportion of Indians in the army, especially in officer ranks.
- Opposed the policy of keeping Indians away from higher military commands.
- Argued that recruitment should not be based on racial considerations.
- Pointed out that Indians had a long tradition of military service and should be given equal opportunities.



D. Defense of Civil Liberties

1 Freedom of Speech and Expression

- Strongly defended the right to express political opinions freely.
- Opposed repressive laws that curtailed freedom of speech, press and assembly.
- Believed that an informed public opinion was essential for political progress.



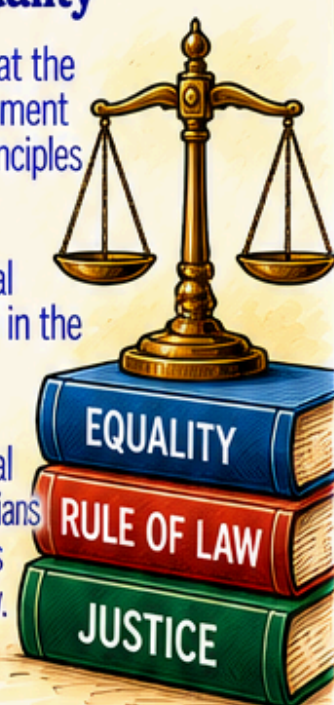
2 Opposition to Repressive Laws

- Criticized restrictive laws such as the Vernacular Press Act (1878).
- Demanded the repeal or relaxation of such laws.
- Opposed arbitrary arrests, detention without trial and other forms of political repression.



3 Rule of Law and Equality

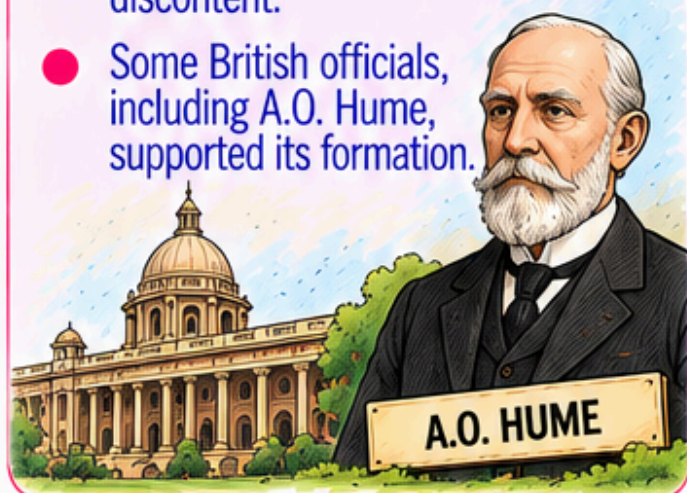
- Demanded that the British government uphold the principles of rule of law.
- Opposed racial discrimination in the legal system.
- Asked for equal treatment of Indians and Europeans before the law.



7. British Attitude Towards the Congress

1 Initial Support and Encouragement

- Initially, the British government viewed the Congress as a harmless body of educated Indians.
- Considered it a useful platform for expressing grievances and a “safety valve” to release popular discontent.
- Some British officials, including A.O. Hume, supported its formation.



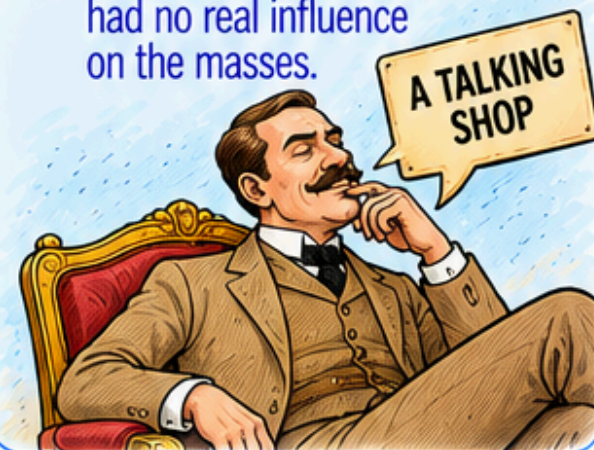
2 Viewed as a Limited Threat

- The early demands of the Congress were moderate, constitutional and within the framework of the British Empire.
- Seen as a body of the English-educated elite with limited mass support and no immediate threat to British rule.
- British believed that the Congress represented only a small section of Indian society.



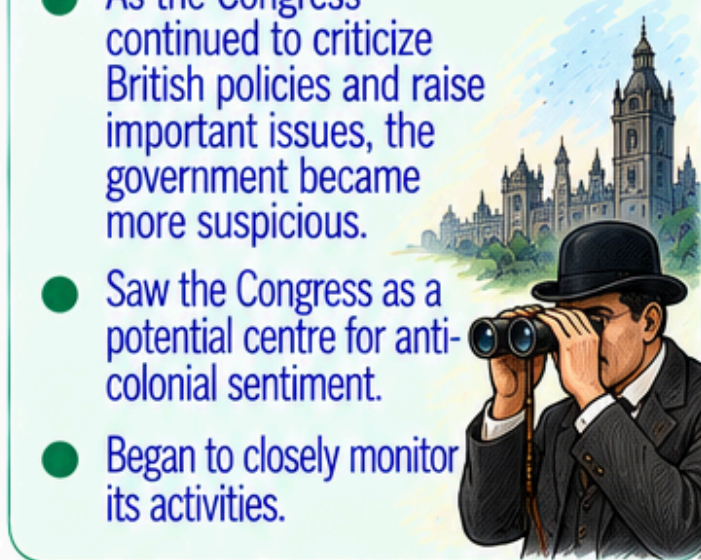
3 Dismissive and Patronizing Attitude

- British officials often dismissed Congress leaders as a “microscopic minority” or a “talking shop”.
- Considered them unrealistic, idealistic and detached from the real problems of India.
- Believed that the Congress had no real influence on the masses.



4 Increased Suspicion Over Time

- As the Congress continued to criticize British policies and raise important issues, the government became more suspicious.
- Saw the Congress as a potential centre for anti-colonial sentiment.
- Began to closely monitor its activities.



British Attitude Towards the Congress

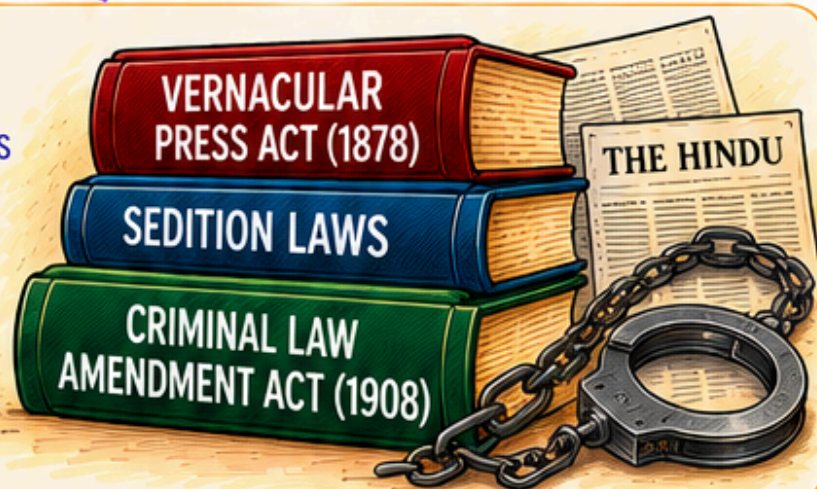
5 Divide and Contain Strategy

- Adopted a policy of dividing the Indian middle class and the masses by highlighting social, religious and communal differences.
- Encouraged loyalist Indians and rival organizations to counter the influence of the Congress.
- Used reforms and concessions to appease moderate leaders and limit the growth of radical nationalism.



6 Repressive Measures in Later Years

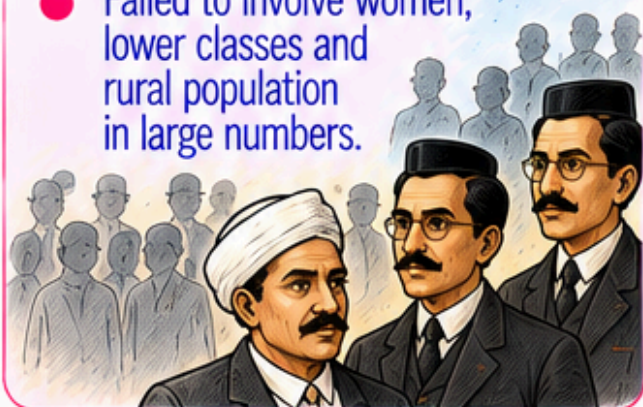
- When the Congress's influence grew and more assertive demands emerged, the British adopted a repressive attitude.
- Used laws such as the Vernacular Press Act (1878), Sedition laws and the Criminal Law Amendment Act (1908) to curb nationalist activities.
- Surveilled Congress leaders, restricted public meetings and suppressed the nationalist press.
- Arrested and prosecuted leaders when necessary.



8. Limitations and Evaluation of the Moderates

1 Limited Social Base

- Represented mainly the educated, urban, middle class elite.
- Had little support among the masses, peasants and workers.
- Failed to involve women, lower classes and rural population in large numbers.



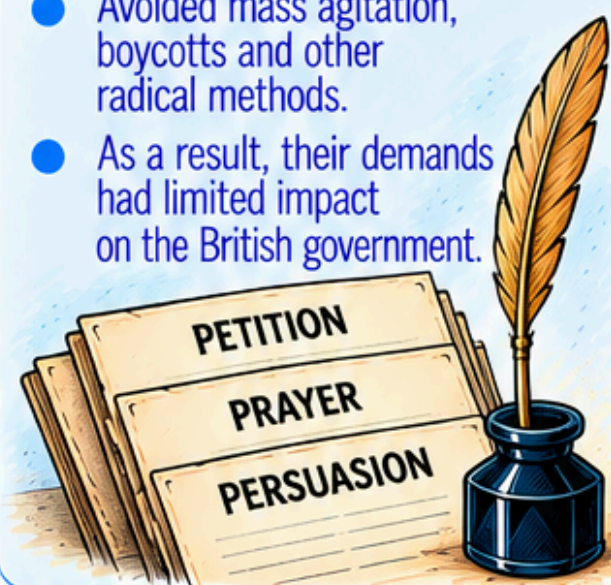
2 Excessive Faith in British Justice

- Overestimated the sense of justice and fair play of the British government.
- Believed that the British would gradually grant more rights and self-government.
- Ignored the exploitative and imperialist nature of British rule.



3 Moderate and Constitutional Methods

- Relied only on petitions, prayers and persuasion.
- Avoided mass agitation, boycotts and other radical methods.
- As a result, their demands had limited impact on the British government.



4 Limited Demands

- Initially, their demands were moderate and limited to administrative and legislative reforms.
- Did not demand complete self-rule or independence during this phase.



Limitations of the Moderates

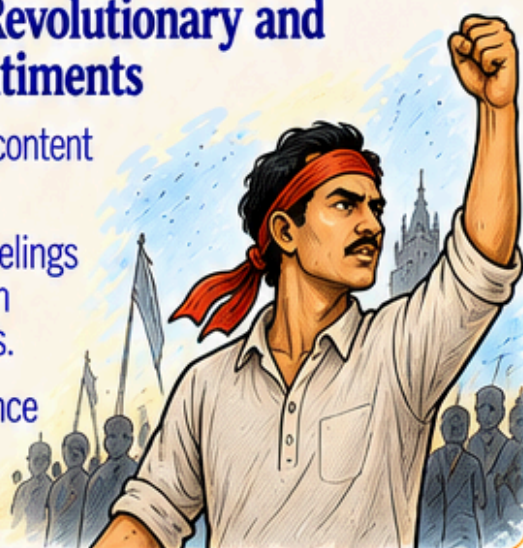
5 Lack of Unity and Organization

- Differences among leaders on certain issues.
- Regional and personal rivalries sometimes weakened their impact.
- Could not develop a strong organizational network at the grassroots level.



6 Neglect of Revolutionary and Militant Sentiments

- Ignored the growing discontent among the youth.
- Failed to address the feelings of those who believed in more assertive methods.
- This led to the emergence of extremist leaders after 1905.



7 Slow Pace of Change

- Despite sincere efforts, they could not achieve significant concessions from the British.
- The pace of reforms was very slow, leading to frustration among nationalists.
- Their approach was seen as inadequate to challenge the deeply entrenched colonial system.



Overall Evaluation



- The Moderates laid the foundation of the Indian national movement.
- They created political awareness, introduced constitutional methods and articulated Indian grievances effectively.
- However, due to their limited social base, excessive faith in British justice and moderate methods, they could not achieve substantial results.
- Their phase was important as a preparatory stage, which later paved the way for the more assertive and mass-based phase of the national movement.

QUICK EXAMINATION FACTS

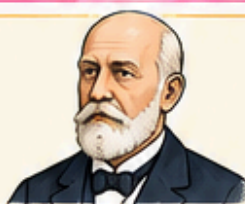
1 Indian National Congress was founded in **1885**.



11 The early sessions of the Congress were attended by a **small number of delegates**.



2 **A.O. Hume** is regarded as the founder of the Indian National Congress.



12 The Congress initially had an **urban and educated** leadership.



3 **Womesh Chandra Bonnerjee** presided over the first session of the Indian National Congress (1885) in Bombay.



13 The main objectives of the Moderates were **political, economic and administrative reforms**.



4 The term "**Safety Valve Theory**" is associated with A.O. Hume.



14 The Moderates believed in **constitutional methods** and the **British sense of justice**.



5 The Moderates dominated the Indian National Congress during **1885 – 1905**.



15 The Congress in its early years focused on voicing the **grievances** of the Indian people.



6 The Moderate leaders believed in the policy of "**Prayers, Petitions and Protests**" (3 Ps).



16 The Moderates demanded a greater share for Indians in the **civil services**.



7 Dadabhai Naoroji is known as the "**Grand Old Man of India**" (GOI).



17 The Moderates criticized the **economic policies** of the British government.



8 The **drain of wealth theory** was propounded by Dadabhai Naoroji.



18 The **Vernacular Press Act (1878)** was opposed by the Moderate leaders.



9 **Surendranath Banerjee** is known as the "**Father of the Indian National Movement**".



19 The Moderates demanded **separation of the judiciary from the executive**.



10 **Gopal Krishna Gokhale** was a prominent leader of the Moderate phase.



20 The Moderates laid the **foundation** for the future phases of the Indian national movement.



ONE LINE MEMORY TRICKS



INC Founded (1885)



A.O. Hume (Founder)



Moderates (1885–1905)



3 Ps (Prayers, Petitions, Protests)



Drain of Wealth (Dadabhai Naoroji)



Reforms & Constitutional Methods

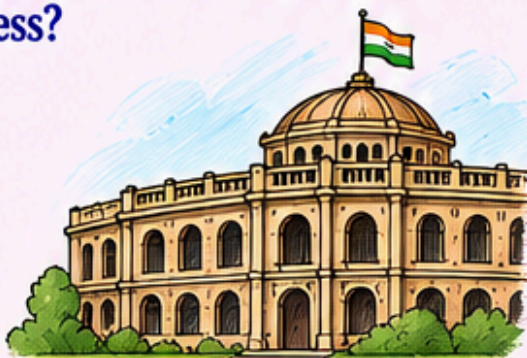


Foundation for Future Movement

MCQs

1 Who is generally regarded as the founder of the Indian National Congress?

- (A) Dadabhai Naoroji
- (B) Womesh Chandra Bonnerjee
- (C) Allan Octavian Hume
- (D) Gopal Krishna Gokhale



Correct Answer: (C) Allan Octavian Hume

Explanation:

- Allan Octavian Hume, a retired British civil servant, is generally regarded as the founder of the Indian National Congress.
- He took the initiative to bring together educated Indians to discuss their grievances.
- The first session of the Congress was held in 1885 in Bombay.

2 Which of the following best describes the 'Safety Valve Theory' in the context of the Indian National Congress?

- (A) Congress was formed to promote armed revolution.
- (B) Congress was a platform to channelize the growing discontent of educated Indians.
- (C) Congress was created to divide Indians on religious lines.
- (D) Congress was established to implement British economic policies in India.



Correct Answer: (B) Congress was a platform to channelize the growing discontent of educated Indians.

Explanation:

- According to the Safety Valve Theory, the Congress was seen by the British as a safety valve to release the growing political discontent of educated Indians.
- It provided a peaceful outlet for their grievances and prevented violent uprisings.
- The theory, however, is debated among historians.

3 Which of the following was a key belief of the Moderate leaders?

- (A) Complete independence through revolutionary means
- (B) Use of violent methods to achieve their goals
- (C) Faith in British justice and liberalism
- (D) Boycott of all British institutions



Correct Answer: (C) Faith in British justice and liberalism

Explanation:

- Moderates believed in the sense of justice and fair play of the British government.
- They hoped that Britain would gradually grant more rights and self-government to Indians.
- They relied on constitutional and peaceful methods to achieve their objectives.

4 What were the main methods used by the Moderates to achieve their objectives?

- (A) Boycott, swadeshi and mass agitation
- (B) Prayers, petitions and protests
- (C) Armed struggle and secret societies
- (D) Non-cooperation and civil disobedience



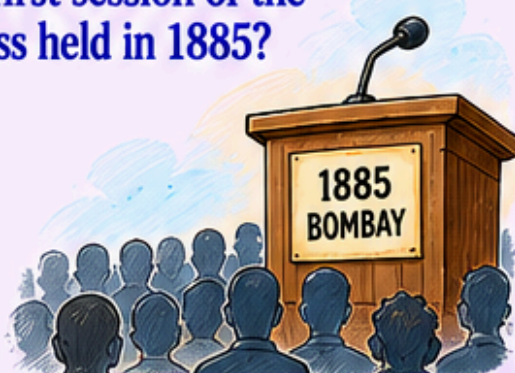
Correct Answer: (B) Prayers, petitions and protests

Explanation:

- The Moderates followed the "3 Ps" approach — Prayers, Petitions and Protests.
- They used constitutional and peaceful methods such as drafting petitions, holding meetings and passing resolutions to present their demands.
- They believed in persuasion and gradual reforms.

5 Who presided over the first session of the Indian National Congress held in 1885?

- (A) Allan Octavian Hume
- (B) Dadabhai Naoroji
- (C) Womesh Chandra Bonnerjee
- (D) Surendranath Banerjee



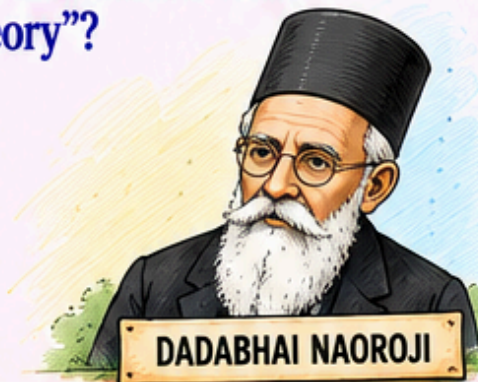
Correct Answer: (C) Womesh Chandra Bonnerjee

Explanation:

- Womesh Chandra Bonnerjee (W.C. Bonnerjee) presided over the first session of the Indian National Congress in 1885 in Bombay.
- He was a prominent lawyer and a leading moderate leader of the early phase.
- The session was attended by 72 delegates from different parts of India.

6 Which of the following is associated with the “Drain of Wealth Theory”?

- (A) Allan Octavian Hume
- (B) Dadabhai Naoroji
- (C) Gopal Krishna Gokhale
- (D) Surendranath Banerjee



Correct Answer: (B) Dadabhai Naoroji

Explanation:

- Dadabhai Naoroji propounded the “Drain of Wealth Theory”, which explained how India’s wealth was systematically being drained to Britain.
- He highlighted the economic exploitation of India under British rule.
- His work “Poverty and Un-British Rule in India” further elaborated this theory.

7 Which of the following was NOT a method used by the Moderates to achieve their goals?

- (A) Prayers
- (B) Petitions
- (C) Protests
- (D) Armed revolution



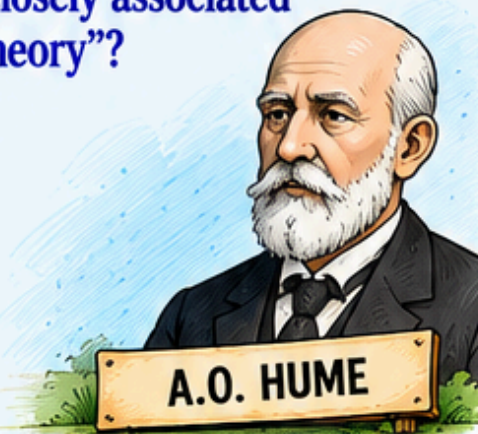
Correct Answer: (D) Armed revolution

Explanation:

- The Moderates followed the 3 Ps approach — Prayers, Petitions and Protests.
- They believed in peaceful and constitutional methods to bring about reforms.
- They did not support armed revolution or violent methods during this phase.

8 Which British official is closely associated with the “Safety Valve Theory”?

- (A) Lord Curzon
- (B) A.O. Hume
- (C) Lord Dufferin
- (D) Lord Ripon



Correct Answer: (B) A.O. Hume

Explanation:

- A.O. Hume, a retired British civil servant, was associated with the Safety Valve Theory.
- According to this theory, the Indian National Congress was seen as a safety valve to release the growing discontent of educated Indians.
- Though debated, the theory highlights the British expectation that the Congress would channelize grievances through peaceful means.

9 Which of the following was a key demand of the Moderates in the administrative sphere?

- (A) Introduction of Vernacular Press Act
- (B) Reduction in military expenditure
- (C) Complete independence for India
- (D) Establishment of revolutionary societies



Correct Answer: (B) Reduction in military expenditure

Explanation:

- The Moderates criticized the high military expenditure of the British government in India.
- They argued that it placed a heavy burden on Indian revenues.
- They demanded a reduction in military spending and its proper utilization for the welfare and development of Indians.

10 Which of the following best reflects the attitude of the British government towards the early Congress?

- (A) It welcomed the Congress as a partner in governance.
- (B) It completely ignored the Congress.
- (C) It dismissed the Congress as a harmless body of educated Indians.
- (D) It accepted all the demands of the Congress.



Correct Answer: (C) It dismissed the Congress as a harmless body of educated Indians.

Explanation:

- In the early years, the British government viewed the Congress as a harmless body of educated Indians.
- It was often described as a “microscopic minority” or a “talking shop” with no real influence on the masses.
- However, as the Congress grew and its demands became more assertive, the British attitude gradually became more suspicious and repressive.

11

The Vernacular Press Act, which was opposed by the Moderate leaders, was passed in which year?

- (A) 1876
- (B) 1878
- (C) 1882
- (D) 1892



Correct Answer: (B) 1878

Explanation:

- The Vernacular Press Act was passed in 1878 during the rule of Lord Lytton.
- It aimed to curb the freedom of the vernacular (Indian language) press.
- The Moderate leaders strongly opposed this act as it violated the freedom of expression.

12

Which of the following was a major economic issue raised by the Moderates?

- (A) Drain of wealth from India
- (B) Abolition of zamindari system
- (C) Displacement of handloom industries by mechanised industries
- (D) All of the above



Correct Answer: (D) All of the above

Explanation:

- The Moderates highlighted various economic grievances such as the drain of wealth, the impact of British policies on Indian industries and agriculture, and the displacement of handloom industries.
- They critically analysed the exploitative economic policies of the British government.

13

Which of the following was a demand made by the Moderates in the field of civil services?

- (A) Indianization of the higher civil services
- (B) Complete abolition of the civil services
- (C) Reservation of posts for Indians only
- (D) Transfer of all civil services to state governments



Correct Answer: (A) Indianization of the higher civil services

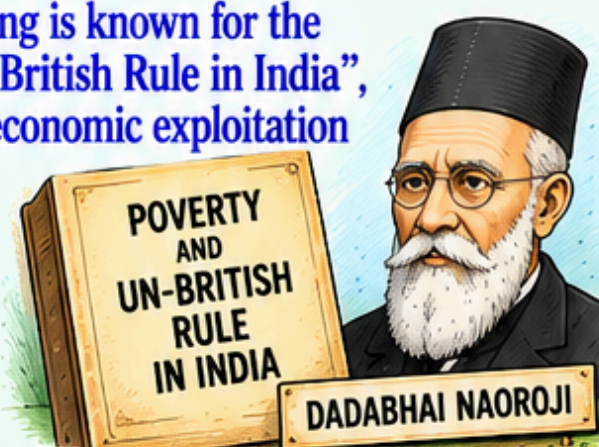
Explanation:

- The Moderates demanded a greater share for Indians in the civil services and the Indianization of higher posts.
- They criticized the racial discrimination in the ICS examination, such as the age limit being too low and the examination being held only in London.

14

Who among the following is known for the book "Poverty and Un-British Rule in India", which highlighted the economic exploitation of India?

- (A) Dadabhai Naoroji
- (B) R.C. Dutt
- (C) Gopal Krishna Gokhale
- (D) M.G. Ranade



Correct Answer: (A) Dadabhai Naoroji

Explanation:

- Dadabhai Naoroji wrote "Poverty and Un-British Rule in India" (1901).
- In this work, he explained the economic drain of India's wealth to Britain.
- He is also known for formulating the Drain of Wealth Theory.

15

Which of the following is NOT correctly matched?

- (A) A.O. Hume – Founder of the Indian National Congress
- (B) W.C. Bonnerjee – President of the first session
- (C) M.G. Ranade – Advocate of social reforms
- (D) Bal Gangadhar Tilak – Moderate leader



Correct Answer: (D) Bal Gangadhar Tilak – Moderate leader

Explanation:

- Bal Gangadhar Tilak was a leading extremist leader, not a moderate.
- A.O. Hume is regarded as the founder of the Indian National Congress.
- W.C. Bonnerjee presided over the first session (1885), and M.G. Ranade was a prominent moderate leader and advocate of social reforms.

16 Which of the following was a characteristic feature of the Moderate leaders?

- (A) Belief in revolutionary methods
- (B) Faith in British liberalism and justice
- (C) Boycott of British goods
- (D) Use of violent means to achieve their goals



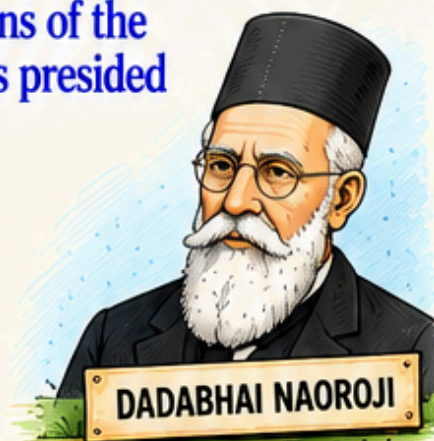
Correct Answer: (B) Faith in British liberalism and justice

Explanation:

- The Moderates believed that the British were basically just and fair.
- They had faith in British liberalism and expected that the British government would address Indian grievances.
- They followed peaceful and constitutional methods to achieve their objectives.

17 Which of the following sessions of the Indian National Congress was presided over by Dadabhai Naoroji?

- (A) 1885 (Bombay)
- (B) 1886 (Calcutta)
- (C) 1893 (Lahore)
- (D) 1906 (Calcutta)



Correct Answer: (C) 1893 (Lahore)

Explanation:

- Dadabhai Naoroji presided over the 1893 session of the Indian National Congress held in Lahore.
- He was one of the most prominent moderate leaders.
- He later became the first Indian to be elected to the British Parliament (1892).

18 Which of the following best describes the Vernacular Press Act (1878)?

- (A) It promoted the freedom of the Indian press.
- (B) It aimed to encourage the spread of vernacular languages.
- (C) It was a repressive measure to control the Indian vernacular press.
- (D) It provided financial assistance to vernacular newspapers.



Correct Answer: (C) It was a repressive measure to control the Indian vernacular press.

Explanation:

- The Vernacular Press Act was passed in 1878 during the rule of Lord Lytton.
- It aimed to suppress the freedom of the Indian vernacular (regional language) press.
- It allowed the government to censor or confiscate publications that were critical of British policies.

19 Which of the following was NOT a main objective of the Moderate phase of the Indian National Congress (1885 – 1905)?

- (A) Political reforms
- (B) Economic reforms
- (C) Complete independence from British rule
- (D) Administrative reforms



Correct Answer: (C) Complete independence from British rule

Explanation:

- The Moderates did not demand complete independence during this phase.
- Their main objectives were political, economic and administrative reforms within the British Empire.
- The demand for complete independence emerged later during the extremist phase.

20 Which of the following was a correct criticism of the Moderates?

- (A) They relied too much on revolutionary methods.
- (B) They had a narrow social base.
- (C) They rejected all constitutional methods.
- (D) They demanded immediate complete independence.



Correct Answer: (B) They had a narrow social base.

Explanation:

- The Moderates were largely drawn from the educated, urban, middle-class elite.
- They had limited support among the masses, peasants, workers, women and lower classes.
- This narrow social base was one of the major limitations of the Moderate phase.

21 Which of the following was a key contribution of the Moderates in the economic field?

- (A) Promotion of swadeshi industries
- (B) Drain of wealth theory
- (C) Establishment of national education
- (D) Formation of secret revolutionary societies



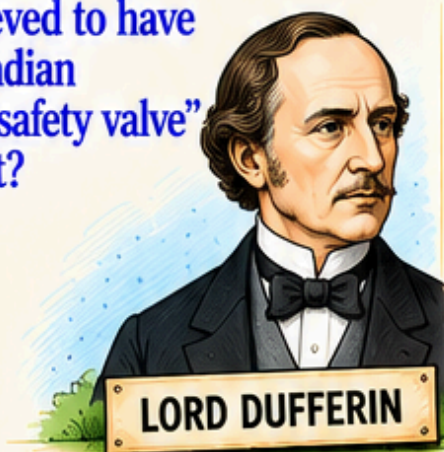
Correct Answer: (B) Drain of wealth theory

Explanation:

- The Moderates, especially Dadabhai Naoroji, propounded the Drain of Wealth Theory.
- They highlighted the systematic economic exploitation of India by the British.
- This theory exposed the economic basis of British rule and created economic awareness among Indians.

22 Which British Viceroy is believed to have supported the view that the Indian National Congress acted as a “safety valve” for releasing Indian discontent?

- (A) Lord Lytton
- (B) Lord Ripon
- (C) Lord Dufferin
- (D) Lord Curzon



Correct Answer: (C) Lord Dufferin

Explanation:

- Lord Dufferin, the Viceroy of India (1884–1888), expressed the view that the Congress would act as a safety valve for Indian discontent.
- He thought it would help to channelize the grievances of the educated Indians through constitutional and peaceful means.
- This view became known as the “Safety Valve Theory”.

23 Which of the following best describes the social composition of the Moderate leadership?

- (A) Peasants and workers
- (B) Princes and landlords
- (C) Educated urban middle class
- (D) Industrialists and businessmen



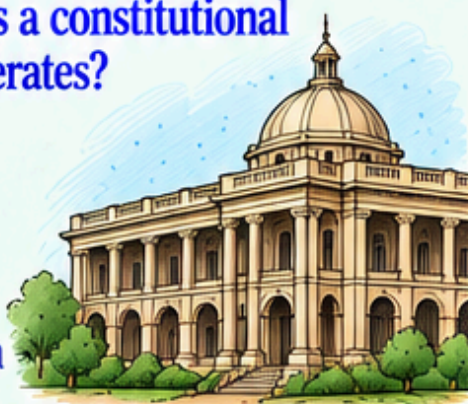
Correct Answer: (C) Educated urban middle class

Explanation:

- The Moderate leaders belonged to the educated urban middle class, including lawyers, teachers, journalists and professionals.
- They were influenced by Western education, liberal ideologies and constitutionalism.
- Their social base was limited and largely confined to the urban, English-educated elite.

24 Which of the following was a constitutional demand made by the Moderates?

- (A) Abolition of British rule in India
- (B) Introduction of swaraj
- (C) Expansion of legislative councils
- (D) Establishment of a republic in India



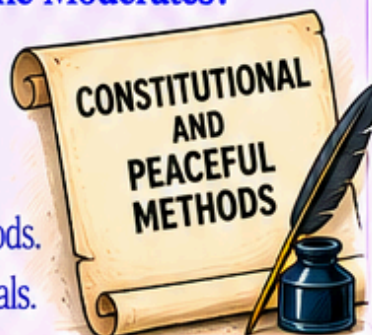
Correct Answer: (C) Expansion of legislative councils

Explanation:

- The Moderates demanded the expansion of legislative councils at the central and provincial levels.
- They wanted a greater share of elected Indian members and more powers for these councils.
- They believed in gradual constitutional reforms within the British Empire.

25 Which of the following statements is correct regarding the methods adopted by the Moderates?

- (A) They believed in armed struggle.
- (B) They used violent methods like boycotts and civil disobedience.
- (C) They relied on constitutional and peaceful methods.
- (D) They formed secret societies to achieve their goals.



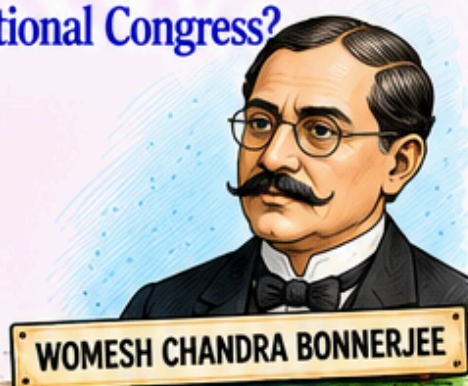
Correct Answer: (C) They relied on constitutional and peaceful methods.

Explanation:

- The Moderates believed in achieving their objectives through constitutional and peaceful means.
- They used methods such as prayers, petitions, protests, meetings and resolutions.
- They did not support violent means during this phase and believed in gradual reforms.

26 Who among the following was the first President of the Indian National Congress?

- (A) Dadabhai Naoroji
- (B) Womesh Chandra Bonnerjee
- (C) Allan Octavian Hume
- (D) Surendranath Banerjee



Correct Answer: (B) Womesh Chandra Bonnerjee

Explanation:

- Womesh Chandra Bonnerjee (W.C. Bonnerjee) was the first President of the Indian National Congress.
- The first session of the Congress was held in 1885 at Bombay.
- He was a prominent lawyer and a leading moderate leader.

27 In which year was the first session of the Indian National Congress held?

- (A) 1883
- (B) 1885
- (C) 1887
- (D) 1890



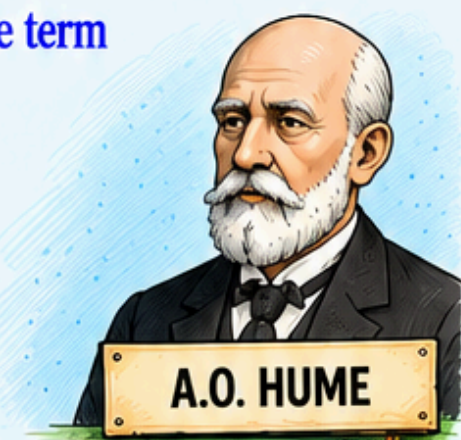
Correct Answer: (B) 1885

Explanation:

- The first session of the Indian National Congress was held in 1885.
- It was held in Bombay (now Mumbai).
- The session was attended by 72 delegates from different parts of India.

28 Who is associated with the term “Safety Valve Theory”?

- (A) Lord Curzon
- (B) Lord Dufferin
- (C) Lord Ripon
- (D) Allan Octavian Hume



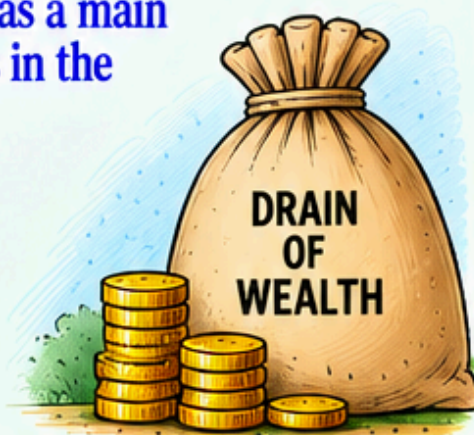
Correct Answer: (D) Allan Octavian Hume

Explanation:

- Allan Octavian Hume, a retired British civil servant, is associated with the Safety Valve Theory.
- He believed that the Indian National Congress would act as a safety valve to release the growing discontent of educated Indians.
- He played a key role in bringing together educated Indians to form the Congress.

29 Which of the following was a main demand of the Moderates in the economic sphere?

- (A) Abolition of salt tax
- (B) Drain of wealth from India
- (C) Introduction of swadeshi
- (D) Complete independence



Correct Answer: (B) Drain of wealth from India

Explanation:

- The Moderates highlighted the economic exploitation of India by the British.
- Dadabhai Naoroji propounded the Drain of Wealth Theory.
- They demanded a reduction in economic exploitation and reforms to promote Indian industries and agriculture.

30 Which of the following was a feature of the Moderate approach?

- (A) Use of violent methods
- (B) Boycott of British goods
- (C) Constitutional and peaceful methods
- (D) Establishment of parallel government



Correct Answer: (C) Constitutional and peaceful methods

Explanation:

- The Moderates believed in achieving their objectives through constitutional and peaceful methods.
- They used petitions, prayers, meetings and resolutions to present their demands.
- They had faith in British justice and liberalism and did not support violent methods during this phase.



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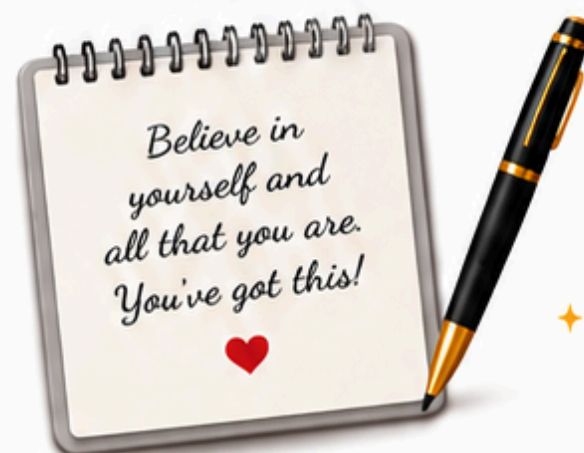
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