

## Lucknow Pact: 1916-

We are fighting and can only fight Constitutional battles. This peaceful struggle is not, and will not, be wanting in the quality of vigour and sacrifice, and we are determined to convince the British Empire that we are fit for the place of a partner within the Empire,

Jinnah at Presidential Address  
at Lucknow--

### INTRODUCTION:

Jinnah was the principal architect of the Lucknow Pact and was hailed as an ambassador of Hindu-Muslim unity. The agreement arrived at between the Congress and the League was the famous Lucknow Pact and was largely a product of concessions offered from both sides over the political, administrative and constitutional questions. It was obvious that Jinnah was at his best in compromising constitutional differences and offering compromise solutions likely to be accepted by both sides.



Background: (A) + Background (B) / choice ONE

Circumstance leading to unity:

From 1858 to 1905 the Muslims were in a state of neutrality vis à vis the Hindus. From 1906 to 1911 the Hindu-Muslim rift was first marked and later ominous. From 1911 to 1922 the two communities cooperated against what they considered a common enemy - Britain.

This entente produced quick results, which culminated into their joint meeting in which the famous Congress-League Scheme or Lucknow pact was framed by both parties.

BACKGROUND - B ✓

During the world war-I in 1914, there existed an atmosphere of total consensus among almost all the political circles in India. Indian statesmen were of the opinion that they would have to overcome their mutual differences to achieve anything from British after the war. They knew that they would have to close their ranks to present a united front to the British.



and to adopt collective measures for the attainment of their goal, however it was a hard nut to crack.

## Main Clauses of THE Lucknow Pact -

### a. THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA:

i- The Governor General shall be the Head of the Government of India.

ii- Half of the members of the Executive Council of the Governor General shall be Indians who should be elected by the members of Imperial Legislative Councils (ILC)

iii- Members of the Indian Civil Services shall not be appointed to the Imperial Executive Council.

### b. THE SECRETARY OF STATE -

I. The Council of the Secretary of the State should be abolished and replaced by two permanent Under Secretaries out of whom one should be an Indian.

II. The salary of the Secretary of the State may be drawn from British exchequer.



## C- Imperial Legislative Council -

- I- The strength of the (ILC) should be at least 150.
- II- Four-fifths  $\frac{4}{5}$  members of the Imperial legislature should be elected members.
- III- One-third  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the elected Indian members of the Imperial legislature should be Muslims.
- IV- The members of the Imperial legislative council may be elected for 5 years. The president of the council be elected by the members and not by GOVT.

## Provincial Legislative Councils.

- I- The strength of each provincial legislature should be at least 125 in major provinces and 50 to 75 in minor provinces.
- II- Each provincial legislature should consist of at least four-fifths  $\frac{4}{5}$  elected and one-fifth  $\frac{1}{5}$  nominated members.
- III- No Bill concerning a community should be passed if three-fourths  $\frac{3}{4}$  members of that community oppose the bill.



## Criticism / Evaluation:

Dr. Lal Bahadur, "A diplomatic blunder of high magnitude, was committed in conceding (right S.E.)."

Hindus' Reaction: The Hindu of U.P. opposed.

The pact on the ground, it ensured the right of separate electorate for the Muslims.

### All India Hindu Mahasabha-

It strongly criticised the whole pact

but their opposition was ineffective as

some of Hindu leaders like Tej Bahadur

Sapru, Motilal Nehru, Jagat Narain had

themselves taken part in the scheme's formulation.

### Muslims' Reaction-

The Bengali Muslim:

Their collective rejection of this pact

was based on the fact that their majority

in the provincial legislative council turned

into minority.

Mian Muhammad Shafi, a member of reforms committee, opposed the

pact tooth and nail.

Evaluation - conclusion - The L-Ps by its

implication, exploded the myth of the Congress

to be the only single party representing the

whole of India

conclusion is short.