

# Lucknow Pact

## What Is Lucknow Pact 1916?

Lucknow Pact 1916 was a pact signed between Indian National Congress and the All India Muslim League in Lucknow, in December 1916. Mohammed Ali Jinnah was a member of both the Indian National Congress and the All-India Muslim League. He asked people to pressurize the British government to liberalize the nation and give its residents more autonomy.

Lucknow Pact 1916 created a cordial relationship between both parties leading Sarojini Naidu to designate Mohammed Ali Jinnah as the ambassador of 'Hindu Muslim Unity'. The purpose of signing the Lucknow pact was to bring out the common political rules made by both parties including the demand for self-governance in India after the war.

## History of Lucknow Pact

Lucknow session 1916 is important to learn as this tells us about the reason for the growing popularity of the All India Muslim League at that time. To know the significance of the Lucknow Pact 1916, it is important to know its background.

- The Muslim League came into existence in 1906 and the prime motive of the Muslim League was to establish a cordial relationship with the British.
- Despite this, the league changed its stance toward the British after the partition of Bengal was announced by the Britishers.
- During the period of the All India Muslim League and Indian National Congress coalition, Muhammad Ali Jinnah who was the then member of both parties used the occasion as a joint venture to pressure the British to reform.
- This was the first time when both parties were together at the first joint session.
- Hindu Muslim Unity was conceived when extremists under Bal Gangadhar Tilak and moderates under Bhopal Krishna Gokhale met in Bombay and together with the Muslim League created their constitutional demands and discuss them mutually.
- As a result of this, both parties' leaders gathered at the same place with the same thoughts and demands.
- 19 members of both parties were elected to the legislature in Bombay in October 1916 and these 19 members presented a memorandum to the viceroy about the constitutional reforms.
- The suggestions from the prior meeting were discussed and agreed upon at the following meeting in Calcutta in November 1916.
- At the latter's annual session at Lucknow, in December 1916, the Muslim League and Indian National Congress signed the Lucknow Pact 1916.

## Nature of Lucknow Pact 1916

The Lucknow pact focused on creating self-government for Indian citizens. It also suggested an end to the Indian Council. The provisions of Lucknow Pact 1916 demanded the eligibility to vote for the president, allowing more than 100 members, and the Central Legislative Council, and The council should have a 5050 ratio of British and Indian citizens. The nature of the Lucknow Pact was very interesting as it contained several provisions like-

- Any Indian affair shall be managed by the British government and not by the Indian funds. The British government shall be responsible to credit the salaries of secretaries of States and no fund of India will be used for the same.
- All the members of the Legislative Assembly shall be eligible to vote for the president.
- It was proposed to set the tenure of the Legislative Assembly for 5 years.
- The communities shall have separate electorates unless otherwise requested.
- There shall be 150 members of the central Legislative Council.
- Indian citizens must make up at least half of the Council.
- The nomination of approximately 1/5th of the members will take place and the election of the rest 4/5th will also take place.
- With an average weightage of around one-third of the total members, Muslims should be granted representation in the Central Council.
- All the candidates apart from those who have been nominated will be chosen using the universal adult franchise.
- In proportion to their population minorities must be allowed equal representation.
- Congress endorsed the Muslim lead position on a separate electorate, which would be maintained until anyone group wanted united electorates, even though the league committed to present the government with common constitution proposals.
- Additionally, a set percentage of members in both the national and provincial legislatures were allocated to Muslims.

## What Were The Main Points of Lucknow Pact?

There were many provisions in the Lucknow pact since the beginning. These points will illustrate the importance of Lucknow Pact 1916, candidates preparing for UPSC must prepare well for this topic to be able to solve questions in the stipulated time frame.

Following are some main points of the Lucknow Pact 1916:

- The Muslim League and Indian National Congress both parties agreed on the idea of a separate electorate. This demonstrated that both parties were well aware of the importance of local politics and how the selfish interests of various communities living in India may contribute to the partition of the country in 1947.
- The importance of the Muslim community's representation was acknowledged but this left the door open for communal politics in the near future.
- Prior to the Lucknow Pact in 1916 the league had no political presence.

- When it became apparent that there was ongoing discord between the people and their leaders, riots among people of different communities broke out in the region of Bengal and Bihar.
- If the three fourth members of any religion disagreed then the legislature could not pass the decision hence Indian legislature included the concept of veto communalism also.
- The largest error in the Lucknow session 1916 was approving one-third of Muslim representation on the grounds that they were minorities. To some extent it was right but soon after, it lead to communal politics simultaneously.
- The agreement made it explicit that each of India's diverse communities had its own interests.
- Province by province the legislative representation of Muslims was determined.
- It was one of the most perilous Pacific initiatives of Congress.
- Undoubtedly, this Lucknow session in 1916 was held as a sign of Hindu-Muslim harmony at the time because of which the dual community's togetherness lasted only for a short time.

## Significance of Lucknow Pact

While learning about the pact, it is important to learn about the significance of the Lucknow pact in the history of India. It is this pact that helped to unite the Hindus and Muslims together. This is because, because of the advent of this pact, both parties stood together and demanded political changes in British rule. Apart from uniting Hindus and Muslims, and bringing them on the same page, the Lucknow pact has been significant in some other forms too, like-

- The Lucknow Pact was considered a hope for Hindu-Muslim harmony.
- Because of the signing of the Lucknow Pact Hindus and Muslims together could force the British empire to enact political changes for the first time.
- As a result there was a rising sentiment throughout British India that the potential for self-government already existed.
- The Accord also served as the pinnacle of the Hindu Muslim Corporation.
- Congress and Muslim League had friendly ties and both parties were seen as adversaries to each other who won opposed and served their own interests prior to the agreement.
- Another important significance of the Lucknow Pact was that within the Indian National Congress different groups- moderates, led by Gopal Krishna Gokhale, and extremists, led by Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Lal Bahadur Shastri, and Bipin Chandra Pal were united and had cordial relations with each other.

## The Outcome of Lucknow Pact

This was an exciting union for the citizens of India as it marked the reunion of the radical wings of the moderate and the congress. At a joint meeting of both parties held in Lucknow in December 1916, the Muslim League and Congress came to an agreement known as the Lucknow Pact. The outcome of the signed pact was that the two parties stipulated in the agreement that religious minorities could be represented in

the provincial legislatures As the Lucknow pact 1916 was an important move so learning about the same is important. Following are the outcomes of the Lucknow Pact-

- The Congress accepted the idea of distinct electorates which suggested that the Congress and the Muslim League joined together as different political entities, despite the fact that both organisations made or deliberate effort to show a united front.
- In the Muslim League development of the two Nation thesis, this was the turning point.
- Attempts to unite the people of two different communities were disregarded when the leaders of the two factions met.
- On the other hand, the contentious choice by congress to embrace the idea of two electorates was a real attempt to ease minority concerns about majority control.
- In addition to this, the citizens were looking forward to this reunion.

