

Q: Why Indian National Congress was organized and what two ways were adapted to fulfill their objectives?

Ans: By the end of nineteenth century many people both in India and Britain had come to believe that the Indian people needed their own national political body to represent their views to the British. In 1883, the Indian Association suggested forming such a body and in the same year a Britain Member of Parliament wrote to the Times newspaper suggesting that the Indians should set up their own national political association.

Then, a former member of the Indian Civil service, Allan Octavian Hume, wrote a letter to all the graduates of Calcutta University calling on them to take the lead in setting up a national political organization. Hume followed his letter by setting up the Indian National Union with branches in several cities.

These conferences were held under the name of Indian National Congress and mark the beginning of the organization which was to play an important part in winning independence from Britain. They adapted two ways for making a united India and for the welfare of India:

- By educating the public in India and in Britain. So its resolutions were printed in newspapers and a British Committee of the Congress formed.
- By persuading the British government to end unfair practices. To this end the Indian Civil Service (ICS) called for more Indian representation in the ICS and in the legislative councils in the various provinces.

However Congress had little success. It did help to persuade the Britain to introduce the Indian Councils Act in 1892, which increased the number of Indian in the councils. But the reality these bodies had very little power and were largely ignored by the British.