

# INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS

Report of the 44th Annual Session

HELD AT  
LAJPAT RAI NAGAR, LAHORE,  
on December 25—31, 1929.



---

*Issued on behalf of the Reception Committee by Dr. Gopi Chand  
Bhargava, General Secretary.*

## FOREWORD

The Indian National Congress in its session at Calcutta in December 1928 decided to confer on Lahore the honour of being the venue of the next Congress session. The honour was specially great in view of the Congress decision that if the demand for full Dominion Status was not conceded by the 31st December, 1929, the Congress would go in for full independence and nothing short of that. That momentous decision was to be taken at the session allotted to Lahore.

But if the honour was great so also was the responsibility. The last session that Lahore had witnessed had been held inside the Bradlaugh Hall—the Congress session having been the immediate stimulus for that Hall being built. Since then the Congress gatherings had expanded beyond the biggest hall that could be thought of; one could think only in terms of vast amphitheatres, and the arrangements for the delegates had also naturally expanded on the same scale. The historic Amritsar session in 1919 could be taken as marking off the new big session from the old-time ones, and during the decade past since the Amritsar session the Congress had been expanding rapidly.

What made us particularly nervous and different was the record in right royal arrangements set by the Calcutta session. If the extravagant splendour of that session was to be imitated it was certainly a mistake to have invited the Congress to hold its session in Lahore. The utmost that we could think of as within our resources—within even extravagant estimates of our resources—would be pale beside the Calcutta session. Ours is a small town compared with the second largest city of the British Empire. We cannot boast of innumerable magnates of commerce and industry, and very few amongst the handful that we have would be of much help in the Congress session. In Calcutta they could much help in the Municipal Corporation; we in Lahore had to deal with a Municipal Committee with an utterly different outlook an attitude towards us. (The Municipality almost refuse to take notice of us, and we could not even have the loan of a road-roller from it!)

Yet perhaps there was no reason to go in for splendour and extravagance. The Congress claims to represent the poor masses of India and that claim goes better with humble simplicity. It was this thought that sustained us in our difficult but proud task. We would like to be judged by the standards appropriate to the National Congress of India's masses, and if our distinguished guests should think that the arrangements made for them were adequate by standards of simple convenience, and of business-like efficiency in the Congress work, cutting out all luxury and extravagance, the Reception Committee surely had reason to regard itself successful and to feel proud of it.

The site chosen for the 44th session of the Indian National Congress was singularly appropriate alike for its natural picturesqueness and for its associations. The vast park on the left bank of the Ravi was roomy enough for all possible requirements. It was connected by a main road with the town, and the railway line passed just outside the park. A good deal of felling of trees, and levelling, and road-making had to be done to make it suitable for the Congress session. But it was worth while. The site had been hallowed the previous year by the cremation of the greatest leader of modern Punjab whose loss we were still mourning and whose place still remains and perhaps will long remain unfilled. After him we named the Congress site "Lajpat Rai Nagar". His bust fixed in a central place in this Nagar was during the Congress days a place of pilgrimage, the shrine of the new city we had built.

The Punjab Government allowed us use of almost 85 acres of land free of rent. One third of this area was reserved for the Swadeshi Exhibition. The negotiations with the Government took up far more time than we had anticipated and we could not start work of converting the forest into Lajpat Rai Nagar till the third week of September. Some idea of the construction work can be formed from the items enumerated below:—

Roads with a width of 40 to 50 feet making up a total length of 8 miles. Cinder was used on road surface throughout to avoid dust.

One Bazar in Indian style, 50 feet wide, with a row of 60 stalls on each side.

20 big lawns laid out for recreation.

Ten kitchens, 50 × 80 ft. each with different dining halls for different provinces, besides one big dining-hall 150 × 100 ft., to accommodate in all 1,200 diners at one time.

Three large gates and 4 small ones—all wood structure beautifully covered with khadi.

One circular reading-room with a diameter of 50 ft. erected in the Delegates' Camp.

Telegraph and post-offices and 12 booking-offices, all of wood and corrugated sheets.

Double-fly tents accommodating 5,000 delegates and 1,000 visitors. Separate tents were put up for leaders. All these were fitted with electricity. Charcoal and angithis were supplied free. Those who required electric heaters got them for a small charge.

For our water supply we installed two tube-wells, 5ft. diameter each, yielding about 1,800 gallons per hour. Both were fitted with centrifugal pumps and steam engines. One well was found enough, but as a precaution against accidents the second one had been installed too—though no occasion arose for making use of it. The four storage tanks could contain 16,000 gallons in all. The new-work of connections emanating from these effectively covered the entire area, and fed the large bath-room, latrines and urinals and the three hydrants set up to save the pandal in case a fire broke out, and the subsidiary tanks (like the kitchen tank). The large bathing hall was 125 feet in length and 20 in width and contained four rooms with 180 taps, besides 25 for ladies. Hot water of any desired temperature was available between 4 A.M. and 2 P.M. The hot well specially designed for the occasion consisted of a mild steel circular tank 4 feet in diameter and 8 feet in height and a 2-foot diameter steam-pipe connected it with the bath-room.

The latrines numbered 400—250 on the north side of the main pandal (some 80) ft. away from it, 125 towards the Volunteers' Camp and 25 in the ladies' compound. There were three rows of ditches dug about 3 ft. in depth, 135 ft. in length and 2 ft. in width. Meter gauge rails were a special movable type with pipe-rollers at the bottom. Thus batteries of latrines (each containing 3 latrines) were fitted at the start of each ditch which measured 135 ft. in length. The ditches were so arranged that the front of

latrines of one side was towards the back of the other. The latrine frames of iron were covered with hessian cloth. River sand and shovels were always kept available outside every latrine, and everyone who used the latrine was expected to make liberal use of sand. When the ditch looked filled up to 1 ft. the battery was pushed off by 45 feet. The experiment was an entire success. Mahatma Gandhi closely inspected the arrangement to detect foul smell or flies and was entirely satisfied with the arrangement.

The urinals made of masonry work and in both European and Indian style were kept quite sanitary by water and disinfectants kept dripping into the urinal drains day and night. They were as free from flies and stench as the latrines. A reservoir containing about 20 gallons of diluted disinfecting fluid was fitted at some height at one end of the set of urinals.

The National Flag under which the declaration of independence was made on the memorable night of December 31, was a structure deserving special mention. The flag was perched 115 ft. high from the ground. The flag post consisted of pipes with 6 ft. diameter at ground level gradually tapering to 4 ft. at the upper end. By a mechanical device a man could reach the pinnacle in one minute and come down again. He had only to sit in the wooden box and the pulley block system did the rest. On the top the flag was fitted with tricolour electric light 15 in number, each of 200 candle power, besides one lamp of each colour of 2,000 candle power. The post was also of the tricolour scheme. It was a glorious sight at night.

In this report all the Hindustani speeches have been put together in Devnagari letters at the end.

**GOPI CHAND BHARGAVA,**

*General Secretary of the Reception Committee.*

# INDEX

	PAGE
<b>A</b> broad, Messages from .. .. .	61
Charya, M. K., Disciplinary action against .. .. .	31
Affiliated Branches .. .. .	17
Affiliated Committees .. .. .	21, 22
Affiliated Committees, Report of .. .. .	69
Affiliation Fees .. .. .	70, 71
Afganistan, Internal troubles in .. .. .	22
Ajmer, A deputation from, Re. the supersession of Ajmer P. C. C. .. .. .	20, 21
Ajmer Affairs .. .. .	16, 37
Ajmer Elections .. .. .	46, 52
Ajmer States, Re-allotment of .. .. .	4
Ali Brothers, Restrictions on entering South Africa .. .. .	12
All-India Congress Committee, Accounts of .. .. .	128-130
All-India Congress Committee, Budget of .. .. .	4, 13, 49
All-India Congress Committee, Meetings of .. .. .	76
All-India Congress Committee, Next Meeting of .. .. .	31, 33
All-India Congress Committee, Office Accounts of 20, 32, 13, 37, 51	51
All-India Congress Committee, Recommendations for .. .. .	41
All-India Congress Committee, Recommendations to .. .. .	42, 44
All-India Spinners Association .. .. .	81
All Parties Committee's Report .. .. .	63
Anti-Untouchability Committee, Report of .. .. .	97-110
Assam, Floods in .. .. .	41
Auditors, A. I. C. C. .. .. .	2, 61
Audit, Reports of .. .. .	2, 37, 44, 51
<b>B</b> arisal District, Repression in .. .. .	10
Bengal Elections .. .. .	51
Bengal Election Dispute .. .. .	52, 76
Bengal Jute Mill Strike .. .. .	74
Berlin Information Bureau .. .. .	20, 45, 78
Bombay Textile Mill Strike .. .. .	74
Bomb Outrage .. .. .	57

	PAGE
Books, Proscription of .. .. .	75
Budget Variations Sanctioned .. .. .	48
<b>C</b> harges, Social and Economic .. .. .	5, 77, 78
Committee, Resignations from .. .. .	50
Communal questions .. .. .	60
Complete Independence .. .. .	58
Condolence .. .. .	8, 57
Conference between the British Government, the Indian States and representatives of the people, Suggestion of a .. .. .	82
Congress, Dates of .. .. .	59
Congress delegates, Vacancies among .. .. .	50
Congress Manual .. .. .	4, 39, 80
Congress Organisation .. .. .	23
Congress, Permanent fund of .. .. .	82
Congress Re-organisation .. .. .	6, 26, 27, 66
Congress Sessions, Dates for .. .. .	45
Congress Sub-committees .. .. .	54, 64
Councils, Abstention from .. .. .	40
Councils, Boycott of .. .. .	53
Councils, Resignation from .. .. .	41
Councils, Withdrawal from .. .. .	9
Council Work .. .. .	25
C. P. Hindi Membership rules .. .. .	42
C. P. Marathi .. .. .	52
C. P. Marathi Elections .. .. .	16
C. P. Marathi P. C. C. .. .. .	32
<b>D</b> as, Jatindra Nath .. .. .	10, 57, 72
Delhi Elections .. .. .	15
Delhi Manifesto .. .. .	50
Disciplinary rules .. .. .	2, 43
<b>E</b> ast Africa, An Indian deputation from .. .. .	79
East Africa, Indians in .. .. .	5, 11, 59
East Bengal, Floods in .. .. .	41
Election disputes panel .. .. .	1, 14
Expenditure, Provisional sanction for .. .. .	45
<b>F</b> inancial burdens .. .. .	60
Financial burdens, Repudiation of .. .. .	60

	PAGE
Foreign Cloth, Boycott of .. .. .	24, 27
Foreign Cloth Boycott Committee, Report of .. .. .	2, 13, 85-97
Foreign Department .. .. .	18, 78
Foreign Publicity and Propaganda Account .. .. .	13, 51, 127
Future Programme .. .. .	18
Frankfurt Congress .. .. .	46
<b>G</b> eneral Secretaries, A. I. C. C. .. .. .	1, 26, 60
Golmuri Tinplate Workers' Strike .. .. .	44, 74
Government repression .. .. .	6, 63, 64, 71
Guidavada Grant .. .. .	37
<b>H</b> industhani Seva Dal .. .. .	80
Hindusthani Seva Dal, Grant to .. .. .	30
Hyderabad Khaddar Loan .. .. .	51
Hunger Strike in jails .. .. .	11
<b>I</b> ncome, Contribution of percentage of .. .. .	24
Indemnity Bond .. .. .	48
Indians Overseas .. .. .	41, 79
Indian States, The duties of ruling princes of .. .. .	59
Inspection, Reports of .. .. .	2, 37, 44, 51
<b>J</b> ails, Hunger Strikes in—See Hunger Strikes	
<b>K</b> hadhi Sales of .. .. .	92, 93, 94
Kobe Congress Committee .. .. .	34, 48
<b>L</b> abour leaders, Arrests of .. .. .	33
Labour Research Department .. .. .	17, 79
Labour Strikes .. .. .	73, 74
Lahore Conspiracy Case .. .. .	72
League against Imperialism Congress .. .. .	17, 20, 39
League against Imperialism, Grant to .. .. .	30
Legislatures, Extension of life of .. .. .	6, 77
London Congress Committee .. .. .	48
<b>M</b> arriage, Age of .. .. .	22
Meerut Conspiracy Case .. .. .	71
Meerut Defence Fund .. .. .	39
Members, Enrolment of .. .. .	54
Mirza, Barkar Ali, Resignation of .. .. .	55
Muttra District, Transfer of .. .. .	25



	PAGE
<b>N</b> aidu, Mrs. Sorojini, Welcome to newspapers, Appeal to	9 39
N.-W. F. P. Enquiry Committee	54
<b>O</b> ffice, Acceptance of	5
Office Budget	48
Old Congress funds in Madras, Disposal of	42
Outstandings written off	81
<b>P</b> an-Asiatic Federation	17, 31, 78
Passports, Refusal of	60
Permanent Secretary, A. I. C. C.	26, 52
Political prisoners, Treatment of	72, 73
Prohibition Committee	65, 66
Prohibition Committee, Report of	110-120
Prohibition Scheme	34
Prohibition Work	39
Provinces, Contributions from	70
Provincial Membership figures	67
Provincial Membership quota	12, 67
Provincial Subscriptions	1, 14
Punjab Elections	50
Punjab Election Dispute	51
Punjab, Repression in	8, 9
Purna Swarajya Day	53
<b>R</b> anga Iyer, C.S., Conduct of	17
Ranga Iyer, C.S., Disciplinary action against	30
Research Scholars	26
Revised Budget, A. I. C. C. Office	41
Royal Commission on Labour	75
Roy, Kiran Shankar	55
<b>S</b> aklatvala, Shapurji J.	39
Sambamurti, Conviction of	33
Sind Elections	25
Sind, Re-organisation of	15
South African Indian Congress, Affiliation of	13
South Indian Railway Strike	74
Subjects Committee, Recommendations to	52
Subjects Committee, Resolutions for	14
Sunday Programmes	29, 71

## INDEX

135

	PAGE
Sun Yat Sen, Funeral of	38
<b>T</b> ilak Memorial Swarajya Fund, All-India, Accounts of	13, 122-126
Trade Disputes Bill	30, 71
Trials, Bail in	32
Trials, Defence in	32
Treasurers, A. I. C. C.	1, 17, 61
Treasurer's Accounts	31, 32, 40
Treasurer's Budget	31
Treasurer's Current Account	48
Treasurer's Office Accounts	37, 51
Treasurer's Overdraft	48
<b>U</b> ntouchability Committee	37, 65, 66
ntouchability Work	39
<b>V</b> oluntary Income-tax	82
<b>W</b> izaya, Phongyi U.	10, 57, 72
orking Committee	2, 14, 76