

Revision Notes

Urdu–Hindi Controversy (1867)

- The Urdu–Hindi Controversy started in North India.
- Hindus demanded that Hindi (written in Devanagari script) should replace Urdu.
- Muslims strongly supported Urdu because it was their cultural and religious language.
- This created division between Hindus and Muslims.

Role of Sir Syed Ahmad Khan

- He realized that Hindus and Muslims had different interests.
- He said they are two separate nations, not one.
- This idea later became part of the Two Nation Theory.

The controversy showed that Hindus and Muslims could not easily live under one political system.

Indian National Congress (INC)

- The Indian National Congress was formed in 1885.
- It claimed to represent all Indians, but mostly Hindu leaders dominated it.

Why Muslims did not support it:

- Muslims felt Congress ignored their rights and interests.
- Congress demanded democracy, but Muslims feared they would become a minority under Hindu majority rule.
- Sir Syed Ahmad Khan advised Muslims to stay away from Congress.

Congress increased Muslim fears and strengthened the idea that Muslims needed separate political identity.