**All-India Muslim League:**

The **All-India Muslim League** (popularized as the **Muslim League**) was a political party established in 1906 in British India. Its strong advocacy, from 1930 onwards, for the establishment of a separate Muslim-majority nation-state, Pakistan, successfully led to the partition of India in 1947 by the British Empire.

The party arose out of a literary movement begun at The Aligarh Muslim University and was formed in Dhaka (now in Bangladesh) many years after the death of Syed Ahmad Khan who was a central figure for the formation of the university. It remained an elitist organization until 1937 when the leadership began mobilizing the Muslim masses and the league then became a popular organization.

Following are the reasons for the establishment of the Muslim league.

**1.** Indifferent Attitude of the Congress towards Muslims: All India National Congress was a predominantly Hindu body. Its interests were always at odds ends to those of the Muslims. By 1906, Muslim leaders were convinced that they must have a party that may speak for the community on all important occasions.

**2.** Educational and Economic Backwardness: Muslims had lagged far behind the Hindus in education and economic progress. Educational and economic conditions could only be upgraded by establishing a separate Muslim organization that could represent the wishes of the Muslims.

**3.** Urdu-Hindi Controversy: The Urdu-Hindu controversy began with the demand of Hindus to replace Urdu with Hindi as an official language in Deva Nagari Script. Sir Anthony Macdonal, the then Governor of UP ousted Urdu from public offices. Congress sided with Hindi and supported the movement against Urdu and there was no other political party to support Urdu. Thus, the need for the formation of a Muslim political party was felt severely.

**4.** The Evolution of Minto Marley Reforms: The turning point came in the summer of 1906 during John Morley’s budget speech, in which he hinted at constitutional reforms. At that time Muslims did not have a political platform to demand their share. It was reasserted that they wanted a separate political platform.

**5.** The Success of Simla Deputation: Minto offered the fullest sympathy to the Muslim demands. The success of Deputation compelled the Muslims to have a separate political association of their own.

**6.** To Save Muslim Entity: The belief uttered by sir Syed Ahmed Khan that the Muslims were somehow a separate entity. The Muslims did not believe that Hindus and Muslims formed one nation. They were different by religion, history, languages and civilization. It became essential for Muslims to establish a political party of their own.