

LUCKNOW PACT 1916:

When All India Muslim League came into existence, it was a moderate organization with its basic aim to establish friendly relations with the Crown. However, due to the decision of the British Government to annul the partition of Bengal, the Muslim leadership decided to change its stance. In 1913, a new group of Muslim leaders entered the folds of the Muslim League with the aim of bridging the gulf between the Muslims and the Hindus. The most prominent amongst them was Muhammad Ali Jinnah, who was already a member of Indian National Congress. As a result of the hard work of Mr. Jinnah, both the Muslim League and the Congress met for their annual sessions at Bombay in December 1915, and it was also due to his dedication that Lucknow Pact was signed. The agreement was confirmed by the annual sessions of the Congress and the League in their annual session held at Lucknow on December 29 and December 31, 1916 respectively.

The main clauses of the Lucknow Pact were:

- There shall be self-government in India.
- Muslims should be given one-third representation in the central government.
- There should be separate electorates for all the communities until a community demanded for joint electorates.
- System of weightage should be adopted.
- The number of the members of Central Legislative Council should be increased to 150.
- At the provincial level, four-fifth of the members of the Legislative Councils should be elected and one-fifth should be nominated.
- The strength of Provincial legislative should not be less than 125 in the major provinces and from 50 to 75 in the minor provinces.
- All members, except those nominated, were to be elected directly on the basis of adult franchise.
- No bill concerning a community should be passed if the bill is opposed by three-fourth of the members of that community in the Legislative Council.
- Term of the Legislative Council should be five years.
- Members of Legislative Council should themselves elect their president.
- Half of the members of Imperial Legislative Council should be Indians.
- Indian Council must be abolished.
- The salaries of the Secretary of State for Indian Affairs should be paid by the British Government and not from Indian funds.
- Out of two Under Secretaries, one should be Indian.
- The Executive should be separated from the Judiciary.

Although the agreement broke between the two parties after the khilafat movement but it was an important and historic event in the history of Muslims of South Asia in which Hindus first time accepted Muslim League as a representative party of the Muslims of India.