



Institutional Evolution & Democratic Legacy

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Syllabus Connection: GS Paper I (Modern Indian History) & GS Paper II (Polity)

Contemporary News Pivot

The **Indian National Congress (INC)** observed its **140th Foundation Day on December 28, 2025**. This milestone serves as a focal point for debating the role of "Big Tent" parties in a polarized multi-party democracy.

Evolutionary Roadmap

- **Origin (1885):** Founded at Gokuldas Tejpal Sanskrit College, Bombay, by **A.O. Hume**, initially acting as a "Safety Valve" for elite grievances but quickly evolving into a nationalist vehicle.
- **The Centenary of 1925:** 2025 also marks the centenary of the **1925 Kanpur Session**, famously presided over by **Sarojini Naidu** (the first Indian woman President), and the year **Mahatma Gandhi** was the sitting President following the Belgaum session.
- **Democracy and Ideology:** At the 140th anniversary, the discourse shifted toward "Ideological Resilience." For UPSC, analyze how the INC's post-independence journey—from the **Socialistic Pattern of Society (1955 Avadi Session)** to **Liberalization (1991)**—reflects the changing socio-economic priorities of India.