

The Delhi Proposals (1927)

Background

After the Non-Cooperation Movement ended, Hindu-Muslim unity weakened, and Muslims began to fear political domination by the Hindu majority. In 1927, the British announced the **Simon Commission** without any Indian members, which created widespread anger and disappointment across India.

Formation of the Proposals:

To respond to this, Muslim leaders met in **Delhi** to discuss their political demands. Under the leadership of **Muhammad Ali Jinnah**, along with **Sir Muhammad Shafi**, **Aga Khan**, and **Maulana Muhammad Ali**, they formed a united plan known as the **Delhi Proposals**.

Main Demands:

The proposals called for **separate electorates**, **one-third Muslim representation** in central and provincial legislatures, **separation of Sindh from Bombay Presidency**, and **political reforms in NWFP and Balochistan**. They also demanded the protection of **Muslim majorities in Punjab and Bengal**.

Reaction:

The **Congress Party** rejected these proposals because it opposed separate electorates and supported **joint voting** for all Indians. This rejection disappointed Muslim leaders and **deepened mistrust** between the two communities.

Significance:

Although the Delhi Proposals were not accepted, they became a **foundation for Muslim political unity**. The British took advantage of the growing division through their “**divide and rule**” policy. These proposals later inspired **Jinnah’s Fourteen Points (1929)**, which shaped the future of Muslim politics and communal relations in India.