

**JINNAH'S FOURTEEN POINTS (1929)**

On March 28 1929, a meeting of the council of the All India Muslim League was held. In the meeting, the members of both the league, i.e. Shah league and Jinnah league took part. Jinnah called the Nehru Report a Hindu document, but suggested that merely rejecting the report was not adequate. He decided that he would give a different Muslim League agenda. In this meeting he introduced his Fourteen Points. These points were as follows:

1. The structure of the constitution be constructed should be federal in nature, in which residuary powers would be vested in the provinces.
2. A standardised measure of autonomy shall be offered to all provinces.
3. The legislatures and other elected bodies shall be created on the principle of adequate and effective representation of minorities in each province without curtailing the majority in any province to a minority even equality.
4. The representation of the Muslims shall not be less than one-third in the Central Legislature.
5. Communal group representation shall be continued through the means of separate electorates with the condition that it shall be open to any community at any time to give up its separate electorate in favour of a joint electorate.
6. Any necessary territorial distribution shall not affect the Muslim majority in the provinces of Punjab, Bengal, and the North-West Frontier Province.
7. All religious communities will be given full religious liberty, that is, liberty of belief, worship and observance, propaganda, association and education.
8. Any bill or resolution or any part thereof shall not be passed in any legislature or any other elected body, in case three-fourth of the members of any community oppose such a bill, resolution, or any part thereof, if it would be injurious to the interests of that community or in the alternative, such other method would be

devised as may be found feasible and practicable to deal with such cases.

9. The region of Sindh should be separated from the Mumbai presidency.
10. Like all other provinces, reforms should be brought in \ the North-West Frontier Province and Baluchistan.
11. Such provision should be made in the constitution which give Muslims a sufficient share, along with other Indians, in all the services of the state and in local self-governing bodies having due consideration to the requirements of efficiency.
12. The constitution should symbolise for the protection of Muslim culture and for the protection and promotion of Muslim education, language, religion, personal laws and Muslim charitable institutions and for their due share in the grants-in-aid given by the state and by the local self-governing bodies.
13. No central or provincial cabinet should be formed without there being a proportion of at least one-third Muslim ministers.
14. The constitution cannot be amended by the Central Legislature except with the concurrence of the States' contribution to the Indian federation.

The given Fourteen Points were accepted by the Council of the all India Muslim League. They passed a resolution according to which no scheme for the future constitution was tolerable to the Muslim League, if it did not include the demands presented in the Fourteen Points.

**The Meerut conspiracy**

Beginning in March 1929, the British Government had unleashed reign of terror on the rapidly-growing labour movement in India. By 20 March 1929, 31 of India's most important labour leaders were arrested. They included Dange, Mirajkar, Ghate, Joglekar, Adhikari, Nimbkar, Alve and Kasle from Mumbai; Mazaffar Ahmed, Kishorilal Ghosh, Dharani Goswami, Gopen Chakraborti, Radharaman Mitra, Gopal Basak and Sibnath Bannerji from Kolkata; Sohan Singh Josh who had associated closely with Bhogai Singh and whose Kirti Kisan Party cooperated with the Naujawan Bharat Sabha from Punjab; P. C. Joshi and Viswanath Mukherji from UP; as well as three English Communists active in the Indian Trade Union Movement. They were implicated in a conspiracy case and the trial was to be staged at Meerut. This was the famous Meerut Conspiracy Case. While the Congress condemned the arrests, it was an open secret that the leadership was somewhat relieved and mounted no nationwide campaign for their release. Certainly, the arrests crippled the radical wing of the Congress. The arrested included about eight members of the All India Congress Committee

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