

# History

with

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## **Governor-Generals and Viceroys**

Role of Governor-Generals and Viceroys is indurable in the course of Modern Indian History. In fact, the rise and growth of India as a nation would be traced in the vision and works of these individuals. Though their works and contributions are directed to serve their mother nation, yet their role in making of Modern India can't be undermined.

### **Governor-Generals of Bengal**

#### **Warren Hastings**

**(1772-1785)**

- He became Governor of Bengal in 1772 and became Governor-General of Bengal in 1773 through the Regulating Act of 1773.
- Termination of dual administration in Bengal (1772).
- Introduced the Quinquennial settlement of land revenue in 1772 by the method of farming out estates to the highest bidder.
- Creation of Board of Revenue (1772) Created Diwani and Faujdari Adalat at the district level and Sadar Diwani and Nizamat Adalat. Codified Hindu and Muslim law known as Father of Judicial Reforms in India.
- To remove the possible clash between the Supreme Court and Sadar Diwani Adalat, he appointed Elijah Impey, the Chief Justice of Supreme Court, as Superintendent of Sadar Diwani Adalat.
- Stopped annual allowances of Rs. 26 lakh to Mughal Emperor Shah Alam II. Took away Allahabad and Kara from him and sold it to the Nawab of Awadh.
- Regulating Act 1773. Appointed him the first Governor-General along with four councillors—Clavering, Francis, Monson and Barwell.

- Supreme Court was established at Calcutta in 1777 Impey was appointed as the first Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. He also established Calcutta Madarsa or Aliya Madarsa in 1781 for study of Islamic law.
- The Rohilla War (1774) and annexation of Rohilkhand by the Nawab of Oudh with help of the British.
- Trail of Nand Kumar and his judicial murder (1775).
- Chait Singh affair (1778) Chait Singh was the Raja Of Banaras.
- He was the only Governor-General against whom impeachment proceeding were proceeded.
- Quinquennial settlement abandoned In 1777 and annual settlement of land revenue on the basis of open, auction to the highest bidder was started.
- Foundation of Asiatic Society of Bengal by Hastings and Sir William Jones (1784). He was conservator of Asiatic Society and helped in translator, of (Abhigyan Shakuntalam) book by Kalidas and (Gita *Govinda*) book of Jaideva into English.

### **Lord Cornwallis (1786-1793)**

- Europeanisation of administrative services, introduction of civil services and reforms to purify and improve administration. Cornwallis is called the Father of Civil Service in India.
- The *Police* system was introduced. Sovereignty of law and an the official will be responsible to the courts.
- Introduction of the permanent revenue settlement or the Zamindari system in Bengal and Bihar (1793).
- Reform of the judiciary (1793) setting-up courts at different levels and separation of revenue administration from Judicial administration.
- The District Faujdari Adalats presided over by Indian judges abolished and in their place four circuit courts were established, presided over by the European covenanted servants.

### **Cornwallis Code**

Cornwallis Code was introduced in 1793 with following features it was based on the concept of separation of powers. The Collector was the head of the revenue administration and divested him of all the judicial and magisterial

powers. District judge was appointed as the head of the judiciary at the district level. A gradation of civil courts was set up. The distinction between revenue and civil cases abolished.

### **Sir John Shore (1793-1798)**

- As the President of the board of revenue he played an important role in the introduction of the Permanent Settlement (1793).
- Charter Act of 1793 came into force.
- Battle of Khairat took place between the Nizam and the Marathas (1795).
- A regulation prohibiting female infanticide was passed in 1796.

### **Lord Wellesley (1798-1805)**

- Called himself as Tiger of Bengal. Vigorously applied the policy of Subsidiary Alliance to achieve British Paramountcy in India (Dupleix was first to start the subsidiary alliance).
- Fourth Anglo-Mysore War (1799). The war resulted in the defeat and death of Tipu and the annexation of many parts of Mysore.
- Wellesley passes a regulation for controlling the press. Christian missionaries established a printing press at Serampore. Foundation of Fort Williams College. Sir John Gilchrist was appointed as head of Hindustani language Department.
- Wellesley took the administration of Tanjore (25th October, 1799). Surat (March 1800) and Carnatic (31st July, 1801).
- Subsidiary Treaty of Bassein (1802) and the Second Anglo Maratha War (1803-05). It resulted in the defeat of the Sindhia, the Bhonsle and the Holkar.
- Formation of the Madras Presidency after the annexation of the kingdoms of Tanjore and Carnatic. Under his energetic leadership Lord Lake captured Delhi and Agra in 1803 and took the emperor under the company's protection.

### **Subsidiary Alliances**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Ruler</b>
1798	Nizam of Hyderabad
1799	Mysore Tanjore
1801	The Nawab of Oudh

1801	The Peshwa
1803	The Bhonsle Raja of Berar
1804	The Scindia

### **Sir George Barlow (Officiation) (1805-1807)**

- Vellore Mutiny (1806). 2nd Anglo-Maratha War ended. Slave trade abolished in the British empire in 1807.

### **Lord Minto (1807-1813)**

- Treaty of Amritsar with Ranjit Singh (1809), Rebellion in Travancore.

### **Lord Hastings (1813-1823)**

- Anglo-Nepal War (1814-1816) The Gorkhas accepted the Treaty of Sagauli in March 1816. Due to his success in this war, he was made Marquess of Hastings (1816).
- Third Maratha War (1817-1818) Maratha power was finally crushed. Abolition of Peshwaship and annexation of all his territories and creation of Bombay Presidency (1818).
- introduction of the Ryotwari Settlement in Madras Presidency by Governor Thomas Munro (1820).
- Bengal Tenancy Act, 1822.
- First coffee plantation was done in 1823 at Fort Gloster (Bengal). Similarly, first tea plantation was discovered in Assam with the help of Andrew Charlton and Robert Bruce.

### **Lord Amherst (1823-1828)**

- The First Burmese War (1824-1826)
- Barrackpore Mutiny (1824)
- Capture of Bharatpur (1826)

### **Governor-Generals of India**

#### **Lord William Bentinck (1828-1835)**

- Suppression of child sacrifices and infanticide, although it had been declared illegal by the Bengal Regulation XXI of 1795 and Regulation III of 1804.

- In 1829-1837, suppression of Thugi system. William Sleeman captured more than 1500 thugs in Meerut.
- In 1829, Sati system was abolished and Khasis revolted. Charter Act of 1833.
- Deposition of Raja of Mysore and annexation of his territories (1831) Annexation of Cachar and Jaintia (1832) Annexation of Coorg (1834).
- Educational reforms on the basis of Macaulay's Minute (1835) and introduction of English as the official language and the medium of instruction in India
- He established the first Medical College in Calcutta.

#### **Sir Charles Metcalfe (Officiation) (1835-1836)**

- Passed education resolution proposed by Macaulay. Abolition of press restrictions known as liberator of Indian Press.

#### **Lord Auckland (1836 1842)**

- In 1839, Lord Auckland has started construction of Grand Trunk (GT) road from Calcutta to Delhi.
- Deposition and deportation of the Raja of Satara.
- First Afghan War started (1836-1842). Disaster of British in the war and recall of Auckland.
- In 1838, Tripartite Treaty between Shah Shuja, Ranjit Singh and the British.

#### **Lord Ellenborough (1 842 1844)**

- Slavery abolished (1843).
- Conquest and annexation of Sind (1843) by Charles Napier.

#### **Lord Hardinge I (1844-1848)**

- In 1845, the Danish possession sold to the English.
- 1845-46 the First Anglo-Sikh War and the Treaty of Lahore (1846).

- Prohibition of female infanticide and suppression of the practice of human sacrifice among the Khonds of central India. In 1846, the rebellion of Khonds took place.

### **Lord Dalhousie (1848 1856)**

- Lord Dalhousie's policy mainly focussed on seizure of different regions of India.
- Second Sikh War (1848-49) and annexation of Punjab (1849).
- Second Anglo-Burmese War and annexation of lower Burma or Pegu (1852). Dalhousie can be regarded as the father of the Electric Telegraph in India. O'Shaughnessy was appointed the Superintendent of the Telegraph Department in 1852. First telegraph line from Calcutta to Agra. Charter Act of 1853.
- In 1853, a new treaty was forced on the Nizam of Hyderabad compelling him to cede Berar to Company.
- Railway minute of 1853. The first railway line connecting Bombay and Thane was laid in 1853.
- In 1853, recruitment of the Covenanted Civil Service by competitive examination.
- Introduction of Doctrine of Lapse and annexation of Satara (1848), Jaitpur (1849), Sambhalpur (1849), Baghat (1850), Udaipur (1852), Jhansi (1853) and Nagpur (1854).
- In the educational sphere an important development was Charles Wood, (President of the Board Control) dispatch of 1854 and British assumption of the responsibility of educating the masses. Opening of Anglo-vernacular schools and Government colleges. JED Bethune opened a girls school in Calcutta in 1849.
- A new Post Office Act was passed in 1854, postage stamps were issued for the first-time. In 1856, Oudh was annexed on the pretext of the misgovernment. Bengal was placed under the charge of Lt Governor.
- A separate Public Works Department (PWD) was established in every province. Work on the Grand Trunk (GT) road was started. Ganges canal declared open (1854).

- Widow Re-marriage Act of 1856. In 1855-56, Santhal insurrection took place.
- First Engineering College, Thomson College for Civil Engineering was established at Roorkee.

### **Viceroy of India**

#### **Lord Canning (1856-1862)**

- Establishment of universities in the Presidencies of Calcutta, Madras and Bombay in 1857.
- Outbreak of 1857 Mutiny.
- Last Governor-General after 1858 Governor-General came to be known as Viceroy.
- Queen Victoria's proclamation and the Government of India Act of 1858. It ended the rule of East India Company. Transfer of control from East India Company to crown.
- Enactment of Indian Penal Code.
- Withdrawal of Doctrine of Lapse.
- In 1861, Indian Council Act and enactment of Code of Criminal Procedure.
- Income tax was introduced with a uniform tariff of 10% apart from convertible paper currency.
- In 1861, the enactment of the Indian High Courts Act.

#### **Lord Elgin I (1862-1863)**

- Suppressed Wahabi Movement.
- Due to his sudden death in 1862. The administration was carried on by Sir Napier and Sir Denison from 1862 to 1864.

#### **Sir John Lawrence (1864-1869)**

- War with Bhutan in 1865.
- Indo-European telegraph from Karachi, Persia and Turkey in 1865.

- Masterly Inactivity Policy was followed i.e. policy of non-intervention with Afghanistan.
- Establishment of High Courts at Calcutta, Bombay and Madras in 1865.
- In 1868, the Punjab Tenancy Act, known as Saviour of Punjab and annual grant of 6 lakh of rupees to Sher Ali, Amir of Afghanistan and railway opened from Ambala to Delhi.

### **Lord Mayo (1869-1872)**

- Beginning of the system of state railways
- Establishment of college for the education and political training of the Indian princes. Rajkot College in Kathiawar and the Mayo College at Ajmer.
- Organisation of statistical survey of India under W Hunter (first census in 1871) and establishment department of agriculture and commerce.
- Initiated the process of financial decentralisation in India. In 1870, he took first-step in the director of separation of central and provincial finances and in 1872. a convict In the Andamans assassinated Mayo The only Viceroy to be murdered in office.

### **Lord Northbrook (1872 1876)**

- In 1872, Kuka Revolt took place in Punjab under Bhagat Jawahar Mal. Visit of Prince of Wales (later Edward VII) in 1875.

### **Lord Lytton (1876-1880)**

- The British Parliament passed the Royal Titles An. 1876 investing Queens Victoria with the title of *Kaiser-i-Hind* or *Queen Empress of India*. Imperial Durbar at Delhi in 1877.
- Vernacular Press and Arms Act. 1878, Dramatic Performances Act, 1876. These were the repressive measures of Lytton against the rising wave of Indian nationalism.
- In 1878, appointment of the first Famine Commission under Sir Richard Strachey, the finance member of the Viceroy council.
- Proposed the plan of Statutory Civil Slices in 1878-79 and lowered the maximum age limit for civil services from 19 to 21 Years.

- Second Anglo-Afghan War in 1878-80 and fight of Sher Ali.

#### **Lord Ripon (1880-1884)**

- Repealed the Vernacular Press Act. 1882. First Factory Act, 1881.
- Second census took place in 1881 The population estimated at 254 million
- Continued the process of Financial Decentralisation Division of the finances of the centre in 1882
- Introduction of Local Self-Government in 1882, called Father of Local Self-Government.
- Appointed Hunter Commission In 1882 to review the education in 1883. Famine code formulated

#### **Lord Dufferin (1884-1888)**

- In 1885, two Acts passed (a) Bengal Tenancy Act and (b) Bengal Local Self-Government Act.
- Third Anglo-Burmese War 1885-86). King Thibow of Burma was deposed to Ratnagiri fort' (Maharashtra)
- In 1836. Upper Burma was annexed and delimitation of Afghan Northern boundary took place.
- Formation of Indian National Congress. Aitchison Committee was constituted.

#### **Lord Lansdowne (1888-1894)**

- In 1891, second Factory Act was passed
- in 1892, the Indian Council's Act passed
- Division of the Civil Services Into imperial, provincial and subordinate.
- Appointment of Durand Commission in 1893. It defined the boundary. known as Durand Line, between British India and Afghanistan.
- Age of Consent Bill (1891). when increased the marriageable age, with efforts of social reformer Behramji Malabari.

### **Lord Elgin II (1894-1898)**

- In 1896, famine took place all over India, Lyaal Commission was appointed after famine.

### **Lord Curzon (1899-1905)**

- Calcutta Corporation Act. 1889.
- The Indian Coinage and Paper Currency Act. 1899.
- Punjab Land Alienation Act. 1901.
- In 1901, a commission was appointed under the Chairmanship of Sir Colin Scott Moncrieff to investigate into the whole question of irrigation. The work on Jhelum canal was completed.
- A Famine Commission was appointed under the Chairmanship of Sir Antony MacDonnell.
- Appointment of Police Commission (1902) under Sir Andrew Frazer, to review the Police administration and suggest reforms.
- Appointed a commission under Sir Thomas Raleigh in 1902 to suggest reforms regarding Universities on its recommendation the Indian Universities Act. 1904 was passed.
- Ancient Monument Preservation Act. 1904. Implemented the Co-operative Credit Societies Act. 1904.
- In 1904, Colonel Young's expedition sent against Tibet.
- Partition of Bengal 1905 was declared.
- Imperial Agricultural Research Institute was set-up. Establishment of an agriculture research institute at Pusa in Samastipur, Bihar.
- A new department of commerce and industry was established.
- Resigned from his office because of his controversy with Kitchner (August 1905). The controversy was popularly known as Curzon-Kitchner controversy over defence budget.

### **Lord Minto II (1905-1910)**

- On 16th October 1906 Partition of Bengal came into force, it gave birth to Anti-Partition and Swadeshi Movement.
- In October 1906 George Arundel Committee on political reforms submitted its report.
- In 1905 Lord Minto received the Muslim delegation headed by Aga Khan. Foundation of Muslim League (1906).
- Surat Session and split in Congress (1907).
- On 8th June, 1908, two acts passed (a) Explosives Substance Act passed and (b) Newspaper (incitement of Offences) Act,
- Morley Minto reforms or the Indian Council Act of 1909.
- In 1910, Press Act was passed.

### **Lord Hardinge II (1910-1916)**

- Partition of Bengal annulled, Capital shifted to Delhi. Delhi Darbar on 12th December. 1911.
- On 23rd December, 1911 bomb thrown on Lord Hardinge.
- In 1912. Islington Commission on Civil Services constituted.
- In 1914, Forest Research institute and College opened at Dehradun.
- In 1916, Sadler Committee on Universities appointed.

### **Lord Chelmsford (1916-1921)**

- Gandhi returned from South Africa. Foundation of Sabarmati Ashram (1916) with the help of Ambalal Sarabhai. Satyagraha at Champaran (1917), Ahmedabad (1918) and Khairatpur (1918).
- September. 1916, Home Rule League was formally inaugurated by Besant.
- Lucknow Session and the reunion of Congress (1916).
- Lucknow Pact between the Congress and the League (1916).
- Foundation of first Women's University at Poona (1916) by Mahrishi Karve.

- July 1917 Austen Chamberlain resigns and succeeded by Montague as Secretary of State for India. August declaration by Montague (1917). Montford reforms or the Government of India Act of 1919.
- Sadler Commission on Education in 1917.
- Appointment of SP Sinha as the Lieutenant Governor of Bihar.
- On 10th November, Rowlatt (Sedition) Committee appointed and submitted its report in April 1918.
- Lahore High Court founded in 1919.
- Rowlatt Act (March 1919) and the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre 13th April, 1919.
- Formation of Khilafat Committee and the launching of Khilafat Movement (1919-20).
- In 1920, Aligarh Muslim University was founded.
- In 1921, Shore Committee appointed to prepare a scheme for the complete Indianisation of the officers in the Indian army.

### **Lord Reading (1921-1926)**

- Moplah rebellion in Kerala (1921).
- Cnauri Chaura incident (5th February, 1922) and the withdrawal of NCM by Gandh.
- Repeal of Press Act 1910 and the Rowlatt Act of 1919.
- Resolution passed for the holding of simultaneous examination *for* ICS in England and India from 1923.
- In 1924, Lee Commission on civil services submitted its report.
- On June 1925, Indian Sandhurst (also known as Skeen) Committee was appointed on the employment of Indians in the army.
- On 22nd August, 1925, VJ Patel elected the first Indian President of the Legislative Assembly

### **Lord Irwin (1926-1931)**

- Popularly Known as Christian Viceroy

- In 1926. Indian school of mines opened at Dhanbad.
- Appointment of the Simon Commission (November 1927)
- Royal Commission on Agriculture was constituted in 1927.
- Appointment of the Harcourt Butler Indian States Commission in November 1927, to recommend the measures for the establishment of better relations between the Indian States and the Central Government.
- Convening of the All India States People Conference in December. 1927 by the states people.
- In 1929, imperial Council of Agricultural Research set-up and Hartog Committee was appointed to give its report on the growth of education in British India and potentialities if its further progress.
- 31st October, 1929. Lord Irwin announced that the goal of the British policy was the attainment of dominion status by India This announcement also known Deepavali Declaration.
- 12th March. 1930, Gandhi started his Dandi March.
- First Round Table Conference (RTC) inaugurated by George V and continued upto 19th January. 1931

### **Lord Willington (1931-1936)**

- 1st December, 1931 Ramsay Mc donald (British PM) announces the decision to constitute NWFP into a Governor's province and Sindh was made a separate province
- Participation of Gandhi in the Second Round Table Conference.
- Ramsay McDonald announce Communal Award. Gandhi's fast unto death in the Yerawada Prison.
- Third Round Table Conference took place during his region.
- Foundation of Congress Socialist Party by Acharya Narendra Dev and Jai Prakash Narayan (1934).
- Government of India Act 1935.
- Separation of Burma from India (1935).
- Formation of All India Kisan Sabha in (1936).

### **Lord Linlithgow (1936 1944)**

- Formation of the Congress Ministries In majority of the Provinces (1937).
- October 1937 Gandhi formulated Wardha Educational Scheme.
- Resignation of the Congress Ministries after the outbreak of World War II (1939). Relation of the Congress Ministries as the Deliverance Day.
- August offer by Viceroy (1940). Congress rejected August offer.
- 7th August 1942 Congress Session started in Bombay passing of the Quit India Resolution (8th August. 1942) and the launching of Quit India Movement started.

### **Lord Wavell (1944-1947)**

- 25th June 1945 Simla Conference to discuss Wavell plan begins.
- End of the World War II (1945).
- 28th January. 1946 Wavell announces Government's Intention to set-up an Executive Council of political leaders
- 18th February 1946 Mutiny of the Indian naval ratings in Bombay. INA trials begins (1946)
- 15th March. 1946 Attlee announces the Cabinet Mission; Cabinet Mission, under Pethick Lawrence, Stafford Chops and AV Alexander, arrives in Delhi on 24th March. 1946.
- 6th August. 1946 Wavell invites Nehru to form an Interim Government.
- 16th August 1946 Muslim League begins the 'Direct Action Day'.
- Formation of interim government by the Congress (September 1946). League joined in October 1946.
- 20th February. 1947 Attlee announces end of British rule in India.

### **Lord Mountbatten (1947 1948)**

- Sworn in as Viceroy on 24th March, 1947.
- 2nd June, 1947 Mountbatten plan was announced.
- 3rd June, 1947 the plan to partition India announced

- 4th June, 1947 Mountbatten announces transfer of power on 15th August
- 4th July, 1947 India Independence Bill was introduced in the House of Commons.
- 6th July, referendum took place in NWFP. Boycotted by Abdul Ghaffar Khan
- On 15th August, 1947 Indian Independence.
- Two Boundary Commissions were set-up for Bengal and Punjab under Cyril Radcliffe.

**C Rajagopalachari (1948-1950)**

- The last Governor-General of free India
- The only Indian Governor-General, remained in office till January 1950.