

## Indian Polity

### Historical Background of Indian Constitution

Indian polity is one of the important subject for the aspirants to go through the Competitive examinations.

This is the first of Indian Polity and let us see how the Constitution was created and the evolution of the Indian constitutional Assembly.

#### INDIA BEFORE INDEPENDENCE 1947

- The British came to India in the year 1600 as traders, in the form of East India Company, which had the exclusive right of trading in India under the charter granted by Queen Elizabeth I.
- East India Company is also known as East India Trading company or English East India Company.
- The East India Company had exclusive rights to trade in India.
- In 1765, the Company obtained the "Diwani" (Rights over revenue and civil justice).
- After the Sepoy mutiny in 1857, British crown assumed the direct responsibility for the Governance of India from 1858.
- This Direct rule was continued till 15th of August.

#### The Company Rule (1773-1853)

#### REGULATING ACT OF 1773

Three Important features are:

- a. This was the first step taken by British Government to control and regulate the affairs of the Company.
- b. For the first time, the political and administration function of the Company was recognized.
- c. It laid down the function of the central administration in India.

#### **Other Important features of Regulating Act of 1773 :**

- The **Governor of Bengal** was designated as the **Governor- General of Bengal** and executive council consisting of **4 members** was created to assist the **Governor - General**.
- This Act made the Governor of Bombay and Governor of Madras to be subordinate to the **Governor- General of Bengal**.
- In **1774**, **Supreme court** was established with a chief justice and 3 other judges.
- In **1773** Act the Court of Directors was created to report on its Revenue, civil and military to make British Control strong.

#### **PITT's India Act of 1784 :**

- This was created to rectify the mistakes of the regulating act of 1773.
- Thus it distinguished the commercial and administration of the East India Company.
- The Board of control was established to manage over political affairs.
- The **court of Directors** were to look after the revenue department (commercial affairs).
- The Pitt's India Act established the **Dual (double) Government**.
- The East India company territory was called British possessions in India.

**CHARTER ACT OF 1833**

- This act is said to be the **final step** towards **centralization** of the company power in India.
- The **Governor-General of Bengal** was made as **Governor-General of India**.
- Lord William Bentinck was the First Governor General of India.
- The laws made before 1833 was called as **regulations** whereas, after the charter of 1833 were called as **Acts**.
- For the first time the Governor-general Government was known as the Government of India. The council was also called as **Indian Council**.
- Attempted to introduce open competition for selection of civil servants.
- Officially stated that Indians should not be debarred from holding any place, office and employment under the Company.

**CHARTER ACT OF 1853**

- This act is said to be the last Act of the series of Acts passed by the British from **1793 to 1853**.
- A **legislative Council** was created as of the British Government procedure.
- The legislative council functioned as a Mini Parliament.
- In **1854**, **Macaulay Committee** was appointed on Indian Civil services. The competitive Exams were open to the Indians.
- Legislature Council was appointed with **6 new members** called legislature Councilors to the council.