HISTORY



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VICEROYS

Lord Dufferin (1884 - 1888)

Lord Canning (1856 - 1862) First Viceroy (last Governor General)

Lord Elgin (1862 - 1863)

Lord Lawrence (1864 - 1869)

Lord Mayo (1869 - 1872)

Lord Northbrook (1872 – 1876)

Lord Lytton (1876 – 1880)

Lord Ripon (1880 - 1884) 'Ripon the good'

Lord Lansdowne (1888 - 1894)

Lord Elgin II (1894 - 1899)

Lord Curzon (1899 - 1905)

Lord Minto (1905 - 1910)

Lord Hardinge (1910 - 1916)

Lord Chelmsford (1916 - 1921)

Lord Reading (1921 - 1926)

Lord Irwin (1926 - 1931)

Lord Willington (1931 - 1936)

Lord Linlithgow (1936 - 1944)

Lord Wavell (1944 - 1947)

Lord Mountbatten (Mar.1947 – Aug.1947) - Last Viceroy of British India and first Governor General of Free India

VICEROYS

Notes

Lord Canning (1856 – 1862) First Viceroy (last Governor General)

- * Mutiny took place in his time.
- * On Nov, 1858, the rule passed on to the crown.
- * Withdrew Doctrine of Lapse.
- * The Universities of Calcutta, Bombay and Madras were established in 1857.
- * Indian Councils Act was passed in 1861.

Lord Elgin (1862 – 1863)

Lord Lawrence (1864 - 1869)

- * Telegraphic communication opened with Europe.
- * High Courts were established at Calcutta, Bombay and Madras in 1865.
- * Expanded canal works and railways.
- * Created Indian Forest department.

Lord Mayo (1869 - 1872)

- * Started Financial Decentralization process in India.
- * Established Rajkot College at Kathiarwar and Mayo College at Ajmer for Indian princes.
- * Census was held in 1871 for first time in Indian history.
- * Organised Statistical Survey of India.
- * Was the only Viceroy to be murdered in office by a Pathan convict in the Andamans in 1872.

Lord Northbrook (1872 - 1876)

Lord Lytton (1876 – 1880)

- Experienced diplomat and a man of striking ability and brilliance.
- * Organised the Grand 'Delhi Durbar' in 1877 to decorate Queen Victoria with the title of 'Kaiser I– Hind'.

Famine Policy

- * Famine of 1876-78, failure of 2 monsoons. 5 million died + Outbreak of Cholera and fever.
- * Affected areas- Madras, Mysore, Hyderabad, Bombay, Central India and Punjab.



- **Notes**
- * Lytton's govt failed in tackling the situation, relief measures inadequate.
- * 1st Famine commission (1878-80) under Sir Richard Strachey.(Famine dealt separately)
- * Provision of funds for famine relief and construction work.
- * Famine Code of 1883.

Vernacular Press Act 1878

- * Empowered a Magistrate to secure an undertaking from the editor, publisher and printer of a Vernacular Newspaper that nothing would be published against English Government.
- * Equipment would be seized if offence was committed.
- Crushed freedom of Indian press; created adverse public opinion against British Government

Arms Act 1878

* Prevented Indians to keep arms without appropriate license, violation would be a criminal offence. Europeans and Anglo Indians were exempted from.

Introduced uniform Salt tax.

Abolished many Import duties and supported Free Trade Policy this affected Indian economic interest.

System of decentralization of finance that began in Lord Mayo's period, Provincial government empowered with control in land-revenue, excise, stamps, law & justice.

1878 – Statutory Civil Service was established (exclusively for Indians but abolished later).

Second Afghan War (1878 -80)

Lord Ripon (1880 - 1884) 'Ripon the good'

- * Staunch liberal democrat with faith in Self Government.
- * Instructed by Home govt to reverse. Afghan policy of Lytton.

Local Self Government (1882)

- Helped the growth of local bodies like the Municipal committee in towns and Local broads in Taluks and Villages.
- * Power of Municipalities Increased.
- Chairmen- Non Officials.
- Care of Local Amenities, Sanitation, Drainage &water supply & Primary education.
- District and Taluk boards created.
- * Members- Majority should be non-officials, who are elected.



- * Local bodies- Executive powers with financial resources of their own.
- * He diffused the administration and brought the government closer to the people

Educational Reforms

- * Champion of Education for Indians
- * Wanted to review working of Educational system based on Wood's dispatch recommendation
- * Appointed a Commission in 1882 under chairmanship of Sir William Hunter.

Hunter Commission

- Recommended for expansion and improvement of the elementary education of the masses.
- * Suggested 2 channels for secondary education.
- Literary education leading up to Entrance Exam of University.
- * Vocational career education.
- * Noted the poor status of women education
- Encouraged local bodies in villages and town to manage elementary education
- Resulted in extraordinary rise in no. of educational institutions in India

First Factors Act (1881)

- * To improve the service condition of factory workers
- * Banned appointment of children below 7 years
- * Reduced working hours of children
- Made it compulsory for all dangerous machines to be properly fenced to ensure workers security.

Ilbert Bill Agitations (1884)

- * Wanted to remove 2 kinds of law prevalent in India
- According to system of law, European could be tried only by a European Judges.
- * Disqualification was unjust, needless, dishonour upon Indian born members of judiciary
- * C.P. Ilbert (law member) introduction bill in 1883 to abolish discrimination in judiciary
- * Europeans opposed this bill strongly; Press also joined this issue in England
- Ripon had to amend the bill to satisfy the English

Made peace with the Afghanistan without affecting British prestige

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Notes

Responsible for rendition of Mysore to its Hindu ruler
Repealed vernacular press at and earned popularity among Indians
Ripon resigned after Ilbert bill agitation and left for England

1st census Act 1881

Lord Dufferin (1884 - 1888)

Indian National Congress was formed during his tenure.

Lord Lansdowne (1888 - 1894)

* Categorization of Civil Services into Imperial, Provincial and Subordinate.

Indian Council Act of 1892 was passed.

* Appointment of Durand Commission to define line between India and Afghanistan.

Second Factory Act (1891)

* Weekly holiday and stipulated working hours for women and children, failed to address work hours for men.

Lord Elgin II (1894 - 1899)

 Great famine of 1896 – 1897. Lyall Commission was appointed.

Lord Curzon (1899 - 1905)

- On line of rulers of British India like Lord Wellesely and Lord Dalhousie
- * Through Imperialist.
- To make Administration efficient overhauled entire Administrative Machinery.
- * All his reform measures were preceded by a expert commission and his recommendations.
- * Created the North Western Frontier Province (NWFP) due to tribal uprising in 1897 98.
- Passed the Indian Coinage and Paper Currency Act (1899) and put India on gold standard.
 Extended Indian Railways greatly.

Educational Reforms

- * Took a serious view on deterioration of Education and discipline in Educational institutions.
- * According to him Universities have become factories of producing political revolutionaries



Notes

* Instituted Universities Commission (1902) -> Raleigh commission and Passed the Indian Universities Act (1904) in which official control over the Universities was increased. Governor became the chancellor of university.

Police and Military reforms

- Believed in efficiency & discipline
- Instituted Police Commission in 1902 under chairmanship of Sir Andrew Frazer
- * Set up training schools for both officers and constables
- * Introduced provincial Police Service
- * Army was remodelled by Lord Kitchener (Commander-in-Chief during Curzon)

Calcutta Corporation act (1899)

* Reduced elected members and increased Official members strength. More representations to English.

Archaeological Preservation

- * No other viceroy took such interest in archaeological objects in India.
- * Ancient monuments act 1904 passed -> Archaeological Survey of India established, made it obligatory on part of government and local authorities to preserve monuments. And their destruction on offence.

Partition of Bengal

- Effected on 4 July 1905 divided Bengal into 2 provinces -Eastern Bengal and Assam (HQ - Dacca)
- * Curzon justified his action on administrative line. But in reality, it was to divide Hindus(Bengal) and Muslims(Assam)
- * Led to Anti Partition agitation(Bande mataram movement) and intensified the National movement

Sedition act and Official Secrets Act

* Reduced freedom of People

Lord Minto (1905 – 1910)

- * There was great political unrest in India. Various acts were passed to curb the revolutionary activities. Extremists like Lala Laipat Rai and Ajit Singh (in May, 1907) and Bal Gangadhar Tilak (in July, 1908) were sent to Mandalay jail in Burma.
- * The Indian Council Act of 1909 or the Morley Minto Reforms was passed.



Lord Hardinge (1910 - 1916)

- Held a durbar in December 1911 to celebrate the coronation of King George V.
- * Partition of Bengal was cancelled (1911), capital shifted from Calcutta to Delhi (1911).
- * Bomb was thrown at him; escaped unhurt (Dec 23, 1912).
- * Gandhi arrived in India from South Africa (1915).
- * Annie Besant announced Home Rule Movement.

Lord Chelmsford (1916 - 1921)

- * August Declaration of 1917-> Indian government control would be gradually transferred to Indian people.
- * Government of India Act 1919 (Montague Chelmsford Reforms) passed.
- * Rowlatt Act 1919, Jallianwala Bagh Massacre (April 13, 1919).
- * Non Cooperation Movement.
- * Sir S.P.Sinha(Indian) was appointed as Governor of Bengal.
- * Women's university at Poona was founded (1916).
- Saddler Commission appointed in 1917 for new educational policy.

Lord Reading (1921 - 1926)

- * Rowlatt act and Press act of 1910 were repealed.
- * Non-cooperation movement suppressed.
- * Prince of Wales visited India Nov.1921 and faced Black flag and Hartal.
- * Moplah Rebellion (1921) in Kerala.
- * Swaraj Party founded.
- * Vishwabharati University started functioning (1922).
- * Communist party was founded (1921) by M.N.Roy.
- * Kakory Train Robbery on Aug 9, 1925.
- * Communal riots of 1923 in areas of Multan, Amritsar, Delhi, etc. Swami Shraddhanand, great nationalist, Arya Samajists leader, was murdered in communal violence.

Lord Irwin (1926 - 1931)

- * Simon Commission visited India (1928).
- * Congress passed Indian Resolution in 1929.
- * Dandi March (Mar 12, 1930).





Notes

- * Civil Disobedience Movement (1930).
- * First Round Table Conference held in England in 1930.
- * Gandhi Irwin Pact (Mar 5, 1931) was signed and Civil Disobedience Movement was withdrawn.
- Martydom of Jatin Das after 64 days hunger strike in Jail (1929).

Lord Willington (1931 - 1936)

- * Second Round Table conference in London in 1931.
- On his return Gandhi was again arrested and Civil Disobedience Movement was resumed in Jan 1932.
- * Communal Awards (Aug 16, 1932) assigned seats to different religious communities. Gandhi fast in protest while in Poona jail. Poona Pact (between Gandhi and Ambedkar) was signed.
- * Third Round Table conference in 1932.
- * Government of India Act (1935) passed.

Lord Linlithgow (1936 - 1944)

- * GOI Act enforced in the provinces. Congress ministries in 8 of 11 provinces in power for about 2 years till Oct 1939, resigned in protest for not being consulted while joining World War II. Muslim League observed the days as 'Deliverance Say' (22 December)
- * Outbreak of World War II in 1939.
- * Churchill became British PM in May, 1940 and declared Atlantic Charter (issued jointly by UK and US, stating to give sovereign rights to those who have been forcibly deprived of them) does not apply to India.
- * Cripps Mission in 1942.
- Quit India Movement (August 8, 1942).

Lord Wavell (1944 - 1947)

- Simla Conference on June 25, 1945 with INC and Muslim League; failed.
- * Cabinet Mission Plan (May 16, 1946).
- * Elections to constituent assembly were held and an Interim Govt. was appointed under Jawahar lal Nehru.
- * First meeting of constituent assembly on December 9, 1946.



Lord Mountbatten (Mar.1947 – Aug.1947) - Last Viceroy of British India and first Governor General of Free India

- * Partition of India decided by June 3 Plan.
- * Indian Independence Act passed by the British parliament on July 4, 1947, India became independent on August 15, 1947.
- * Retired in June 1948 and was succeeded by C.Rajagopalachari (the first and last Indian Governor General of free India).



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