Chapter

2 Changes and Impact: Indian Polity (Constitutional Development-Part 1, 1757–1858)

So far, we have learnt how and why the British East India Company came to India, essentially as a trading company. Additionally, we learnt that driven by economic motives, how it gradually acquired political power and revenue-yielding territories and became an empire in itself. The British government soon realised that the Company could no longer be allowed to remain outside the ambit of the state. Accordingly, the British Parliament subjected the Company to control through various constitutional laws and acts.

REGULATING ACT 1773

Factors Leading to the Act

Administrative Chaos in Bengal

After the East India Company came to power in Bengal, the Company showed unwillingness to recognise itself as the new ruler, hence refusing to take up any responsibility towards the subject population. How could the Company take responsibility for the welfare of a people when its main interest lay in looting and plundering them? It was with this interest in mind that Clive established a dual government (1765–72) in theory, with the Company as Diwan and the Nawab as Nazim. The Deputy Subahdar (appointed by the Company) was to function in the interest of the Company, while maintaining a fiction of Mughal sovereignty. A fatal divorce of power from responsibility was inherent in this dual system. It led to complete breakdown of administration and law and order in Bengal. The Company's demand for high land revenues led to gross oppression of the peasantry. The abuses of private trade reached a greater height than ever before. Clive himself returned to England at the age of 34, with wealth and property in India yielding 40,000 pounds a year!

Even in England, what attracted the chief attention was the wealth the Company was expected to derive from the revenues of Bengal. Some in the government suggested even then that the Crown should take over the Company. However, with King George III as its patron and powerful friends in the Parliament, the Company fought back. In the absence of wide support, the first intervention of the British Parliament in the Company's affairs in 1767 merely took the form of a demand for a share of Bengal's plunder to the tune of 400,000 pound per annum.

As recorded in **Siyar-ul-Mutakherin**, a contemporary Muslim text, 'the new rulers paid no attention to the concerns of the people and suffered them to be mercilessly oppressed and tormented by officers of their own appointing'.

Spread of Socio-political Corruption in Britain

The Company's employees began using their newly amassed wealth to spread social and political corruption in Britain; the Company even bought seats in the House of Commons for its agents! Many thinkers and statesmen in Britain now began to fear that the Company may grab dangerous supremacy in the British government.

Jealousy among Englishmen in Britain

The fabulous wealth brought home by the Company's officials began to give rise to jealousy in Britain. The newly rising 'free enterprisers' also aspired for a share in the profits from Indian trade. Why should the East India Company alone enjoy all the profits? They wished to end the monopoly of the EIC and with this aim in mind they heartily criticised the administration of the Company in Bengal. The company's officials began to be looked down upon in England and were given the derisive title of 'Nabobs'; it symbolised the corrupt form of Nawab and was used for exploiters of India.

Financial Crisis in the East India Company

By 1770, the continuous wars and expansionist policy of the Company had pushed it on the brinks of bankruptcy. By now the Company was in debt to the tune of 6 million pound and it felt incapable of paying even the salaries of its employees. What an irony it was! Even as the Company's servants amassed huge wealth, the company itself faced bankruptcy! Subsequently, in 1772 the Company approached Lord North and requested him for a loan. Lord North, too, grasped this opportunity and moved the British Parliament for appointment of a select committee to look into the affairs of the Company and submit a report.

Based on the committee's report, Lord North (Prime Minister of Great Britain from 1770–1782) presented his famous Bill on 18 May 1773, which later came to be known as the Regulating Act. Naturally, the bill was not passed unopposed and faced fierce opposition from the Company and its supporters. Once passed, the Regulating Act became the first significant step towards Parliamentary regulation of Indian administration. (By a separate act, the Company was granted a loan of 1,400,000 pounds at 4% interest).

Lord North, Prime Minister of Great Britain from 1770-1782.

Main Provisions of the Regulating Act

The main aim of Regulating Act was to regulate the activities of the Company in both India as well as England and remove the deficiencies.

Provisions related to Company's government in Britain:

- The Company's administration was looked after by two institutions in England—Court of Proprietors (CoP) and Court of Directors (CoD). The CoD was the Company's executive in England and comprised of 24 Directors who were elected by a body of share-holders knows as the CoP. Any shareholder holding shares worth 500 pounds was entitled to vote in the CoP, while one holding shares worth 100 pounds was eligible to be elected to the CoD. The post of Director was highly sought as it gave ample opportunity for nepotism- Directors could easily find jobs for their relations in India. Many servants of the company aimed to return home and get into the CoD using their ill-gotten wealth from India.

- The Regulating Act addressed this issue by raising the qualification for both CoP (raised to 1000pounds) and CoD (raised to 2000 pounds).
- The Act also provided for direct Parliamentary control over the CoD for the first time. Under the Act, the Directors were required to 'lay before the Treasury all correspondence from India dealing with the revenues and before a Secretary of State everything dealing with civil and military administration'.

Provisions related to Company's government in India:

- The most serious concern in Bengal administration was the Company's inability to check corruption by its servants.
    - The Act addressed this by providing a new executive for the Bengal Presidency. It would comprise of a Governor-General (GG) and four Councillors (known as Governor-General-in-Council) and vested in them the civil and military powers of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa. Through this, the Parliament aimed to control the Governor, who was now required to function in Council, the decision of the Council was binding upon him.
    - The Council comprised of men specially sent from England and who were not servants of the Company.
    - The Council was to take all decisions by majority, though the GG had the casting vote in case of equality of votes. The Council was given a term of 5 years. 3 members formed a quorum.
    - The First Governor-General (Warren Hastings) and Councillors (Philip Francis, Clavering, Monson and Barwell) were named in the Act. Of them, only Barwell was a supporter of Hastings. Francis was a staunch opponent.
- The Company's servants also indulged in corruption because of their low salaries.
    - The Act provided for payment of liberal salaries and prohibited immoral activities such as-private trade, receiving or giving bribes, money lending, etc.
- Another deficiency in Indian administration was that the Bengal, Madras and Bombay Presidencies were separate and independent of each other. Each Presidency had direct relations with the Court of Directors in England. There was no supreme authority in India that could bring about synergy among them. Regulating Act tried to do away with this deficiency and tried to establish an empowered central authority.
    - Accordingly, Bengal Presidency was made supreme with exclusive powers to deal with matters of war and peace, and other Presidencies were made subordinate to it.
    - Governor of Bengal was now called the Governor-General of all British territories in India.

    - The Governors of Madras and Bombay were required to send regularly, to the Governor-General, information connected with government, revenues, etc. In this way, the Act laid the foundation for central administration in India.
    - The Governor-General in turn was kept under direct control of the Court of Directors.
- Another defect in the system was that there was no independent judicial body to keep check over the executive.
    - The Act addressed this by providing for a Supreme Court of Justice at Calcutta (established in 1774). Its jurisdiction included civil, criminal, admiralty and ecclesiastical matters.
    - It comprised of a Chief Justice and three puisne Judges. Sir Elijah Imphey was appointed as the Chief Justice.
    - All the public servants of the Company were made amenable to its jurisdiction. All British subjects, both European and India, could seek redressal in the Supreme Court against oppression.
    - Appeal against the Court's decision could be made to the King in Council in England.

Weaknesses of the Regulating Act

Many weaknesses or defects of this Act were exposed when it was put to working:

- The Act was based on the principle of checks and balances and was intentionally vague in many of its provisions. It had 'neither given the state a definite control over the Company, nor the Directors a definite control over their servants, nor the Governor-general a definite control over his council, nor the Calcutta Presidency a definite control over Madras and Bombay'. When put to practice, it broke down under the weight of its own defects-
- The working of the Governor-General in Council proved most inefficient. The Governor-General faced continuous opposition of his Councillors; he had no power to override them, though in case of equal division, he had the casting vote. Such obstructionism made the Council dysfunctional.
- The Act was especially vague regarding the extent to which the Bengal Presidency was to exercise control over other presidencies. As a result, the Maratha and the Mysore wars were initiated by the Bombay and the Madras Presidencies, even as Hastings was opposed to both.
- The Act also did not define the relationship between the Supreme Court and the Company courts as well as the various country courts in Bengal over which the GG-in-Council had appellate powers. This naturally resulted in conflict between the Court and the GG-in-Council and seriously hampered the law-making process, proving to be the worst defect of the Act.
- Further, the Supreme Court administering English law also claimed jurisdiction over the entire native population (and not just the British subjects) and proved quite unpopular with them.

Significance of the Regulating Act

In its working, the Regulating Act was a disaster. Yet, it was significant in many ways. It was the first main step towards Parliamentary control over Company's administration in India. It fixed the administrative centre at Calcutta. It was also a praiseworthy effort to secure a corruption-free administration. Overall, it was a well-meant attempt to introduce a better system of governance but only ended up 'adding to Hastings' difficulties instead of strengthening his hands'.

Pitt's India Act 1784

On assumption of office of the Prime Minister, William Pitt (in office, 1783-1801) introduced an India Bill which later came to be known as Pitt's India Act. The aim of Pitt's India Act was to remove the weaknesses of the Regulating Act and bring Company's administration in India under the supreme control of British Parliament.

William Pitt (He became the youngest British Prime Minister in 1783

As a measure of caution, Pitt had taken care not to antagonise the Court of Directors and they were allowed to manage the commercial affairs of the Company as they liked. They retained their patronage, i.e. the power of appointment and dismissal of Company's servants. The right of the Company on its territorial possessions was also not touched. (It may be noted that a previous bill on similar lines was introduced by Fox-North coalition but the Bill was defeated and the Ministry had to resign. This was the first and the last time a British Ministry was wrecked on an Indian issue).

Main Provisions

- This Act allowed the Court of Directors to manage the commercial affairs of the Company. But for political affairs, the Act appointed a Board of six Commissioners, known as the Board of Control. The Board included the Chancellor of the Exchequer, a Secretary of State and 4 Privy Councillors. They were all appointed by the King. In this way, a form of Double Government was introduced. The aim was to allow the Company to rule, and the Board to control. The power of the Board was veiled; the Board's approval was necessary for all dispatches that were not purely commercial. The Act thus placed the civil and military government of the Company in due subordination to the Government in England. This continued until 1858. (The President of the board of Control was ultimately responsible for the government of British India until he was succeeded in 1858 by the Secretary of State for India).
- Changes with respect to Company's governance in India were few.
  - The number of members in the Governor-General's Council was reduced to 3, so that even if one member of the Council supported the GG, he could have his way.

  - The power of GG-in-Council over subordinate presidencies was extended to include all matters of war, diplomatic relations and revenue.
  - The GG and Council were made subordinate to British Government. They were forbidden to declare war without prior sanction of the directors.
  - The Act also introduced the principle of non-intervention in the affairs of Indian Princely states to end further wars and conquests. (This provision was honoured more in breach than in observance in the subsequent years).

Significance of the Act

Pitt's India Act was an effective instrument of control and worked with slight alterations till 1858. The Act gave the British government supreme control over the Company's affairs and its administration in India. With this Act, began a new phase in the history of British conquest of India; while the East India Company became an instrument of British imperialism, India was to serve as a colony meeting the interests of all sections of ruling classes in Britain.

Act of 1786

In 1786, Pitt moved this Bill in order to make Cornwallis accept the Governor-Generalship of India. Cornwallis wanted to assume the powers of both-the GG and the Commander-in-Chief (CnC). This Act conceded his demand and the office of the GG and the CnC were united in the same person. The GG was further empowered and allowed to override the majority of his Council in matters of war and peace on his own responsibility (this power was extended to all future Governor-Generals and Governors by the Act of 1793).

Charter Act of 1793

- It extended the Company's exclusive privileges of trade for a further period of 20 years.
- A code was framed for all regulations that could be enacted in Bengal.
- The Act also required that all laws relating to rights of persons and property be printed with translation in Indian languages so that people can know about their rights and immunities. In this way, this Act laid the foundation of governance based on written laws in British India in place of personal rule of past rulers.
- All members of the Home government were in future to be paid salaries not out of the State Exchequer but out of the Indian revenues.

Charter Act of 1813

Factors Leading to the Act

Before the passage of this Act, there took place elaborate discussion on the continuation of the commercial privileges enjoyed by the Company. By 1813, the Company's territories in India had greatly expanded and it was considered nearly impossible for the Company to function both as a commercial as well as a political entity. Moreover, Englishmen had begun to demand a share for themselves in the Indian trade in view of the laissez faire theories as well as the imposition of the continental system of Napoleon which had closed the European ports for British trade. In the above context, the demand for ending the Company's trade monopoly had grown much louder.

Main Provisions

- Thus, the Charter Act of 1813 renewed the Company's Charter for next 20 years but ended the Company's monopoly of trade with India. It, however, retained its monopoly in tea trade and trade with China. In this way, Indian trade was thrown open to all British merchants.
- The Act explicitly declared the sovereignty of the Crown over the territories acquired by the Company. The constitutional position of the British territories in India was thus explicitly defined for the first time.
- It allowed missionaries to go to India and also allowed them to settle there under a license. This marked the beginning of ecclesiastical settlement in India.
- It provided for a yearly fund of ₹1 lakh for promotion of literature and sciences among Indian subjects (As a declaration of the principle of state responsibility for education, this provision may be taken as one of the most significant British pronouncements with respect to India).

Charter Act of 1833

Factors Leading to the Act

The last 20 years witnessed great changes in England. Industrial Revolution had turned Britain into a manufacturer of cotton textiles and other factory-made goods. The Englishmen were looking for new export markets. Laissez faire had become the basic philosophy of the new industrial policy in Britain and there was popular desire for trade free from monopolies and restrictions.

In 1830, the Whigs (later known as the Liberal Party) came into power. The first Parliamentary Reform Act, also known as the great Reform Act of 1832 had been passed (it was the Representation of People Act of 1832 that introduced widespread changes in the electoral system of England and Wales) and had brought in a reformed House of Commons where liberalism was in the ascendency. Two liberals in fact, Macaulay and James Mill, had a visible impact on the Charter of 1833. While Macaulay was Secretary to the Board of Control, Mill the renowned historian worked as Examiner of India Correspondence at India House. Slavery had been abolished all over Britain (1833) and dignity of mankind was being recognised (the Factory Act 1833). It was in this atmosphere of reform that the Charter Act of 1833 was passed.

The Act of 1833 provided for comprehensive provisions for regulating the affairs of the East India Company. Both Wellesley and Hastings had followed the policy of territorial expansion. Leaving the administration of such a vast empire in the hands of a joint stock company, without any association with the native population was no longer felt to be desirable.

Main Provisions

- Accordingly, the last traces of company's exclusive trade privileges were ended and the Company was asked to wind up its commercial business as soon as possible. Thus, the union of the trader and sovereign was finally resolved. The President of the Board of control became the Minister of Indian Affairs. The Act declared the complete power of the British Parliament over the GG-in-Council.
- All restrictions to immigration of Europeans into India and acquisition of land and property by them were removed. Hence, the act lifted the legal barrier on the colonisation of India by Europeans. This also necessitated the reform of Indian law.
- Accordingly, an Indian Law Commission was appointed for the codification of existing laws. The Indian Penal Code and the Codes of Civil and Criminal Procedure were enacted by its efforts.
- The Act enlarged the Executive Council of the GG by addition of the fourth member. A law member (a British barrister), was added to the GG's Council, and his work was fully legislative. He had no vote in the Council and he could attend meetings only on invitation. Macaulay became the first Law Member and the President of the Law Commission.
- A notable provision of the Act was that, under section 87, it provided for the education and employment of Indians in public services. The Act stated-'fitness is henceforth to be the criteria of eligibility. No native shall by reason only of his religion, place of birth, descent or colour be disabled from holding any employment under the Company.' Provision was made for the training of civil servants at the Company's College at Haileybury (in actual practice, very little was done to give effect to this provision).
- Another commendable provision was that the Act also directed the GG to work towards abolition of slavery in India. (This policy did reflect the liberal humanitarian attitude of the British Parliament and slavery was later abolished in India by Act V of 1843).
- The Act further centralised the Indian administration and the GG of Bengal was made the GG of India. The powers of the GG-in-Council were further extended and Bombay, Madras and all other territories were placed under the complete control of GG-in-Council.
- The Act also brought about legislative centralisation. The GG-in-Council was given the powers to legislate for the whole of British territories in India while the legislative powers of other presidencies were simultaneously ended. These laws were applicable to all persons British or Indian, including the servants of the Company.
- The Act created the new Presidency of Agra.

Significance of the Act of 1833

- This Act marked the culmination of the centralisation process which first began with the Regulating Act. Now the GG-in-Council held complete authority over the entire Indian administration.
- Provision under section 87 was noteworthy for ending the ill-conceived policy introduced by Cornwallis of Europeanisation of administration in India. It was a well-meant measure intending to remove any governing caste in British India as well as distinctions of race or religion for occupying any place or office under the Company.
- With the prospect of declining income from trade, the Company's financial base began to shift from trade and commerce to land revenue, from business of trade to business of government. This naturally pushed the Company to go ahead with continuous territorial expansion.

Charter Act of 1853

- It did not renew the Company's Charter for any specified period. Instead, it said that Indian territories would remain 'in trust for the Crown, until Parliament should otherwise direct.' Thus, it was clear that the Crown could take over the Company's administration any time now. Now the Company disappeared as a commercial agency, remaining as a political agent for the Crown.
- The separation of executive and legislative functions was carried a step further and additional members of the Council were appointed for legislative work. The Law Member was made a full member of the GG's Executive Council and this Council while sitting in its legislative capacity was enlarged by the addition of six members namely—the Chief Justice and a puisne judge of the Calcutta Supreme Court and four representatives, one each from Bengal, Madras, Bombay and the North-Western Provinces. The provincial representatives were to be civil servants of the Company with not less than a standing of 10 years.
- In this way, the central legislature was formed, though no Indian element was associated with the Legislative Council. A clear distinction was made between Legislative Councillors and Executive Councillors; legislation was for the first time treated as a special function of the government. The business of the Council was to be conducted on the lines of the British Parliament. Questions could be asked, policy of the Executive Council could be discussed, government could be criticised for its lapses, Bills were referred to Select Committees, and legislative business was conducted in public. The Executive Council retained power to veto a bill of the Legislative Council.
- The number of Directors was reduced from 24 to 18 of which 6 were to be appointed by the Crown.

- The Court of Directors was divested of its patronage and power of appointments as the services were thrown open to competitive examinations, in which no discrimination of any kind was to be made. A Committee headed by Macaulay was appointed in 1854 to enforce this scheme.
- The Court of Directors was empowered to create new Presidency or alter the boundaries of the existing ones to accommodate new territories. Using this power, a separate Lieutenant Governorship was created for Punjab in 1859.

Significance of the Act

Contrary to the framers of the Act (which included Sir Charles Wood, President of the Board of Control), the newly formed Legislative Council displayed a spirit of independence from its very inception and soon developed into an Anglo-Indian House of Commons, questioning every act of the Executive. This forced Charles Wood to later clarify, 'I do not look upon the Legislative Council as some of the young Indians do as the nucleus and beginning of constitutional parliament in India.' Whatever be the clarification, it was aptly clear that the authors of the Act had failed to limit the consequences of the Act to its intentions and the Legislative Council of 1853 proved to be the most significant constitutional provision of the 19th century.

Government of India Act 1858

Factors Leading to the Act

The Act of 1853 had clearly left the door open for the Crown to step in any time and take over the Company's India possessions. The Revolt of 1857 gave a death blow to the existing system of governance, gave an immediate push to the demand for the transfer of power form the Company to the Crown. The Bill for the transfer of control of Government of India from the East India Company to the Crown was first introduced by Lord Palmerston, the then Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. However, Palmerston had to resign on another issue even before the Bill could be passed. Later, Edward Henry Stanley (who became the first Secretary of State for India) introduced another bill originally titled as 'An Act for the Better Government of India', and it was passed on 2 August 1858.

Main Provisions

- The Act ended the Company's rule in India and power was transferred from the Company to the Crown.
- The Court of Directors and the Board of Control were abolished and their powers transferred to the Principal Secretary of State for India and India Council (a 15-member Council to aid and advice the Secretary of State. Of the 15 members, 8 were to be appointed by the Crown and 7 by the Court of Directors). They were to govern India in the name of the Crown. The Secretary of State was a member of the British Cabinet and

as such responsible to the Parliament. He was required to submit a periodic report on the moral and material progress of India.

- The Governor-General received the title of Viceroy, as he was now the direct representative of the Crown.
- The Act divided the patronage between the Crown, the Secretary of State in Council and the authorities in India.
- The Act also declared the Secretary of State for India as a corporate body who could sue and be sued in England and in India.

Significance of the Act

The Act ushered in a new era in Indian history, bringing an end to the Company's rule in India. At the same time, the transfer of power was more 'formal' than 'substantial'. It was intended that the change of name will immediately condone the past and give a fresh starting point to the empire. In reality, the Act did not change anything in India, and only brought about some cosmetic changes in England. Starting from the Regulating Act of 1773, the British Parliament had progressively curtailed the powers of the Court of Directors through a series of statutes and, by 1858, main rules governing India were already those passed by the British Parliament. The Company, in other words, had been a dead political entity long before 1858; only its skin remained, which too was done away with in 1858.

A few months later, the Act was followed by Queen Victoria's proclamation. The royal proclamation was announced on 1 November 1858 at a grand Darbar held at Allahabad. The document is also known as the 'Magna Carta of the people of India' and it declared the future policy of the British rule in India.

The Queens' Proclamation of 1858 said among other things:

1. We have taken upon ourselves the said government.
2. We appoint Viscount Canning, to be our first Viceroy and Governor-General in India...to act on our behalf subject to... orders received through one of our Principal Secretaries of State.
3. We announce to the native Princes of India that all treaties made with them by the Company will be accepted.
4. We desire no extension of our territorial possessions.
5. We shall respect the rights, dignity and honour of native Princes as our own.
6. We disclaim alike the desire to impose our convictions (religious) on any of our subjects.
7. It is our further will that our subjects, of whatever race or creed, be freely and impartially admitted to office in our service.
8. We will that generally, in framing the law, due regard be paid to the ancient rights and customs of India.
9. It is our earnest desire to stimulate the peaceful industry of India, to promote works of public utility, and to administer the government for the benefit of all subjects' resident therein.
10. Our clemency will be extended to all offenders except those who have been convicted of directly taken part in murder of British subjects.

Previous Years' Questions – Preliminary Exam

1. Match List-I (Acts of Colonial Government of India) with List -II (Provisions) and select the correct answer from the options that follow the list. **[UPSC 2002]**

List-I (Acts of Colonial Government of India)	List-II (Provisions)
A. Charter Act, 1813	1. Set up a Board of Control in Britain to fully regulate the East India Company
B. Regulating Act 1773	2. Company's trade Monopoly in India was ended
C. Act of 1858	3. The power to govern was transferred from the East India Company to the British crown
D. Pitt's India Act	4. The Company's Directors were asked to present to the British Government all correspondence and documents pertaining to the administration of the company

Codes

	A	B	C	D
(a)	2	4	3	1
(b)	1	3	4	2
(c)	2	3	4	1
(d)	1	4	3	2

2. Which one of the following Acts of British India strengthened the Viceroy's authority over his executive Council by substituting 'Portfolio' or departmental system for corporate functioning? **[UPSC 2002]**

 (a) Indian Councils Act, 1861
 (b) Government of India Act, 1858
 (c) Indian councils Act, 1892
 (d) Indian councils Act, 1909

3. Which one of the following provisions was **NOT** made in the Charter act of 1833? **[UPSC 2003]**

 (a) The trading activities of the East India Company were to be abolished
 (b) The designation of the supreme authority was to be changed as the Governor-General of India-in-Council
 (c) All law-making powers to be conferred on Governor-General-in-Council
 (d) An Indian was to be appointed as a law member in the Governor-General's Council

4. Consider the following statements: **[UPSC 2005]**

 1. Warren Hastings was the first Governor-General who established the regular police force in India on the British pattern.
 2. Supreme Court was established at Calcutta by the Regulating Act 1773.
 3. The Indian Penal Code came into effect in the year 1860.

 Which of the statements given above are correct?

 (a) 1 and 2 (b) 2 and 3
 (c) 1 and 3 (d) 1, 2 and 3

5. Consider the following statements: **[UPSC 2006]**

 1. The Charter Act of 1853 abolished East India Company's monopoly of Indian trade
 2. Under the Government of India Act 1858, the British Parliament abolished the East India Company all together and undertook the responsibility of ruling India directly.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct?

(a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 or 2

6. What was/were the object/objects of Queen Victoria's Proclamation (1858)? **[UPSC 2014]**

1. To disclaim any intention to annex Indian states
2. To place the Indian Administration under the British Crown
3. To regulate East India Company's trade with India

Select the correct answer from the following options.

(a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 only
(c) 1 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3

Practice Questions – Preliminary Examination

1. Which of the following Acts ended East India Company's monopoly of trade in India.
(a) Regulating Act 1773
(b) Pitt's India Act 1784
(c) Charter Act of 1793
(d) Charter Act of 1813

2. Which of the following is incorrect?
(a) Regulating Act was passed by the efforts of Cornwallis.
(b) Pitt's India Act introduced the principle of non-intervention.
(c) By the Act of 1786, Cornwallis got the powers of both-the GG and the Commander-in-Chief.
(d) All of the above.

3. Consider the following statements regarding the Regulating Act-
1. The Act raised the qualification for both Court of Proprietors and Court of Directors.
2. The Act provided a new executive for the Bengal Presidency.
3. The Governor-General was kept under direct control of the Court of Directors.
4. The Act provided for a Supreme Court of Justice at Bombay.

Which of the above is/are incorrect? Select the correct answer from the following options.
(a) 1 and 2 (b) 1 and 3
(c) 1 and 4 (d) only 4

4. 1. Pitt's India Act introduced a form of double government.
2. Pitt's India Act introduced the in the affairs of Indian Princely states.

Which of the above statements is/are correct? Select the correct answer from the following options.
(a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) both (d) neither

5. 1. By 'The Act of 1786', the office of the Governor-General and the Commander-in-Chief were united in the same person.
2. By the Charter of 1793, all laws relating to rights of persons and property were to be printed with translation in Indian languages.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect? Select the correct answer from the following options.
(a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) both (d) neither

6. The beginning of ecclesiastical settlement in India was made by the Act of ________.
(a) 1772 (b) 1784
(c) 1813 (d) 1833

7. The Charter Act of 1813 provided for a yearly fund of ₹ 1 lakh for promotion of ____________ among Indian subjects.
(a) Christianity
(b) literature and sciences
(c) civility
(d) culture

8. Consider the following statements with regard to the Charter Act of 1833- .
1. The Act removed all restrictions to European immigration into India.
2. The Civil Service of India was thrown open to competition.

Which of the above statements is/are correct? Select the correct answer from the following options.
(a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) both (d) neither

9. Which of the statements below is incorrect?
(a) The new Presidency of Agra was created by the Act of 1813.
(b) The Governor-General of Bengal was made the Governor-General of India by the Act of 1833.
(c) A clear distinction was made between Legislative Councillors and Executive Councillors in the Act of 1853.
(d) The number of Directors was reduced to 18 from 24 by the Act of 1853.

10. Consider the following statements with reference to the Charter Act of 1853-
1. The Act made it clear that the Crown could take over the Company's administration any time.
2. Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Calcutta was made the ex-officio member of the Executive Council.

Which of the above statements is/are correct? Select the correct answer from the following options.
(a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) both (d) neither

Practice Questions – Main Examination

1. Why did the British Government decide to control the affairs of the East India Company?
2. Discuss the significance as well as the weaknesses of the Regulating Act.
3. The Charter Act of 1833 was considered as the most important India Act passed by the British Parliament till 1909. Critically Analyse.

Answers

Previous Years' Questions – Preliminary Exam

1. (a) 2. (a) 3. (d) 4. (b) 5. (b)
6. (a)

Practice Questions – Preliminary Exam

1. (d) 2. (a) 3. (d) 4. (c) 5. (d)
6. (c) 7. (b) 8. (a) 9. (a) 10. (a)