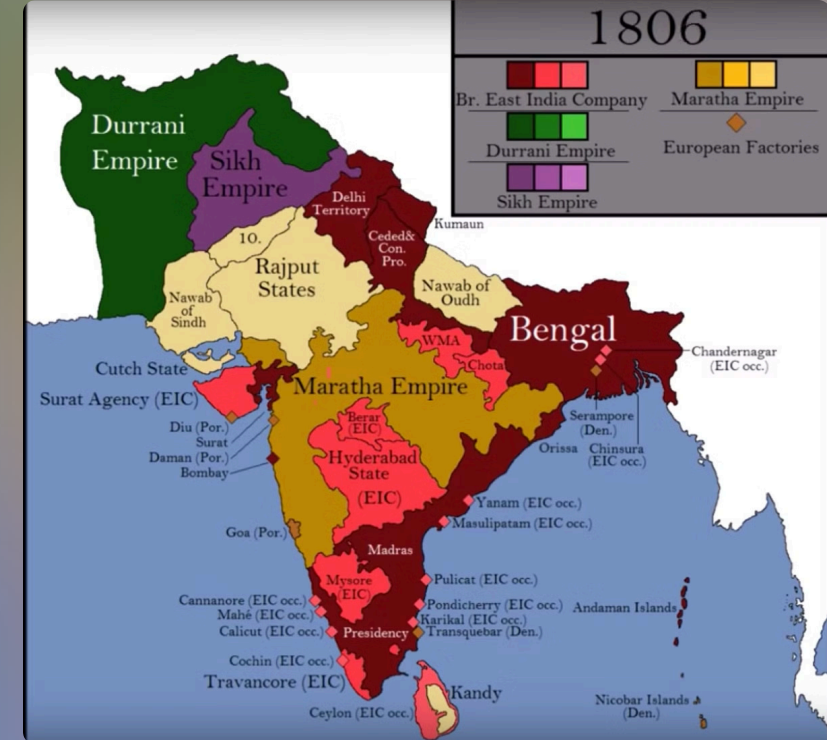


# The Evolution of British Rule in India

The period from 1858 to 1947 saw significant changes in the governance of India under British rule. Through a series of acts and reforms, the British government gradually introduced representative institutions and increased Indian participation in administration, ultimately leading to India's independence. This presentation explores the key legislative milestones that shaped India's journey towards self-governance.

 by Prabhu Shukla





# Government of India Act of 1858

Enacted after the Revolt of 1857, this Act abolished the East India Company and transferred power to the British Crown. It introduced the office of Viceroy as the Crown's representative in India, with Lord Canning becoming the first Viceroy. The Act also created the position of Secretary of State for India, assisted by a 15-member Council of India.

## Abolition of East India Company

The Act ended the Company's rule in India.

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2

## Transfer to British Crown

Power was transferred directly to the British monarchy.

## Creation of Viceroy

The Governor-General became the Viceroy, representing the Crown.

3

4

## Secretary of State for India

A new office was created to oversee Indian affairs.



# Indian Councils Act of 1861

This Act marked the beginning of representative institutions in India. It allowed the Viceroy to nominate some Indians as non-official members of his expanded council. The Act also restored legislative powers to the Bombay and Madras Presidencies, initiating a process of decentralization. It provided for the establishment of new legislative councils for Bengal, North-Western Provinces, and Punjab.

1

## Indian Representation

Indians nominated to Viceroy's council

2

## Decentralization

Legislative powers restored to presidencies

3

## New Councils

Legislative councils established for more provinces

# Indian Councils Act of 1892

This Act increased the number of non-official members in the Central and provincial legislative councils while maintaining an official majority. It expanded the functions of these councils, allowing them to discuss the budget and address questions to the executive. The Act also introduced a limited form of indirect election for some non-official seats.

## Increased Non-Official Members

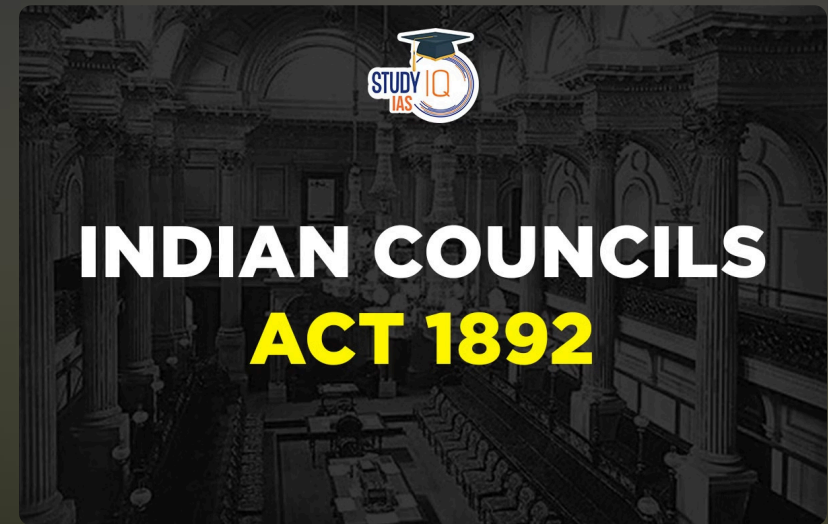
More Indians in legislative councils

## Expanded Functions

Councils given power to discuss budget

## Indirect Elections

Limited provision for elected members



# Indian Councils Act of 1909 (Morley-Minto Reforms)

This Act, also known as the Morley-Minto Reforms, significantly increased the size of legislative councils. It allowed for non-official majorities in provincial councils while retaining an official majority in the Central council. The Act introduced separate electorates for Muslims, legalizing communal representation. It also allowed Indians to join the Viceroy's executive council for the first time.

## Enlarged Councils

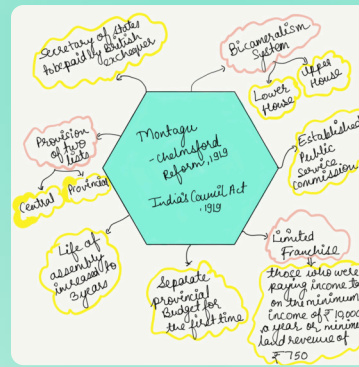
Increased membership in Central and provincial legislative councils

## Communal Representation

Separate electorates introduced for Muslims

## Indian Executive Councilor

First Indian appointed to Viceroy's executive council



# Government of India Act of 1919 (Part 1)

The Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms of 1919 marked a significant step towards responsible government in India. The Act separated central and provincial subjects, introducing dyarchy in the provinces. Under this system, transferred subjects were administered by Indian ministers responsible to the legislative council, while reserved subjects remained under British control.

## Separation of Powers

Central and provincial subjects demarcated

## Transferred Subjects

Indian ministers given responsibility for certain areas

1

2

3

## Dyarchy Introduced

Dual system of governance in provinces



# Government of India Act of 1919 (Part 2)

The Act introduced bicameralism at the center, creating the Council of State and the Legislative Assembly. It extended communal representation to Sikhs, Indian Christians, Anglo-Indians, and Europeans. The Act also granted limited franchise based on property, tax, or education. It created the office of High Commissioner for India in London and provided for the establishment of a public service commission.



## Bicameralism

Two-house legislature introduced at the center



## Extended Franchise

Limited voting rights based on various criteria



## Communal Representation

Separate electorates for more communities



# Simon Commission and Communal Award

The Simon Commission, appointed in 1927, recommended abolishing dyarchy and establishing a federation. Its all-British composition led to widespread boycotts in India. The Communal Award of 1932 extended separate electorates to depressed classes, leading to Gandhi's fast and the subsequent Poona Pact, which modified the award for depressed classes while retaining the Hindu joint electorate.

## 1 Simon Commission Recommendations

Abolition of dyarchy and establishment of federation proposed

## 2 Communal Award

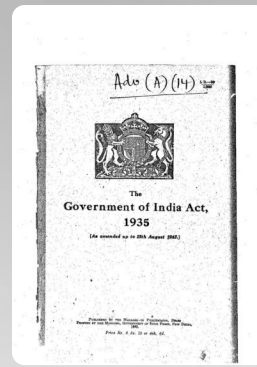
Separate electorates extended to depressed classes

## 3 Poona Pact

Modification of award for depressed classes after Gandhi's fast







# Government of India Act of 1935 (Part 1)

This comprehensive Act aimed to establish an All-India Federation, though it never materialized due to princely states' non-participation. It abolished dyarchy in provinces, introducing provincial autonomy with responsible governments. The Act divided powers between the Centre and provinces using Federal, Provincial, and Concurrent Lists, with residuary powers vested in the Viceroy.

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## **All-India Federation**

Proposed but not implemented

2

## **Provincial Autonomy**

Dyarchy abolished, responsible governments introduced

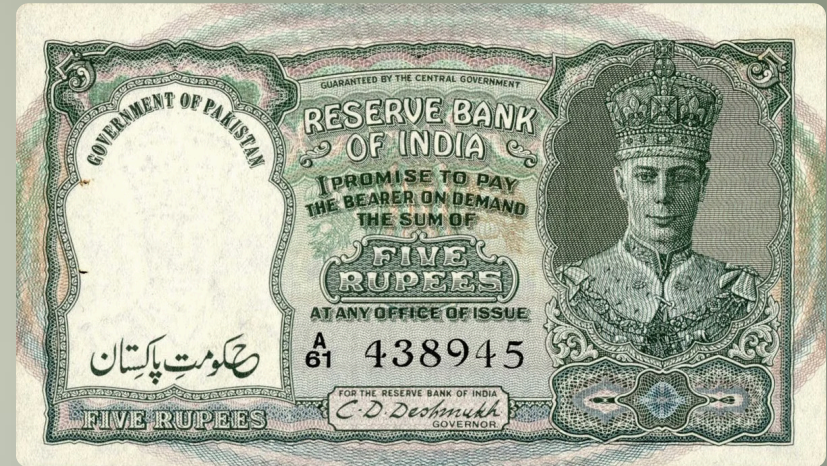
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## **Division of Powers**

Federal, Provincial, and Concurrent Lists established

# Government of India Act of 1935 (Part 2)

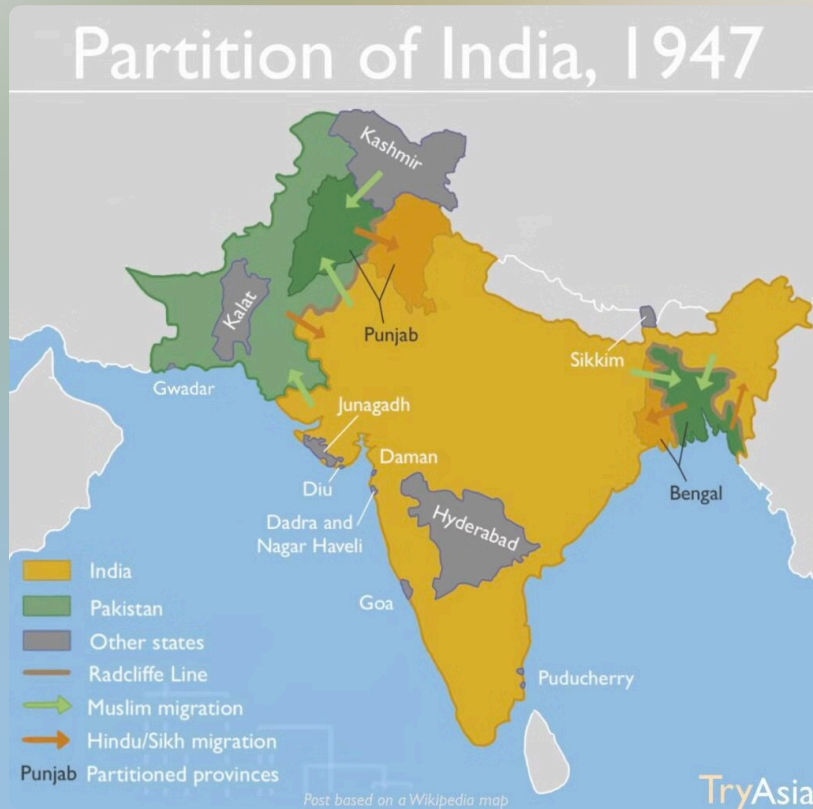
The Act introduced bicameralism in six provinces and further extended communal representation. It abolished the Council of India and provided advisors to the Secretary of State for India. The Act extended franchise to about 10% of the population and provided for the establishment of the Reserve Bank of India, Federal and Provincial Public Service Commissions, and a Federal Court.



Bicameralism	6 provinces
Franchise	10% of population
New Institutions	RBI, PSCs, Federal Court

# Indian Independence Act of 1947 (Part 1)

This pivotal Act ended British rule in India, declaring India an independent and sovereign state from August 15, 1947. It provided for the partition of India and the creation of two independent dominions: India and Pakistan. The Act abolished the office of Viceroy and provided for a Governor-General for each dominion, appointed on the advice of the respective cabinets.



1

## End of British Rule

India declared independent from August 15, 1947

2

## Partition

Creation of India and Pakistan as separate dominions

3

## Abolition of Viceroy

Governor-General appointed for each dominion

# Indian Independence Act of 1947 (Part 2)

The Act empowered the Constituent Assemblies of both dominions to frame their constitutions and repeal any act of the British Parliament. It abolished the office of the Secretary of State for India and proclaimed the lapse of British paramountcy over princely states. The Act granted freedom to princely states to join either dominion or remain independent.

## Constitutional Powers

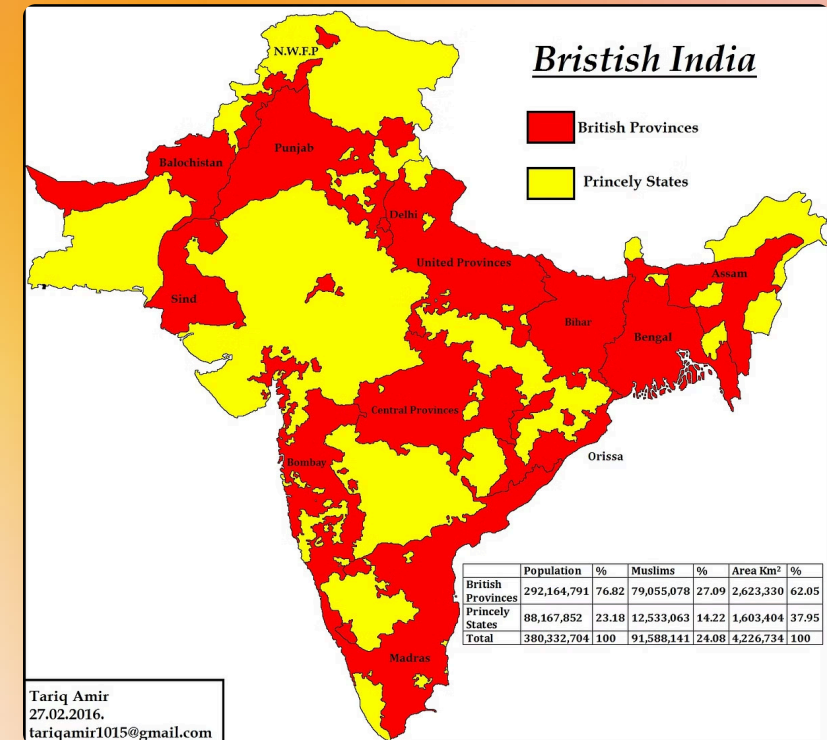
Constituent Assemblies empowered to frame constitutions

## Princely States

British paramountcy lapsed, states given choice to join or remain independent

## Administrative Changes

Secretary of State for India office abolished



# Indian Independence Act of 1947 (Part 3)

The Act provided for the governance of dominions and provinces under the Government of India Act of 1935 until new constitutions were framed. It designated the Governor-General and provincial governors as constitutional heads, acting on ministerial advice. The Act discontinued British appointments to civil services and dropped the title of Emperor of India from the King of England's royal titles.



## Governance

1935 Act to govern until new constitutions framed



## Constitutional Heads

Governor-General and governors to act on ministerial advice



## Civil Services

British appointments discontinued

### Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on Code of Conduct for Public Servants

Bombay Chronicle, 21 April 1947

"You are the pioneers in the Indian Service, and the future of this Service will depend much upon the foundation and traditions that will be laid down by you, by your character and abilities and by your spirit of service," said Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Home Member, Government of India, addressing the probationers at the All-India Administrative Service Training School at Metcalfe House, Delhi, this morning.

He added: "The days of the Indian Civil Service of the old style are going to be over and in its place we have brought into being the All-India Administrative Service. The change is both significant and epoch-making. In the first place, it is an unmistakable symptom of the transfer of power which is taking place from foreign to Indian hands. Secondly, it marks the inauguration of the All-India Service officered entirely by Indians and subject completely to Indian control. Thirdly, the Service will now be free to or will have to adopt its true role of national service without being trammelled by traditions and habits of the past.

"I have dwelt on the significance of this change mainly in order to bring home to the minds of the probationers particularly, and to the outside world incidentally, that the days when the service could be masters were over and the officers must be guided by a

real spirit of service in their day-to-day administration, for in no other manner can they fit in the scheme of things.

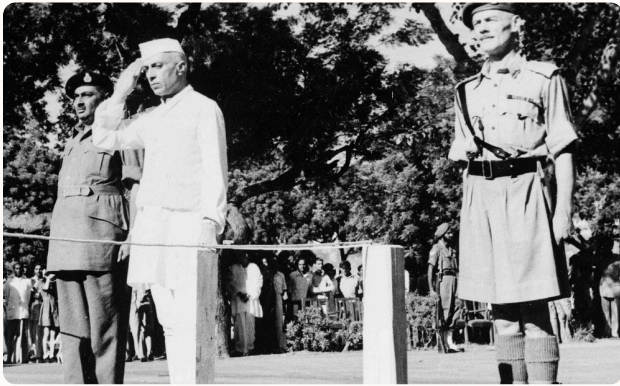
"Perhaps you are aware of a saying which is current in India regarding the past civil service, which is known as the Indian Civil Service, that it is neither Indian, nor civil, nor imbued with any spirit of service. In a true sense, it is not Indian because the Indian Civil Servants are mostly anglicised, their training was in foreign lands and they had to serve foreign masters. Therefore, in effect the whole service was known not to be Indian, nor to be civil, nor imbued with any spirit of service, and yet it was known as Indian Civil Service. The thing is now going to change.

"To some extent, all of you, who are undergoing instruction in this school are more fortunate than your predecessors. Your predecessors had to serve as agents of an alien rule and, even against their better judgement, had sometimes to execute the biddings of their foreign employers. You will now have the satisfaction that whatever you do, you will be doing under the orders of your own fellow-Indians. Your predecessors were brought up in the traditions in which they felt out of touch and kept themselves aloof from the common run of the people. It will be your bounden duty to treat the common men in India as your own or to put it correctly, to feel yourself to be one of them



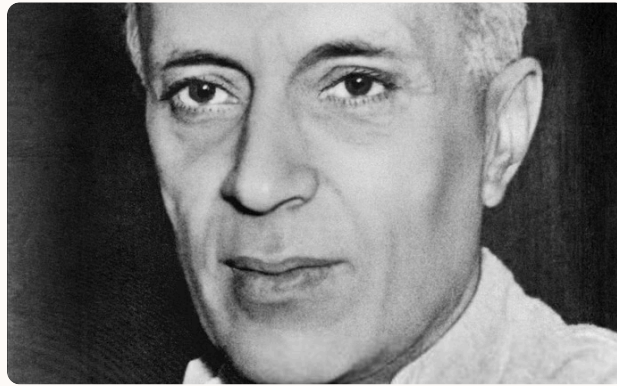
# Transfer of Power and Independence

At midnight on August 14-15, 1947, British rule in India ended, and power was transferred to the new Dominions of India and Pakistan. Lord Mountbatten became the first Governor-General of independent India, and Jawaharlal Nehru was sworn in as the first Prime Minister. The Constituent Assembly of India, formed in 1946, became the Parliament of the Indian Dominion, marking the beginning of a new era in Indian history.



## Independence Ceremony

Formal transfer of power on August 15, 1947



## First Prime Minister

Jawaharlal Nehru sworn in as India's leader



## Constituent Assembly

Assembly becomes the Indian Parliament