

### Government of India Act of 1919 :

This Act is also known as **Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms**.

1. Divided the provincial subjects into two parts—transferred and reserved. The transferred subjects were to be administered by the Governor with the aid of Ministers responsible to the legislative council. The reserved subjects, on the other hand, were to be administered by the Governor and his executive council without being responsible to the legislative council. This dual scheme of governance was known as '**dyarchy**'.
2. The Indian legislative council was replaced by a bicameral legislature consisting of an Upper House (Council of State) and a Lower House (Legislative Assembly). The majority of members of both the Houses were chosen by direct election.
3. It required that the three of the six members of the Viceroy's executive Council (other than the Commander-in-Chief) were to be Indian.
4. It extended the principle of communal representation by providing **separate electorates** for Sikhs, Indian Christians, Anglo-Indians and Europeans.
5. It created a new office of the High Commissioner for India in London and transferred to him some of the functions hitherto performed by the Secretary of State for India.

### Government of India Act, 1935

1. It provided for the establishment of an **All-India Federation** consisting of provinces and princely states as units. The Act divided the powers between the Centre and units in terms of three lists—Federal List, Provincial List and the Concurrent List. Residuary powers were given to the Viceroy. However, the federation never came into being as the princely states did not join it.
2. It **abolished dyarchy in the provinces** and introduced 'provincial autonomy' in its place. The provinces were allowed to act as autonomous units of administration in their defined spheres. Moreover, the Act introduced responsible Governments in provinces, that is, the Governor was required to act with the advice of ministers responsible to the provincial legislature. This came into effect in 1937 and was discontinued in 1939.
3. It provided for the **adoption of dyarchy at the Centre**. However, this provision of the Act did not come into operation at all.
4. It introduced bicameralism in six out of eleven provinces.
5. It further extended the principle of **communal representation** by providing separate electorates for depressed classes (Scheduled Castes), women and labour (workers).
6. It abolished the Council of India, established by the Government of India Act of 1858. The secretary of state for India was provided with a team of advisors.

- 7.It provided for the establishment of a **Reserve Bank of India** to control the currency and credit of the country.
- 8.It provided for the establishment of not only a Federal Public Service Commission, but also a Provincial Public Service Commission and Join
- 10.It provided for the establishment of a **Federal Court**, which was set up in 1937.

### WORLD WAR II

- Broke out in 1939
- British GoI declared Indian support for Britain in the war effort without consulting Indian leaders
- INC resigns when Viceroy does not listen to their demands
- In 1940, Linlithgow makes **August Offer**. It offers Dominion status and Constituent Assembly after the war. Congress rejects it. Nehru says Dominion Status concept is dead as a door nail.
- Towards the end of 1940, Gandhi decides to launch **Individual Satyagraha** which becomes **Dilli Chalo movement**. Vinobha Bhave was the first to offer Individual Satyagraha.
- 1942 – **Cripps Mission** offers Dominion Status and Constituent Assembly again. Gandhi called the scheme a post-dated cheque on a failing bank.

### QUIT INDIA MOVEMENT, 1942

- ❖ Gandhi gave slogan of **DO or DIE**
- ❖ INC leadership was arrested but people continued the movement.
- ❖ Underground activity against British was done by Rammanohar Lohia, Jayaprakash Narayan, Aruna Asaf Ali, Usha Mehta, Biju Patnaik, Chhotubhai Puranik, Achyut Patwardhan, Sucheta Kripalani and R.P. Goenka. **Usha Mehta** started an underground radio in Bombay.
- ❖ The Communists, Muslim League and Hindu Mahasabha did not join the movement.

### EFFORTS TO RESOLVE CONSTITUTIONAL DEADLOCK

1. Rajgopalachari Formula
2. Desai Liaqat Pact
3. Wavell Plan (1945)
4. World War II ended in 1945. Labour Party came to power in England under Clement Atlee.
5. 1946 – **Indian National Army Trials** agitation (first trial at the Red Fort in Delhi in November 1945 and putting on dock together a Hindu, Prem Kumar Sehgal, a Muslim, Shah Nawaz Khan, and a Sikh, Gurbaksh Singh Dhillon)
6. 1946 – **Royal Indian Navy agitation**
7. **Cabinet Mission** Proposals (1946) –

- Rejection of Pakistan
- Grouping of existing assemblies into three sections A, B, C
- Three-tier executive and legislature at province, princely states and union level
- Provincial assemblies to elect a constituent assembly
- Common centre for defence, communications, external affairs
- Provinces to have autonomy and residual powers
- Princely states free to have an arrangement with the successor government or the British Government
- In future, a province free to come out of the section or the union.

### **INDIAN INDEPENDENCE ACT OF 1947**

1.It ended the British rule in India and declared India as an independent and sovereign state from August 15, 1947.

2.It provided for the partition of India and creation of two independent dominions of India and Pakistan with the right to secede from the British Commonwealth.

3.It abolished the office of Viceroy and **provided, for each dominion, a governor general**, who was to be appointed by the British King on the advice of the dominion cabinet. His Majesty's Government in Britain was to have no responsibility with respect to the Government of India or Pakistan.

4.It empowered the Constituent Assemblies of the two dominions to frame and adopt any constitution for their respective nations and to repeal any act of the British Parliament, including the Independence act itself.

5.It granted freedom to the Indian princely states either to join the Dominion of India or Dominion of Pakistan or to remain independent.

6.It designated the Governor-General of India and the provincial governors as constitutional (nominal) heads of the states. They were made to act on the advice of the respective council of ministers in all matters.

**Lord Mountbatten became the first Governor General of the new Dominion of India.** He swore in Jawaharlal Nehru as the first Prime Minister of independent India. The Constituent Assembly of India formed in 1946 became the Parliament of the Indian Dominion.

### **Additional Notes :**

**SC Bose:**

1. Resigned from ICS in 1921
2. Elected President of INC at 1938 Haripura Session and 1939 Tripuri session.
3. 1939 – formed Forward Bloc
4. 1942 – Rashbehari Bose announces formation of Azad Hind Fauj and the Indian Independence League
5. 1943 – Bose assumes command of INA , forms provisional government of free India at Singapore and gives slogan 'Give me blood, I will give you freedom'.
6. 1945 – INA surrenders.
7. 1945 – air crash in Taiwan.

### **PEASANT MOVEMENTS**

#### **❖ Indigo Rebellion (1859-62):**

1. In order to increase their profits, the European planters persuaded the peasants to plant Indigo instead of food crops.
2. The farmers were discontent growing indigo because low prices were offered for growing indigo and Indigo planting decreased the fertility of the soil.
3. They were supported by the press and the missionaries.
4. Dinabandhu Mitra, Bengali writer and dramatist, in his play '**Nil Darpan**' depicted the treatment of the Indian peasantry by the indigo planters. It was first published in 1860.
5. The government appointed an Indigo Commission and issued an order in November 1860, notifying that it was illegal to force the ryots to cultivate indigo.

#### **❖ Pabna Movement (1870s-80s):**

1. In larger parts of Eastern Bengal, landlords forcefully collected rents and land taxes.
2. The peasants were also prevented from acquiring Occupancy Right under Act X of 1859.
3. In May 1873 an Agrarian League was formed in the Yusufshahi Pargana of Pabna district, Patna (East Bengal).
4. Rent strikes were organised, funds were raised and the struggle spread throughout Patna and to other districts of East Bengal.
5. The struggle was mainly legal resistance and little violence.
6. The discontent continued till 1885 when the Government by the Bengal Tenancy Act of 1885 enhanced the occupancy rights.

#### **❖ Deccan Riots (1875):**

1. The Deccan peasants uprising was directed mainly against the excesses of the money lenders. The ryots suffered heavy taxation under the Ryotwari system.
2. Social Boycott: ryots organised a social boycott movement against the moneylenders.

3. The Government succeeded in repressing the movement. As a conciliatory measure, the Deccan Agriculturists Relief Act was passed in 1879.

❖ **Champaran Satyagraha (1917):**

1. Tinkathia system- the peasantry on the indigo plantations in the Champaran district of Bihar was excessively oppressed by the European planters and compelled to grow indigo on at least 3/20th of their land and sell it at prices fixed by the planters.
2. In 1917, Mahatma Gandhi reached Champaran and began to conduct a detailed inquiry into the condition of the peasantry.
3. He defied the orders of district officials for leaving Champaran.
4. Government appointed an enquiry committee with Gandhiji as one of the members.
5. The enactment of the Champaran Agrarian Act, 1918 freed the tenants from the special imposts levied by the indigo planters.

❖ **Kheda Satyagraha (1918):**

1. It was chiefly directed against the Government.
2. In 1918, the crops failed in the Kheda district of Gujarat but the government refused to remit land revenue and insisted on its full collection.
3. Gandhiji along with Sardar Vallabhai Patel supported the peasants and advised them to withhold payment of revenues till their demand for its remission was met.
4. The satyagraha lasted till June 1918. The Government conceded the demands of the peasants.

❖ **Moplah Rebellion (1921):**

1. The Moplahs were the Muslim tenants inhabiting the Malabar region where most of the landlords were Hindus.
2. Their grievances centred around lack of security of tenure, high rents, renewal fees and other oppressive exactions.
3. The Moplah movement merged with the ongoing Khilafat agitation.
4. Mahatma Gandhi, Shaukat Ali and Maulana Abul Kalam Azad addressed Moplah meetings.
5. Many Hindus were seen by the Moplahs to be helping the British authorities. The anti-government and anti-landlord movement acquired communal overtones.
6. Communalisation isolated the Moplah from the Khilafat & Non-Cooperation Movement.
7. The movement was called off by December 1921.

❖ **Bardoli Satyagraha (1928):**

1. Enhancement of land revenue by 30% in the Bardoli district of Gujarat by the British government led to the organisation of a 'No-Revenue Campaign' by the Bardoli peasants under the leadership of Vallabhai Patel.
2. Women in Bardoli gave Vallabhai Patel the title of 'Sardar'.

3. Unsuccessful attempts of the British to suppress the movement by large scale attachment of cattle and land resulted in the appointment of an enquiry committee.
4. The enquiry came to the conclusion that the increase had been unjustified and reduced the enhancement to 6.03%.