

# UPSChub

## DAILY TEST (PDF)

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## TEST – 1

### SYLLABUS :-

#### Historical Background

- i. Company rule
- ii. Crown rule

# Company Rule (1773-1858)

The period of Company Rule in India began with the Regulating Act of 1773 and ended with the Government of India Act, 1858, when the British Crown took direct control.

## 1. Regulating Act of 1773 (First Step in Central Administration)

- **Why was it introduced?**
  - The East India Company was facing financial problems and corruption.
  - There was a need for parliamentary control over Company affairs.
- **Key Provisions:**
  - The Governor of Bengal was made the Governor-General of Bengal.
    - Warren Hastings became the first Governor-General.
  - A four-member executive council was created to assist the Governor-General.
  - Established a Supreme Court in Calcutta (1774) to handle legal cases.
  - Prohibited Company officials from engaging in private trade or accepting bribes.
  - Company had to report revenue, military, and civil matters to the British government.
- **Significance:**
  - First step towards centralized administration in India.
  - Recognized British government control over Company rule.

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## 2. Pitt's India Act of 1784 (Dual System of Governance)

- **Why was it introduced?**
  - The Regulating Act of 1773 had failed to effectively control the Company.
  - The British government wanted greater control over Indian affairs.
- **Key Provisions:**
  - Established a dual system of governance:
    - Political matters – controlled by Board of Control (British Government).
    - Commercial matters – controlled by Court of Directors (Company).
  - Governor-General's power was restricted, and he had to follow the Board of Control's orders.
- **Significance:**
  - First clear step towards British government control over India.

- Laid the foundation for British political interference in Indian administration.
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### 3. Charter Acts (1793, 1813, 1833, 1853)

#### Charter Act of 1793

- Extended the Company's rule for 20 years.
- Governor-General was given more power over provinces.
- Company officials were allowed to accept salaries from Indian revenue (instead of profits from trade).

#### Charter Act of 1813

- Ended the East India Company's monopoly over Indian trade (except for tea and trade with China).
- Allowed Christian missionaries to propagate religion in India.
- Provided for education and welfare in India (first time).

#### Charter Act of 1833 (Major Step Toward Centralization)

- Governor-General of Bengal became Governor-General of India.
  - Lord William Bentinck became the first Governor-General of India.
- Abolished the East India Company's commercial functions, making it a purely administrative body.
- First attempt to introduce a single central government for India.
- Allowed Indians to be appointed in government services (first time, but not effectively implemented).

#### Charter Act of 1853 (Step Toward Civil Services)

- Separated the legislative and executive functions of the Governor-General's Council.
  - Introduced open competition for civil services (first step toward UPSC).
  - No fixed tenure for the Company – British Parliament would now decide its future.
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### 4. Government of India Act, 1858 (End of Company Rule)

- Why was it introduced?
  - The Revolt of 1857 (First War of Independence) exposed the Company's misrule.
  - The British Crown decided to take direct control of India.
- Key Provisions:
  - The East India Company was abolished.

- Governor-General of India became Viceroy of India (first: Lord Canning).
- Established the Secretary of State for India (with a 15-member advisory council).
- Ended dual control (Company vs. British Government) – India was now ruled directly by the British Crown.
- Significance:
  - Marked the end of Company rule and the beginning of British Crown rule in India.
  - British government took direct responsibility for India's administration.

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## Conclusion

- The Company Rule (1773-1858) laid the foundation for centralized administration in India.
- Key institutions like the civil services, judiciary, and legislative councils were introduced.
- The 1857 Revolt exposed the weaknesses of Company rule, leading to direct British rule in 1858.



The period of Crown Rule began after the Government of India Act, 1858, when the British Crown took direct control of India. This era saw various constitutional developments, leading to India's independence in 1947.

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### 1. Government of India Act, 1858 (End of Company Rule, Beginning of Crown Rule)

- Why was it introduced?
  - The Revolt of 1857 exposed the failures of the East India Company.
  - The British government wanted direct control over India.
- Key Provisions:
  - East India Company abolished – India was now ruled directly by the British Crown.
  - Governor-General of India became the Viceroy of India.
    - Lord Canning was the first Viceroy.
  - A Secretary of State for India (member of British Cabinet) was appointed, assisted by a 15-member advisory council.

- The Indian administration became completely centralized under British rule.
  - No major political rights were granted to Indians.
  - **Significance:**
    - Marked the beginning of direct British rule in India.
    - Created a bureaucratic and centralized administration.
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## **2. Indian Councils Acts (1861, 1892, 1909)**

### **Indian Councils Act, 1861 (Beginning of Representative Governance)**

- Introduced Indians into legislative councils (but only in a minor role).
- Empowered Viceroy to issue ordinances in an emergency.
- Allowed formation of legislative councils in provinces (for local governance).

### **Indian Councils Act, 1892 (Beginning of Indirect Elections)**

- Increased the number of non-official members in legislative councils.
- Allowed indirect elections (members were nominated by local bodies).
- First attempt to introduce elections in India.

### **Indian Councils Act, 1909 (Morley-Minto Reforms)**

- Introduced the concept of separate electorates for Muslims.
  - Increased Indian representation in legislative councils.
  - For the first time, Indians were appointed to the Viceroy's Executive Council (Satyendra Prasad Sinha was the first Indian member).
  - **Significance:**
    - Strengthened communal divisions (separate electorates).
    - Laid the foundation for future constitutional reforms.
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## **3. Government of India Act, 1919 (Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms)**

- **Why was it introduced?**
  - The British wanted to appease Indians after World War I and prevent further unrest.
  - The 1917 Montagu Declaration promised gradual self-governance for India.
- **Key Provisions:**
  - Introduced diarchy (dual government) in provinces:

- Transferred subjects (controlled by Indians – education, health, local government).
  - Reserved subjects (controlled by the British – police, finance, law).
  - Established bicameral legislature at the central level:
    - Council of State (Upper House).
    - Legislative Assembly (Lower House).
  - Increased Indian participation in administration.
  - **Significance:**
    - First attempt at provincial autonomy.
    - Indians got limited self-governance for the first time.
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#### 4. Government of India Act, 1935 (Most Comprehensive Act)

- **Why was it introduced?**
    - Indians were demanding full self-government.
    - The failure of previous reforms and rise of nationalist movements forced the British to grant more autonomy.
  - **Key Provisions:**
    - Provided for an All-India Federation (British India + Princely States) – but it was never implemented.
    - Introduced provincial autonomy:
      - Provinces were given full control over transferred subjects.
      - Diarchy was abolished at the provincial level.
    - Introduced separate electorates for various communities (deepened communal divisions).
    - Established the Federal Court (1937).
  - **Significance:**
    - Became the blueprint for India's Constitution.
    - Gave more autonomy to provinces.
    - Strengthened communal politics in India.
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#### 5. Indian Independence Act, 1947 (End of British Rule)

- **Why was it introduced?**

- The Quit India Movement (1942) and the Naval Mutiny (1946) made British rule unsustainable.
- The Labour government in Britain decided to leave India.
- The Mountbatten Plan (June 3, 1947) proposed the partition of India.
- **Key Provisions:**
  - Ended British rule in India.
  - Created two independent dominions – India and Pakistan.
  - Each dominion could draft its own constitution.
  - Viceroy post was abolished; replaced by Governor-General of India & Pakistan.
  - India became an independent country on August 15, 1947.
- **Significance:**
  - Marked the end of British Crown rule in India.
  - Led to the partition and creation of Pakistan.

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## Conclusion

- The Crown Rule (1858-1947) transformed India's governance from a centralized bureaucratic British rule to a system with increasing Indian participation.
- However, communal divisions were deepened due to separate electorates and policies favoring divide-and-rule.
- The Government of India Act, 1935 served as the foundation for India's post-independence Constitution.
- Finally, India gained independence in 1947, ending nearly 200 years of British rule.



**ALL THE BEST FOR EXAM**

**Regards**

**UPSchub**