

Expansion of British Power in India

Modern Indian History — From EIC to Crown Rule (1600–1858)

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BPSC

SSC CGL

SSC CHSL

RRB NTPC

RRB Group D

State PSC

Police SI

Income Tax



Exam Frequency | 4–7 Questions Per Exam

1. Introduction & Exam Relevance

⚡ Why This Topic Is High-Yield

Expansion of British Power covers how a small trading company (EIC, 1600) transformed India into a British colony by 1858. SSC CGL, BPSC & RRB NTPC ask **4–7 questions per exam**.

Key themes: EIC Charter · Presidency Towns · Governor-Generals & their policies · Subsidiary Alliance · Doctrine of Lapse · Key Acts (1773–1858)

1600

EIC Founded

1757

Plassey — Power Shift

11+

Governor-Generals

7

Key Acts Passed

1793

Permanent Settlement

7

DoL Annexations

1849

Punjab Annexed

1858

Crown Rule Begins

◆ Key Leaders — All Governor-Generals at a Glance



Robert Clive
Governor of
Bengal



Warren Hastings
1st GG of
Bengal



Lord Cornwallis
Governor-
General



Lord Wellesley
Governor-
General



Marquess of Hastings
Governor-
General



Lord W. Bentinck
1st GG of India



Lord Hardinge
Governor-
General



Lord Dalhousie
Empire Builder
GG



Lord Canning
First Viceroy

2. EIC Foundations (1600–1757) (ईस्ट इंडिया कंपनी)

Background: The English East India Company (EIC) was founded in 1600 as a **purely commercial enterprise** to trade spices and textiles. Over 150 years, through clever diplomacy, military power, and exploitation of Mughal decline, it transformed into India's political master.

Establishment & Early Presence

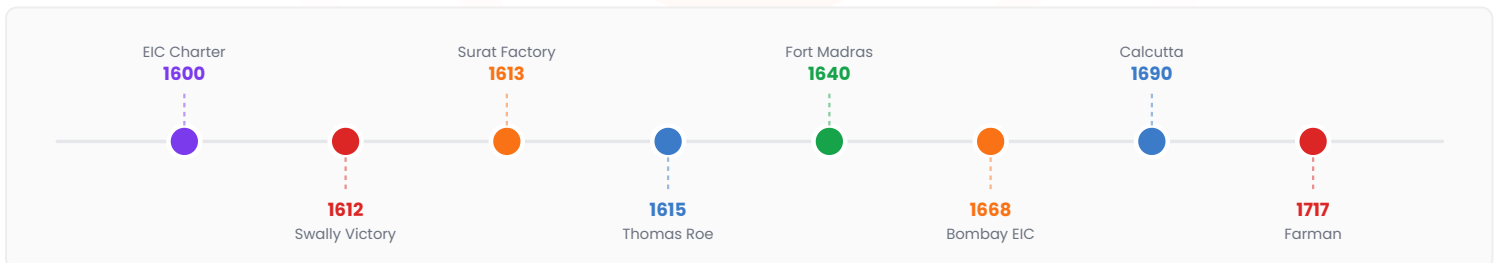
- **EIC Charter: 31 December 1600** – granted by **Queen Elizabeth I**; 125 shareholders
- First voyage (1601): **James Lancaster** to Sumatra & Java
- Factory at Surat: failed 1608; permanent **1613** (Thomas Best's naval win at Swally 1612)
- **Thomas Roe** (1615–16): First British Ambassador to **Emperor Jahangir's** court; secured trading rights
- Portuguese already in India since 1498 (Vasco da Gama); EIC competed with Dutch & French EIC

Three Presidency Towns – Foundation of British India

Town	Year	Founder / Event	Key Feature
Madras	1639/1640	Francis Day & Andrew Cogan	Fort St. George; First Presidency town
Bombay	1668 (EIC)	Portuguese marriage dowry (1661)	Gifted to Charles II; EIC lease £10/year
Calcutta	1690/1698	Job Charnock	Fort William 1698; became most strategic

Mughal Farman 1717 – 'Magna Carta of EIC'

- Emperor **Farrukhsiyar** granted the farman to EIC
- Free trade in **Bengal, Surat, Hyderabad** – annual payment of only **₹3,000**
- Freedom from transit duties; right to issue **dastaks** (passes) for duty-free goods
- Called **"Magna Carta of EIC in India"**



🗨️ "M→B→C = Madras(1640) → Bombay(1668) → Calcutta(1698) | EIC = 1600 = Queen Elizabeth I"

“The Farman of 1717 gave EIC duty-free trade in Bengal for just ₹3,000/year – the ‘Magna Carta of EIC in India’”

PYQ Alert – यह पूछा गया है!

#	Question	Exam	Year
1	EIC Charter was granted by which monarch?	SSC CGL	2018
2	Mughal Farman of 1717 was granted by?	BPSC 66th	2020
3	Bombay was acquired from which European power?	SSC CHSL	2019
4	Thomas Roe visited the court of which Mughal Emperor?	RRB NTPC	2021

Answers: 1-(A) Queen Elizabeth I | 2-(B) Emperor Farrukhsiyar | 3-(C) Portuguese | 4-(B) Emperor Jahangir

3. From Trade to Territory (1757–1784) (व्यापार से साम्राज्य)



Robert Clive
Governor of
Bengal



Warren Hastings
1st GG of Bengal

Background: Battle of Plassey (1757) marked the **political foundation of British power** in India. The next 25 years saw Diwani Rights (revenue collection), the first Parliamentary controls via the Regulating Act, and the administrative genius of Warren Hastings.

Dual Government of Bengal (1765–1772)

- After Battle of Buxar (1764): EIC got **Diwani Rights** (revenue) from Shah Alam II via Treaty of Allahabad (1765)
- EIC collected **Diwani** (revenue/civil); Nawab retained **Nizamat** (criminal justice/defence)
- Result: EIC exploited Bengal ruthlessly; **Bengal Famine of 1770** killed ~10 million
- **Warren Hastings abolished** Dual Government in 1772; assumed direct control

Regulating Act 1773 – First Parliamentary Control

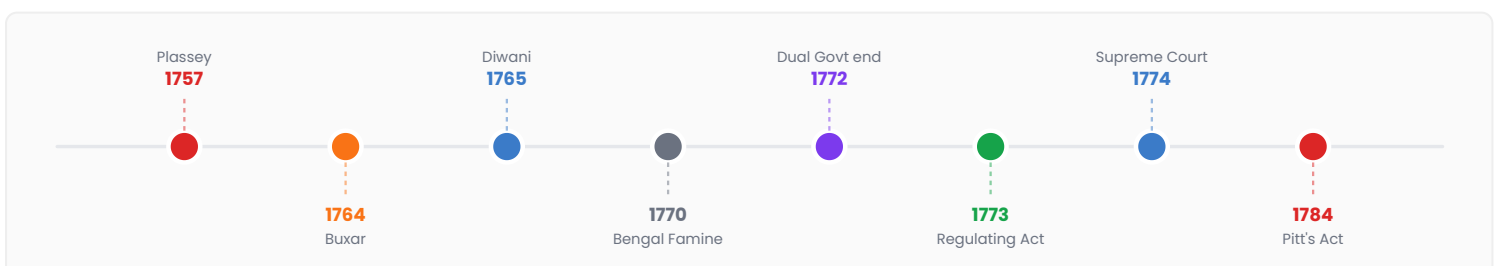
- Governor of Bengal → **Governor-General** (first: **Warren Hastings**)
- **Supreme Court** at Calcutta (1774); Chief Justice: **Elijah Impey**
- Council of 4 members; GG had **casting vote** only (weakness)
- Court of Directors must report civil/military/revenue matters to British Govt

Warren Hastings (1773–1785) – First Governor-General of Bengal

- Established Diwani courts (mofussil sadar adalat & provincial courts)
- Founded **Asiatic Society of Bengal** (1784) with **William Jones**
- **Ring Fence Policy:** Use buffer states; avoid aggressive expansion
- Faced impeachment trial in England (Burke, Fox); acquitted 1795

Pitt's India Act 1784 – Dual Control System

- **Board of Control** (6 members incl. 2 secretaries of state): political & military supervision
- **Court of Directors:** commercial matters; both needed to agree
- GG given **supremacy over other Presidencies**; Secret Committee of 3 Directors for emergencies



📌 "RAP = Regulating Act(1773) → Asiatic Society(1784) → Pitt's Act(1784) | Warren Hastings = First GG Bengal (NOT India)"

“The Regulating Act (1773) was Parliament’s first step to control the Company – shifting India from commerce to governance”

PYQ Alert – यह पूछा गया है!

#	Question	Exam	Year
1	Regulating Act was passed in which year?	SSC CGL	2019
2	Which Act established the Board of Control in India?	SSC CHSL	2020
3	Who was the First Governor-General of Bengal?	BPSC 65th	2019
4	Dual Government of Bengal was abolished by whom?	RRB NTPC	2021

Answers: 1-(B) 1773 | 2-(C) Pitt’s India Act 1784 | 3-(A) Warren Hastings | 4-(A) Warren Hastings (1772)



4. Governor-General Era — Expansion (1786–1823) (गवर्नर-जनरल युग)



Lord Cornwallis
Governor-
General



Lord Wellesley
Governor-
General



Marquess of Hastings
Governor-
General

Lord Cornwallis (1786–1793) — The Reformer

- ★ **Permanent Settlement 1793**: Fixed land revenue with zamindars in **Bengal, Bihar & Orissa** in perpetuity; created loyal landlord class
- Cornwallis Code**: Separated revenue from judiciary; established civil courts at district level
- Police reforms: zamindar-based police system; created **darogah** post
- 3rd Anglo-Mysore War (1790–92)**: Treaty of Srirangapatnam; Tipu's sons as hostages
- Europeanised civil services; Indians barred from higher posts

Lord Wellesley (1798–1805) — The Expansionist

- ★ **Subsidiary Alliance (1798)**: Nizam of Hyderabad first to accept; expanded British power without direct annexation
- 4th Anglo-Mysore War (1799)**: Tipu Sultan killed; Mysore under SA
- 2nd Anglo-Maratha War (1803–06)**: Battle of Assaye (Arthur Wellesley); Delhi & Agra under British
- Fort William College (1800)**: Train EIC civil servants in Indian languages & customs
- Called "Tiger of the Bengal Presidency" for aggressive expansion

Lord Hastings / Marquess of Hastings (1813–1823)

- Anglo-Nepal War (1814–16)**: Treaty of Sugauli; Nepal boundaries fixed; Gurkhas recruited
- 3rd Anglo-Maratha War (1817–19)**: Peshwa Baji Rao II surrendered; Maratha Confederacy dissolved
- Suppressed **Pindaris** (1817–18): roving bands of plunderers eliminated
- Supported freedom of press in India

● "CWH = Cornwallis(Permanent Settlement) → Wellesley(SA+Tipu) → Hastings(3rd Maratha+Nepal) | 1793→1799→1814"

“Subsidiary Alliance was Wellesley’s masterstroke – it converted Indian rulers into British dependants without a single major battle”

PYQ Alert – यह पूछा गया है!

#	Question	Exam	Year
1	Permanent Settlement was introduced in Bengal by?	SSC CGL	2020
2	Subsidiary Alliance policy was started by which GG?	SSC CHSL	2018
3	Anglo-Nepal War (1814-16) ended with which treaty?	BPSC 67th	2022
4	Fort William College (1800) was established by?	RRB NTPC	2020

Answers: 1-(B) Lord Cornwallis | 2-(C) Lord Wellesley (1798) | 3-(A) Treaty of Sugauli | 4-(C) Lord Wellesley



5. Reforms & Further Expansion (1828–1848) (सुधार और विस्तार)



Lord W. Bentinck
1st GG of India



Lord Hardinge
Governor-General

Lord William Bentinck (1828–1835) – The Social Reformer & First GG of India

- ★ **Abolished Sati: 4 December 1829** (Regulation XVII of 1829); Raja Ram Mohan Roy's campaign backed
- Suppressed **Thuggee** (highway robbery/murder cult) via Colonel William Sleeman
- Suppressed female infanticide in Rajputana
- Macaulay's Minute on Education (2 Feb 1835)**: English as medium of instruction adopted
- Charter Act 1833**: GG of Bengal → **GG of India**; Bentinck became **First GG of India**
- EIC lost commercial monopoly entirely; became purely administrative body
- Revenue reforms; reduced military expenses; promoted Indian officers

Lord Ellenborough (1842–1844)

- Restored British prestige after 1st Afghan War disaster
- Sind Annexed (1843)**: General **Charles James Napier**; famous pun "Peccavi" (Latin: I have sinned)
- Note: Sind annexed under **Ellenborough**, **NOT Dalhousie**

Lord Hardinge (1844–1848)

- 1st Anglo-Sikh War (1845–46)**: Battles of Mudki, Ferozeshah, Aliwal, Sobraon
- Treaty of Lahore (1846)**: Jalandhar Doab ceded to EIC
- ★ **Treaty of Amritsar (1846)**: Kashmir sold to **Gulab Singh** for ₹75 lakh

GG	Period	Key Achievement
Lord Amherst	1823–28	1st Burma War (1824–26); Barrackpore Mutiny 1824
Lord Bentinck	1828–35	Sati abolished; English education; First GG of India
Lord Ellenborough	1842–44	Sind annexed by General Napier ('Peccavi')
Lord Hardinge	1844–48	1st Sikh War; Treaty of Amritsar – Kashmir sold

👉 **"ABEH (1823–1848): Amherst → Bentinck → Ellenborough → Hardinge | Bentinck = Sati+1st GG India | Ellenborough = Sind (not Dalhousie!)"**

“Lord Bentinck – the only GG who reformed India’s society (Sati 1829), promoted English education (1835), and became the First GG of India (1833)”

PYQ Alert – यह पूछा गया है!

#	Question	Exam	Year
1	Sati was abolished in India in which year?	RRB NTPC	2019
2	Who was the First Governor-General of India?	SSC CGL	2017
3	Sind was annexed under which Governor-General?	BPSC 64th	2018
4	Treaty of Amritsar (1846) is significant because?	SSC CHSL	2021

Answers: 1-(B) 1829 (Regulation XVII) | 2-(C) Lord William Bentinck | 3-(A) Lord Ellenborough | 4-(D) Kashmir sold to Gulab Singh for ₹75 lakh

6. Policies of Expansion (विस्तार की नीतियाँ)

Policy	GG Who Used It	Core Principle	Key Outcome
Ring Fence	Warren Hastings	Buffer states as shield; no annexation	Defensive; limited expansion
Subordinate Isolation	Lord Cornwallis	Indian rulers can't interact with each other	Isolated states; weakened coalitions
Subsidiary Alliance	Lord Wellesley (1798)	EIC troops on Indian soil; ruler pays; no external diplomacy	14 states absorbed without war
Forward Policy	Auckland / Lytton	Engage & control buffer states (Afghanistan)	Led to disastrous Afghan Wars
Doctrine of Lapse	Lord Dalhousie (1848)	No adopted heir can inherit; state reverts to EIC	7 states annexed 1848–54

Subsidiary Alliance – States & Sequence (Exam Favourite)

State	Year	Note
Nizam of Hyderabad	1798	FIRST to accept Subsidiary Alliance
Nawab of Mysore	1799	After 4th Mysore War
Nawab of Tanjore	1799	–
Nawab of Awadh	1801	–
Peshwa Baji Rao II	1802	Treaty of Bassein
Bhonsle (Nagpur)	1803	After Battle of Argaon
Scindia (Gwalior)	1804	After Battle of Assaye

💡 "SA = Subsidiary Alliance: Nizam(1798) First! Hyderabad → Mysore → Awadh → Peshwa → Bhonsle → Scindia"

“Subsidiary Alliance was a diplomatic masterpiece – Indian princes paid for the army that would eventually subjugate them”

PYQ Alert – यह पूछा गया है!

#	Question	Exam	Year
1	First state to accept Subsidiary Alliance?	SSC CGL	2020
2	Ring Fence Policy was followed by which GG?	BPSC 65th	2019
3	Doctrine of Lapse was introduced by which GG?	RRB NTPC	2021
4	Under Subsidiary Alliance, Indian rulers were NOT allowed to?	SSC CHSL	2020

Answers: 1-(C) Nizam of Hyderabad (1798) | 2-(A) Warren Hastings | 3-(D) Lord Dalhousie (1848) | 4-(B) Employ Europeans without British consent / have external diplomacy

7. Lord Dalhousie — Peak Expansion (1848–1856) (डलहौजी का युग)



Lord Dalhousie
Empire Builder
GG

⚡ Empire Builder — 8 Years, Maximum Annexations

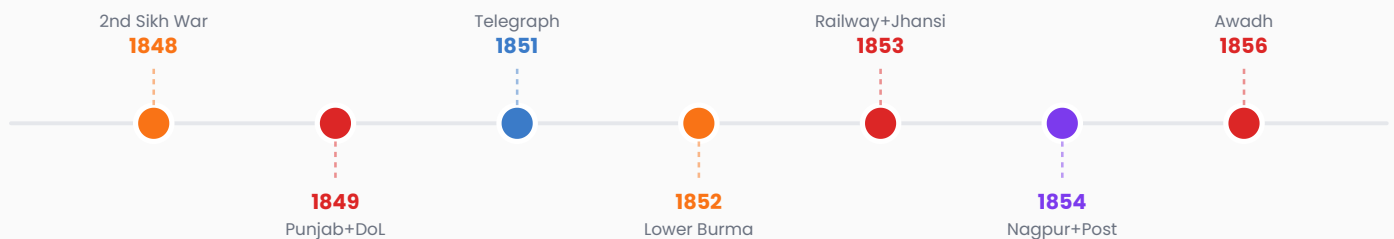
Dalhousie was the **youngest** GG of India (age 36). He annexed more territory than any other GG through the Doctrine of Lapse, military conquest, and misgovernance claims. His policies directly caused the **Revolt of 1857**.

Territorial Expansion

- **2nd Anglo-Sikh War (1848–49)**: Punjab annexed **29 March 1849**; Maharaja Duleep Singh (age 11) exiled; **Koh-i-Noor diamond** taken to Queen Victoria
- **2nd Anglo-Burmese War (1852)**: **Lower Burma (Pegu)** annexed
- **Doctrine of Lapse**: Satara(1848) → Jaitpur+Sambhalpur(1849) → Baghat(1850) → Udaipur(1852) → **Jhansi(1853)** → **Nagpur(1854)**
- **Awadh (1856)**: Annexation on grounds of **Misgovernance**; Nawab Wajid Ali Shah exiled; **NOT Doctrine of Lapse**

Economic Modernisation — Infrastructure of Modern India

- 🚂 **First Railway: 16 April 1853** — Bombay to Thane (34 km / 21 miles); "Guarantee System" for private investment
- **Electric Telegraph (1851)**: First line Calcutta to Diamond Harbour; expanded rapidly
- **Post Office Act (1854)**: Uniform postage; half anna per half tola; Director-General of Post Office established
- **Public Works Dept (PWD)**: Separated from Military Board; Ganges Canal (1854)
- **Wood's Education Despatch (1854)**: Foundation of modern Indian education system



💡 "3P of Dalhousie: Punjab(1849) → Progress(Railway+Telegraph 1851/53) → Patan(DoL: Satara→Jhansi→Nagpur) | Awadh=MISGOVERNANCE not DoL"

“The Doctrine of Lapse was perhaps Dalhousie’s most controversial policy – it triggered the Revolt of 1857 by threatening every Indian prince”

PYQ Alert — यह पूछा गया है!

#	Question	Exam	Year
1	When was the first railway line opened in India?	SSC CGL	2021
2	Punjab was annexed in which year under which GG?	SSC CHSL	2019
3	Jhansi was annexed under which policy?	RRB NTPC	2019
4	On what grounds was Awadh annexed in 1856?	BPSC 66th	2021

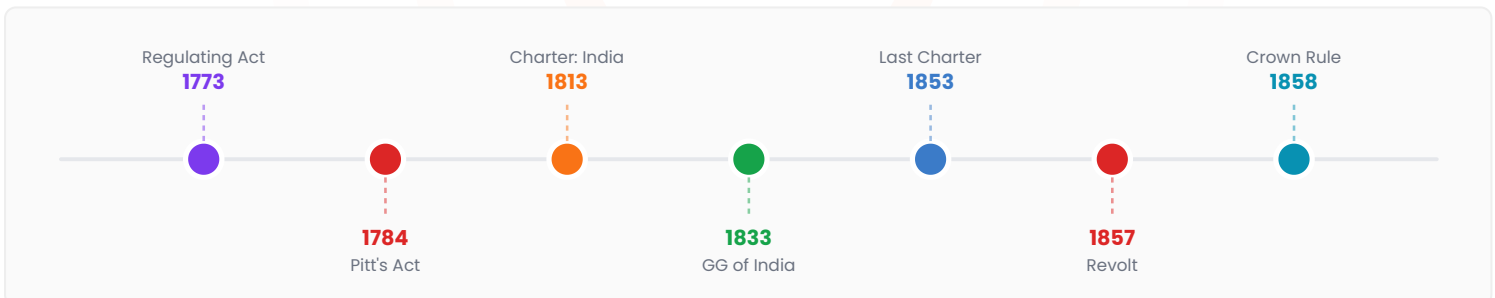
Answers: 1-(B) 16 April 1853 (Bombay to Thane) | 2-(C) 1849 – Lord Dalhousie | 3-(C) Doctrine of Lapse | 4-(D) Misgovernance (NOT Doctrine of Lapse)

8. Legislative & Constitutional Framework (विधायी ढांचा)

Act / Event	Year	Key Features & Significance
Regulating Act	1773	First GG of Bengal (Warren Hastings); Supreme Court Calcutta; Parliamentary oversight of EIC
Pitt's India Act	1784	Board of Control (6 members); Dual control; GG supremacy over Presidencies
Charter Act	1793	EIC charter renewed 20 years; GG powers over subordinate Presidencies strengthened
Charter Act	1813	India trade monopoly ended (China trade continued); missionaries allowed; ₹1 lakh for Indian education
Charter Act	1833	GG of Bengal → GG of India (Bentinck first); EIC purely administrative; Law Member added (Macaulay)
Charter Act	1853	Last Charter Act; separate Legislative & Executive Councils; ICS open competitive exams; no fixed EIC term
Gol Act 1858	1858	EIC dissolved; Crown Rule; GG → Viceroy; Secretary of State for India + India Council (15 members)

Government of India Act 1858 – End of EIC Rule

- Passed after **Revolt of 1857**; EIC rule ended after 258 years
- **Lord Canning** became first Viceroy (previously last GG)
- **Queen Victoria's Proclamation (1858)**: Equal treatment; no annexation; respect for Indian customs
- Secretary of State for India + India Council (15 members) created in London



● "R→P→3C→G = Regulating(1773) → Pitt's(1784) → 3 Charter Acts(1813/1833/1853) → Gol Act(1858) | 1813=India, 1833=China monopoly ended"

“The Government of India Act 1858 transferred power from a trading company to the Crown – ending 258 years of EIC rule in India”

PYQ Alert – यह पूछा गया है!

#	Question	Exam	Year
1	Which Charter Act made Lord Bentinck the first GG of India?	SSC CGL	2017
2	ICS competitive exams were opened under which Act?	SSC CHSL	2020
3	After the Revolt of 1857, EIC was dissolved under?	BPSC 65th	2019
4	Which Act allowed Christian missionaries to come to India?	RRB NTPC	2021

Answers: 1-(B) Charter Act 1833 | 2-(C) Charter Act 1853 | 3-(D) Government of India Act 1858 | 4-(A) Charter Act 1813



9. Master Comparison Tables

All Governor-Generals & Viceroys – Quick Reference

GG / Viceroy	Period	Key Policy / War / Achievement
Robert Clive (Gov.)	1757–67	Plassey 1757 · Diwani Rights 1765 · Treaty of Allahabad
Warren Hastings	1773–85	First GG Bengal · Regulating Act · Ring Fence · Asiatic Society 1784
Lord Cornwallis	1786–93	Permanent Settlement 1793 · Cornwallis Code · 3rd Mysore War
Lord Wellesley	1798–1805	Subsidiary Alliance 1798 · Tipu killed 1799 · Ft. William College 1800
Lord Hastings	1813–23	Anglo-Nepal War · 3rd Maratha (Confederacy dissolved) · Pindaris
Lord Amherst	1823–28	1st Burma War 1824–26 · Barrackpore Mutiny 1824
Lord Bentinck	1828–35	Sati abolished 1829 · English education 1835 · First GG of India
Lord Auckland	1836–42	1st Afghan War – Kabul disaster 1842
Lord Ellenborough	1842–44	Sind annexed 1843 (General Napier)
Lord Hardinge	1844–48	1st Sikh War · Treaty of Lahore & Amritsar 1846
Lord Dalhousie	1848–56	Punjab 1849 · DoL (7 states) · Railway 1853 · Telegraph 1851 · Awadh 1856
Lord Canning	1856–62	1857 Revolt · First Viceroy (1858) · Queen's Proclamation

Key Treaties & Annexations – Quick Reference

Treaty / Event	Year	Key Clause
Treaty of Allahabad	1765	Diwani of Bengal, Bihar & Orissa to EIC
Permanent Settlement	1793	Fixed zamindari revenue; Bengal/Bihar/Orissa
Treaty of Bassein	1802	Peshwa accepted Subsidiary Alliance
Treaty of Sugauli	1816	Anglo-Nepal War ended; Gurkhas recruited
Treaty of Amritsar	1846	Kashmir sold to Gulab Singh for ₹75 lakh
Punjab Annexation	1849	2nd Sikh War; Duleep Singh exiled; Koh-i-Noor
Awadh Annexation	1856	Misgovernance; last major pre-1857 annexation

10. Important Facts — Last 30-Minute Revision

EIC Charter: 31 December 1600

Queen Elizabeth I; 125 shareholders

Thomas Roe: 1615–16

First British Ambassador; Emperor Jahangir's court

Bombay: Portuguese dowry 1661

Leased to EIC 1668 for £10/year

Farrukhsiyar Farman 1717

'Magna Carta of EIC' — free trade in Bengal

Permanent Settlement 1793: Cornwallis

Fixed zamindari revenue in Bengal/Bihar/Orissa

Sati abolished: 4 Dec 1829

Lord Bentinck; Regulation XVII; Roy supported

Sind annexed: 1843

Lord Ellenborough; Gen. Napier ('Peccavi')

First Railway: 16 April 1853

Bombay to Thane (34 km); Lord Dalhousie

First Surat factory: 1613

Thomas Best's naval victory at Swally 1612

Madras 1640 — Fort St. George

Francis Day & Andrew Cogan

Calcutta: Job Charnock 1690

Fort William 1698; Presidency 1699

First GG Bengal: Warren Hastings 1773

Regulating Act; abolished Dual Govt (1772)

Subsidiary Alliance 1798: Wellesley

Nizam of Hyderabad = FIRST state to accept

Charter Act 1833: Bentinck

First GG of India; EIC trade monopoly fully ended

First DoL: Satara (1848)

Last DoL: Nagpur (1854); Awadh=MISGOVERNANCE

GoI Act 1858: EIC dissolved

Lord Canning = First Viceroy; Crown Rule

10.1 Common Mistakes & Exam Traps — Don't Lose Easy Marks!

✗ Wrong: "Warren Hastings = Lord Hastings"

✓ Correct: **Two different people!** Warren Hastings = 1st GG Bengal (1773–85) | Lord Hastings (Marquess) = GG 1813–23 (3rd Maratha War)

💡 Same surname, 30+ years apart — most common BPSC/SSC confusion

✗ Wrong: "Permanent Settlement was by Lord Wellesley"

✓ Correct: **Lord Cornwallis (1793)** introduced Permanent Settlement. Wellesley = Subsidiary Alliance (1798)

💡 Cornwallis and Wellesley both had major policies — test exact match

✗ Wrong: "Awadh annexed under Doctrine of Lapse (1856)"

✓ Correct: **MISGOVERNANCE** — Nawab Wajid Ali Shah had a living heir; DoL applies only when there's no natural heir

💡 Single most-asked trap in all competitive exams — Awadh ≠ DoL

✗ Wrong: "Sind was annexed by Lord Dalhousie"

✓ Correct: **Lord Ellenborough (1843)** annexed Sind; General Charles Napier executed it. Dalhousie came after in 1848

💡 Students associate ALL annexations with Dalhousie — Sind is the exception

✗ Wrong: "First railway in India: 1851 (Telegraph year)"

✓ Correct: **16 April 1853** = First railway (Bombay–Thane). **1851** = First telegraph (Calcutta to Diamond Harbour)

💡 Both are Dalhousie; 1851 vs 1853 — confusing proximity

✗ Wrong: "Charter Act 1813 ended ALL EIC monopoly"

✓ Correct: **Charter Act 1813** ended India trade monopoly only. **Charter Act 1833** ended the China trade monopoly too

💡 Partial vs total monopoly end — test exact charter act

✗ Wrong: "Warren Hastings = First GG of India"

✓ Correct: **Warren Hastings = First GG of Bengal**. **Lord William Bentinck (Charter Act 1833) = First GG of India**

💡 GG of Bengal ≠ GG of India — critical distinction for all exams

11. PYQ Practice Set — 12 Questions

1 EIC was founded in India under the Charter of which year?

(A) 31 Dec 1600

(B) 1612

(C) 1623

(D) 1651

SSC CGL, 2018 | Easy ●○○

2 Who introduced the Permanent Settlement in Bengal?

(A) Lord Wellesley

(B) Lord Cornwallis

(C) Lord Dalhousie

(D) Warren Hastings

SSC CGL, 2020 | Easy ●○○

3 Which Charter Act ended EIC's trade monopoly with India (except China)?

(A) Charter Act 1793

(B) Charter Act 1784

(C) Charter Act 1813

(D) Charter Act 1833

SSC CHSL, 2019 | Easy ●○○

4 The first railway line in India was opened in which year?

(A) 1851

(B) 1853

(C) 1854

(D) 1856

SSC CGL, 2021 | Easy ●○○

5 Mughal Farman of 1717 (Farrukhsiyar) is known as the 'Magna Carta of EIC' because?

(A) Gave EIC duty-free trade in Bengal for ₹3,000/year

(B) Founded Calcutta as EIC base

(C) Ended Portuguese dominance

(D) Established the first Surat factory

BPSC 66th, 2020 | Medium ●●○

6 Which was the FIRST state to accept Lord Wellesley's Subsidiary Alliance?

(A) Nawab of Awadh (1801)

(B) Peshwa Baji Rao II (1802)

(C) Nizam of Hyderabad (1798)

(D) Nawab of Mysore (1799)

SSC CGL, 2019 | Medium ●●○

7 Which Charter Act converted the 'Governor-General of Bengal' to 'Governor-General of India'?

(A) Charter Act 1813

(B) Charter Act 1833

(C) Charter Act 1853

(D) GoI Act 1858

SSC CHSL, 2020 | Medium ●●○

8 Which was the FIRST state annexed under the Doctrine of Lapse?

(A) Jhansi (1853)

(B) Nagpur (1854)

(C) Satara (1848)

(D) Awadh (1856)

RRB NTPC, 2021 | Medium ●●○

9 Match the policies with their respective Governor-Generals:

A. Ring Fence B. Subordinate Isolation C. Subsidiary Alliance

(A) A-Warren Hastings, B-Cornwallis, C-Wellesley

(B) A-Cornwallis, B-Wellesley, C-Warren Hastings

(C) A-Wellesley, B-Warren Hastings, C-Cornwallis

(D) A-Warren Hastings, B-Wellesley, C-Cornwallis

SSC CGL, ~2022 | Hard ●●●

10 Consider statements: (1) Sind was annexed before Lord Dalhousie's tenure (2) Awadh was annexed under Doctrine of Lapse (3) Punjab was annexed after 2nd Anglo-Sikh War. How many are correct?

(A) 1 and 3 only

(B) 2 and 3 only

(C) 1 and 2 only

(D) All three

BPSC 66th, 2021 | Hard ●●●

11 Fort William College (1800) in Calcutta was established by which Governor-General?

(A) Warren Hastings

(B) Lord Cornwallis

(C) Lord Wellesley

(D) Lord William Bentinck

RRB NTPC, 2020 | Hard ●●●

12 Which Act opened the Indian Civil Service (ICS) to Indians through competitive examinations?

(A) Charter Act 1813

(B) Charter Act 1833

(C) Charter Act 1853

(D) Government of India Act 1858

SSC CGL, ~2021 | Hard ●●●


✓ Answer Key with Explanations

- Q1. (A) 31 Dec 1600** – EIC Charter granted by Queen Elizabeth I; 125 original shareholders
- Q2. (B) Lord Cornwallis** – Permanent Settlement 1793; NOT Wellesley who did Subsidiary Alliance
- Q3. (C) Charter Act 1813** – Ended India trade monopoly; Charter Act 1833 ended China monopoly
- Q4. (B) 1853** – 16 April 1853, Bombay to Thane (34 km); NOT 1851 which was the first telegraph
- Q5. (A) Duty-free trade / Magna Carta of EIC** – Farrukhsiyar's farman; ₹3,000/year fixed payment
- Q6. (C) Nizam of Hyderabad (1798)** – First to accept SA; Awadh 1801, Peshwa 1802, Scindia 1804
- Q7. (B) Charter Act 1833** – Lord Bentinck became First GG of India under this Act
- Q8. (C) Satara (1848)** – First DoL annexation; Jhansi 1853; Nagpur 1854; Awadh = MISGOVERNANCE (not DoL)
- Q9. (A) A-Warren Hastings, B-Cornwallis, C-Wellesley** – Ring Fence=defensive; Sub. Isolation=isolate; SA=absorb
- Q10. (A) 1 and 3 only** – Sind=Ellenborough 1843 (before Dalhousie) ✓; Awadh=Misgovernance NOT DoL X; Punjab=2nd Sikh War ✓
- Q11. (C) Lord Wellesley** – Established Fort William College in 1800 to train civil servants
- Q12. (C) Charter Act 1853** – Opened ICS to competitive examination; previously reserved for EIC nominees




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