

ADMINISTRATIVE, SOCIAL AND JUDICIAL SYSTEMS AFTER 1858**ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS****City Improvement Acts**

The English suffered huge monetary losses during the mutiny of 1857. During that time the Royal Army Sanitary Commission made certain recommendations towards public health. It was not economically feasible to act on these recommendations by the central authority. So, decentralization became inevitable, and in this environment, the importance of local bodies, which would collect local taxes to meet the expenses of public services, grew. Therefore, the City Improvement Acts were passed for Chennai, Punjab and other centrally administered provinces.

Mayo's Resolution (1870)

In 1870, decentralized local governments acquired powers in the spheres of education, public health and financial matters after the resolution passed by Lord Mayo. In 1882, the Municipality Act was issued to organize municipalities and to entrust them with looking after local funds.

Ripon's Resolution (1882)

Lord Ripon made an important resolution in 1882 for local self-governing bodies by entrusting the responsibility of managing their affairs in the hands of Indians. The Government now controlled the new municipalities and corporations and externally and internally they were administered by the elected Indians. Only control over sanction of funds and execution of work was in the hands of the Government. Ripon's resolution did not bring the desired fruits and it was opposed by the English officials. Lord Curzon had a special dislike for this style of local self-governance. Various moves were made by him to decrease the importance of local self-governing bodies.

Recommendations of Decentralization Commission (1907)

In 1907, the Decentralization Commission recommended the reduction of government control over local self-governing bodies. It also suggested various programmes for the revival of village panchayats and increasing the income of local self-governing bodies. All the recommendations were accepted by the government but they were not accomplished.

Harding Resolution (1915)

In 1915, Lord Harding passed a resolution that entrusted the panchayat with civil and judicial powers. It also asked for greater representation of elected members and election for the post of chairman for each governing body. The number of non-official members in district and local bodies were also increased. This resolution paved the way for the 1917 resolution made by the Secretary of State according to which the jurisdiction of local-governing bodies and the government were finally separated and the local bodies received ample freedom in collection and imposition of local taxes, within rules. Minority groups were now given adequate reservation in the governing body set-up and the chairman was elected. Earlier, it was the District Magistrate who acted as the chairman of the local governing bodies.

The Indigo Revolt (1859-1860) ★

The Indigo Revolt of 1859-1860 was the most militant and widespread of the peasant movements. The indigo planter, nearly all Europeans, compelled their tenants to grow indigo which they processed in factories set up in rural areas. Peasants were forced to grow indigo on the best of their land even if they wanted to devote it to other cash crops. The system involved great loss to the cultivators who were deceived with fraudulent contracts, low prices and other enforcements from the government.

Discontent among the indigo growers of Bengal boiled over in the autumn of 1859, with the kar proclamation on this matter. In protest against the enforced cultivation of indigo, the tenants of the Govindpur village of Nadia district (Bengal), under the leadership of Digamber Biswas and Vishnu Biswas, resisted the physical pressure of the planters. Peasant disturbances and indigo strikes spread rapidly to other areas and, by 1860, encompassed all Indigo-growing districts of Bengal. Ultimately, the planters had to bow out of the indigo business and they gradually herein to close their factories. By the end of 1860, the cultivation of indigo was virtually wiped out from Bengal.

The major reason for the success of the Indigo Revolt was the tremendous initiative, cooperation, organization and discipline of the peasants, along with the complete unify of Hindu and Muslim peasants. The leadership also played a vital role as it was provided by the well-off peasants, zamindars, money lenders and ex-employees of the planters. Also outstanding in this respect was the role of Harish Chandra Mukherjee (editor of the newspaper, Hindoo Patriot) Dina Bandhu Mitra (writer of the play, Neel Darpan) and Michael Madhusudan Dutta, the eminent Bengali poet-cum-playwright, who translated Neel Darpan into English.

REFORMS IN EDUCATION

The Hunter Commission (1882)

William Hunter was appointed as the Chairman of a special committee on education by Lord Ripon in 1882. The various recommendations made by the Hunter Commission included increased control of local governing bodies its primary schools and educational institutions. It also stressed on uniformity in fees and conduct of the primary schools, middle schools and colleges. It also proposed special arrangements for patronizing Muslim education in India. The Government accepted most of its recommendations, except the imparting of religious education.

The Raleigh Commission (1902)

The Raleigh Commission, during the tenure of Lord Curzon, recommended giving more powers to universities to improve education in India. It stressed upon the need for revamping the existing system of governance of universities and the reconstitution of the Senate and the Syndicate in order to give greater importance to higher education.

The Saddler Commission (1917)

The Saddler Commission was constituted by the government to study the affairs of the Kolkata University. After studying the overall aspect of secondary and collegiate education prevailing in India at that time, the commission recommended that the intermediate courses should be separated from the University and merged with secondary education. It decreed that the Kolkata University should be considered to be the seat of higher education and the appointment of all lecturers and professors should be through the Kolkata University. The university degree was to be limited to a 3-year period only. It also made important recommendations for the medium of education. The local language was to be made the medium of education up to high school and thereafter education was to be imparted in English only. The recommendations were accepted by the government and universities were established at Patna, Mysore, Deccan, Lucknow, Aligarh, Banaras and Hyderabad.

Other Important Reforms in Education

1. The Indian University Act of 1914 It extended the jurisdiction of universities and empowered them to maintain discipline in affiliated colleges.
2. The Act of 1913 It brought all around development in the field of education in India. Due importance was given to primary education. However, certain existing privileges of universities were curtailed.
3. Harding Committee of 1915 Inter-University Committees were set up to study the working of different committees and the University

Training Corps was established to impart military training to students; the trained students formed the Imperial Cadet Corps (ICC, now called NCC).

4. The Act of 1919 National schools and other educational institutions were set up to impart training to people for basic education, under the Wardha scheme. The Government took control of the higher education and primary education was under the control of the local governing bodies.
5. Wood Abbot Commission of 1935 It recommended reconstitution of the textbook committee and appointment of teachers for primary schools. The recommendations of this commission held prime importance for bringing remarkable progress between 1937 and 1947, under provincial administration.
6. The Sargent Commission of 1944 It recommended compulsory primary education for all children, boys and girls, between 6 and 14 years. It proposed basic education in two stages each of 3 years and limited entry into university through competition only.

Ilbert Bill (1883)

Lord Ripon passed the Ilbert Bill (1883) in an attempt to pass a law to enable Indian district magistrates to try European criminals. This was vehemently opposed by Europeans. British government ultimately withdrew the bill much to the anger of the Indians. Nationalist Indians realized that they should organize themselves on a national scale and agitate unitedly to get their demands accepted. It paved the way for the foundation of the Indian National Congress.

THE JUDICIARY REFORMS

The Ilbert Bill Controversy (1883-1884)

Before 1883, judicial disqualification was based on racial distinction. Indian judges were not allowed to try European, and especially English, criminals. Ripon appointed Law Member Sir C. P. Ilbert to draft a bill on the principle of equality of humans of all classes and colour distinction before the

law. As per the Ilbert Bill, Indian judges were granted the same powers and status as any 'of their European counterparts. The Bill landed in a controversy when the British residing in India severely criticized the Bill and agitated against the viceroy. The controversy dwelled into a very big issue when it received a severe response from the British press and was also criticized in the British Parliament. Resistance to the adoption of the Bill increased as Ripon appointed an Indian judge. Justice Mitra, as acting Supreme Court Judge when the regular judges was on leave. In 1884. Ripon had to make suitable amendments in which he gave special privileges to European criminals, who were to be tried only in special courts that had a majority of European judges.

SOCIAL REFORMS

Important Social Reforms under the British

1. The Prohibition of Female Infanticide (1795) The acting Governor-General, Sir John Shore, prohibited female child infanticide in 1795.
2. The Munro Report and Metcalf Policy for Liberal Press (1823) Sir Thomas Munro was appointed by the British Government to send his report on Indian journalism. His harsh recommendations were passed as an Act in 1823, which advocated censorship of papers and books by the Government. Charles Metcalf, however, relaxed the restrictions on the Press and made it free. Only during the 1857 Mutiny, were the papers put under temporary scrutiny.
3. The Prohibition of Sati pratha (1828) On 4 December 1828, Lord William Bentinck passed a law prohibition of sati. Nearly 7,000 instances of sati were reported to the Government every year.
4. The Civil Marriage Act (1872) With this Act, marriages were transformed from a mere religious ceremony into a social practice. All the marriages were to be registered and the age of 14 years was fixed as legal age for marriage.

for females. This paved way to the acceptance of widow remarriage, inter-caste and inter-religion marriages. Child marriage was made illegal with the passing of the Age of Consent Act.

5. Vernacular Press Act (1878) In 1870, an Act pertaining to journalism was passed to penalize papers that instigated the public to conspire against the Government. However, it was Lord Lytton who imposed severe restrictions on the Press in the Vernacular Press Act of 1878. This Act was not applicable to the English Press operating in India, but only to the Vernacular Press. However, these restrictions were taken off in stages with passing of the Acts of 1908 and 1910 and was completely removed by 1919.
6. The Married Women 'v' Property Act (1874) With this Act, the women had the right to claim ancestral property and property belonging to their husband. It empowered women to their rights over their own earnings, which used to be their father's, before marriage, and their husband's, after marriage.
7. Justice Miller Committee (1918) Lesley Miller, Justice of the Mysore High Court, was appointed as the President of the Committee for Backward Classes. The Committee's recommendations emphasized on professional education for backward classes and on increasing their representation in the government bodies. The Miller Committee recommended 50 per cent reservation on recruitment to government jobs, for 7 years, for backward classes. Free education, free books and relaxed conditions for admission to government and aided schools for students of backward classes were also recommended.

The recommendations were vehemently protested by Brahmin leaders. But the recommendations were implemented with the support of the first non-Brahmin Diwan, Kantharaja Urs, in 1919.

8. Indian Journalism Act (1932) This Act was passed to bring journalism under the control of the Government. Newspapers had started playing a vital role in national politics after the Lahore Congress Session in 1929. Journalists began reporting political leaders in jails, their sufferings and the harsh attitude of the Government, which sparked off patriotic feelings in the masses. The Government tried to restrict the press by subjecting them to severe censorship through this Act.



The Kuka Revolt (1863-1872)

The Kukas, a tribe in Punjab were implicit followers of Guru Gobind Singh. They hated both Muslims and the English. Their prominent leaders were Bhagat Jawaharmal, Ram Singh and Badan Singh. The agitation was on a full swing after the incident of dumping of cow bones at Amritsar. The other cities of Punjab that became centres of this agitation were Ludhiana deported their leaders to Rangoon and brought an abrupt end to this revolt.

GK Study Materials [PDF Download](#)

All subject Study Materials [PDF Download](#)

2018 Current Affairs Download – [PDF Download](#)

Whatsapp Group  [Click Here](#)

Telegram Channel  [Click Here](#)

Join Us on FB : English – [Examsdaily](#)

Follow US on  **Twitter -** [Examsdaily](#)