



CIVIL SERVICES
IN BRITISH INDIA



Writers Building Kolkata

PHASE I: TILL 1858

- Civil Service was brought into existence by **Lord Cornwallis**.
 - He enforced the rules against private trade and acceptance of presents and bribes by officials with strictness.
 - He raised the salaries of the Company servants.
 - Promotion in the Civil Service by seniority.
- In 1800, **Lord Wellesley** established the **College of Fort William at Calcutta** (Kolkata) for the education of young recruits to the Civil Service.
- The directors of the Company disapproved of Wellesley's action and in 1806 replaced Fort William College with **East Indian College at Haileybury** in England.

Exclusion of Indians

- Special feature since Cornwallis was complete exclusion of Indians from the Civil Service.

- In 1793, it was laid down that all higher posts in administration worth £500 a year in salary were to be held by Englishmen.
- **Why policy of exclusion of Indians?**
 - The belief that an administration based on British ideas, institutions and practices could be firmly established only by English personnel.
 - The ability and integrity of Indians were not trusted.

Example:

Charles Grant, Chairman of the Court of Directors, condemned the people of India as '*a race of men lamentably degenerate and base....*'

Cornwallis believed that "*every native of Hindustan is corrupt*".

- It was a deliberate policy as the consolidation of British Rule in India required the services of the Britishers, and could not be left to Indians.

- The influential classes of British society were keen to preserve the monopoly of lucrative appointments in Indian Civil Service.

Charter Act of 1853

- Till 1853 – all appointments to the civil service was made by the Directors of East India Company.
- The **Charter Act of 1853** decreed that all recruits to the Civil Service be selected through a **competitive examination**.

PHASE II: 1858-1905

- After 1858, unitary control of British Parliament over Indian Administration established.
 - Secretary of State was put in sole charge of India.
 - Indian officials now responsible only to Secretary of State.
- Appointment of Indians in public offices:
 - **1833 Act** legalized appointment of Indians even to the highest offices of the State.
But, provisions of the Act of 1793 that laid down that ‘none but covenanted servants of Company could hold any office with a salary of more than £800 a year, was not repealed.
 - Formerly these officers were nominated partly by Directors of the Company and partly by Board of Control.
 - **System of OPEN COMPETITION introduced in 1853 and reaffirmed in 1858.**
 - Competition was open for all natural born citizens of Her Majesty.
 - Indian Civil Service Act 1861.

Maximum Age	Year of Introduction
23	1859
21	1866
19	1878

- In 1870, an Act was passed authorizing appointment of Indians to higher offices Without any Examination.
 - ◆ Reason: inadequacy of Indians in administration.
 - ◆ Only in 1879, this Act came into effect.
 - ◆ Rules adopted in 1879 says that ‘a proportion not exceeding one-sixth of total number of Covenanted Civil Service appointed in any year by Secretary of State, should be natives in India selected by local government subject to approval of Governor-General-in-Council.
 - ◆ These officers were called **‘Statutory Civil service’**, recruited from young men of ‘good family and social position’.
- In 1866, **Lord Dufferin** appointed a **Commission under Sir Charles Atchison** as its chairman.
 - Recommendation of the Commission:
 - ◆ Idea of holding simultaneous exam in India rejected.
 - ◆ Abolition of Statutory Civil Service.
 - ◆ **Proposed ‘Provincial Civil Service’** in every province, either by promotion from lower ranks or by direct recruitment.
 - ◆ **Terms ‘Covenanted’ and ‘Un-covenanted’ were replaced by ‘Imperial’ and ‘Provincial’.**
 - ◆ Below Provincial Civil Service would be a Sub-ordinate Civil Service.