

Indian Independence Act 1947
(11 December, 2021)

About Indian Independence Act 1947

1. It created **2 independent Dominions of India and Pakistan.**
2. Each Dominion will have a governor **General** (appointed by British King on the **advice of the dominion cabinet**) and the viceroy **was abolished.**
3. **Lord Mountbatten was the 1st Governor General of India and Jinnah became the 1st Governor General of Pakistan** of new India. GG was to be constitutional (nominal) heads to be acting on the advice of Council of Ministers.
4. the constituent **Assembly of each dominion will exercise the power of the legislature.** The existing Central legislative Assembly and Council of States to be dissolved.
5. It abolished **the Secretary of State (SoS) for India** and transferred his functions to SoS for Commonwealth Affairs.

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UPSC GS Study Notes

- **Changes in Constituent Assembly:** It became the Parliament of Indian Dominion. The Constituent Assembly was made a fully sovereign body that could frame any constitution and repeal any act including this one. It was given 2 major separate functions which continued till Nov 26, 1949 and other minor functions.
 1. Making of a Constitution. When it met as a Constituent body, it was chaired by Dr. Rajendra Prasad.
 2. Enacting of Ordinary Laws: When it met as a legislative body, it was chaired by G V Mavlankar (Speaker).
 3. **Before independence:** It adopted the **National Flag** on July 22, 1947.
 4. **Post-Independence:** It **ratified India's membership to Common wealth** in May 1949. It **adopted the National Anthem, National Song, elected 1st President of India, and had its last session all on 24th Jan 1950.** However, it continued as a provisional Parliament of India from Jan 26, 1950 till the formation of new Parliament after the 1st elections in 1951-52.
- The members of interim govt were the members of the Viceroy's Executive Council with Viceroy as the head. **But Nehru was designated as the vice president of the Council.** Coz Mountbatten was the President.
- It proclaimed lapse of British paramountcy over Indian princely States, freedom to join India / Pak / remain independent and with tribals.
- Till the new constitution is enacted, governed by the Govt of India Act, 1935. However, you can modify it.
- It deprived British Monarch of his right to veto or reserve certain bills for his approval but this right was reserved to Governor General in the name of King.