

**The Charter Act of 1813 - A Complete Overview**  
(27 November, 2021)

***The Charter Act of 1813 - Minto I/ Hastings***



**Background of The Charter Act of 1813**

1. There was a Committee into the House of Commons to probe into Indian Affairs.
2. The **Home Government** had specifically directed the Govt **not to follow the policy of conquests**. But **Lord Wellesley** and Marquis of **Hastings** followed an **imperialistic policy**. This created **financial difficulties** for the Company.
3. The Company's power had spread to the whole of India **except Punjab, Nepal, and Sind**. The **EIC's territories increased so much** that it was **difficult to continue as a commercial and political body**.
4. Company requested financial help from the Parliament due to overspending in wars and setback in trade.
5. Plus, this was the time **when Napoleon had imposed the Continental System on Europe**. Hence, British Merchants had to divert their focus towards the East esp India.
6. There was also a lot of **agitation against** the continuance of **commercial monopoly by the EIC**. Influence of Adam Smith, Benthamite Reformists, the Evangelicals, and Traditionalists. Their foremost interest was to safeguard the stability of the Empire.

# UPSC GS Study Notes

## Provisions of the Charter Act of 1813

1. The **Charter Act of 1813** asserted expressly for the 1st time an '**undoubted sovereignty**' of the crown over the Indian territories and thus this was another act of £ parliament removing the mask.
2. **The 1813 Charter Act, ended the company's monopoly over all Indian trade except trade in tea and trade with China.**
3. The **Indian trade** was *thrown open to all British* merchants with certain restrictions.
4. The Charter Act 1813 also **allowed** for the operations of the **Christian missionaries** in India.
5. The 1813 Charter act **provided Rs. 1 lakh per annum for education.** Financial assistance to promote the revival of literature and sciences.
6. The power of Provincial govt and courts in India over British subjects was strengthened.