

The Charter Act of 1813 - A Complete Overview
(26 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 Gol **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.

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.



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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.

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