



Lord Curzon



LORD CURZON

* George Nathaniel Curzon (11 January 1859 - 20 March 1925) was a British Statesman and foreign secretary who served as India's youngest viceroy (1899-1905) *



Curzon's Foreign Policies

- ↳ **North-West Frontier Province (NWFP):** Policy of Withdrawal and Concentration, encouraged tribals to maintain peace in NWFP
- ↳ **Afghan Policy:** Anglo-Afghan Treaty of 1905, for better relations with Afghans
- ↳ **Persian Gulf Mission:** Under Sir Henry MacMahon
- ↳ **Younghusband's Mission to Tibet, 1904:** To counter all Russian schemes in Tibet

MAJOR EVENTS DURING CURZON'S TENURE

Administrative Reforms

- ↳ **Calcutta Corporation Act, 1899:**
 - ↳ Reduced elected and increased nominated legislatures
- ↳ **Economic:**
 - ↳ **Currency Act 1899:** British currency recognized as legal tender in India
 - ↳ Estd. Department of Commerce and Industry
 - ↳ Supported policy of financial decentralisation
- ↳ **Police Reforms: Police Commission 1902** under Sir Andrew Frazer, estd. Criminal Investigation Departments (CIDs)
- ↳ **Judiciary:**
 - ↳ Increased number of judges of Calcutta High Court
 - ↳ Enhanced salaries of judges of High Courts and Subordinate Courts

Agriculture

- ↳ **1900: Punjab Land Alienation Act** to reduce land transfer from peasants to money-lenders on defaulting debts
- ↳ **1901: Irrigation Commission** under Sir Colin Scott Moncrieff
- ↳ **1904: Cooperative Credit Societies Act** to provide loans to cultivators at cheap interest rates
- ↳ **1905: Established Agricultural Research Institute (ARI)**

Other Reforms

- ↳ **1899-1900: Famine Commission** under Sir Anthony MacDonnell
- ↳ **1901: Roberston Railway Commission** recommended setting of Railway Board
- ↳ **1902:**
 - ↳ Lord Kitchener as Commander-in-Chief, implemented crucial Army reforms
 - ↳ **Raleigh Commission** prepared **Indian Universities Act 1904**, Curzon justified greater control over universities in name of quality and efficiency
- ↳ **1904: Ancient Monuments Act** introduced to protect & preserve historical monuments in country

Partition of Bengal, 1905

- ↳ To weaken Bengal, the nerve centre of Indian nationalism by putting the Bengalis under two administrations - East and West Bengal

Curzon had hoped to bind India permanently to the British Raj. Ironically, his partition of Bengal, and the bitter controversy that followed, did much to revitalise Congress.



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