



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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