

Mountbatten Plan - Indian Independence Act 1947

[UPSC Notes]

What is the Mountbatten Plan?

The Mountbatten Plan was proposed by the last Viceroy and Governor-General of India, Lord Louis Mountbatten, and was India's provisional administrative division. The transfer of power from the British authorities was announced on 3 June 1947 and was to be implemented by Indian leaders on 15 August 1947. The partition of India into two countries: a Hindu-majority India and a Muslim-majority Pakistan.

Mountbatten Plan UPSC	
Mountbatten Plan Date	3 June 1947
Mountbatten Plan another name	3 June Plan / Plan Balkan

Features of Mountbatten Plan

The Mountbatten plan was implemented with the fullest rapidity.

- The Indian Constituent Assembly's constitution will not apply to Muslim-majority provinces.
- Their own Legislative Assemblies will talk about how Punjab and Bengal will be split up and which Constituent Assembly individuals will join.
- The question of a separate Constituent Assembly will be decided by the Muslim-majority provinces.
- The ultimate delineation lines will be decided by a Boundary Commission in each province.
- The Sind Legislative Assembly will vote on whether to stay in the current Constituent Assembly or join the next one.
- By the 15th of August, 1947, power was to be given to India.

Provisions of the Mountbatten Plan

In 1946, when Mahatma Gandhi came back from Noakhali after his fast against Hindu-Muslim riots there, he said: "I do not want Pakistan." But he did not want any more than

that either. He did not want partition between Hindus and Muslims but wanted a united India where Muslims would be equal citizens with equal rights as other Indians.

The partition of India was not a new idea. The British had been trying to solve the problem of an undivided India since the beginning of their rule in 1858 but had failed to come up with a solution acceptable to all parties involved. Muslims wanted an Islamic state while Hindus wanted a secular state, be it with special privileges for minorities or without them; Sikhs wanted an independent Punjab; and what about other religious minorities like Christians and Zoroastrians?

The goal of this plan was to make sure that Hindus and Muslims did not kill each other during the partition.

- British Prime Minister Clement Atlee arrived in India, and British Prime Minister Clement Atlee gave him the job of making sure that the power quickly changed hands.
- In May 1947, Mountbatten presented a scheme in which the provinces would be declared independent successor states and then given the option of joining or not joining the constituent assembly. The "Dickie Bird Plan" was the name given to this strategy.
- The Viceroy devised a strategy known as the June 3 Plan.
- Separation, independence, sovereignty for both nations, and the right to write their own constitution were all part of the plan.
- Princely states like Jammu and Kashmir could choose whether to join India or Pakistan.

Main Clause of Mountbatten Plan

The partition of India was not only one of the most painful and traumatic events in history, but also one with an uncertain outcome. This clause ensured that there would be no discrimination based on religion or community during the transition period from British rule to Indian Independence. India should be split up after a reasonable amount of time has passed and tempers have cooled. It should also happen in a way that doesn't hurt those who want to stay in Pakistan or Hindustan.

Merits of Mountbatten Plan

Here are few provisions that show why the Mountbatten Plan was a success

- It gave India its independence, it established Pakistan and it created the conditions for peace between two countries that were historically at war with each other.

- The transfer of power from British hands to Indian leaders by June 1948.
- It made sure that India would get its independence at a time when there was already instability in the Indian government.
- Maintained peace between the two countries during their transition to independence.
- It prevented a civil war between Hindus and Muslims in India.

Analysis of Mountbatten Plan

The Mountbatten Plan was a Masterpiece of Strategic Deception.

- It helped India to win freedom from Britain and Pakistan to gain independence from India.
- The British had to get their troops out of India and Pakistan as soon as possible and give power to Indian leaders.
- This allowed for a population exchange between the two new dominions, allowing Hindus to move from Pakistan to India and Muslims to move from India to Pakistan.
- The exchange of the population reduced tension between the two new states and made it easier for them to live peacefully with each other afterward.
- Enable Britain to withdraw its army from the subcontinent without any violence.