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## **GOVERNORS - GENERAL AND THE COLONIAL POLICIES**

Governors-General and the major changes taking place in colonial policies –

### **1. WARREN HASTINGS (1772 – 1785)**

1. The passing of Regulating Act of 1773
2. The passing of Pitts India Act, 1784
3. The Rohilla War of 1774
4. First Maratha war (1775 – 1782) and the Treaty of Salbai in 1782
5. Second Mysore war in 1780 – 1784
6. Foundation of Asiatic Society of Bengal in 1784 by Sir William Jones

After the Battle of Buxar, Warren Hastings was made the British resident commissioner at the court of the Nawab of Bengal. He had participated valiantly in Battle of Plassey and other skirmishes. He was favoured by Clive who was the Governor of Bengal before him. Clive had come to Bengal in May 1765 and left in Feb 1767. However, Warren Hastings became the Governor of Bengal in 1772 and due to the Regulating Act 1773 he was made Governor-General of Bengal, responsible for supervision and control over all the three presidencies viz - Bombay, Madras and Bengal.

### **REGULATING ACT OF 1773**

This was passed by the British Parliament to reform the administration of East India Company which had become unruly and chaotic. The system of dual administration in Bengal was not favoured to continue anymore. The Company was reeling under financial distress. Since 1768 they were unable to pay £ 400,000 per year to the British government to maintain monopoly over Indian trade. Its tea sales to America had dropped as more than 85% of tea in America was being smuggled by the Dutch. It was under debt of both Bank of England and the British Government. Hence, in spite of opposition from strong shareholders lobby, the Regulating Act was passed. Its provisions were -

1. The Act limited Company dividends to 6% until it repaid a £1.5M loan. It restricted the Court of Directors to only four-year terms.
2. It prohibited the servants of Company from engaging in any private trade or accepting presents or bribes from the natives.