

## Handout 2

Will discuss origin and evolution of constitution w.r.t development in

- Ancient
- Medieval
- Modern (Pre British)

Refer to class notes and discussion

### **Evolution of Indian Constitution**

#### **Major provision of main acts (details discussed in class)**

#### **Concepts and Analysis refer class note and discussion**

##### **Regulating Act, 1773:**

- British Government to control and regulate the activities of the EIC
- foundation for the centred administration in India. Centralising tendency
- designated the governor of Bengal as the Governor General of Bengal.
- establishment of the Supreme Court at Calcutta.
- **Pitt's India Act, 1784:**
- commercial and political functions of the company were demarcated
- The Court of Directors responsible for commercial functions whereas the Board of Control was responsible for political functions.
- **Concepts BOD and COD refer to class notes**

##### **Charter Act of 1813:**

- abolished the trade monopoly of the Company in India,
- **however**, the company's monopoly in trade with China and trade in tea with India continued. Thus, trade with India for all commodities except Tea was thrown open to all British subjects.
- It asserted the sovereignty of the British Crown over the Company's territories in India.

##### **Charter Act 1833:**

- Governor General of Bengal was designated as the Governor General of India and vested in him all civil and military powers.
- activities of East India Company as a commercial Body came to end

**Charter Act of 1853:**

- first time the legislative and executive functions of the Governor General were separated
- introduced a Parliamentary form of government.
- introduced an open competition system for the recruitment of the civil servants

• **Government of India Act, 1858:**

- company's role in India ended.
- changed the designation of Governor General to the Viceroy of India.
- system of Double Government ended.

• **Indian Councils Act, 1861:**

- Portfolio System in India introduced
- process of decentralization

• **Indian Council Act 1892:**

- nomination of non-official members in the central legislative council.
- expanded the function of the legislative council by giving
- power to discuss the budget.

• **Indian Councils Act, 1909:**

- system of Communal Representation (the concept of a Separate Electorate.)
- retained an official majority in the central legislative council but allowed provincial legislative councils to have a non-official majority.