

1. DISCUSS THE SALIENT FEATURES OF THE INDIAN INDEPENDENCE ACT 1947.

Indian Independence Act of 1947

Mountbatten Plan was given immediate effect by the passage of the Indian Independence Act. Main features of the Act include:

- It ended the British rule in India and declared India as an independent and sovereign state from August 15, 1947.
- It made provisions for the Partition of India and creation of two separate two dominions of India and Pakistan with the right to secede from the British Commonwealth.
- Pakistan would comprise East Bengal, West Punjab, Sind and the Sylhet district of Assam.
- The suzerainty of the British Monarch over Indian states would lapse on 15 the August 1947. It dropped the title of Emperor of India from the royal titles of the King of England.
- The Indian States could accede to either of the two Dominions.
- It empowered the Constituent Assemblies of the two dominions to frame and adopt any constitution for their respective nations and to repeal any act of the British Parliament, including the Independence act itself.
- No Act of the British Parliament passed after August 15, 1947 was to extend to either of the two dominions unless it was extended thereto by a law of the legislature of the dominion.
- It designated the governor-general of India and the provincial governors as constitutional heads of the states. They were made to act on the advice of the respective council of ministers in all matters.