



Evolution of Governance in British India

Theme	Progress Over Time
Representation of Indians	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. 1861 – Indians nominated to legislative councils (non-official members)2. 1892 – Indirect method of selection via recommendation by local bodies (no elections mentioned)3. 1909 – Introduction of separate electorates for Muslims; Indians allowed in Executive Councils (Satyendra Prasad Sinha appointed)4. 1919 – Direct elections introduced; more minorities included in communal electorates; Indian ministers in provinces (dyarchy)5. 1935 – Responsible government in provinces (Provincial Autonomy); more Indians in power
Legislative Councils	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. 1861 – Legislative councils created (advisory role)2. 1892 – Expanded; empowered to discuss budget and ask questions3. 1909 – Further expanded; members could ask supplementary questions, move resolutions4. 1919 – Councils became bicameral at Centre, larger and more active5. 1935 – Bicameralism extended to 6 provinces; provincial legislatures got real powers (for transferred subjects)
Executive Power	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Pre-1909 – Absolute monopoly of British officials2. 1909 – First Indian in Viceroy's Executive Council (Law Member)3. 1919 – Indian ministers for transferred subjects in provinces (dyarchy)4. 1937 – Full responsible government in provinces; Governors bound (in practice) to ministerial advice5. 1947 – Complete sovereignty with Indian leaders; British monarch's control ended
Communal Representation	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. 1909 (Morley-Minto) – Separate electorate for Muslims introduced (first communal representation)2. 1919 (Montagu-Chelmsford) – Extended to Sikhs, Indian Christians, Anglo-Indians, Europeans3. 1932 (Communal Award) – Extended to Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Depressed Classes4. 1935 – Further extended to women, labour (workers), business/industry; continued communal system <p>Poona Pact (1932) – Replaced separate electorates for SCs with reserved seats in joint Hindu electorates</p>
Federalism / Devolution of Power	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Pre-1861 – Unitary, centralised governance2. 1861 – Restored legislative powers to provinces (Bombay & Madras)



3. **1919** – Introduced **dyarchy in provinces** (beginning of dual governance)
4. **1935** – Introduced **Provincial Autonomy**, proposed **All-India Federation** (not implemented); separate central and provincial subjects with lists
5. **1947** – India and Pakistan became **independent dominions**, federal idea split into **partitioned sovereignty**

Extra Notes on Communal Representation

Year	Communities Given Separate Electorates	Provision Source
1909	Muslims	Indian Councils Act, 1909 (Morley-Minto Reforms)
1919	Muslims (retained), Sikhs, Indian Christians, Anglo-Indians, Europeans	Government of India Act, 1919
1932	Above groups + Scheduled Castes (Depressed Classes)	Communal Award by Ramsay MacDonald
1932 (Poona Pact)	SCs got reserved seats in joint Hindu electorate (not separate electorate)	Gandhi-Ambedkar agreement
1935	Continued all above; also included women, labour, business groups	Government of India Act, 1935