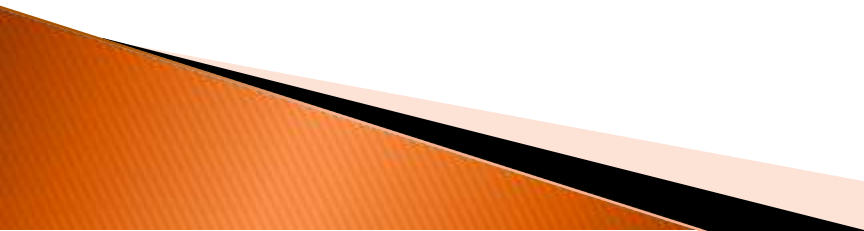
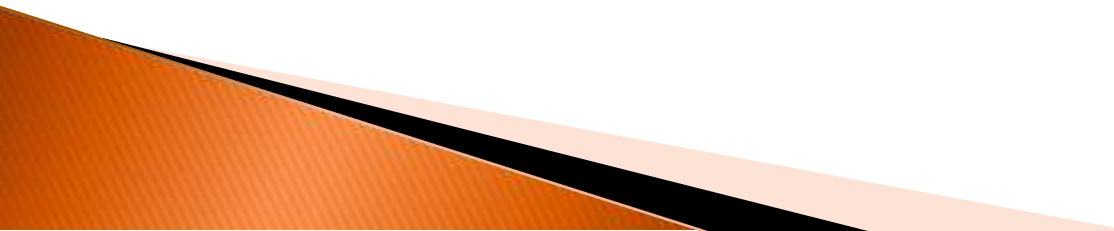


# MODULE I-INDIA:THE REPUBLIC


TOPIC: COMMON WEALTH

- ▶ The commonwealth is a voluntary association of Nations who became independent from British Empire
- ▶ The formation of the commonwealth can be traced back to the period before the second world war
- ▶ IMPERIAL CONFERENCES
- ▶ There were colonial conferences of representatives of autonomous colonies under the chairmanship of British Prime Minister and these conferences were called Imperial conferences
- ▶ At the Imperial conference of 1926 They were recognized as a dominions by a declaration issued by Balfour, the British Prime minister
- ▶ The term commonwealth was first used in the **Balfour Declaration of 1926**
- ▶ The Balfour Declaration got statutory recognition in 1931 when parliament passed legislation called statute of west minister

- ▶ It granted complete independence to the dominions both internally and externally
  - ▶ The Dominions of Canada, Australia, New Zealand, New Foundland and South Africa became sovereign states and equal status with Britain
  - ▶ The association of these nations came to be known as British Common Wealth
  - ▶ They were also given the freedom to quit the common wealth if they wished
  - ▶ The British colonies gained political independence so the structure of common wealth has changed in order to accommodate the newly independent countries
  - ▶ Because of the insistence of India the ‘British Common wealth’ was changed as Common Wealth of Nations
- 

- ▶ After getting independence all the British colonies except Burma and Aden chose to be the members of common wealth
  - ▶ Common wealth has no consultation or charter and members are not bound by any treaty
  - ▶ Meet every two years to discuss about political, economic and other issues affecting common interest
  - ▶ In 1965 a permanent common wealth secretariat was set up in London
- 

# ACHIEVEMENTS

- ▶ Trade within the common wealth achieved great progress
  - ▶ There are financial links between common wealth countries
  - ▶ Common wealth provide economic and technical aid to poorer members
  - ▶ Educational contacts with the member nations especially at the university level
  - ▶ Collaborating in international affairs and they have economic and legal agreements
  - ▶ Co-operating in technical and human resource development
  - ▶ Colombo Plan- Under developed countries receive assistance from the prosperous member states of the common wealth
  - ▶ It has played an important role in dealing with burning issues like disarmament, racism and colonialism
  - ▶ It also crusaded against racial discrimination in South Africa
  - ▶ The common wealth condemned expansionist policies of Israel and
- 

- ▶ -advocated a peaceful settlement of the problem of Afghanistan
  - ▶ **CHALLENGES**
  - ▶ Most of its members have varying and conflicting interests
  - ▶ There are clashes between members on various issues such as Kashmir Problem, Ethnic violence in Srilanka and Racism
  - ▶ The members of common wealth began to join other organisations and military alliances like NATO, SEATO, BAGHDAD PACT and Anzus Treaty
  - ▶ The focus of Common wealth has shifted to Asia
  - ▶ Britain lost its importance as great power and joined the European common market and very concept of common wealth was put to challenge
- 