**THE CHARTER ACT OF 1813**

**What is Charter Act of 1813? Why is it significant in the development of Indian education?**

The Charter Act of 1813 was a law passed by the British Parliament that renewed the charter of the East India Company for another 20 years, but with some important changes in its powers and responsibilities.

Key Provisions of the Charter Act of 1813

1. End of Trade Monopoly – It ended the East India Company’s monopoly over trade with India (except for trade in tea and trade with China).
2. Permission for Missionaries – For the first time, Christian missionaries were allowed to come to India officially for religious work, including setting up schools.
3. Educational Provision – The Act directed that ₹1 lakh per year should be set aside by the Company “for the revival and promotion of literature and for the encouragement of the learned natives of India, and for the introduction and promotion of a knowledge of the sciences among the inhabitants of the British territories in India.”
4. Assertion of British Parliament’s Authority – The British Parliament now had greater control over the Company’s affairs.

Importance in the Development of Education in India

The Charter Act of 1813 marks the beginning of state responsibility for education in India. Here’s why it is significant:

* First Official Educational Policy Statement – Before 1813, the East India Company had no formal role in promoting education. This Act made it a legal duty to support learning.
* Financial Allocation – The provision of ₹1 lakh per year (though small) created a precedent for government funding of education in India.
* Introduction of Western Education – The Act aimed to introduce modern scientific knowledge and literature to Indians, paving the way for later debates between Orientalists (promoting traditional learning) and Anglicists (promoting English-based education).
* Missionary Influence – By allowing missionaries, the Act indirectly promoted the spread of English education through missionary schools.
* Foundation for Later Reforms – It influenced later educational measures, such as Macaulay’s Minute (1835) and Wood’s Despatch (1854), which expanded English and Western education.