

and when they agreed to it, he declared this plan publicly on June 3, 1947. It has been called the Maunbatten Plan or the June Plan. By this plan, Punjab, Bengal, Sind, Baluchistan, N.W.F. Province and the Muslim majority district of Sylhet in Assam were given the right to decide whether or not to remain in the Indian Union. The Hindu majority districts of Bengal and Punjab were also given this right. The native states were given the option to accede to either Pakistan or the Indian Union.

The Maunbatten Plan proposing the partition of India was accepted by both, the Muslim League and the Congress. The British government also agreed to it and accordingly, passed the Indian Independence Act, 1947 which created two independent states in this sub-continent, viz, Indian Union and Pakistan on August 15, 1947.

## The Mountbatten Plan

On February 20, 1947, Mr. Atlee announced in the House of Commons that the British Government shall leave India, in every case, by not later than June 1948. Very soon Lord Wavell was recalled and Lord Mountbatten was deputed as the Viceroy of India who arrived here at the end of March 1947. He started negotiations with Indian leaders with a view to bringing about a solution of the Indian problem agreeable to all political parties. He came to the conclusion that compromise between the League and the Congress could not be possible on the basis of united India. Therefore, he worked on principles of the partition of India which could be agreed upon both by the Congress and the League. He went to Britain in May 1947 to obtain the consent of the British government to the proposals leading to the partition of India. After his return, he again consulted the leaders of the Congress and Muslim League on the details of the partition.