7. **Ripon and his work as viceroy as well as his whole political outlook was the very antithesis of his immediate predecessor. Comment**

(250 words)

Approach

1. **Introduce Ripon and his sense of justice with which he worked in India** *(50 words)*
2. **Explain steps taken by him** *(75 words)*
3. **Explain steps of his predecessor** *(75 words)*
4. **Conclusion** *(50 words)*

Hints

Lord Ripon became the Viceroy of India as a representative of the liberal Govt. of Britain under William Gladstone. A true liberal of the Gladstonian era, Ripon's political outlook was very antithesis to his immediate predecessor, Lord Lytton. He was inspired with a sense of mission and duty toward British subjects, irrespective of their nationality.

Steps Taken by Ripon

- His major measures bear the stamp of sympathy and humanitarianism. He took some steps towards liberalizing administration in India.
- His sincerity of purpose is clear from his first public announcement in Calcutta when he said "judge me by my acts and not by my words".

He brought an end to the second Afghan war and repealed the Vernacular Press Act.

Ripon tried to introduce the real element of local self govt. in India. His resolution on local self govt. (1882) was a land mark.

The development of local self govt. bodies was advocated as an instrument of political and popular education.

Under the stress of the revolt of 1857, Lord Canning introduced a system of licensing of all printing presses. This measure came to be called the 'Gagging act'.

In 1882, Ripon repealed 'Gagging Act' of Canning and Vernacular Press Act of Lord Lytton.

In 1882 Ripon appointed Hunter Commission to Review the Progress of education in India and suggest measures for further growth.

Ilbert Bill created an everlasting image to Ripon among Indians as the bill proposed an amendment for existing laws in the country at the time to allow Indian judges and magistrates the jurisdiction to try British offenders in criminal cases at the District level, which was an truly egalitarian step.

Ripon took keen interest in the welfare of the people. In 1881 he passed the First Factory act, to regulate and improve the conditions of labour in Indian Factories.

Children between the age of 17 and 12 were not to work for more than 9 hours a day. It prohibited employment of children less than 7 years.

Ripon's govt. continued the process of financial decentralization begun by Lord Mayo. Ripon's measures were aimed at increasing the financial responsibilities of the provinces.

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Conclusion:

- Ripon was very popular with the Indians. According to Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya, "Ripon was the greatest and the most beloved Viceroy whom India has known."
- His believed in the virtues of peace, laissez faire, and self government. Steps taken by him towards liberalizing the administration in India he aimed at giving popular and political education to the Indians.
- He laid the foundations of representative institutions and removed the obstacles in the sphere of Local Self government by his resolution of 1882.
- In this way Ripon was unmatchable to governor generals India had seen earlier.

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