

# **The charter of 1661**

- ▶ The charter of 1661 was issued by King Charles II on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 1661.

## OBJECT

- ▶ To confer broad powers on the company for sound administration of justice.
  - ▶ With the limited legislative power through the charter of 1600, the company could not maintain discipline amongst its servants
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- ▶ The company prayed the Council of State in England to expand its powers.
- ▶ Consequently King Charles II on April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1661 issued a charter.
- ▶ This charter authorized the Governor and Council of each factory to try all the cases
  - 1) **Civil** and 2) **Criminal** including capital offences according to laws of England



- ▶ The charter of 1661 conferred extensive powers on the company as compared to the charter of 1600.

The charter of 1600 was limited to company's servants only and was not extended to capital offences.

The charter of 1661 was extended to all those who lived in company's settlements and authorised all punishments including death sentence

- ▶ The charter of 1661 authorised the company to appoint Governor and other officers for proper administration.
  - ▶ The charter did not alter the constitution of the company.
  - ▶ It prescribed qualification for voting.
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