

Governor/Governor General/ Viceroy

These notes are your ultimate revision weapon to revise Governor/Governor General/ Viceroy history. We've distilled years of previous exam questions (PYQs) into one powerful, concise resource. Everything you need to know, nothing you don't.

- **PYQs, Decoded:** All key concepts from past exams, organized and simplified.
- **Revise in Record Time:** Short, precise, and designed for last-minute review.
- **Focus on What Matters:** Master high-probability topics and boost your confidence.

Governor-Generals and Viceroys of India: A Comprehensive Overview

Establishment and Evolution of the Posts

- **Governor-General of Bengal**
 - The post was created by the **Regulating Act of 1773**.
 - **Warren Hastings** was the first Governor-General of Bengal.
- **Governor-General of India**
 - The post was renamed by the **Charter Act of 1833**.
 - **Lord William Bentinck** was the first Governor-General of India.

Key Administrators and Their Policies (Chronological)

Robert Clive

- **Key Role:** Founder of the British Empire in India; Victor of the Battle of Plassey (1757).
- **Policies:**
 - Introduced the **Dual System of Government (Dual Governance)** in Bengal (1765-1772).

- Instituted reforms in the East India Company's Civil and Military Services.
- Banned civil servants from receiving gifts and engaging in private trade.
- **Treaty:** Signed the **Treaty of Allahabad** (August 1765) with Mughal Emperor Shah Alam II, granting the Company the **Diwani** (right to collect revenue) of Bengal, Bihar, and Orissa.

Warren Hastings (1774-1785)

- **Key Role:** First Governor-General of Bengal.
- **Policies:**
 - Abolished the Dual System of Government (1772).
 - Initiated the **Ring Fence Policy** (creating buffer zones for security).
- **Cultural Contribution:** A noted Orientalist who encouraged the study of Sanskrit, Persian, and Arabic. The **Asiatic Society of Bengal** was established in 1784 (by Sir William Jones) during his tenure.
- **Other:** Prosecuted for impeachment by the British Parliament (1788-1795) but was eventually acquitted.

Lord Cornwallis (1786-1793, 1805)

- **Key Role:** First Governor-General of Bengal under the Regulating Act of 1773.
- **Policies:**
 - Considered the founder of the modern judicial organization in India; his reforms were compiled into the **Cornwallis Code**.
 - Created the **Covenanted Civil Service** (later the Indian Civil Service, ICS).
 - Introduced the **Permanent Settlement (Zamindari System)** in Bengal (1793).
- **Wars:** Fought the **Third Anglo-Mysore War (1790-92)**.
- **Other:** His tomb is located in **Ghazipur, India**.

Lord Wellesley (1798-1805)

- **Policies:**
 - Expanded the **Subsidiary Alliance System** as a tool to establish British paramountcy.
 - Objectives: Maintain a large army at Indian states' expense, counter the French (Napoleonic) threat, and establish British supremacy.
- **Wars:** Fought the **Fourth Anglo-Mysore War (1799)** and the **Second Anglo-Maratha War (1803-1805)**.

Lord Hastings (1813-1823)

- **Wars:**
 - **Anglo-Nepal War (1814-16)**, ending with the **Treaty of Sugauli (1815)**.
 - **Third Anglo-Maratha War (1817-18)**, which crushed Maratha power and led to the abolition of the Peshwaship in 1818.
- **Policy:** Sent Charles Metcalfe to negotiate **Subordinate Alliances with Rajputana (1817-18)**.

Lord William Bentinck (1828-1835)

- **Social Reforms:**
 - Abolished the **Sati system** in **1829** via the Bengal Sati Regulation (XVII).
 - Appointed **Captain William Sleeman** to suppress the **Thugs** (eradicated by 1837).
- **Administrative:** Took over the administration of **Mysore in 1831** due to alleged maladministration.
- **Act:** The **Charter Act of 1833** was passed during his tenure.

Lord Dalhousie (1848-1856)

- **Key Role:** First Governor-General of India under the Charter Act of 1833.

- **Annexation Policy:** Formulated and implemented the **Doctrine of Lapse**.
- **States Annexed under Doctrine of Lapse (Chronologically):** Satara (1848), Jaitpur & Sambalpur (1849), Baghat (1850), Udaipur (1852), Jhansi (1853), Nagpur (1854).
- **Other Annexations:**
 - **Awadh (1856)** on the pretext of maladministration (Nawab Wajid Ali Shah; Resident: James Outram).
 - Annexed parts of **Sikkim** (e.g., Darjeeling).
- **Developmental Reforms:**
 - Introduced India's **first railway line** (Bombay to Thane, 1853).
 - Organized the **Public Works Department (PWD)**.

Lord Canning (1856-1862)

- **Key Role:** Last Governor-General of the East India Company and **first Viceroy of India** after the 1857 revolt.
- **Events:**
 - Viceroy during the **Revolt of 1857**.
 - Read out **Queen Victoria's Proclamation** (1858) transferring power to the Crown.
- **Reforms:** The **Widow Remarriage Act** was passed in 1856 during his tenure.

Lord John Lawrence (1864-1869)

- **Foreign Policy:** Associated with the policy of '**Masterly Inactivity**' towards Afghanistan.

Lord Mayo (1869-1872)

- **Administration:** The **first Census of India** was conducted in **1872**.
- **Other:** He was the **first Viceroy to be assassinated** (1872).

Lord Lytton (1876-1880)

- **Event:** The title "**Empress of India**" was bestowed upon Queen Victoria in **1877**.
- **Foreign Policy:** Followed an aggressive '**Forward Policy**' towards Afghanistan; the **Second Anglo-Afghan War (1878-80)** was fought during his tenure.

Lord Ripon (1880-1884)

- **Reforms:**
 - **Local Self-Government:** Passed a resolution in **1882**, earning him the title '**Father of Local Self-Government**'.
 - **First Factory Act (1881):** Regulated child labour.
 - **Ilbert Bill (1883):** A controversial bill to allow Indian judges to try Europeans.
- **Administration:** The **first regular Census** began in **1881**.

Lord Dufferin (1884-1888)



- **Event:** The **Indian National Congress** was founded in **1885**.
- **Annexation:** Presided over the annexation of **Upper Burma** after the **Third Anglo-Burma War (1885)**.

Lord Curzon (1899-1905)

- **Policies:**
 - Partitioned **Bengal** in **1905**.
 - Established the **Imperial Cadet Corps (1901)**.
 - Appointed the **Indian Universities Commission (1902)**.

Lord Hardinge (1910-1916)

- **Decisions:**
 - Transferred the capital from **Calcutta to Delhi (1911)**.
 - Announced the **reversal of the Partition of Bengal** at the **Delhi Durbar (1911)**.

Lord Wavell (1943-1947)

- **Key Role:** Served as the **Governor-General and Crown Representative** under the Government of India Act, 1935.

Key Treaties, Alliances, and Systems

Subsidiary Alliance System

- **Concept:** A policy to bring Indian states under British control by having them accept a permanent British force, pay for its maintenance, and forfeit foreign relations.
- **Architect:** **Lord Wellesley** (refined and aggressively used it, 1798-1805).
- **Objectives:** Establish British sovereignty/political supremacy, counter French threat, maintain a large army at Indian expense.
- **Chronological Order of Acceptance:**
 1. Hyderabad (1798 & 1800)
 2. Mysore (1799)
 3. Awadh (1801)
 4. Sindhia (1804)
- **Key Rulers:** The **Nizam of Hyderabad** was the first to accept it. The **Holkar state of Indore** did not accept it.



Land Revenue Systems

- **Permanent Settlement (Zamindari):** Introduced by **Lord Cornwallis** in Bengal (1793).
- **Ryotwari System:** Settlement made directly with the cultivator (ryot). Associated with **Thomas Munro** and **Alexander Read**.

Other Key Treaties

- **Treaty of Bassein (1802):** Signed between the EIC and Peshwa Baji Rao II, leading to the Second Anglo-Maratha War.

Social Reforms and Abolition of Practices

Abolition of Sati (1829)

- Abolished by **Lord William Bentinck**.
- **Social Context:** Prevalent among Brahmins, Kshatriyas, and Rajputs; believed to send seven generations of her husband to heaven.
- **Key Reformer:** Raja Ram Mohan Roy led the campaign against it.
- **Earlier Attempts:** Made by Emperor Akbar, Maratha rulers, the Portuguese in Goa, and the French in Chandranagar.

Suppression of Thuggee

- **Administrator:** Captain William Sleeman appointed by Lord William Bentinck.
- **Outcome:** The organized network was eradicated by 1837.

Abolition of Slavery



- **1789:** Export of slaves from Bengal banned.
- **1843:** Slavery declared illegal in India by **Lord Ellenborough** (Act-V).
- **1860:** Indian Penal Code made slavery a criminal offense.

Tribal Development

- **Hill Assembly Plan:** Established by **Cleveland** for Adivasis, involving hereditary hill chiefs (Sardars) with judicial powers.

Chronology of Major Events

- **1757:** Battle of Plassey (Robert Clive)
- **1764:** Battle of Buxar
- **1765:** Treaty of Allahabad (Robert Clive)
- **1773:** Post of Governor-General of Bengal created
- **1774:** Warren Hastings became first Governor-General of Bengal
- **1784:** Asiatic Society of Bengal founded
- **1793:** Permanent Settlement introduced (Cornwallis)

- **1802:** Treaty of Bassein signed
- **1818:** Abolition of Peshwaship (Hastings)
- **1829:** Abolition of Sati (Bentinck)
- **1833:** Post renamed to Governor-General of India
- **1843:** Annexation of Sindh (Ellenborough)
- **1849:** Annexation of Punjab
- **1853:** First railway line (Bombay to Thane)
- **1856:** Annexation of Awadh (Dalhousie)
- **1857:** Revolt of 1857
- **1858:** Power transferred to British Crown; Canning becomes first Viceroy
- **1877:** Queen Victoria proclaimed Empress of India (Lytton)
- **1885:** Indian National Congress founded (Dufferin)
- **1905:** Partition of Bengal (Curzon)
- **1911:** Capital moved to Delhi; Partition of Bengal reversed (Hardinge)

Know More About Governor/Governor General/ Viceroy:

- [Governor/Governor General/ Viceroy-Old Year Questions and Answers](#)
- [Governor/Governor General/ Viceroy One Liner Questions & Answers](#)