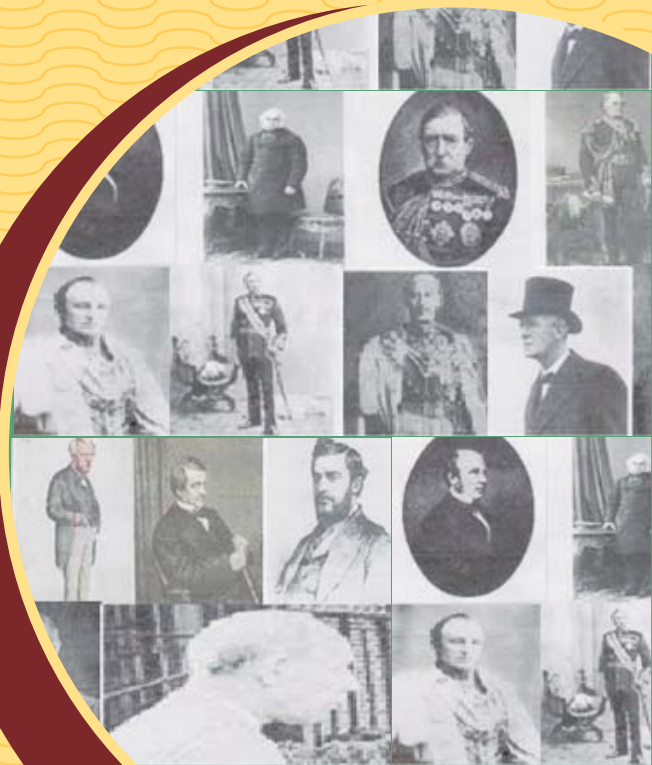


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# History

**BRITISH GOVERNORS  
& VICEROYS IN INDIA  
SIGNIFICANT EVENTS  
IN THEIR RULE**



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# BRITISH GOVERNORS AND VICEROYS IN INDIA- SIGNIFICANT EVENTS IN THEIR RULE

## GOVERNORS - GENERAL

### 1. Warren Hastings 1773-1785

- Regulating Act of 1773
- Supreme Council of Bengal
- Supreme Court of Judicature at Fort William (1774) was established
- The Rohilla War of 1774.
- Act of 1781, under which the powers of jurisdiction between the governor-general-in-council and the Supreme Court at Calcutta, were clearly divided.
- Asiatic Society of Bengal (1784)
- Pitt's India Act of 1784.
- Stopped Mughal pension to Shah Alam II
- Abolished the Dual System in Bengal (Which was introduced by Robert Clive).
- James Augustus Hicky's Bengal Gazette- First Indian newspaper published (in 1780)
- The First Maratha War in 1775-82 and the Treaty of Salbai in 1782.
- Second Mysore War in 1780-84.
- Policy of Ring fence
- Calcutta Madrasa founded (Aliah University)
- Creation of collector post
- The first Governor General to be prosecuted for impeachment. (As a consequence of his involvement in First Rohilla War)
- English Translation of Bhagwat Gita by Charles Wilkins
- Strained relationships with Chait Singh, the Maharaja of Benaras, which led to Hastings' subsequent impeachment in England.

## 2. Lord Cornwallis 1786-1793

- Third Mysore War (1790-92) and Treaty of Seringapatam (1792).
- Cornwallis Code (1793) incorporating several judicial reforms, and separation of revenue administration and civil jurisdiction.
- Permanent Settlement of Bengal, 1793.
- Europeanisation of administrative machinery and introduction of civil services.
- Established lower courts and appellate courts
- Sanskrit Vidyalaya at Benares (now Varanasi) established by Johnathan Duncan (then Governor of Bombay)
- Introduced Sunset Law

## 3. Sir John Shore 1793-1798

- Charter Act of 1793.
- Second Rohilla War 1794
- Battle of Kharda between the Nizam and the Marathas (1795).

## 4. Lord Wellesley 1798-1805

- Introduction of the Subsidiary Alliance System (1798); first alliance with Nizam of Hyderabad.
- Fourth Mysore War (1799).
- Second Maratha War (1803-05).
- Fort William College at Calcutta (1800)
- Censorship Act, 1799
- Took over the administration of Tanjore (1799), Surat (1800) and Carnatic (1801).
- Treaty of Bassein (1802).

## 5. Sir George Barlow 1805-1807

- Vellore Mutiny (1806).
- Bank of Calcutta (1806) established (later Imperial Bank of India, now State Bank of India)

## 6. Lord Minto I 1807-1813

- Treaty of Amritsar with Ranjit Singh (1809).

## 7. Lord Hastings 1813-1823

- Anglo-Nepal War (1814-16) and the Treaty of Sagauli, 1816.
- Third Maratha War (1817-19) and dissolution of Maratha Confederacy; creation of Bombay Presidency (1818)
- Strife with Pindaris (1817-1818).
- Treaty with Sindhia (1817).
- Hindu College (now Presidency University) at Calcutta in 1817

- Establishment of Ryotwari System by Thomas Munro, governor of Madras (1820).
- Establishment of Mahalwari System in Northern India (1822) which later broke down.

## 8. Lord Amherst 1823-1828

- First Burmese War (1824-1826) and Treaty of Yandabo, 1826
- Capture of Bharatpur (1826).
- Establishment of Sanskrit College at Calcutta (1824)

## 9. Lord William Bentinck 1828-1835

- He was the First Governor General of India
- Abolition of sati and other cruel rites (1829)
- Suppression of thugi (1830).
- Saint Helena Act 1833 or Charter Act 1833 (Christian Missionaries get Exclusive rights to spread Christianity in British India which included the present day Pakistan)
- Resolution of 1835, and educational reforms and introduction of English as the official language.
- Annexation of Mysore (1831), Coorg (1834) and Central Cachar (1834).
- Treaty of 'perpetual friendship' with Ranjeet Singh.
- Abolition of the provincial courts of appeal and circuit set up by Cornwallis, appointment of commissioners of revenue and circuit.
- Mahalwari System reintroduced in Central India, Punjab and Western UP.
- Kol Rebellion in 1831

## 10. Lord Metcalfe 1835-1836

- New press law removing restrictions on the press in India.
- Establishment of Calcutta Public Library in 1836 (now known as National Library of India)

## 11. Lord Auckland 1836-1842

- First Afghan War (1838-42).
- Death of Ranjit Singh (1839).
- Bank of Bombay (1840) established (later Imperial Bank of India, now State Bank of India)
- First Bengali daily newspaper Sambad Prabhakar was published in 1839
- Tattwabodhini Sabha was formed by Debendranath Tagore in 1839

## 12. Lord Ellenborough 1842-1844

- Annexation of Sindh (1843).
- War with Gwalior (1843) (British defeat Marathas)
- Bank of Madras (1843) established (later Imperial Bank of India, now State Bank of India)
- Indian Slavery Act, 1843

### 13. Lord Hardinge I 1844-1848

- First Anglo-Sikh War (1845-46) and the Treaty of Lahore (1846).
- Treaty of Bhairawal (1846)
- Establishment of Roorkee Engineering College (1847)
- Social reforms including abolition of female infanticide and human sacrifice.

### 14. Lord Dalhousie 1848-1856

- Second Anglo-Sikh War (1848-49) and annexation of Punjab (1849).
- Second Anglo-Burmese War (1852) and annexation of Lower Burma or Pegu (1852).
- Introduction of the Doctrine of Lapse and annexation of Satara (1848), Jaitpur and Sambhalpur (1849), Udaipur (1852), Jhansi (1853), Nagpur (1854) and Awadh (1856).
- "Wood's (Charles Wood, President of the Board of Control) Educational Despatch" of 1854 and opening of Anglo-vernacular schools and government colleges.
- Railway Minute of 1853; and laying down of first railway line connecting Bombay and Thane in 1853.
- Telegraph (4000 miles of telegraph lines to connect Calcutta with Bombay, Madras and Peshawar) and postal (Post Office Act, 1854) reforms.
- Ganges Canal declared open (1854); establishment of separate public works department in every province.
- Widow Remarriage Act (1856).
- Charter Act, 1853
- Bethune Collegiate School (1849) was established by JED Bethune
- Santhal Rebellion (1855)
- Religious Disabilities Act, 1856

### 15. Lord Canning 1856-1857

- Establishment of three universities at Calcutta, Madras and Bombay in 1857.
- Revolt of 1857.



# Viceroy

## 1. Lord Canning 1858-1862

- Transfer of control from East India Company to the Crown, the Government of India Act, 1858.
- 'White Mutiny' by European troops in 1859.
- Indigo Revolt in Bengal in 1859–60
- Enactment of Indian Penal Code in 1860
- Indian Councils Act of 1861.
- Indian civil service act 1861
- Formation of Imperial Civil Services
- Establishment of Archaeological Survey of India
- Introduced Portfolio System which gave foundation for Cabinet System
- System of Budget introduced

## 2. Lord Elgin I 1862-1863

- Wahabi Movement was suppressed
- Passing of High Courts Act, 1861 which set up of the High Courts at Calcutta, Bombay and Madras

## 3. Lord John Lawrence 1864-1869

- Bhutan War (1865)
- Establishment of Shimla as India's summer capital in 1863
- Establishment of Allahabad High Court in 1866

## 4. Lord Mayo 1869-1872

- Opening of the Rajkot College in Kathiawar and the Mayo College at Ajmer for political training of Indian princes.
- Establishment of Statistical Survey of India.
- Establishment of Department of Agriculture and Commerce.
- Assassinated by a Pathan Sher Ali Afridi
- Started the Census.
- Started Financial decentralization
- Enacted IPC amendment-Sedition Act 1870 to tackle Wahabi Movement
- Keshub Chandra Sen establishes Indian Reform Association

## 5. Lord Northbrook 1872-1876

- Jyotiba Phule launches The Satyashodhak Samaj in Maharashtra
- Dramatic Performances Act, 1876

- He resigned over Afghanistan question
- Visit of Prince of Wales in 1875.
- Trial of Gaekwar of Baroda.
- Kuka Movement in Punjab.

## 6. Lord Lytton 1876-1880

- The maximum age of ICS decreased from 21 to 19
- Deccan agrarian relief act was passed in 1876
- 1st Delhi Durbar held in 1877
- Famine of 1876-78 affecting Madras, Bombay, Mysore, Hyderabad, parts of central India and Punjab; appointment of Famine Commission under the presidency of Richard Strachey (1878).
- Royal Titles Act (1876), Queen Victoria assuming the title of 'Kaiser-i-Hind' or Queen Empress of India.
- The Vernacular Press Act (1878).
- The Arms Act (1878).
- The Second Afghan War (1878-80).

## 7. Lord Ripon 1880-1884

- Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881
- Foundation of Punjab university
- First complete Census
- Repeal of the Vernacular Press Act (1882).
- The first Factory Act (1881) to improve labour conditions.
- Continuation of financial decentralisation.
- Government resolution on local self-government (1882).
- Appointment of Education Commission under chairmanship of Sir William Hunter (1882).
- The Ilbert Bill controversy (1883-84).
- Rendition of Mysore.

## 8. Lord Dufferin 1884-1888

- Bengal tenancy act
- The Third Burmese War (1885-86).
- Establishment of the Indian National Congress.

## 9. Lord Lansdowne 1888-1894

- Age of consent act 1891, in which the marriage of below 12 years girl is prohibited
- Factory Act (1891).
- Categorisation of civil services into imperial, provisional and subordinate.

- Indian Councils Act (1892).
- Setting up of Durand Commission (1893) to define the Durand Line between India and Afghanistan (now between Pakistan and Afghanistan; a small portion of the line touches India in Pakistan occupied Kashmir).

## 10. Lord Elgin II 1894-1899

- Indian famine of 1896–1897 and set up of Second Iyall commission on famine
- Establishment of Ramakrishna Mission by Swami Vivekananda at Belur Math in 1897
- Munda uprisings 1899
- Bubonic plague spread in Bombay
- Two British officials assassinated by Chapekar brothers (1897).

## Lord Curzon 1899-1905

- Indian famine of 1899–1900 and setting up of Rhird famine commission under Macdonell to re-evaluate and recommend changes in the report.
- PUSA agriculture institute in 1903
- Benaras Hindu Girls School (Kanya Vidyalaya) was established by Annie Besant in 1904
- Official Secrets Act 1904 to curb free press
- 2nd Delhi Durbar held in 1903
- Appointment of Raleigh University Commission (1902)
- The risings of the frontier tribes in 1897-98 led him to create the Northwestern frontier province
- Appointment of Police Commission (1902) under Sir Andrew Frazer to review police administration.
- Appointment of Universities Commission (1902) and passing of Indian Universities Act (1904).
- Establishment of Department of Commerce and Industry.
- Calcutta Corporation Act (1899).
- Ancient Monuments Preservation Act (1904).
- Partition of Bengal (1905).
- Curzon-Kitchener controversy.
- Younghusband's Mission to Tibet (1904).

## 11. Lord Minto II 1905-1910

- Morley–Minto reforms 1909, or the Indian Councils Act 1909
- Prevention of Seditious Meetings Act, 1907 to curb the extremist movement
- Indian Press Act, 1910
- Jamsetji Tata established TISCO in 1907
- Popularisation of anti-partition and Swadeshi Movements.
- Split in Congress in the annual session of 1907 in Surat.
- Establishment of Muslim League by Aga Khan (1906).

## 12. Lord Hardinge II 1910-1916

- Gandhiji came back to India from South Africa in 1915
- A bomb was thrown at Gandhiji near Chandni chowk but he escaped unhurt
- McMahon border line was created between India and China in 1914
- Ghadar Mutiny (1915)
- Creation of Bengal Presidency (like Bombay and Madras) in 1911.
- Transfer of capital from Calcutta to Delhi (1911).
- Establishment of the Hindu Mahasabha (1915) by Madan Mohan Malaviya.
- Coronation durbar of King George V held in Delhi (1911).

## 13. Lord Chelmsford 1916-1921

- Saddler commission on education reforms
- Imperial Bank of India (now State Bank of India established in 1921)
- Formation of Home Rule Leagues by Annie Besant and Tilak (1916).
- Lucknow session of the Congress (1916).
- Lucknow pact between the Congress and Muslim League (1916).
- Foundation of Sabarmati Ashram (1916) after Gandhi's return; launch of Champaran Satyagraha (1916), Kheda Satyagraha (1918), and Satyagraha at Ahmedabad (1918).
- Montagu's August Declaration (1917).
- Montagu–Chelmsford Reforms (1919)
- Government of India Act (1919).
- The Rowlatt Act (1919).
- Jallianwalla Bagh massacre (1919).
- Launch of Non-Cooperation and Khilafat Movements.
- Foundation of Women's University at Poona (1916) and appointment of Saddler's Commission (1917) for reforms in educational policy.
- Death of Tilak (August 1, 1920).
- Appointment of S.P. Sinha as governor of Bihar (the first Indian to become a governor).

## 14. Lord Reading 1921-1926

- Malabar rebellion (also known as Moplah Rebellion) in Kerala, first Ethnic Rebellion (1921)
- Non-cooperation movement (1921–22)
- Chauri Chaura incident (February 5, 1922) and the subsequent withdrawal of Non-Cooperation Movement.
- Rabindranath Tagore founded Visva-Bharati University in 1921
- Lee commission for public services
- RSS founded in 1925
- Royal commission on agriculture
- Criminal Law Amendment Act and abolition of cotton excise.

- Communal riots in Multan, Amritsar, Delhi, Aligarh, Arvi and Calcutta.
- Kakori train robbery (1925).
- Murder of Swami Shraddhanand (1926).
- Establishment of Swaraj Party by C.R. Das and Motilal Nehru (1922).
- Decision to hold simultaneous examinations for the ICS both in Delhi and London, with effect from 1923.

## 15. Lord Irwin 1926-1931

- Death of Lala Lajpat Rai (1928)
- Fourteen Points of Jinnah (1929)
- First Round Table Conferences (1930)
- Allahabad Address by Sir Muhammad Iqbal (1930)
- Chittagong armoury raid in 1930
- Execution of Bhagat Singh, Shivaram Rajguru, and Sukhdev Thapar (1931)
- Visit of Simon Commission to India (1928) and the boycott of the commission by the Indians.
- An All-Parties Conference held at Lucknow (1928) for suggestions for the (future) Constitution of India, the report of which was called the Nehru Report or the Nehru Constitution.
- Appointment of the Harcourt Butler Indian States Commission (1927).
- Murder of Saunders, the assistant superintendent of police of Lahore; bomb blast in the Assembly Hall of Delhi (1929); the Lahore Conspiracy Case and death of Jatin Das after prolonged hunger strike (1929), and bomb accident in train in Delhi (1929).
- Lahore session of the Congress (1929); Purna Swaraj Resolution.
- Dandi March (March 12, 1930) by Gandhi to launch the Civil Disobedience Movement.
- Dharasana Satyagraha (1930)
- 'Deepavali Declaration' by Lord Irwin (1929).
- Boycott of the First Round Table Conference (1930)
- Gandhi-Irwin Pact (1931) and suspension of Civil Disobedience Movement.

## 16. Lord Willingdon 1931-1936

- Pakistan Declaration (1933)
- Reserve Bank of India established by passing The Reserve Bank of India Act 1934.
- Second Round Table Conference (1931) and failure of the conference, resumption of Civil Disobedience Movement.
- Announcement of Communal Award (1932) under which separate communal electorates were set up.
- 'Fast unto death' by Gandhi in Yeravada prison, broken after the Poona Pact (1932).
- Third Round Table Conference (1932).
- Launch of Individual Civil Disobedience (1933).
- The Government of India Act of 1935.

- Establishment of All India Kisan Sabha (1936) and Congress Socialist Party by Acharya Narendra Dev and Jayaprakash Narayan (1934).
- Burma separated from India (1935).

## 17. Lord Linlithgow 1936-1944

- Indian provincial elections (1937)
- Indian entry into World War II (1939)
- Day of Deliverance (1939)
- Formation of Indian Legion (1942)
- Bengal famine (1943)
- First general elections (1936-37); Congress attained absolute majority.
- Resignation of the Congress ministries after the outbreak of the Second World War (1939).
- Subhash Chandra Bose elected as the president of Congress at the fifty-first session of the Congress (1938).
- Resignation of Bose in 1939 and formation of the Forward Bloc (1939).
- Lahore Resolution (March 1940) by the Muslim League, demand for separate state for Muslims.
- 'August Offer' (1940) by the viceroy; its criticism by the Congress and endorsement by the Muslim League.
- Winston Churchill elected prime minister of England (1940).
- Escape of Subhash Chandra Bose from India (1941) and organisation of the Indian National Army.
- Cripps Mission's Cripps Plan to offer dominion status to India and setting up of a Constituent Assembly; its rejection by the Congress.
- Passing of the 'Quit India Resolution' by the Congress (1942); outbreak of 'August Revolution'; or Revolt of 1942 after the arrest of national leaders.
- 'Divide and Quit' slogan at the Karachi session (1944) of the Muslim League.

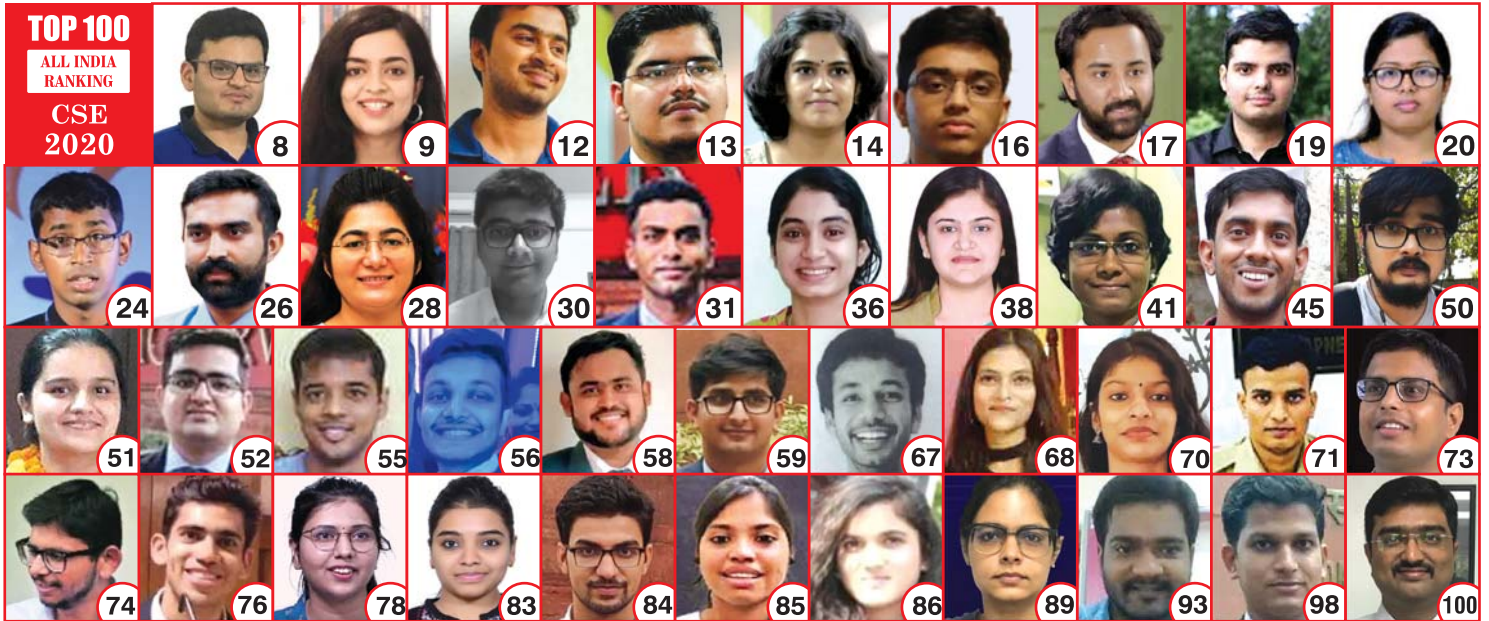
## 18. Lord Wavell 1944-1947

- Royal Indian Navy mutiny (1946)
- C. Rajagopalachari's CR Formula (1944), failure of Gandhi- Jinnah talks (1944).
- Wavell Plan and the Shimla Conference (1945).
- End of Second World War (1945).
- Proposals of the Cabinet Mission (1946) and its acceptance by the Congress.
- Observance of 'Direct Action Day' (August 16, 1948) by the Muslim League.
- Elections to the Constituent Assembly, formation of Interim Government by the Congress (September 1946).
- Announcement of end of British rule in India by Clement Attlee (prime minister of England) on February 20, 1947.

## 19. Lord Mountbatten 1947-1948

- June Third Plan (June 3, 1947) announced.
- Introduction of Indian Independence Bill in the House of Commons.
- Appointment of two boundary commissions under Sir Cyril Radcliff for the partition of Bengal and Punjab.

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