

Difference Between Governor-General and Viceroy

Governors-General and Viceroys were the main administrative cogs of British India who saw to it that the “Jewel in the Crown” of the British Empire. Usually, the two terms are used interchangeably despite being subtly different in nature and function

This article will provide the details to dispel that notion about the Governor-General for the IAS Exam. The PDF note can be downloaded at the end of the article.

In the table below we have given in detail the differences between the Governor-General and Viceroy

Differences Between Governor-General and Viceroy			
S.No	Differentiating Factors	Governor-General	Viceroy
1	Origins	The post of Governor-General of India was created by the passing of the Charter Act of 1833 with William Bentinck becoming the first Governor-General	After the Revolt of 1857, the Government of India Act, 1858 was passed which changed the name Governor-General of India from to Viceroy
2	Functions	The post of Governor-General of India was mainly for administrative purposes and reported to the Court of Directors of the East India Company	After 1858, the role of Viceroy and Governor-General of India became one with the Viceroy having diplomatic powers and reported directly to the British Crown
3	Selection	The Governor-General of India was selected by the Court of Directors who were in charge	The Viceroy was appointed by the sovereign of the British government under the advice of the Parliament
4	Time Periods	1833 - 1858	1858 - 1948

5	First to Hold the Position	William Bentinck	Lord Canning
6	Last to Hold the Position	Chakravarti Rajagopalachari	Lord Louis Mountbatten
7	Usage	The Dominions and colonies that were held in the name of the parliament of Great Britain were administered by a Governo-General	The Colonies that were held in the name of the British Crown were governed by the Viceroy