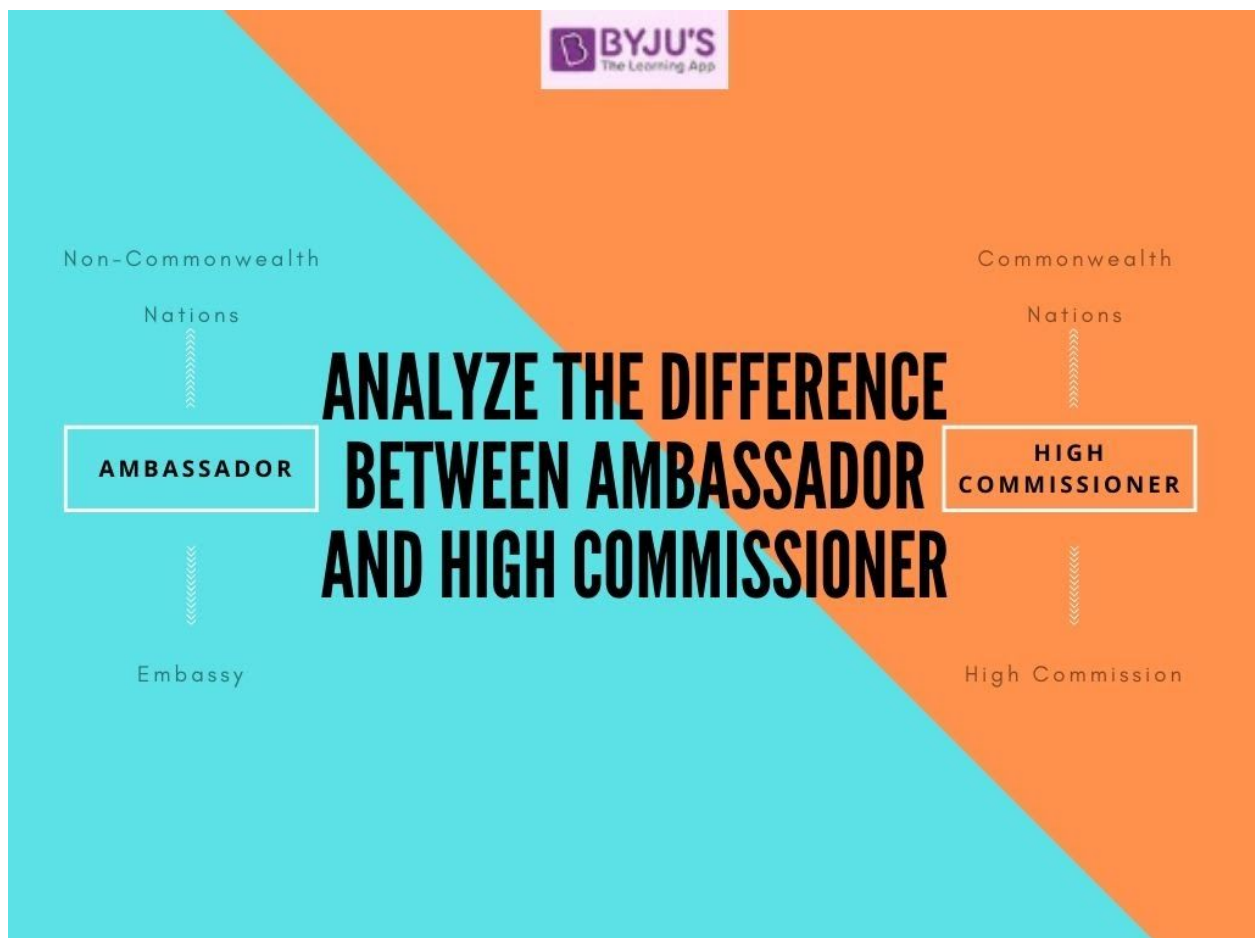


# Difference Between Ambassador and High Commissioner

The Government of India appoints officers who act as representatives in different nations. These representatives are officers of the Indian Foreign Service (IFS), who are responsible for the execution of India's foreign policy.

In some nations, they are called ambassadors while in others they are known as high commissioners in others. There are subtle differences between the two which this article will try its utmost to highlight.



The detailed difference between an Ambassador and High Commissioner is given in the table below:

<b>Differences between Ambassador and High Commissioner</b>	
<b>High Commissioner</b>	<b>Ambassador</b>
High Commissioner is the term used for representatives from the Commonwealth of Nations. It is what they use to address each other as well. For example, the representative of the Government in India in Australia is known as the High Commissioner	In addition to the Commonwealth Nations, the representative of the Government of India in other nations is known as an Ambassador. For example, the representative of India in Russia is called the Indian Ambassador to Russia
In Commonwealth nations, the office of the Indian Foreign Ministry is called the high commission	The offices of the Indian Foreign Ministry are known as 'Embassies" in non-commonwealth countries
In the British Empire, High Commissioners were envoys of the Imperial government to manage colonies and tributaries not fully under the sovereignty of the empire	The rise of modern Ambassadors can be traced back to 17th-century Italian states where their role was altered to serve as diplomats. The states being small in size and vulnerable from other larger entities saw it necessary to develop the ambassador system for information dispersion and external protection through non-violent and far more economical means
A high commissioner from one Commonwealth nation to another carries a simple informal letter of introduction from one head of government (In India's case, the Prime Minister) to that of another.	Ambassadors carry formal letters of credence from their head of state addressed to the head of the host country
A High Commissioner would also be put in charge of decolonisation, like in the case of former Crown colony of the Seychelles, where the last Governor became high commissioner in 1975,	Ambassadors not only foster good diplomatic relations between countries but also work for peace in by stopping illegal activities such as terrorism, human trafficking, drug trade etc.

