

## Lord Ripon

George Frederick Samuel Robinson, 1st Marquess of Ripon was a British politician who served in every Liberal cabinet from 1861. He is commonly referred to as Lord Ripon.

Lord Ripon initiated many reforms to ease the plight of the local Indians during his tenure as the Viceroy. Chief among these reforms was the introduction of local-self-government, the first of its kind in British India. For this, he is known as the 'Good Viceroy of India'

### Background of Lord Ripon

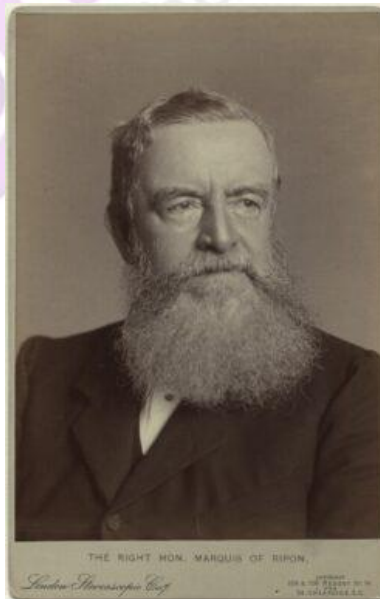
Born on 24 October 1827, Lord Ripon was the second son of Prime Minister F.J. Robinson and Lady Sarah Hobart. His education was done privately attending neither school nor college. He was awarded an honorary degree by Oxford University.

Lord Ripon entered the House of Commons in 1852 as a member of the Liberal party.

In 1863 he was made a Privy Counsellor and Secretary of State for War under Palmerston, with a seat in the cabinet. He retained this office when Lord Russell became prime minister on Palmerston's death in 1865 and then served under Russell as Secretary of State for India between February and June 1866.

In William Gladstone's first administration he was Lord President of the Council (1868–1873). During this period he acted as chairman of the joint commission for drawing up the Treaty of Washington with the United States over the Alabama Claims. For this, in 1871 he was made Marquess of Ripon, in the County of York.

Find the [list of Viceroys in India](#) in the given article.



## Viceroy of India

William Gladstone appointed Lord Ripon as the Viceroy of India in 1880. One of his first acts was the introduction of the [Ilbert Bill](#) which would have granted Indians more legal rights including the right of Indian judges to judge Europeans in court. Although it was a progressive move, the bill was vehemently opposed by Europeans who were aghast at the idea of being judged by native Indians.

One of his other efforts included a move to introduce a Bengal land tenancy bill – which would become the Bengal Tenancy Act 1885 – to improve the condition of the peasants. Lord Ripon also repealed the unpopular Vernacular Press Act of 1878.

**Modern Indian History is an important part of History preparation in the [UPSC 2021](#). Complement your GS 1 preparation with the help of following links:**

1. [Modern Indian History NCERT Notes for UPSC](#)
2. [How to prepare History for UPSC?](#)
3. [History Questions of UPSC Mains GS 1](#)
4. [NCERT Ancient History Notes for UPSC](#)
5. [NCERT Medieval History Notes for UPSC](#)

Above all Lord Ripon is known for the Resolution of 1882, which would give Indians the right to local self-government. The scheme of local self-government would develop the municipal institutions which had been under the direct control of the British Crown. The series of enactments would set up local self-governing bodies in the rural and urban areas. For this, he is known as the 'Father of Local-Self Government in India.

Other reforms of Lord Ripon include the [Hunter Commission](#), under William Wilson Hunter, which called for large scale educational reforms both at the primary and secondary levels of education, and the First Factory Act of 1881 which reduced the working hours of local factory workers and sought to improve their condition.

Lord Ripon also played a crucial role in reorganizing the Madras Forest Department and in expanding systematic forest conservancy in India.

Find the list of the [Legislations passed in British India](#) through the linked article.

## Later Life of Lord Ripon

Lord Ripon's tenure as Viceroy ended in 1884 upon which he returned to England. He held many responsible positions such as that of honorary Colonel of the 1st Volunteer Battalion of the Prince of Wales' Own, and from 1873 to 1906 he was Lord Lieutenant of the North Riding of Yorkshire.

For a time he was also a Freemason, who served as Provincial Grand Master of the West Riding and Deputy Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England from 1861 to 1869 and ultimately as Grand Master from 1870. He was also Chancellor of the University of Leeds from 1904 until his death in 1909.

To know the [difference between Governor-General and Viceroy](#), visit the linked article.

He was buried at St Mary's, Studley Royal and was succeeded by his only son, Frederick.

In Calcutta, Ripon Street was named after him. The Ripon Club in Mumbai founded in 1884 by the Parsis for their community members, was named after him.

## Frequently Asked Questions on Lord Ripon

### Q 1. What was the Ilbert Bill and who introduced it?

Ans. The Ilbert Bill was a legislative act introduced in 1883. The act stipulated that British and European subjects could be tried in sessions courts by Indian judges. It was introduced by Lord Ripon and was written by Sir Courtenay Pergine Ilbert.

### Q 2. Who was called the Father of local self-government?

Ans. Lord Ripon was known as the Father of Local self-government. He had introduced local self-governance in the year 1882.

