

Difference between Secretary and Joint Secretary

The secretary administrates the entire ministry's functioning, whereas the Joint Secretary is responsible for administering the wings under Secretary. The difference between the secretary and the Joint secretary can be understood better by comparing the various functional parameters.

Secretary and Joint Secretary

The table below highlights the major attributes associated with the secretary and joint secretary:

Secretary vs Joint Secretary

Factors	Secretary	Joint Secretary
Administrative Position	Administrative Head of Government of India's department or ministry	Administrative Head of wing established under Secretary of ministry to manage the additional volume of work that the Secretary is incapable of handling
Functional Area	Secretary oversees the functioning of the entire Ministry	Joint Secretary oversees the functioning of a specific wing in the Ministry by assisting the Secretary
Position in Government of India's Ministerial Hierarchy of Power	3rd i.e. under the Minister of State (MoS) and superior to the Additional Secretary.	5th i.e. under the Additional Secretary and superior to Director and Deputy Secretary
Principal Role	The Secretary serves as the principal adviser to the concerned minister and guides him on policy matters and helps in the administration of the affairs of the ministry or department	The Joint Secretary has no direct contact with the minister and can be considered as the principal adviser to the Additional Secretary on simple policy matters and administration of the allocated wing

Management Level	Secretary is positioned in the Top-Level Management in Government of India's Ministry set-up	Joint Secretary occupies a position in Middle-Level Management in the Government of India's Ministry
Number of Positions	Depending on the number of departments within the ministry, the number of secretary positions is determined for the administration of each department The work of the various secretaries within the ministry is coordinated by the senior-most secretary	There is a minimum of 1 joint secretary for a small ministry. There can be 3 or more joint secretaries for a large ministry

Secretary and Joint Secretary

The Indian Administrative Services (IAS) members can be appointed as the Secretary or Joint Secretary in a ministry. Often, experienced professionals with qualitative exposure to the functioning of various ministries in the state or Indian government are given priority over greenhorns.

What is the Role of the Secretary to the Government of India?

The Secretary of GOI is responsible for monitoring and administering the ministry. There are different secretaries in government, such as the Defence Secretary, Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, Finance Secretary, Secretary of the Home Department, Telecom Commission secretary, Railway Board Secretary etc.

There are various roles assigned to the Secretary, and a few of them are

- Complete responsibilities of being a head of the ministry.
- Minister's Chief Advisor.
- Representing the ministry to Public Accounts Committee.

What is the Role of the Joint Secretary to the Government of India?

The Joint Secretary to the Government of India is the 3rd highest executive rank (non-political). They are also known as the JS, GOI. Joint Secretary can even hold the post of President of India's Social and Press Secretary. They can hold the positions such as CVO, CAO, Joint Director of CBI, etc.

A few roles assigned to the Joint Secretary are

- Complete responsibilities of a head of the ministry's wing.
- They file affidavits before SCI.