Queen Victoria is associated with Britain’s great age of industrial expansion, economic progress and, especially, empire. At her death, it was said, Britain had a worldwide empire on which the sun never set. Victoria was deeply attached to her husband and she sank into depression after he died, aged 42, in 1861. She had lost a devoted husband and her principal trusted adviser in affairs of state. Seven attempts were made on Victoria’s life, between 1840 and 1882 - her courageous attitude towards these attacks greatly strengthened her popularity. With time, the private urgings of her family and the flattering attention of Benjamin Disraeli, Prime Minister in 1868 and from 1874 to 1880, the Queen gradually resumed her public duties. Queen Victoria was the longest serving Queen of the United Kingdom. Check out this biography to know about her childhood, family life, achievements and interesting facts about her. Meanwhile, Gladstone returned to power as the Prime Minister during the 1892 elections. He retired two years later, making way for Lord Rosebery and later Lord Salisbury. September 23, 1896 was a momentous day in the history of British monarchy as she surpassed her grandfather to become the longest surviving monarch of England. The celebrations were clubbed with her Diamond Jubilee.

Princess Victoria acceded to the British throne on 20 June 1837, less than a month after her eighteenth birthday and the attainment of her legal majority. Circumstances contrived to maximise the promise of the new reign. With the end of the seven-year rule of William IV and with the reactionary Duke of Cumberland succeeding to the throne of Hanover – Victoria being debarred by Salic law – her accession ended the long and uninspiring affiliation with the throne by the sons of George III. Young, female, attractive, politically innocent yet with decidedly Whiggish sympathies, the new Queen seemed far removed from the excesses of her aged Hanoverian uncles. Laetitia Landon described it as the advent of a ‘spring-like reign’. Scores of poems, prints and street ballads were produced, all effusively idealising Victoria. The popular magazine Figaro in London claimed that John Bull was so pleased at the idea of being governed by a girl, he would cut off his ears if her little Majesty required them. Victoria basked in the tangible freshness of a revivified royal populism.