

SUBJECT NAME: CONTEMPORARY INDIA (1947-2014)

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PRESENTED BY: Dr. K.ELIZABETH LAVANYA PAPPY

Ph. No. 9894875117

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

GOVERNMENT ARTS COLLEGE (Autonomous), Cbe-18.

UNIT - 1

INTEGRATION OF PRINCELY STATES

On 27th June, 1947, a separate “States Departments” was created in New Delhi. Under the stewardship of “Sardar Vallabhai Patel” with V.P. Menon as his secretary. They formulated the “Instrument of Accession”, except few princely states such as Travancore, Hyderabad, Junagath and Kashmir, all others were acceded to India by 15th August 1947.

ACCESSION OF TRAVANCORE, July 1947:

Sir C.P. Ramaswamy Iyer was Diwan of Travancore who enjoyed all powers. He felt that the accession of Travancore will put an end to the rule of Maharaja and automatically he may lose the powers of Diwan. Therefore, he entered into negotiations with British company to explore and exploit the thorium deposits in the state. He also approached American Council at Madras to seek U S recognition for the states independence.

But, people rose in revolt against the autocratic rule of Diwan. In October 1946, there was a violent upsurge led by the communists. The “State People’s Organisation” supported by congress and Sardar Vallabhai Patel, carried the struggle to forward with the help of Ezavas. At the end of July, the Diwan, Sir C.P. Ramaswamy Iyer was assaulted. Finally, the Maharaja signed the Instrument of Accession.

ACCESSION OF KASHMIR:

The Kashmir was ruled by “Maharaja Hari Singh”. The fourth & the last successor of Gulab Singh of Dogra Dynasty. He rejected the “Instrument of Accession” put forth by both the Governments of India and Pakistan. Maharaja proposed the “Stand Still agreement” before three days of partition. The popular leader of the National Conference, Sheikh Abdulla, was very keen on integrating Kashmir with India.

On 15th October 1947, there was a “tribal invasion” in Kashmir from Pakistan. By 22nd October, the ‘raiders’ mounted an attack on Kashmir. It was carefully planned and they were on their way to Srinagar ,the Venice of the Orient on 24th October.

Now, Maharaja Hari Singh appealed to India for military help. Before offering the military help, Nehru demanded the Kashmir accession to India. On 26th October 1947, Maharaja formally acceded Kashmir to India and agreed to accept Sheikh Abdulla as head of the state. According to the law, Jammu & Kashmir became an integral part of India.

INDO PAK WAR, 1947-1948

The Pathan tribal invasion was prepared for the first Indo-Pak War. On next day 27th October, 1947, Indian troops were sent to Kashmir. The army saved Kashmir from the Pathan invaders. The raiders were driven out of the Kashmir Valley, mostly but not complete.

KASHMIR ISSUE AND THE UNO:

The Government of India started negotiation with Pakistan to put an end to its secret support to the “raiders”. But Pakistan denied this and challenged the accession of Kashmir to India. Negotiations became fruitless. On the advice of Lord Mountbatten, Nehru approached the U.N. Security Council on 1st January, 1948. In August 1948, the U.N. Commission for India and Pakistan (UNCIP) proposed the withdrawal of troops including Pakistan’s retreat from Gilgit. America extended its support for withdrawal of Pakistan from Kashmir.

Lord Mountbatten was very eager to settle the Kashmir dispute before his renouncement of Governor – Generalship in June, 1948. India accepted the ceasefire on UNCIP in December, 1948. Pakistan had secured an arc of mountains round the Kashmir valley, known as “Azad Kashmir” or “Pakistan Occupied Kashmir”. It partitioned the state. The U.N. Corps, the longest serving peace-keeping force, remained there to observe and monitor violations. This left a legacy of insolvable legal wrangling. Since, it remains “like a fuse-box”.

ACCESSION OF JUNAGATH, FEBRUARY 1948:

It was tiny Princely state in Kathiawar peninsular on the coast of Sourashtra near Bombay. A muslim Nawab was the head of this Hindu majority state. It showed common border with Pakistan. The Nawab loved his dogs more than his subjects. He feared that, if he joined with India, his dogs would be poisoned. So, he declared the accession of his state to Pakistan.

But, the people revolted against the Nawab’s decision, and staged satyagraha . As his position was critical, he filled a plane with his wives and pets and fled to Karachi, Pakistan. “Shah Nawaz Bhutto”, the Diwan of Junagath invited the Government of India to intervene. The Indian armed forces marched into the State and restored law and order. A plebiscite was held in Junagath in February,1948, which gave a clear verdict in favour of State acceding to India. Junagath’s accession to Pakistan was nullified by the self-assertion of his subjects.

ACCESSION OF HYDERABAD, SEPTEMBER 1948:

At the time of Independence, the Nizam of Hyderabad was the head of the largest and the most populous state in India. There was 20 million Hindus and 3 million Muslims. The Hindu majority state was surrounded by Indian territory on all sides. It did not acceded to either India or Pakistan. He wanted to make Hyderabad as a “Third Dominion”.

Hyderabad State Congress launched the “Joint India Movement” in May 1947. Thousands of muslims enrolled themselves as “Razakars” and determine to maintain the supremacy of the Muslim power in Deccan. On 27th August, 1947,

the Nizam issued a “Firman” stating that he had assumed the status of an independent sovereign. On 31st October, he was threatened to accede to Pakistan, if the negotiations with Delhi failed.

STANDSTILL AGREEMENT AND VIOLATION:

The Government of India signed a Stand – Still Agreement with Nizam on 29th November, 1947. But, Nizam violated the agreement with immunity. K.M.Munshi, the Agent General, appointed under the terms of Stand – Still Agreement, was not allowed to occupy the Residency building. The Government of India’s intervention of solving Hyderabad problem through peaceful means was failed.

On 13th September, 1948, India launched ‘Police Action’ on Hyderabad. On 17th September, 1948 Nizam’s forces surrendered. It was named as “Operation Polo”. Hyderabad State was formally acceded to India.

The problem of the States was finally settled and the Central Government was recognized as paramount all over India.

2. REORGANISATION OF STATES

The States Reorganisation Commission was headed by Mr.Fazl Ali and its two other members were Pandit Hridayanath Hunzru and Sardar K.M.Panikkar. The Commission submitted its report to the Government of India on September 30,1955. Some notable recommendations of the Commission were:

- 1) The Indian Union was to consist of 16 states as against the existing 27 and here centrally and ministered territories.
- 2) Special safeguards were recommended for linguistic minorities.
- 3) In the interests of national unity and good administration, the Commission recommended that at least 50% of the new entrants to the All India Services and at least one third of the number of

Judges in a High Court should consist of persons recruited from outside that State so that, administration might inspire confidence and help in arresting parochial trends.

The Commission put emphasis on the need for encouraging the study of Indian languages other than Hindi but, for some time to come, English continue to occupy an important place in the universities and institutions of higher learning.

The Commission rejected the demand for the creation of a Punjabi Speaking State (Punjabi Suba) because “the creation of such a state will solve neither the language nor the communal problem.

The State Reorganisation Act was passed by Parliament in 1956 to give, effect to these recommendations. It provided for 14 states and 6 Union Territories. But two of the most sensitive area, Bombay and Punjab, were not reorganized on linguistic basis. The demands for separate tribal states, including Jharkhand and Nagaland were also passed.

To express resentment against the Commission’s report with regard to Maharashtra Commission’s report with regard to Maharashtra there was fierce rioting and violence under the auspices of 2 linguistically based organizations, namely, the Samyukta Maharashtra Ekikaran Samiti and the Maha Gujarat Parishad. After 3 years of trouble, ultimately in 1960, the demands for reorganization were accepted and Maharashtra and Gujarat were constituted as separate linguistic states with Bombay as part of Maharashtra.

The creation of Nagaland as a separate state had its own peculiarities. The Naga tribes along the Assam – Burma border had never been fully controlled by the British and the problem was further complicated on account of the large scale conversion of the Naga tribes to Christianity by American Baptist missionaries. There was a long entrenched rebellion led by the Naga leader A.Z.Phizo, but the traditional leadership of the Naga tribes under the Naga people’s Convention wanted a settlement “within the Indian Union”. Ultimately in 1963, Nagaland was created as a separate state. In Punjab, at the time of partition, the Akali Dal had long demanded a Sikh State, if not an independent Khalistan. The demand for the

Punjabi Suba was voiced not in communal but linguistic terms. However, strictly speaking there was no language problem in Punjab. But the Akali Dal, encouraged by the bifurcation of Bombay in 1960 began agitation for the Punjabi suba. The agitation continued without any response from the Government. Then in 1966, the State was divided into two parts, Punjab and Haryana the hilly areas of Punjab were added to Himachal Pradesh, which itself was constituted as an independent state on January 25, 1971.

The map of India has undergone further changes since 1966. In 1975, there was an addition to the territorial boundaries of India in the form of the State of Sikkim, which was till then have been made in the map of North – Eastern region of India which now has 7 states. Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh and Goa, Daman and Diu, have been elevated to statehood and at present the Union of India consists of 28 states and 7 Union Territories.

3. LIBERATION OF PORTUGUESE AND FRENCH SETTLEMENTS

Even after the departure of the British from India there were the French and Portuguese possessions in India's East and West coasts. Pondicherry and Goa were the biggest of the French and Portuguese possessions in India respectively. Since the problem of integrating the French and Portuguese settlements in India involved the domestic and foreign policies of India, Nehru adopted a cautious approach.

MERGER OF PONDICHERRY, 1956:

Nehru wanted the merger of Pondicherry with through negotiated settlement with France. But negotiations with the French dragged on till 1954. The people of Pondicherry were eager to join India. Mendes – France, the Prime Minister of France, was reasonable and came to a honorable settlement with India.

An agreement was reached by which de facto transfer of Pondicherry and other French territory in India was to be effected. The modalities were settled without difficulty and the agreement was signed on 28th May, 1956. Accordingly, Chandranagar and Mahi were merged with Pondicherry. Parliamentary government was introduced in the territory. The Pandy Assembly consisted of 30 members and it was given one seat in Lok Sabha and one in Rajya Sabha. It was only on 16th August, 1962, the French Parliament ratifies the decision of the French Government to transfer the French settlements in India including Pondicherry, Karaikal and Mahi to the care of Indian Union.

DECLINE OF PORTUGUESE INDIA:

The appearance of the Dutch in Indian waters was followed by the gradual ruin of Goa and the decline of Portuguese in India. In 1603 and 1639 Goa was blockaded by Dutch fleets, though never captured, and in 1635 it was ravaged by an epidemic. Trade in Portuguese India was gradually monopolized by the Jesuits, and Chroniclers throughout the late 17th century described the ever – increasing poverty and decay in areas under Portuguese control. In 1683 only the timely appearance of a Mughal army saved Goa from capture by Maratha raiders. In 1739, the entire territory of Goa was attacked by the Marathas, and only the unexpected arrival of a new viceroy with a fleet headed off military disaster. This peril was imminent until 1759, when a peace with the Marathas was concluded. In the same year the proposal to remove the seat of Government of Panjim (Panaji) was carried out such a move had been discussed as early as 1684. By 1835 the old city of Goa was inhabited by only a handful of priests, monks and nuns.

With the end of the British rule in India in 1947, and the quiet handling over of former French settlements in 1949 – 54, there was a natural desire by the nascent Republic of India to absorb the Portuguese territories, however was somewhat different. Four and a half centuries of intermarriage and the influence of Roman Catholic Church had produced a distinctive racial, cultural, religions, and linguistic group, especially in Old Goa itself. In August 1961, Dadra and Nagar

Haveli were incorporated into India, but Portugal rejected India's demands for the cession of its remaining holdings.

Border clashes intensified beginning in September 1961, and on November 26, the Portuguese Government, reported that it had repulsed an attack on Anjediv Island off the coast of Goa. On December 11 Indian Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru declared that "India's patience was exhausted". Over the following week, Western diplomats urged restraint, but on December 18, 1961, Indian forces invaded Goa, Daman and Diu.

Portuguese India ceased to exist the following day with the end of active resistance to Indian rule. Portugal appealed its case to the United Nations Security Council, but it was blocked by a Soviet Veto. The former Portuguese territories were incorporated into India as the Union Territory of Goa, Daman and Diu. In 1987, Goa was separated from the Union territory and was India's 25th state.

4. CENTRE STATE RELATIONS

The framers of the Indian constitution perceived the need for a strong Central Government, which would keep the disintegrating forces in check and safeguard the integrity of the counter. This aspect made the Indian federation a unique one among the federal structures of the world. The Constitution of India is federal in form but unitary in spirit.

COMMITTEES CONSTITUTED WITH RESPECT TO CENTRE STATE RELATIONS

- **Raja Mannar Committee** – This committee was appointed in 1969 by Tamil Nadu Government for suggesting measures for providing more autonomy to States. Its two other members were – Dr. Laxman Swamy Muddaliar and P.C. Chanda Reddy. The Committee recommended for (i) abolishing the residuary powers or transferring

them to the States, (ii) organization of Inter – State Council and (iii) abolition of All India Services.

- **Sarkaria commission** headed by Justice Ranjeet Singh Sarkaria, the Commission was appointed on March 24, 1983 by the union government to study and make recommendations with respect to Centre – State relations. The Commission has submitted its report in 1988.

LEGISLATIVE RELATIONS

The Constitution divides legislative authority between the Union and the States in three lists – the Union List, the State List and the Concurrent List. The distribution is remarkably elaborate and detailed. The Union Parliament has exclusive authority to frame laws on subjects enumerated in the list. These include foreign affairs, defence, armed forces, communications, posts and telegraphs, foreign trade, inter – state trade, commerce, etc. Both the Parliament and the State Legislatures can make laws on subject given in the concurrent list, but the centre has a prior and superior claim to legislate on concurrent subjects.

ADMINISTRATIVE RELATIONS

The administrative relations between the Union and the states offer yet another proof of the highly integrated nature of the Indian federation. Under the constitution the Union government can exercise the executive power in respect of all matters within its legislative jurisdiction. Some of these matters, such as customs, and central excise, income tax, railways, post and telegraphs are administered directly by services maintained by the Union Government. In most of the cases, the administration of Union matters is delegated to State authorities.

The Union Government can apply drastic sanctions against the state, which fails to carry out its directions. Acting on the powers under Art. 356 the President may proclaim a breakdown of constitutional government in a state and proceed to take into his hands all the powers of the Governor or any other State officer. The Union government has also been given certain power to promote inter –

state cooperation and to settle inter – state river disputes. The function of the Inter – State council is advisory in nature.

FINANCIAL RELATIONS

The Constitution provides for a financially strong centre so much so the States are almost totally dependent on the Union. The outstanding feature of Indian finances is that most of the resources accrue to the Union and out of these some are transferred to States.

The Union Government can borrow money on the security of the Consolidated Funds of India. State Government has to obtain the permission of the Centre to raise loans. The centre has powers to grant loans and grants – in – aid to the States. The President appoints a Finance Commission every five years to advise him regarding the distribution of resources between the Union and the States and other related matters. Further, the President appoints the comptroller and Auditor – General of India, who determines the manner in which the accounts. During a Financial Emergency, the Centre can require the States to reduce the salaries of their servants and direct them to reserve all the Money Bills for its approval.

Thus, this aspect has made the Indian federation a unique one among the federal structures of the world.

