

MODULE I-INDIA: THE REPUBLIC

TOPIC:PATEL AND INTEGRATION PROCESS

2020

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- ▶ The **Indian Independence Act of 1947** gave princely states an option to accede to the newly born dominions India or Pakistan or continue as an independent sovereign state.
- ▶ At that time **more than 500 princely states** have covered 48 percent of the area of pre Independent India and constituted 28% of its population.
- ▶ **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel** (India's first deputy prime minister and the home minister) with the assistance of **V.P menon** (the secretary of the Ministry of the States) was given the formidable task of integrating the princely states.
- ▶ Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel took the charge of states department in July 1947, and tackled this problem of integration of the states with great ability with V.P. Menon
- ▶ He played an important role in bringing the 565 self-governing princely states and territories into the Indian federation.

- ▶ He drew a new map of India with every princely State being a part of the Indian union and thus, paved the way for cultural unity and harmony.
- ▶ Sardar Patel worked with astonishing speed to dismantle the history of imperialism and create the geography of unity with the spirit of nationalism.
- ▶ He saved India from Balkanization and integrated even the weakest of limbs into the national framework.
- ▶ He also introduced the concept of “**privy purses**”— a payment to be made to royal families for their agreement to merge with India.
- ▶ His commitment to national integration in the newly independent country was total and uncompromising, earning him the sobriquet “**Iron Man of India**”.
- ▶ He is also remembered as the “**patron saint of India’s civil servants**” for having established the modern all-India services
- ▶ He is also called the “Unifier of India”.

▶ TRAVANCORE

- ▶ The **southern Indian maritime state** was strategically placed for maritime trade and was rich in both human and mineral resources
- ▶ On July 30 1947, Travancore joined India.

▶ JODHPUR

- ▶ The Rajput princely state despite having a **Hindu king and a large Hindu population**, strangely had a tilt towards Pakistan.
- ▶ On 11th August 1947, Maharaja Hanvant Singh, King of Jodhpur signed the **Instrument of Accession** and the State of Jodhpur was integrated into the Indian Dominion.

▶ BHOPAL

- ▶ It was another state that wished to declare independence.
- ▶ By July 1947, the Prince became aware of the large number of princes who had acceded to India and decided to join India.

▶ HYDERABAD

- ▶ It was the **largest and richest of all princely states**, covered a large portion of the Deccan plateau.
- ▶ On September 13, 1948, Indian troops were sent to Hyderabad under **‘Operation Polo’**.
- ▶ In an **armed encounter** that lasted for about four days, the **Indian army gained full control of the state** and Hyderabad became the integral part of India.

▶ JUNAGADH

- ▶ The princely state, situated on the **South-western end of Gujarat**, also did not accede to the Indian union by August 15, 1947.
- ▶ A plebiscite was conducted in February 1948, which went almost unanimously in favour of accession to India.

- ▶ Junagadh became a part of the Indian state of Saurashtra until November 1, 1956, when Saurashtra became part of Bombay state.
- ▶ In 1960, Bombay state was split into the linguistic states of Maharashtra and Gujarat, in which Junagadh was located and since then Junagadh is part of Gujarat.
- ▶ GUJARAT
- ▶ It was a princely state with a **Hindu king ruling over a predominant Muslim population** which had remained reluctant to join either of the two dominions.