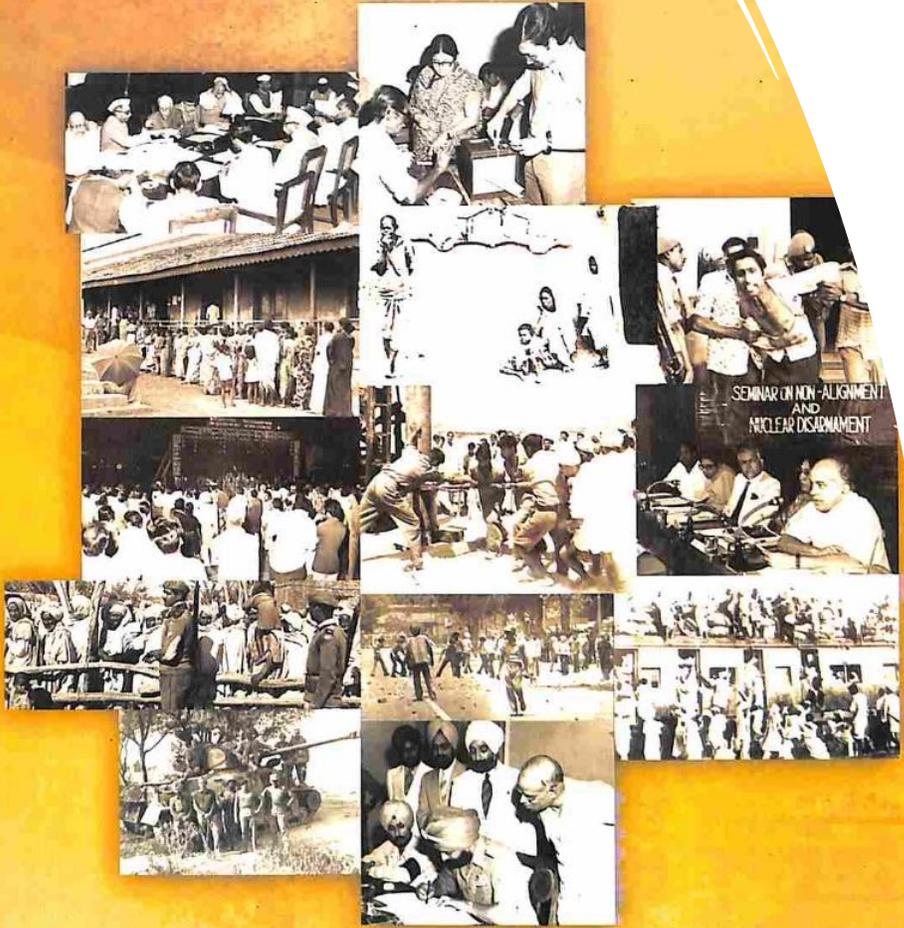




CHAPTER- 1

CHALLENGES OF NATION BUILDING



POLITICS IN INDIA
SINCE INDEPENDENCE

TEXTBOOK IN POLITICAL SCIENCE FOR CLASS XII

This lesson is divided into 2 parts

Explanation as per the latest syllabus

Get notes from my website



INTRODUCTION

At the hour of midnight on **14-15 August 1947**, India attained independence. **Jawahar Lal Nehru** the first Prime Minister of free India, addressed a special session of the Constituent Assembly that night. This was the famous ‘Tryst with destiny’ speech.

Our leaders on attaining independence agreed upon two goals to be achieved:

- 1) We shall run our country through democratic government.
- 2) The government will be run for the good of all, particularly the poor and the socially disadvantaged groups.

No other country by then was born in a situation more difficult than that of India in 1947. Freedom came with the partition of the country. The year 1947 was a year of unprecedented violence and displacement. It was in this situation that independent India started on its journey to achieve several objectives.

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VOL. XXIV, NO. 153

NEW DELHI: SATURDAY, JULY 19, 1947

PRICE TWO ANNAS

END OF 200-YEAR-OLD BRITISH RULE

**Provisional Govt.
For Burma**

**ANNOUNCEMENT LIKELY
NEXT WEEK**

LONDON, July 18.—A Provisional Government for Burma under the leadership of U. Nu, Premier of the Anti-Federal People's Freedom League and leader of the Executive Council, will be announced next week, it is generally believed.

Members of the present Executive Council will become Ministers in the Provisional Government. Under the Government will not will proceed immediately to assume the full constitutional role of the State.

A slight indication of post-war is regarded as likely when the new Government takes office—possibly on or before the date set for the resumption of the services of the Government monthly.

The conversion of the Government's Executive Council into a Provisional Government, it is understood, is one of the major developments in connection of the recent negotiations in London between the British Government and the Burmese Political Council.

**Return Of Bollaert
To Viet-Nam
Welcomed**

SAIGON, July 18.—Dr. Ho Chi Minh, President of the Viet-Nam Government, in a statement received here today on the eve of the return of M. Bollaert, French High Commissioner, from Paris, declared: "So far I have not met M. Bollaert, but I have seen him and he will, in a spirit of understanding, recognize the independence and unity of the Viet-Nam in spite of the friendly and collaboration between the French and Viet-Nam."



KING GEORGE VI

**IN INDIA
ROYAL ASSENT TO
INDEPENDENCE BILL**

**BRIEF BUT COLOURFUL
CEREMONY IN LORDS**

**Two Dominions
Created**

LONDON, July 18.—Precisely at 10.10 a.m. G.M.T. today (11.10 p.m. I.S.T.) the great new dominions of India and Pakistan were born and the 300,000,000 people of India came into their inheritance of full political freedom, when in the House of Lords, a Royal Commission of Peers with ceremony and ritual drew back to William the Conqueror's time, announced the Royal Assent to the Indian Independence Bill.

"The King's Speech" in the House of Commons, July 15, the Clerk of Parliament, Sir Henry Holliday, uttered the fateful words—"The King Wishes It." In this simple personal phrase was the birth and the end of an era.

The ceremony which transferred Britain's 200-year-old responsibility for India to the people of that country took barely 15 minutes. The Royal Commission, indeed, within the brief space of time, passed 18 Bills of which the Indian Independence Bill, sandwiched between a penitential measure and the National Service Act authorizing peacetime conscription, came first.



ATTLEE

**MESSAGE FROM
PREMIER**

Mr. Jawahar Lal Nehru, Premier of India, in a broadcast message to the people of India and Pakistan, said: "I feel an honour of the Indian Independence Bill."

The message was broadcast from the House of Commons, London, at 10.10 p.m. G.M.T. today (11.10 p.m. I.S.T.).

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CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY

**UNION'S RELATIONSHIP
WITH RULERS**

**PROVISION FOR PROVINCES'
JURISDICTION IN STATES**

(By Our Special Representative)

NEW DELHI, Friday.—An important clause providing for a provision extending jurisdiction in the legislative, executive or judicial sphere in the territory of an Indian State under an agreement approved by the Federal Government was adopted by the Constituent Assembly today on the recommendation of a representative sub-committee.

The sub-committee consists of Sir B. L. Mitter (Chairman), Sir Alladi Krishnaswami Ayyar, Mr. Jamail Chundrigar, Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar, Dr. B. R. Ambedkar and Mr. R. M. Munshi.

The clause reads: "It shall be competent for a treaty with the previous consent of the Federal Government to be made, by an agreement made in that behalf with any foreign State, any legislative, executive or judicial sphere in that State, provided that the agreement relates to a subject included in the Provincial or Concurrent Legislative List, the such an agreement being embodied in the Statute Book, subject to the prior sanction of the Legislature, executive or judicial sphere in that State through the appropriate authority of the province."

Speaking on the clause, Sir Alladi said it shows that the suggested provision would not diminish the right of the Union Government to exercise jurisdiction in the matter covered by the agreement of the British Crown under the Indian Foreign Jurisdiction Act.

**Sir Shafaat Ahmed
Khan Dead**

SIRIA, July 18.—The death occurred in Rome today of Sir Shafaat Ahmed Khan, a former Member of the Central Government. He was 61. He leaves a widow and three daughters.

Sir Shafaat Ahmed Khan was a prominent figure in the Indian independence movement. He was a member of the Indian National Congress and served in various capacities during the struggle for independence.





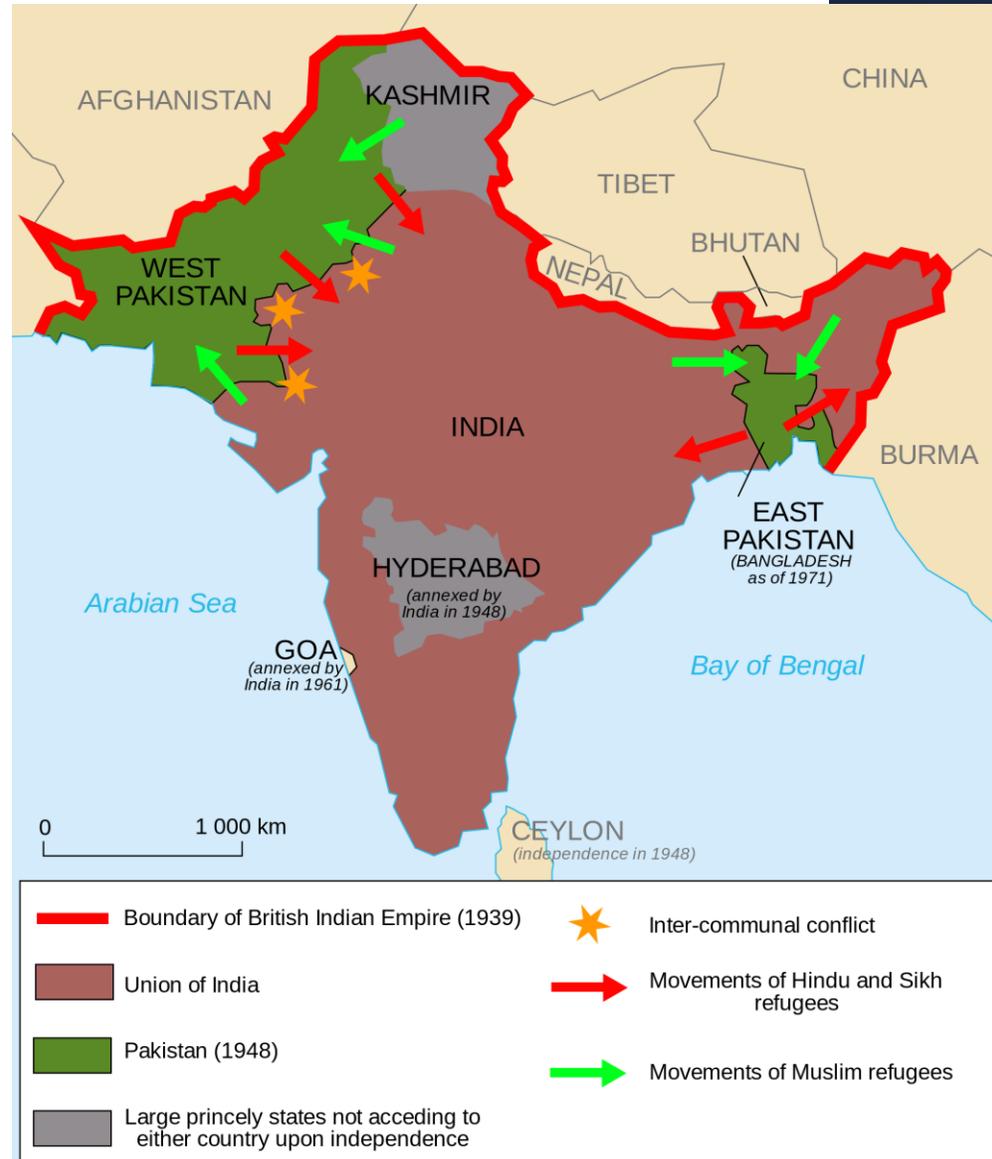
THE THREE CHALLENGES

- **1) To shape a nation-** The first and immediate challenge was to shape a nation that was united in spite of the diversity in our society. In India people spoke different languages and followed different cultures and religions. It was widely believed that a country full of such kinds of diversity could not remain together for long.
- **2) To establish Democracy-** The second challenge was to establish democracy. India adopted representative democracy based on parliamentary form of government. A democratic constitution is necessary but not sufficient for establishing a democracy so the challenge was to develop democratic practices in accordance with the constitution.
- **3) To ensure the development and well-being of society-** The third challenge was to ensure the development and well-being of entire society and not only of some sections. The constitution clearly laid down the principle of equality and special protection to socially disadvantaged groups and religious and cultural communities.



PARTITION: DISPLACEMENT AND REHABILITATION

- On 14-15th August 1947, not one but two nation states came into existence- India and Pakistan.
- This was the result of partition the division of British India into India and Pakistan. Such a division was not only very painful but also very difficult to decide and to implement.
- It was decided to follow the principle of religious majorities which means that areas where the Muslims were in majority would make up the territory of Pakistan and rest was to stay India.
- **But the division of the country had lot of difficulties:**
 - 1. There was no single belt of Muslim majority areas in British India. There were two areas of concentration one in the west and one in the east and in no way these two areas could be joined so it was decided that new country Pakistan will comprise of two territories west and east Pakistan separated by a long expanse of Indian territory.
 - 2. Secondly, not all Muslim majority areas wanted to be in Pakistan. **Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan** the leader of North Western Frontier province and also known as Frontier Gandhi was opposed to the Two Nation theory.
 - 3. The third problem was that two of the Muslim majority provinces of British India, Punjab and Bengal had very large areas where the non-muslims were in majority. So it was decided that these two provinces would be bifurcated according to the religious majority at the district and even lower level.
 - 4. The fourth problem was of the minorities on both sides of border. Lakhs of Hindus and Sikhs in the areas that were now in Pakistan and an equally large number of Muslims on the Indian side of Punjab and Bengal found themselves trapped. They were aliens in their own land and became easy targets.





CONSEQUENCES OF PARTITION

- There were killings and atrocities on both sides of the border.
- In the name of religion people of one community ruthlessly killed and maimed people of the other community.
- Cities like Lahore, Amritsar and Kolkata became communal zones.
- Minorities on both sides of the border fled their home and often secured temporary shelter in refugee camps.
- They travelled to the other side of the new border by all sorts of means often by foot and were often attacked, killed or raped.
- In many cases women were killed by their own family members to preserve the family honour. Many children were separated from their parents.
- For lakhs of these refugees the country's freedom meant life in refugee camps for months and sometimes for years.
- The partition was not merely a division of properties, liabilities and assets or political division of the country and administrative apparatus but also financial assets and things like tables, chairs typewriters, paperclips, books and also musical instruments of the police band.
- It is estimated that about 80 lakh people were forced to migrate across new border and about 5 to 10 lakh people were killed.





MAHATMA GANDHI'S SACRIFICE

- On 15th August 1947 Mahatma Gandhi did not participate in any of the Independence Day celebrations.
- He was in Kolkata in the areas which was torn by gruesome riots between Hindus and Muslims.
- He was saddened by the communal violence and disheartened that the principles of ahimsa (non-violence) and Satyagraha (active but non-violent resistance) that he had lived and work for had failed to bind the people in troubled times.
- Gandhi ji went on to persuade Hindus and Muslims to give up violence.
- His presence in Kolkata greatly improved the situation and the coming of independence was celebrated in a spirit of communal harmony with joyous dancing in the streets.



INTEGRATION OF PRINCELY STATES

- British India was divided into what were called the British Indian provinces and the Princely states. The British Indian provinces were directly under the control of the British government and several large and small states ruled by princes were called the princely states.
- Princely states enjoyed some form of control over the internal affairs as long as they accepted British Supremacy. Just before independence British announced that with the end of their rule over India the supremacy of the British over the Princely states will come to an end.
- It was left to the state whether to join India or Pakistan or remain independent. This was a very serious problem and could threaten the very existence of united India. The ruler of Travancore announced that the state had decided on independence.
- The ruler of Hyderabad made similar announcement the next day. The ruler of Bhopal was also averse in joining the Constituent Assembly. So all this showed a strange situation since Indian independence aimed at unity and self determination as well as democracy approach.





GOVERNMENT'S APPROACH TOWARDS PRINCELY STATES

- The government took firm stance against possible division of India. The Muslim League opposed the INC and took the view that states should be free to adopt any course they liked. **Sardar Patel** played a historic role in negotiating with the rulers of princely states firmly but diplomatically and bringing most of them enter into the Indian Union.
- **The government's approach was guided by three considerations:**
 - 1. The people of most of the princely states really wanted to become part of the Indian Union.
 - 2. The government was prepared to be flexible in giving autonomy to some regions and the idea was to accommodate plurality and adopt flexible approach in dealing with the regions.
 - 3. In the backdrop of partition which brought into focus the contest over demarcation of territory the integration of the territorial boundaries of the nation had assume supreme importance.



INSTRUMENT OF ACCESSION

The rulers of most of the states signed a document called the 'Instrument of Accession' which meant that their state agreed to become a part of the Union of India. The princely states of Junagadh, Hyderabad, Kashmir and Manipur proved more difficult than the rest. Issue of Junagadh was resolved after a plebiscite confirmed people's desire to join India.



PROBLEMATIC PRINCELY STATES

HYDERABAD

MANIPUR

JUNAGADH



HYDERABAD

- Hyderabad the largest of the princely states was surrounded entirely by Indian territory and some parts of Hyderabad state today are parts of Maharashtra, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.
- Its ruler carried the title of Nizam. He entered into what was called the standstill agreement with India in November 1947 for a year while negotiations with the Indian government were going on. The people of Hyderabad started a movement against the Nizam's rule.
- The peasantry in the Telangana region in particular was victim of Nizams oppressive rule and rose against him. Women too joined the movement.
- The Communists and Hyderabad Congress were in the forefront of the movement.
- The Nizam responded by unleashing a paramilitary force known as Razakars on the people who committed lot of atrocities and the communal nature of the Razakars knew no bounds.
- They murdered, maimed, raped and looted targeting particularly the non-muslims.
- In September 1948 Indian Army moved into control the Nizam's forces and finally after few days Nizam surrendered and this lead to accession of Hyderabad to India.



MANIPUR

- A few days before independence the Maharaja of Manipur Bodhachandra Singh signed Instrument of Accession with the Indian government on the assurance that internal autonomy of Manipur would be maintained.
- Under the pressure of public opinion the Maharaja held elections in June 1948 and the state became a constitutional monarchy and became the first Indian state to hold elections based on Universal adult franchise.
- Manipur was the first part of India to hold election based on Universal Adult Franchise.
- There were lots of differences in the Legislative Assembly of Manipur over the merger of Manipur with India.
- The Government of India succeeded in pressurizing the Maharaja into finding a merger agreement in September 1949 without consulting the elected Legislative Assembly of Manipur. This caused a lot of anger and resentment in Manipur, the repercussions of which are still being felt.



REORGANISATION OF STATES

- The first important challenge India encountered after independence was the integration of princely and other native states. The challenge was to draw the internal boundaries of the Indian states. The boundaries of the states had to be drawn in a way so that the linguistic and cultural plurality of the country could be reflected without affecting the unity of the nation. Our leaders promised the linguistic principles as the basis of formation of states.
- After the Nagpur session of Congress in 1920 the principle was recognized as the basis of the reorganisation of the INC party itself.
- After independence and partition, things changed and our leaders felt that this division on the basis of language would lead to disruption and disintegration.
- This decision of the national leadership was challenge by the local leaders and people.
- Protest began in the Telugu speaking areas of the old Madras province which included present date Tamil Nadu, parts of Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Karnataka.



- The Vishalandhra movement demanded that the Telugu speaking areas be separated from the Madras province and separate Andhra province be made.
- The movement gathered momentum as a result of the central government's vacillation.
- Potti Sriramulu, a Congress leader went on indefinite fast that led to his death because of great unrest and resulted in violent outburst in Andhra region.
- Finally the PM announced the formation of a separate Andhra state in December 1952.
- The formation of Andhra Pradesh spurred the struggle for making of other states on linguistic lines in other parts of the country.
- The struggles forced the central government in appointing States Reorganisation Commission in 1953 to look into the question of redrawing of the boundaries of the states.
- The States Reorganisation Act was passed in 1956 which led to the creation of 14 states and six union territories.
- Thus we can conclude that creation of linguistic States which created fear of separatism and division of the country has rather changed the nature of democratic politics and leadership and has strengthened national unity.
- Democracy in other words was associated with plurality of ideas and ways of life.



S.NO.	NAME OF THE STATE	NEW STATE/ STATES CREATED	YEAR
1.	Bombay	Maharashtra, Gujarat	1960
2.	Assam	Nagaland	1963
3.	Larger Punjab State	Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab	1966
4.	Assam	Meghalaya, Manipur, Tripura	1972
5.	Assam	Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh	1987
6.	Uttar Pradesh	Uttarakhand	2000
7.	Madhya Pradesh	Chhatisgarh	2000
8.	Andhra Pradesh	Telangana	2000

PATEL AND INTEGRATION

- Sardar Vallabhai Patel was the first deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister of India and he had emerged as a popular leader after the Kheda Satyagraha (1918) and the Bardoli Satyagraha (1928).
- He was known as the Iron Man of India. One of the biggest challenges India was facing post independence was that of unity.
- He undertook the daunting tasks of uniting all 565 princely states of India. He was not in favour of any compromise to India's territorial integrity. And due to his political experience, diplomatic prowess and foresightedness, many princely states gave their consent to merge. He faced key challenges when it came to the states of - a)Hyderabad b)Junagarh c)Kashmir
- Under his leadership, Indian forces were able to convince the Princely States of Hyderabad and Junagarh to merge with India.
- He was aware of Jinnah's divisive "Two Nation Theory" and so his opinion on how to get Kashmir to merge with India were different from other leaders.
- Like they had done in Hyderabad, he wanted to use the military to integrate Kashmir with India however he was unable to fully integrate Kashmir.
- However, he remains as an astounding leader and will always be characterized as the NCR of Indian Politics as he combined, in himself, the features of a true 'Nationalist', 'Catalyst' and 'Realist'.



THANKS FOR WATCHING!



POLITICS IN INDIA SINCE INDEPENDENCE

CHAPTER-1 CHALLENGES
OF NATION BUILDING

LET'S CONNECT TO LEARN WITH ME



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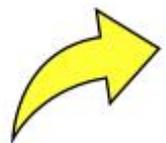
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