

## CHALLENGES OF NATION-BUILDING

- ❏ Two states which were divided at the time of partition: Punjab and Bengal.
- ❏ Cities that became 'communal zones' at the time of partition: Kolkata, Amritsar, Lahore
- ❏ 4 states that did not join India till independence: Hyderabad, Junagarh, Kashmir, Manipur
- ❏ Some states created under States Reorganisation Act, 1956: Karnataka, Kerala, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh

❏ *Two Nation Theory*: Two-Nation Theory was advocated by Muslim League. According to this Theory, Hindus and Muslims are two separate and distinct nations. So there should be a separate 'Pakistan' for Muslims. India was divided into two parts at the time of independence on the basis of this concept.

❏ *Tryst with Destiny*: India became independent on midnight of 15<sup>th</sup> August, 1947. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru delivered a speech in the Constituent Assembly on that occasion which highlights the nature of the future political system to be adopted by India. This famous speech is known as India's 'Tryst with Destiny'.

❏ *Instrument of Accession*: There were many princely states in India during British rule. Most of these states joined India at the time of independence. These states had to sign a document while joining India. This document was known as 'Instrument of Accession'.

❏ *Stand-still Agreement*: Hyderabad was a princely state. Its ruler Nizam did not want to join India. As the matter was not settled, Nizam and Government of India signed an agreement in November, 1947 to maintain status-quo for one year. This agreement is known as Stand-still Agreement.

❏ *Three challenges faced by India at the time of independence*: At the time of independence, India faced three major challenges.

1. To secure unity: India is a vast country. It is the home of different religions, languages, cultures etc. To establish unity in such a vast and diverse country was a big challenge.
2. To establish a democratic order: India decided to adopt democratic system of governance. It was a challenging task to establish democratic order in a country with large scale poverty and illiteracy.
3. To ensure development and welfare: Another challenge was to ensure economic development and welfare of all sections of the society. There should not be welfare of only



few. For this purpose, many provisions have been made in the Constitution like principle of equality, special provisions for some disadvantaged sections etc.

#### *Major problems in the process of partition:*

1. There was no region with exclusive Muslim population in undivided India. The eastern and western parts have comparatively larger Muslim population.
2. All Muslim majority areas did not want to join Pakistan. North West Frontier Province was one such area.
3. Punjab and Bengal were Muslim majority states. But a large section of population belonged to other religions. Division of these two states was a very difficult task.
4. Partition of India on the basis of religion created minority in both the countries. The minorities were subject to attack and atrocities.

#### *Impact/ consequences/ results of partition:*

Following are some important consequences of partition-

1. Communal riots: Partition of India on the basis of religion created an atmosphere of mistrust and suspicion among people. It resulted in communal clashes in many parts of India. Several lakhs people died in communal riots during partition.
2. Problem of refugees: Partition also resulted in refugee problem. Millions of people migrated from one side of the border to the other side. They had to take shelter in the refugee camps for a long time. They had to face acute hardship.
3. Division of assets: Partition of the country led to division of public property and financial assets too. Assets of various government departments, chairs, tables and even employees had to be divided.
4. Loss of public property: Partition and communal clashes resulted in loss of public property. Many offices, buildings were burnt down. Properties worth millions of rupees were destroyed by miscreants.
5. Issue of minority: Partition created the issue of majority and minority. Minorities had to live in fear and insecurity. Others looked at them with suspicion.
6. Division of hearts: Partition was not only division of territory but also division of hearts. It divided the people who once live together in peace and harmony. The horrible experience of partition is often considered as division of hearts.



*States Reorganisation Commission/ States Reorganisation Act/ Write a note on reorganization of states in India.*

During freedom struggle, Indian National Congress accepted the principle of linguistic states. After independence, a Linguistic States Commission was formed. It rejected the idea of reorganization of states on the basis of language. But this demand became very strong in some parts of India. As a result of 'Vishal Andhra Movement', a new state Andhra Pradesh had to be created in 1952. Ultimately Government appointed 'States Reorganisation Commission' in 1953. It consisted of three members. They were Fazal Ali, K M Pannikar and Hridaynath Kunjru. The Commission submitted its report in 1955. On the basis of this report, States Reorganisation Act was enacted in 1956. It resulted in formation of 14 states and 6 union territories.

*Integration of Princely-states:*

There were as many as 565 princely-states in India during British rule. These states accepted British suzerainty, but were not part of British India. When the British declared that India will become independent, some confusion arose regarding these princely-states. Legally they were free to join either India or Pakistan or remain independent. At the beginning some states like Travancore, Bhopal, Hyderabad, Kashmir etc. wanted to remain independent. However due to the attempts and negotiations of Indian leaders, most of the princely-states joined India at the time of independence. Junagarh joined India after plebiscite. Kashmir also joined India in the wake of tribal attack instigated by Pakistan. Hyderabad and Manipur also joined India in 1948 and 1949 respectively.

*Integration of Hyderabad:*

Hyderabad was the largest princely-state. Its ruler was known as Nizam. Though the people of Hyderabad wanted to join India, Nizam did not. As the matter was not settled, Nizam and Government of India signed a Stand-still Agreement in November, 1947 to maintain status-quo for one year. Meanwhile the people of Hyderabad started agitation against misrule of Nizam. Nizam tried to suppress the people with the help of Razakars, a communal armed gang. There were severe atrocities on the people. Under such circumstances, India sent its army to Hyderabad. After two days fighting, Nizam surrendered and finally Hyderabad joined India towards the end of 1948.