



BHARATHIDASAN UNIVERSITY

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Programme: FIVE-YEAR INTEGRATED M.A. HISTORY

**Course Title : HISTORY OF INDIA FROM INDEPENDENCE TO
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Course Code: CC10

Unit-I

**India after Independence: Interim Government –
Integration of Princely States**

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Interim Government

Members of the Cabinet Mission

- Lord Pethick-Lawrence
- Sir Stafford Cripps
- A. V. Alexander

Interim Government

- On 2nd September 1946, the Interim Government of India was formed to oversee the transition of the country from a British colony to an independent republic.

- The Interim Government was formed as a provisional government between an imperial structure and a democratic structure.
- It lasted till 15th August 1947 when India became independent and was partitioned into India and Pakistan.
- This Interim Government was formed from the Constituent Assembly which was elected in August 1946.

- The election to the Constituent Assembly was not direct and representatives were elected by the provincial assemblies.
- In these elections, the Indian National Congress (INC) won around 69% of the seats and had a majority. The Congress Party won **208 seats** and the Muslim League won **73 seats**.
- In the Interim Government, the Viceroy's Executive Council was equivalent to the position of Council of Ministers which acted as the executive.

- Jawaharlal Nehru became its Vice President and served as the de-facto Prime Minister.
- Even though the Muslim League refused to be a part of the Interim Government, insisting on their demand for a separate nation, it eventually became a part of it.
- In Muhammad Ali Jinnah's words, the League was **“going into the Interim Government to get a foothold to fight for... the cherished goal of Pakistan.”**

Members of the Interim Government

- President of the Executive Council (Viceroy and Governor-General of India): Viscount Wavell (till February 1947); Lord Mountbatten (from February 1947)
- Commander-in-Chief: Sir Claude Auchinleck
- Vice President, Also in charge of External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations: Jawaharlal Nehru

- Home Affairs, Information and Broadcasting:
Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel
- Agriculture and Food: Rajendra Prasad
- Commerce: Ibrahim Ismail Chundrigar
- Defence: Baldev Singh
- Finance: Liaquat Ali Khan
- Education and Arts: C Rajagopalachari
- Health: Ghazanfar Ali Khan

- Labour: Jagjivan Ram
- Law: Jogendra Nath Mandal
- Railways and Communications, Post and Air:
Abdur Rab Nishtar
- Works, Mines and Power: C H Bhabha

Integration of Princely States

Indian Independence Act of 1947

- It gave princely states an option to accede to the newly born dominions India or Pakistan or continue as an independent sovereign state.
- **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.

Major Princely States

Travancore

- The Dewan of Travancore, Sir C.P. Ramamswamy Aiyar declared his intention of forming an independent state of Travancore.
- Later, he changed his mind after he survived an assassination attempt by a member of the Kerala Socialist Party. Hence, Travancore joined India.

Jodhpur

- This Rajput princely state has a large Hindu population with a Hindu king, Maharaja Hanvant Singh.
- Jinnah reported to have given the Maharaja a signed blank sheet of paper to list all his demands.
- Seeing the risks in the border state acceding to Pakistan, Patel immediately contacted the prince and offered him sufficient benefits.
- On 11th August 1947, Hanvant Singh signed the **Instrument of Accession** and the State of Jodhpur was integrated into the Indian Dominion.

Bhopal

- **Muslim Nawab**, Hamidullah Khan was ruling over a **majority Hindu population**.
- He was a close friend of the Muslim League and staunchly opposed the Congress rule.
- By July 1947, the Prince became aware of the large number of princes who had acceded to India and decided to join India.

Junagadh

- The princely state, situated on the southwestern end of Gujarat.
- Nawab Mahabat Khanji III chose to accede to Pakistan.
- The government pointed out that the state was 80% Hindu, and called for a plebiscite to decide the question of accession.
- On 26 October 1947, the Nawab and his family fled to Pakistan following clashes with Indian troops.
- On November 7, 1947 Junagadh's court, facing collapse, invited the Government of India to take over the State's administration.

Hyderabad

- Nizam Mir Usman Ali ruled over a largely Hindu population demand for an independent state.
- Armed fanatics called Razakars unleashed violence targeted at Hyderabad's Hindu residents.
- On September 13, 1948, Indian troops were sent to Hyderabad under 'Operation Polo'.
- The Indian army gained full control of the state and Hyderabad became the integral part of India.

Kashmir

- It was a princely state with a Hindu king ruling over a predominant Muslim population.
- The ruler of Kashmir **Maharaja Hari Singh** of Dogra dynasty had offered a proposal of standstill agreement to both India and Pakistan.
- Pakistan entered into the standstill agreement but it invaded the Kashmir.
- The Maharaja of Jammu and Kashmir appealed to India for help.
- On 26th October 1947, Maharaja Hari Singh fled from Srinagar and arrived in Jammu where he signed an 'Instrument of Accession' of J&K state.

PRE-PARTITION MAP OF INDIA BEFORE 1947

