

CHALLENGE FOR NATION BUILDING FACED BY INDIA AT THE TIME OF ITS

INDEPENDENCE :->

Immediately after the independence there were many challenges or problems in Independent India that needed a nation. These challenges can be categorised as: -

(i) TO SHAPE A NATION :-> The first and foremost challenge was the political unification and integration of the territory. India is a land of continental size and diversity. There were around 600 states of varying size and population. The position of the country appeared to confirm every one's worst fears. Hence there was a serious question about the future of India i.e. would India survive as a unified country. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel took upon himself the task of integrating these princely states, which was sometimes completed in stages.

(ii) TO ESTABLISH DEMOCRACY :-> Another challenge was to develop democratic practices in accordance with the Constitution. India opted for a representative democracy, based on the parliamentary form of government.

(iii) TO ENSURE THE DEVELOPMENT & WELL BEING OF THE SOCIETY :-> The third challenge was to evolve effective policies for economic development and eradication of poverty & unemployment. The Indian Constitution set out in the Directive principle of State policy the welfare goals that democratic policies must achieve.

All these challenges required a deliberate effort which India tried to put in the way of accommodating social differences, establishing a welfare state and democratising political institutions.

TWO NATION THEORY

The immediate outcome of "Two Nation Theory" initiated by MA Jinnah in 1940 was the partition of British India into two nation states. - India and Pakistan. The drawing of the borders demarcating the territory of each country marked the constitution of political developments.

PROBLEM FACED IN THE PROCESS OF PARTITION OF INDIA

In the Indian context the word 'Partition' signifies the division of British India & creation of Pakistan. The process of partition started in 1940 when the Muslim League propounded the 'Two Nation Theory'. Various problems and difficulties were involved in the process of Partition.

- (i) PROBLEM OF RELIGIOUS MAJORITY :-> Principle of religious majority was followed for the division i.e., the areas where the Muslims were in majority would make up the territory of Pakistan and the rest was to stay with India. This created the feeling of communalism.
- (ii) Problem of East & West :-> There was no single belt of Muslim majority area in British India. There was two areas of concentration, one in the East and other in the West. These regions were the Muslim majority provinces but there was no way to join these two parts. So it was decided that the new country, Pakistan, will comprise two territories, West and East Pakistan separated by a long expanse of Indian territory.
- (iii) Merge of NWFP :-> On the partition more not all Muslim majority areas wanted to be in Pakistan. Even Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan, the undisputed leader of the North Western Frontier Province, staunchly opposed the Two Nation Theory. But ultimately the NWFP was made to merge with Pakistan.

(iv) Problem of Minorities :-> Another difference was the problem of minorities on both sides of border (East & West). Lacks of Hindus & 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. The minorities on both sides of the border were left with no option except to leave their homes. (3)

CONSEQUENCES OF PARTITION

The Partition year 1947 was the year of one of the largest, most abrupt, unplanned and tragic transfers of population that human history has known.

(i) Communal Riots :-> In the name of religion, people of one community ruthlessly killed & maimed people of the other community. There were killings and atrocities on both sides of the border. Cities like Lahore, Amritsar and Kolkata became divided into "communal zones".

(ii) Social Sufferings :->

- (a) People went through immense sufferings. They were forced to abandon their homes and move across borders.
- (b) Minorities on both sides of the border fled their homes & often secured temporary shelter in "refugee camps".
- (c) Thousands of women were abducted on both sides of the border. In many cases women were killed by their own family members to preserve the "family honour".
- (d) Many children were separated from their parents. Those who did manage to cross the border found that they had no home. Hence, for lakhs of these "refugees" the country's freedom meant life in 'refugee camps'.

(iii) Administrative concerns & financial strains: →

The partition saw not merely a division of properties, liabilities & assets or a political division of the country & the administrative apparatus. What also got divided were the financial assets and things like tables, chairs, typewriters, paper-clips, books & also musical instruments of police band.

- (i) The employees of government & the railways were also divided.
- (ii) Above all, it was a violent separation of communities who had hitherto lived together as neighbours. It is estimated that the partition forced about 80 lakhs to migrate across the new border. An estimated five to 10 lakh people were killed in partition related violence.
- (iii) Besides, the partition has also created severe conflict between the two communities i.e., Hindus & Muslims. Keeping in view all these traumas, writers, poets and film makers in India & Pakistan have expressed the ruthlessness of the killings & the sufferings of displacement & violence in their novels, short stories, poems & films. They coined a phrase to describe partition - as a "division of hearts".

PROBLEMS INVOLVED WITH THE INTEGRATION OF PRINCELY STATES

The very first challenge which came immediately after independence was the integration of "princely states" into the Indian Union. The integration process was as usual not smooth and had various difficulties such as: -

- (i) As a result British government took the view that all these states were free to join either India or Pakistan or remain independent if they so wished. This was a very serious problem and could threaten the very existence of a United India.

- (i) Another problem arose very soon. First of all, the ruler of Travancore announced that the state had decided on independence.
- (ii) The Nizam of Hyderabad made a similar announcement.
- (iii) Similar way Nawab of Bhopal was averse to joining Constituent Assembly.
- (v) This response of the rulers of the princely states meant that after independence there was a real possibility that India would be further divided into a number of small countries. This was a strange situation since independence was aimed at unity, self-determination as well as democracy.

Hyderabad :-> It was the largest princely state. The Nizam signed a 'Standstill Agreement' with India in Nov 1947.

A movement was started against Nizam supported by the communists & Hyderabad Congress but Nizam ordered a para-military force (Razakars) to suppress the people. The atrocities and brutal nature of Razakars led to the intervention of the Indian Army to control & liberate the people from Nizam's control.

MANIPUR :-> The Maharaja of Manipur (Bodha Chandra Singh) signed 'The Instrument of Accession' with the Government on the assurance that the internal autonomy of Manipur would be maintained. The Manipur Congress wanted merger of Manipur with India but there were sharp differences in the legislative Assembly of Manipur.

JUNAGARH :-> It was a small state in Maharashtra (presently in Gujarat territory) where the ruler demanded an independent state but the people desired to join India.

KASHMIR

(i) It was ruled by a Hindu ruler (Hasi Singh) who did not want to merge with India & tried to negotiate with both India & Pakistan to

- Kashmir as an Independent State
- (ii) Pakistan claimed Kashmir based on 'Muslim' majority & sent tribal infiltrators to capture Kashmir in 1947. This forced the Maharaja to ask/seek help from India.

ROLE OF SARDAR VALLABHBHAI PATEL TOWARDS INDIA'S INTEGRATION:-

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, also known as the Iron man of India, was India's Deputy Prime Minister & the Home Minister during the integration of India states. He played a historic role in negotiating with the rulers of princely states firmly but diplomatically & bringing most of them into the Indian Union.

It was a very complicated task which required skillful persuasion. For example, there were 26 small states in today's Odisha. Saurashtra region of Gujarat had 14 big states, 119 small states and numerous other administrations.

States Reorganisation Commission

- (i) State Reorganisation Commission was a body appointed by Government to organise the states and to reorganise the boundaries. It was constituted in 1953.

IMPORTANT RECOMMENDATION OF THIS COMMISSION

- (i) The formation of Andhra Pradesh accelerated/initiated the struggle for making other states on linguistic lines in other parts of the country.
- (ii) Thus, the most important recommendation of this commission in 1955 was that states could be organised and formed based on the languages. The boundaries of the states could reflect the linguistic aspects.
- (iii) For example, the Madras Province under British India was later bifurcated into the following states based on the language spoken

by the people of no. areas:

Andhra Pradesh (Telugu)

Tamil Nadu (Tami)

Kerala (Malayalam)

Karnataka (Kannada)

(iv) Based on the Commission Report, the State Reorganisation Act was passed in 1956 and 14 states and 6 union territories were created.

Important Questions: ->

1. What was the immediate outcome of the "Two Nation Theory"?
2. What kinds of difficulties were involved in the process of partition?
3. Explain any three challenges for nations building faced by India at the time of its independence.
4. Discuss the problems involved with the Integration of princely states.
5. Analyse the consequences of the partition of India in 1947.
6. What was the States Reorganisation Commission? When was it constituted? What was the most important recommendation of this Commission?
7. Assess any two causes of the partition of India in 1947. Explain any four of its consequences.
8. "The political competition between the Congress and the Muslim League & the British role led to the decision for the creation of Pakistan." In the light of the above statement, assess any six consequences of the partition of India.

9. How did the state of Hyderabad become a part of the Indian Union after partition? (8)
10. Describe how the princely states of Manipur and Junagadh acceded to India.
11. In the given political map of India identify the Princely states & write about any two states how they integrated with India.
12. Why did Jinnah propose the Two-Nation Theory?
13. Write two aspects of the State Reorganisation Commission.
14. Give the names of two provinces which were also divided during the partition of India.
15. "Partition of India implies administrative concern and financial strains". Discuss.