

## **Theme 3**

### **Independence & Partition: Junagadh, Hyderabad (1947-48)**

# Junagadh

- **15 Aug 1947:** Junagadh issues a communiqué announcing accession to Pak.
- **9 Sept:** Pakistan signs a 'Standstill agreement' with Junagadh; later accepted accession.
- Economic and Goods blockade against Junagadh **(economic pressure)**
- Parts of Junagadh territory opposed to Pakistan: Babariawad, Nawanagar, Mangrol
- **17 Sept:** Decision to deploy addl Indian forces around Junagadh **(military pressure)**
- **Menon-Bhutto Talks:** Indecisive, Menon travels to Bombay.
- **25 Sept:** Provisional Govt of Junagadh announced in Bombay under Samaldas Gandhi, opposed to Pak **(political-diplomatic pressure)**

## Junagadh's Accession

- **22 Sept:** Pakistan challenges the accession of parts of Junagadh territory to India (Mangrol); terms it illegal. Turns down idea of referendum.
- Pak aids Junagadh to move troops in certain other parts of Junagadh (**Babariawad**)
- **22 Sept:** Indian Cabinet meets to discuss further military options
- **30 Sept:** Provisional Defence Committee denies permission for Junagadh troops to reach their outlying enclaves.
- **30 Oct:** Authorization of military action by India's Defence Committee.
- **1 Nov:** Mountbatten meets Jinnah, offers plebiscite, Jinnah rejects it. Demands Kashmir in exchange for Junagadh.

## Junagadh's Accession

- **October-Early Nov 1947:** Indian troops take over parts of Junagadh
- **5 Nov:** Junagadh State Council mulls reversing Pak accession
- **10 Nov:** India offers plebiscite under UN *only*
- **Feb 1948:** Junagadh Plebiscite takes place (org by Indian govt), majority votes for India.

- **Military Steps:**
  - Liberation of Junagadh – ‘Exercise Peace’
  - Armed Elements:
    - Kumaon Regiment
    - Tempest fighter Aircrafts of RIAF
    - RIN Task Force under the command of RD Katari (later Navy Chief)
- **Nature of Operation:** Peaceful yet assertive, in collaboration with diplomatic + political pressures



## Hyderabad's Accession



Images used for educational purposes

## Hyderabad

- Ruled by Nizam
- Enormous domestic & international wealth. Contacts within British, French & American social circles.
- **Demographics:** sizeable rural population, 80% of 16 million people Hindus; administration under dominance of Nizami royalty.
- **Location:** Strategic; right at the centre of the subcontinent, bordering Bombay, Madras.
- Possessed ample military forces, material resources.



## Hyderabad's Demands

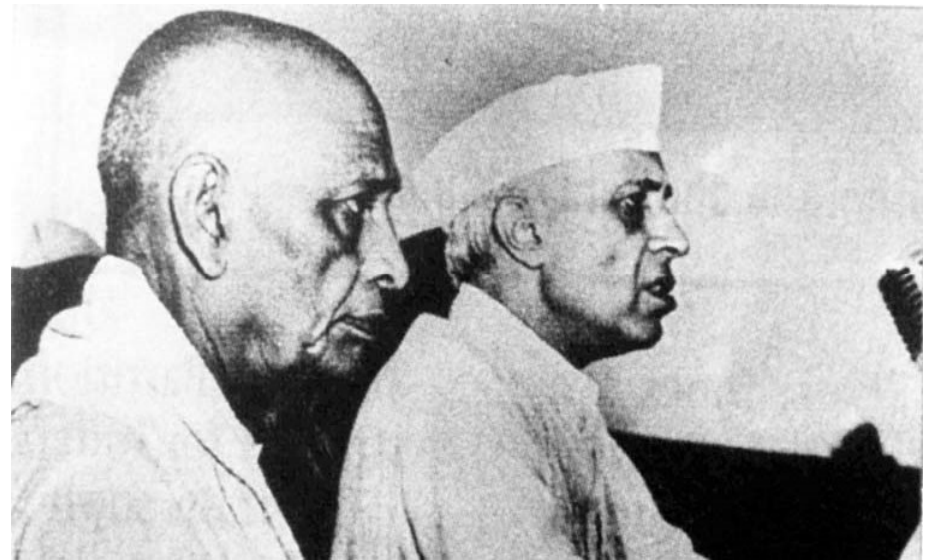
- **15 Aug 1947: Hyd declares intention to be independent**
- No 'Standstill Agreement'
- Wanted to sign a 'Treaty of Defence, Foreign relations & Comms. with India'
- Demanded Role in the Commonwealth
- Neutrality in a future Indo-Pak conflict.
- Right to appoint Hyderabad's diplomats abroad





## India's Demands

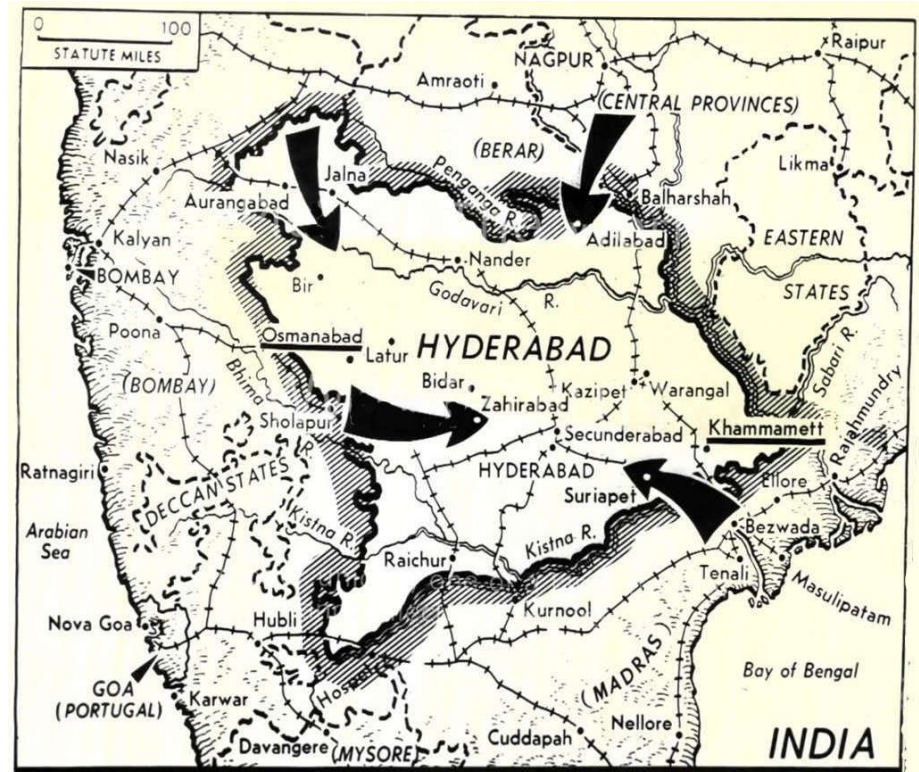
- Sign a 'Standstill Agreement'
- Set up a Constituent Assembly:  
Representative Govt; communal parity
- Ban Extremist outfits like Razakars.
- Plebiscite: Only **after** formation of  
Constituent Assembly + Representative  
Govt.
- No parallel legislation by Hyderabad on  
Defence, Foreign affairs, Comms.
- No powers to decide diplomatic  
appointments.





## Operation Polo/ Police Action

- **9 Sept 1948:** Op Polo launched by India.
- Operation followed repeated breakdown of political, economic & diplomatic talks + Communal rioting
- **Signalling:** Ongoing Kashmir conflict; US, UK, UN.
- India did not want to risk being seen as an 'appeaser'.
- Officially termed as '**military action**' not 'war'
- **12 Sept 1948:** Multi-pronged offensive from 4-5 attacking points.



## Operation Polo/ Police Action

- Defence of 644 km border of Hyd with India.
- Indian military forces under reduced numbers (Kashmir deployment)
- 1 Armoured Division (Tanks) under Chaudhuri given the task to capture Hyderabad, Bidar.
- Aerial intelligence provided by Air Force; attack Nizam's airfields to stop weapons smuggling
- Reserves called from Travancore, Coorg, Madras etc.
- Nizam's forces: Outnumbered, poor equipment
- **17 Sept 1948:** Hyderabad captured, Nizam surrenders.



Chaudhuri



Mukerjee



Thimayya

## Hyderabad's Surrender



139. The Nizam VII taking oath as Constitutional Head (Rajpramukh) of the Hyderabad State 1950. (AMI)



- **13 Sept 1948:** Unconditional surrender of Nizam's forces; Razakar's disbanded
- **20-21 Sept 1948:** Nizam withdraws complaint against India from the UN
- Led to large-scale communal conflict
- **1950:** Nizam appointed as Hyderabad state head (~Governor)