



## **Struggle for Independence**

### **Fourth Phase (1940-1947)**

The outbreak of the World War II and British unilateral declaration that India is party to war; without consultation with the Indian leaders in particular and its people in general, made the Congress to demand a clear cut definition of the British Governments war and peace aims applicable to India.

#### **The August Offer (1940)**

- **Viceroy Lord Linlithgow** issued a statement from Simla on 8th August popularly known as the 'August Offer'. The main purpose of this proposal was to secure Congress co-operation during the World War II.
- The offer turned down the Congress demand for setting up the provincial National Government, but promised for
  - immediate expansion of the Viceroy's Executive Council by increasing the number of Indians.
  - a representative Constitution making body to be set-up after the war.
  - a war Advisory Council would be set-up consisting representative of British India and the Indian States.
  - dominion status in the unspecified future.
  - right to secede for some provinces.
- In this offer, the Viceroy had promised the Muslim League and other minorities that the British Government would never agree to a Constitution or Government in India, which did not enjoy their support.

#### **Reaction of August Offer**

- The Congress rejected the August Offer' because there was no suggestion for a National Government and it encouraged anti-Congress forces like the Muslim League.

- The British however, went ahead with its implementation and accordingly in July, 1941, the Viceroy's Executive Council was enlarged from 7 to 12 members, of whom 4 were British and 8 Indians (as against 3 Indians earlier). But, no member of the Congress or the league joined the new council. The immediate impact of the failure of August Offer was the launching of Individual Satyagraha.

### **The Individual Satyagrahas**

- There were two opinions in Congress about the launching of Civil Disobedience. Gandhi felt that the atmosphere was not in favour of civil disobedience as there were differences and indiscipline within the Congress. While some leaders of Congress, socialists and the All India Kisan Sabha were in favour of immediate struggle.
- The August Offer had disillusioned the Congress. Finally, Gandhiji had a long meeting with the Viceroy at Simla in September 1940, after which, he was convinced that the British would not modify their policy in India.
- He therefore, decided to launch **Individual Satyagraha**. The aim of the satyagraha was to disprove the British claim of India supporting the war effort wholeheartedly.
- On 17th October, 1940, **Acharya Vinoba Bhave** (the first Satyagrahi) inaugurated the satyagraha by delivering an anti-war speech at Paunari; Bhave had been personally selected by Gandhiji for this.
- Mahatma Gandhi suspended it on 17th December, 1940 due to little enthusiasm it created. Jawaharlal Nehru was the second to offer Satyagraha after Vinoba Bhave. It was during Individual Satyagraha that Gandhi declared Nehru as his chosen successor. Individual Satyagraha was also known as **Delhi Chalo Satyagraha**.

### **Cripps Mission, 1942**

- As the World War II situation worsened (after Germany invaded Russia), President Roosevelt of the USA and President Chiang Kai-Shek of China as also the Labour Party leader of Britain put pressure on Churchill, to seek the active co-operation of Indians in the war.
- So, a mission headed by **Sir Stafford Cripps** (member of the British War Cabinet and a left-wing labourite) was sent to India to resume the dialogue between Congress and other political parties to join the British war efforts.

- The Congress argued that without the transfer of de-facto power and responsibility, the change contemplated would not be of any significance. The Working Committee had further objection to the composition of the Constitution making body, in which the representative from the princely states would be nominated by their rulers and not elected by the people.
- The Congress did not want to rely upon future promises. It wanted a responsible government with full powers and also a control over the country's defence.
- To the provision relating to the non-accession of province to the union, Gandhiji rightly described it as "an invitation to the Muslim League to create Pakistan". On the overall assessment, Gandhiji termed the proposal as a post-dated cheque on a crashing or failing bank.
- The Muslim League demanded a definite declaration by the British in favour of the creation of a separate state for the Muslims and also seats for the Muslims League on a 50:50 basis with the Congress in the Interim Government.
- The league also rejected the Cripps offer on two grounds;
  - (i) It did not recognise separate electorates for the Constitution making body.
  - (ii) That there was no clear cut acceptance of the demand for partition.
- The depressed classes—the Sikhs, the Indian Christians and the Anglo-Indians demanded more safeguards for their communities. The British Government also refused to accept the demand for the immediate transfer of effective power to the Indians and for a real share in the responsibility for the defence of India.

### **Quit India Movement (QiM) or August Revolution, 1942**

- The Japanese had reached India's Eastern frontier. In May 1942, Congress Working Committee adopted a resolution calling for complete non-violent non-co-operation with any forces invading India.
- Gandhiji came to believe that "the presence of the British in India is an invitation to Japan to invade India and their withdrawal removes the bait".

- On 14th July, 1942, the meeting of Congress Working Committee held at Wardha passed the Quit India Resolution. Gandhiji asked the British 'to leave India in Gods hand'.
- During Quit India Movement, Gandhi gave the slogan of 'Do or Die'. The Historic August meeting took place at **Gowalia Tank** in Bombay and this place is now known as the August Kranti Maidan.

### Course of Movement

- The AICC meeting ended at around midnight on 8th August, 1942. On the morning of 9th August, police arrested Mahatma Gandhi, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad and other eminent Congress leaders.
- From 9th-13th August, 1942, there were widespread disturbances in Bombay, Ahmedabad, Poona, Delhi etc. and the events of these 4 days in August, 1942 are known as the Great August Uprising. A parallel government was established in Satara (Maharashtra), which continued to function for a long time.
- In Bengal, Tamluk Jatiya Sarkar functioned for a long time in Midnapore district.
- The longest running paralled government was run by Chittu Pandey in Balia (Uttar Pradesh).
- It now took the shape of revolutionary activities directed against blowing up of communication networks and attack on police personnel. The prominent members of underground movement were Achyut Patwardhan, Aruna Asaf Ali, Ram Manohar Lohia, Sucheta Kripalani, Chootubhai Puranik, Biju Patnaik, RP Goenka etc.
- Later **Jaiprakash Narayan** and **Ramnandan Mishra** joined the underground movement after escaping from Hazaribagh jail on 9th November, 1942. The most significant act of the underground movement was the establishment of **Congress Radio** with **Usha Mehta** as its announcer.

### Responses and Trend

- The Quit India Movement got a massive response from the people of Bombay, Andhra, Bihar, Gujarat, Orissa, Assam, Bengal, Karnataka etc, but the responses in Punjab, Sind, NWFP etc were weak. Congress was

declared illegal. Therefore, the Congress Committee was revived under different names-Congress Workers Assembly or Representative Assembly of Congressmen rendering the ban on Congress Committees ineffective.

### **Reaction of Other Parties**

The Muslim League kept aloof from the movement, but some ; members of Muslim Community extended support by providing shelter to underground workers. The Hindu Mahasabha condemned the movement.

The Communist Party of India opposed the movement. The j princes and landlords were supporting the British War effort 1 I and did not sympathise with the movement. Some Congressmen j i like Rajagopalachari and Bhulabhai Desai did not participate in.

### **Repression by the Government**

- The government used airplanes to gun down people at various places. There were countless lathicharge, floggings and imprisonments.
- Gandhiji commenced a fast on 10th February, 1943 in jail. He declared the fast would last for 21 days. Groups of people secretly reached Poona to offer Satyagraha outside the Aga Khan Palace, where Gandhiji was being held in detention.
- The native State of Awadh whose ruler was pro-nationalist and has got the Constitution of his state drafted by Gandhiji, provided invaluable support by offering shelter to the Prati Sarkar activist.

### **Parallel Government Established During Quit India Movement**

<b>Place</b>	<b>Ruler</b>
Tamluk (Midnapur)	Jatiya Sarkar under Satish Samant
Talcher (Orissa)	Lakshman Nayak
Satara (Maharashtra)	Prati Sarkar under Nana Patil.
Balia (East Province)	Chittu Pandey first one to come into being; Chittu Pandey called himself a Gandhian

### **Subhash Chandra Bose and INA**

- He was born in 1897. He graduated from Calcutta University, studied Philosophy in Cambridge and qualified for the Indian Civil Services. His political mentor was Deshbandhu Chittaranjan Das.
- He was elected as Mayor of Calcutta while in jail, in 1932.

- In 1939, he defeated Gandhiji's nominee Pattabhi Sitaramayya to be re-elected Congress President.
- Rabindranath Tagore regarded him as deshnyak. Subhash Chandra Bose founded the Forward Bloc, in January, 1941.
- He made anti-British propaganda from the Berlin Radio Station and raised free India units with the Indian prisoners of war in Germany.

### **Indian National Army (INA)**

- Major Fujiwara, a Japanese Army Officer persuaded Captain Mohan Singh, a prisoner of war, to work in collaboration with the Japanese for India's freedom. Mohan Singh first conceived the idea of the INA in Malaya.
- In March 1942, a conference of Indians was held in Tokyo and they formed the Indian Independence League. The major role in its formation was played by Ras Behari Bose.
- This was followed by a conference in Bangkok (June 1942) where Ras Behari Bose was elected as President of the league and a decision was taken to raise the **Indian National Army or Azad Hind Fauj** to fight for India's independence. Bangkok conference also invited Subhash to come to Japan.
- Ras Behari Bose resigned from the chairmanship of Indian Independence League in favour of Subhsh Chandra Bose, who was also named as Supreme Commander of INA.
- Bose returned to Singapore and formed the Provincial Government of Free India (Azad Hind Sarkar) on 21st October, 1943. In November 1943, the Japanese announced their decision to handover the administration of Andaman and Nicobar islands to the INA. Japanese Government promised full support to INA to enable India to achieve full independence. Bose renamed Andaman and Nicobar as Shaheed and Swaraj.
- On March 1944, the INA commenced its military offensive and advanced towards Assam through Burma and crossed Indian frontier on 18th March, 1944. The INA soldiers reached Kohima in Nagaland and captured it in May 1944. However, the INA failed to capture Imphal due to failure of Japanese to supply the necessary material and air cover and due to advancing monsoon.

- Meanwhile, the status of war turned against Japan and the British troops recaptured Rangoon in May, 1945 and the INA troops were forced to surrender and made prisoner. Three months later, Subhash Chandra Bose died in an air crash near Taiwan in August, 1945.
- Bose set-up two INA headquarters i.e. in Rangoon and in Singapore. The INA had three fighting brigades named after Gandhiji, Azad and Nehru. Soon, other brigades were raised namely, the Subhash brigade and the Rani Jhansi brigade. The Rani Jhansi brigade was the women's brigade of INA. The overseas Indians contributed heavily in terms of money and material.
- Bose in a broadcast on Azad Hind Radio had addressed Gandhiji as the Father of Nation. Gandhiji returned the compliment by describing, Subhash as **The Prince among Patriots**. The slogan of INA were **Jai Hind** and **Delhi Chalo**.

#### **The INA Trails**

- The trail of INA prisoners began on 5th November, 1945 at the historic Red Fort, Delhi. Some prominent INA officers put on trial were General Shah Nawaz, Gurdial Singh Dhillon, Prem Sehgal etc.
- The AICC at its session held in Bombay from 21st to 23rd September, 1945 adopted a strong resolution declaring its support for the cause of INA soldiers. The Congress organised an INA Relief and Enquiry Committee. Tej Bahadur Sapru, KN Katju, Jawaharlal Nehru and Asaf Ali, under the leadership of Bhulabhai Desai took up the defence of the INA prisoners in the trial.

#### **Rajagopalachari Formula (1944)**

- C Rajagopalachari, who had resigned from the Congress in 1943 realised the necessity of a settlement between the Congress and the Muslim League for the attainment of independence of India, evolved in 1944 and a formula to hold talks with Jinnah.
- The main contents of this formula were as follows:
  - The Muslim League while endorsing the Indian demand for independence should cooperate with the Congress in the formation of Provincial Interim Government for the transitional period.

- After the end of war, a commission to be appointed for demarcation of contiguous districts in the North-West and North-East, which had absolute Muslim majority.
  - Plebiscite for inhabitants in them on the question of separate state on the basis of adult suffrage.
  - It will be open to all parties to advocate their point of view before the plebiscite is held.
  - In the case of separation, essential common services like defence, commerce, communication and other essential sectors were to be run together.
  - Any transfer of population shall only be on an absolute voluntary basis.
  - The scheme would only be implemented after the full transfer of power by the British.
- Jinnah turned down Rajagopalachari proposal saying that it offered a 'Mutilated and moth-eaten Pakistan', but agreed to hold talks with Gandhi.
  - Jinnah demanded that the Muslims alone were to be entitled to vote for partition and not the whole population of the disputed areas. Gandhiji refused to accept this as it was based on Two-Nation Theory.

### **Desai-Liaquat Proposals (1945)**

- Gandhiji directed Bhulabhai Jivanji Desai to make another attempt to appease the league leaders and find a way, out of the 1942-45 political impasse.
- Desai being the leader of the Congress in the Central Assembly and a friend of Liaquat Ali (Deputy Leader of the Muslim League), met him in January 1945, gave him proposals for the formation of Interim Government at the centre. After Desai's declaration at Peshawar on 22nd April, 1945. Liaquat Ali published the list of the agreements.

#### **These agreements are as follows:**

- Nomination of equal number of persons by both in the central executive.
- Representation of the minorities in particular of the Scheduled Castes (SCs) and the Sikhs.
- The government was to be formed and was to function with the framework of the existing Government of India Act, 1935.

### **Wavell Plan (1945)**

- Since the resignation of Congress Ministries in 1939, there was a kind of political deadlock in the country. In an attempt to resolve the deadlock in India, in March 1945, Viceroy went to England for consultation.
- **Viceroy Lord Wavell** to create conducive atmosphere for dialogue ordered on 14th June, 1945, the release of all the Congress Working Committee members. On this day, Wavell broadcast a plan, popularly known as **Wavell Plan**.
- The Wavell Plan proposed for the formation of a new Executive Council at the centre, in which all the members except the Viceroy and Commander-in-Chief would be Indian. Moreover, all the portfolios except defence were to be under the control of Indian members.
- In the proposed Executive Council which was to have 14 members, the Muslims who constituted only about 25% of the total population of India were given the right to be over represented by selecting six representatives.

### **Cabinet Mission Plan (1946)**

- The decision to send Cabinet Mission was taken on 22nd January, 1946. On 19th February, 1946, the British Prime Minister CR Attlee Government announced in the House of Lords about the mission and the plan to quit India. A high-powered mission of three British Cabinet members: (Sir Pathick-Lawrence {Secretary of State for India), Sir Stafford Cripps, (President of the Board of Trade) and AV Alexander, (first Lord of Admiralty) reached Delhi on 24th March, 1946.
- The purpose of the mission was to find out ways and means for the peaceful transfer of power in India, to suggest measures for the formation of a Constitution making machinery and also to set-up Interim Government.

### **Purpose of Cabinet Mission Plan**

- On 16th May, 1946, the Cabinet Mission announced its own recommendations which were as follows:
  - The unity of India had to be retained.
  - It rejected the league's demand for a full-fledged Pakistan on the ground that it would not solve the communal minority problem. On

the other hand, partition would create many serious problem related to defence, communication etc.

- It proposed a very loose union of all the Indian territories (comprising both British India and princely states) under a centre that would control merely the defence, the foreign affairs and the communication. The union would have the powers necessary to raise the finances to manage these subjects.
- All subjects other than union subjects and residuary power would vest in the provinces of British India.
- The princely state would retain all subjects and all residuary power other than those ceded to the union.
- The provincial legislatures would then elect a Constituent Assembly or a Constitution making body with each province being allotted a specified number of seats proportionate to its population (roughly in the ratio of one representative to a million population).
- The proposed Constituent Assembly was to consist of 292 members from British India and 93 from the Indian States.
- The British India members were to be divided into 210 General, 78 Muslims and 4 Sikh seats.
- In the preliminary meeting, the assembly was to elect not only a Chairman and other office bearers, but also an Advisory Committee.
- The members so elected will divide up into three sections:
- Section **A** for the non-Muslim majority provinces (Bombay, the United Provinces, Bihar, the Central Provinces, Orissa and Madras).
- Section **B** for the Muslim-majority provinces in the North-West (Sind, NWFP and Punjab).
- Section **C** which would consist of Bengal and Assam, here Muslims had small majority over the rest. Among the Chief Commissioners' provinces, three i.e., Delhi, Ajmer-Marwar and Coorg would join Group A whereas one i.e., Baluchistan would join Group B.
- All these sections would have the authority to draw up provincial Constitution and if necessary, group Constitution and setting up thereby provincial and sectional legislature and executives.

- After the first general election, a province could come out of a group. After 10 years, a province could call for reconsideration of group or union Constitution.
- The grouping of provinces was devised to satisfy the Muslim League, so as to give it a substance of Pakistan to exercise almost complete autonomy in Muslim majority provinces.
- The Congress further wanted the grouping to be optional (because of the opposition of NWFP and Assam of their being dragged into Section B and C), whereas the league wanted the grouping to be compulsory.
- The Akali Sikhs attacked the proposals on the ground that the inclusion of the Sikh Community in the North-Western Muslim Block (Group B) would leave the Sikhs at the mercy of the Muslims and imperil Sikh religion and culture.

#### **Direct Action Day**

The league decided on 30th July, 1946 that **16th August**, 1946 would be observed as **Direct Action Day** throughout the country. The Bengal Government led by the league leader **HS Suhrawardy** had declared, 16th August, a public holiday. In Calcutta, on 16th August, the league organised public demonstration and hartal, which turned into clashes and rioting all over the city.

#### **Interim Government**

- On 12th August, 1946, the Viceroy Lord Wavell invited Congress to form the government under the leadership of Jawaharlal Nehru, which finally came into being on 2nd September, 1946. The Muslim League kept out, initially.
- On 13th October, the Muslim League decided to join the Interim Government.
- On 26th October, five nominees of the league joined the government. Congress appointees resigned to make room for the league nominees (two seats were already vacant while Mr Sarat Bose, Syed Ali Zahir and Sir Shafat Ahmed Khan resigned).

### Ministers of Various Departments

Minister	Department
Jawaharlal Nehru	Vice-President of the Executive Council, External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations
Vallabhbhai Patel	Home, Information and Broadcasting
Baldev Singh	Defence
Dr John Matthai	Industries and Supplies
C Rajagopalachan	Education
CH Bhabha	Works, Mines and Power
Rajendra Prasad	Food and Agriculture
AsafAli	Railways
Jagjivan Ram	Labour
Liaquat Ali Khan	Finance (Shanmugam Chettiar after Liaquat All's resignation)
TT Chundrigar	Commerce
Abdur Rab Nishtar	Communication
Ghazanfar Ali Khan	Health
Jogendra Nath Mandal	Law

### Constituent Assembly

- The election to the Constituent Assembly was held in July, 1946. Out of the total 292 seats allotted to British India, the Congress won 201; the Muslim League 73; the independents 8 and 6 members from other parties. Four seats remained vacant because of the Sikh refusal to join the assembly.
- The Constituent Assembly met for the first time on 9th December, 1946 in the library of the Council Chamber, Delhi and 205 members attended the meet. The league representatives and the nominees of the princely states abstained. On 11th December, the assembly elected Dr Rajendra Prasad as its permanent President.

### Objective Resolution

The most important resolution known as the **objective resolution** which declared the assembly's firm and solemn resolve that India would be an independent sovereign state, was adopted on 22nd January, 1947. It was later to be incorporated into the Preamble of the Indian Constitution. The league in context of its decision, rejecting the Cabinet Mission Plan refused to join the Constituent Assembly.

### **Mountbatten Plan, 1947**

- The British Prime Minister Attlee announced on 20th February, 1947 in the House of Common that British would withdraw from India by 30th June, 1948, this was known as **Attlee's Declaration**.
- Attlee believed that announcement of the fixed date for the British withdrawal from India would bring pressure on the Indians to settle their differences before them. Lord Mountbatten, the 34th and the last British Governor-General and Viceroy, arrived in India on 22nd March, 1947.
- Mountbatten was convinced that partition was the only choice. After the reluctant consent of the Congress for the partition of India, Lord Mountbatten held final discussion with the Congress, the league and the Sikh leaders, to seek their agreement on his Partition Plan. Shortly, after this, Lord Mountbatten paid a visit to London for consultation in May 1947.
- According to the plan, India would be divided, but in a manner that maximum unity was maintained, Pakistan would be created, but it would be as small as possible. The plan declared that power would be handed over by 15th August, 1947 on the basis of dominion status to India and Pakistan. The plan laid down the procedure by which power will be transferred.

#### ***The procedure are as follows:***

- The Provincial Legislative Assembly of Bengal and Punjab would meet in two parts separately, one representing the Muslim majority district and the other representing the remaining district, to decide by vote for the partition of the province.
- In the case of Sind and Baluchistan, Legislative Assembly was to take its own decision at a special meeting.
- A provision of referendum was provided for in the case of the NWFP and Muslim majority district of Sylhet.
- With regard to the Indian States, the British Government would cease to exercise the powers of paramountacy.
- It would then be open to the states to enter into political relation with the successor government. The plan also made provisions for the setting up of a Boundary Commission to demarcate boundaries in case, partition was to be effected.

- Mountbatten delayed the announcement of Boundary Commission Award, even though it was ready by 12th August, 1947 which aggravated the partition tragedy.
- The provincial assemblies of East Bengal, West Punjab and Sind voted for Pakistan. In Baluchistan, the decision to join Pakistan was made by a meeting of the Quetta Municipality. In the North-West frontier province and Sylhet, the majority voted in favour of joining Pakistan.
- The Congress Working Committee, which met on 3rd June, 1947, approved the Partition Plan. The AICC which met in New Delhi on 14th-15th June ratified the proposal.
- **Pandit Govind Vallabh Pant** moved the resolution for ratification. Pandit Govind Vallabh Pant while moving the resolution had said, "This was the only way to achieve freedom and liberty for the country".

#### **Some Nationalist Leaders who Disapproved the Plan**

- Frontier Gandhi regarded the partition as treachery on the part of the Congress and felt that "The Khudai Khidmatgars were being thrown to the wolves".
- They even boycotted the referendum held in NWFP. Khan Abul Gaffar Khan wanted an independent Pathan State in NWFP.
- Suhrawardy and Abul Hasan were for an independent united Bengal. The Hindu Mahasabha too opposed the partition.
- The non-Muslim majority areas in Punjab and in Bengal, as also the entire province of Assam (except a part of Sylhet) remained within the boundaries of India.

#### **Indian Independence Act**

The British Government introduced in Parliament on 4th July, 1947-**The Indian Independence Bill**, which was enacted on 18th July.

The act provided for the partition of India and the establishment of two dominions (India and Pakistan) from 15th August, 1947. The legislature of each dominion would have full power to make laws for that dominion.

The territories of the dominion of India would include the whole of British India exclusive of the territories constituting Pakistan, i.e. West Punjab, Baluchistan, NWFP, Sind and East Bengal. The exact boundaries of the two dominions would be determined by a Boundary Commission.

### **Partition of India**

- Communal riots, which began in Calcutta on 16th August with the observance of the Direct Action Day, spread like a chain-reaction. Jinnah blamed Gandhiji, the Viceroy and the British.
- Mountbatten's judgement in the summer of 1947, that division of the country was the only practical solution, was accepted by the three main parties i.e., the British Government, the Indian National Congress and the All India Muslim League.
- The partition of India was a personal triumph for Jinnah. Political developments finally convinced Congress leaders that it was imperative to secure immediate British withdrawal, even if it meant acceptance of the partition of India.

### **Radcliffe Boundary Commission**

- A Consultative Committee created in July 1947 to recommend how the Punjab and Bengal regions of the Indian subcontinent were to be divided between India and Pakistan, shortly before each was to become independent from Britain.
- The commission appointed by Lord Mountbatten, the final viceroy of British India consisted of four members from the Indian National Congress and four from the Muslim League and was chaired by Sir Cyril Radcliffe.
- The commission's mandate was to draw boundaries in the two regions that would keep intact as much as possible, the most-cohesive Hindu and Muslim populations within Indian and Pakistani territory, respectively.

### **Reasons for Partition**

- Partition of India was basically the result or outcome of the communal politics. The communal problem at its base was more politically motivated than religiously oriented. Apart from the Hindus and Muslims, British acted as the third party in the communal triangle.
- There was an increase in religious hostilities between Hindus and Muslims. The rise and growth of communal politics was the basis for mobilising people against the other community and it usually culminated into communal discord. Jinnah succeeded in influencing majority of the Muslims and generated a fear that an independent India would be dominated by Hindus. Jinnah adopted the slogan Pakistan or perish.

- An attempt to draw up a compromise solution acceptable to both Hindus and Muslims failed because of obstinate and unyielding approach of Jinnah.
- Violence broke out in August 1946 in Calcutta, in which around 5000 people were killed. Nehru formed a cabinet, but Jinnah believed that Hindus could not be trusted to treat the Muslims fairly. He called for a day of direct action in support of a separate Pakistan.
- Louis Mountbatten was sent as the new Viceroy and he soon decided that partition was only to avoid Civil War.

### **Integration of Princely States after Independence**

- According to the Indian Independence Act in 1947, it was decided that all Indian states will be free to accede to either the new Dominion of India or Pakistan. There was decision of completely abolishing the practice of monarchy and all princely states were to be annexed. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel headed the State Department in the National Provisional Government built at the time of independence.
- Sardar Patel along with his Chief Assistant VP Menon convinced Indian princes to join the Indian union. Lord Mountbatten also aided Sardar Patel and his team in the mission for integration of states. The annexations were made on the basis of mainly three factors: Defense, Foreign affairs and Communication. This resulted into 136 jurisdictional states acceded to Indian union by 15th August while many states signed the Instrument of Accession a bit later like Kashmir in October 1947 and Hyderabad in 1948.
- VP Menon successfully negotiated instruments of accession with a number of small states beginning with integration of different tiny provinces of Orissa into a single state of Orissa, alongwith this formed the Union of Kathiawar by including minor states in Kathiawar in February 1947. This all was followed by the subsequent accession and merger of many tiny remaining states over the next 5 months.
- Many other annexed states were namely Baroda, Kolhapur, Gujarat were annexed to the then Bombay Province. A second form of integration of 61 states was the formation of the seven centrally administered areas which resulted into the formation of Himachal Pradesh, Vindhya Pradesh

{present day Madhya Pradesh), Tripura, Manipura, Bhopal, Kachchh and Bilaspur. Apart from these, the states of United States of Matsya, Union of Vindhya Pradesh, Madhya Bharat, Patiala and East Punjab States Union, Rajasthan and United States of Cochin-Travancore were also integrated to the India.

- Despite of so many integrations, still unification was incomplete but was complete with the surrender of Pondicherry (Puducherry) and Chandannagar to India on 1st November, 1954 by the French authorities. Later in December 1961, Indian Army My liberated Goa, Daman and Diu from the control of Portuguese government. Thus, the hard work of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and his team of assistants fruitfully integrated the Indian states to form a unified nation of India.