Introduction

- The Indian Independence Act of 1947 gave princely states an option to accede to the newly born dominions India or Pakistan or continue as an independent sovereign state.
- At that time more than 500 princely states have covered 48 percent of the area of pre Independent India and constituted 28% of its population.
 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

■ He also introduced the concept of "privy purses"— a payment to be made to royal families for their agreement to merge with India.

- formidable task of integrating the princely states.

 From invoking the patriotism of the princes to remind them of the possibility of anarchy on event of their refusal to join, Patel kept trying to convince them to join India.
- Junagadh, Jammu and Kashmir and Hyderabad created hurdles towards the integration.

Jihaaa aaa

- The princely state, was the most important among the group of Kathiawar states and contained a large Hindu population ruled by the Nawab, Muhammad Mahabat Khanji III.
- On September 15, 1947, Nawab Mahabat Khanji chose to accede to Pakistan ignoring Mountbatten's views, arguing that Junagadh adjoined Pakistan by sea.
 - The rulers of two states that were subject to the suzerainty of Junagadh Mangrol and Babariawad reacted by declaring their independence from Junagadh and acceding to India.
 - In response, the nawab of Junagadh militarily occupied the two states. Rulers of the other neighbouring states reacted angrily, sending troops to the Junagadh frontier, and appealed to the Government of India for assistance.
- On November 7,1947 Junagadh's court, facing collapse, invited the Government of India to take over the State's administration.
- The Dewan of Junagadh, Sir Shah Nawaz Bhutto, the father of the more famous Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, decided to invite the Government of India to intervene.
 - India believed that if
 Junagadh was permitted to
 accede to Pakistan,
 communal tension already
 simmering in Gujarat would
 worsen, and refused to
 accept the Nawab's choice
 of accession.
- The government pointed out that the state was 80% Hindu, and called for a plebiscite to decide the question of accession.
- A plebiscite was conducted in February 1948, which went almost unanimously in favour of accession to India.
- Junagadh became a part of the Indian state of Saurashtra until November 1, 1956, when Saurashtra became part of Bombay state.
- In 1960, Bombay state was split into the linguistic states of Maharashtra and Gujarat, in which Junagadh was located and since then Junagadh is part of Gujarat.

Integration of princely states

Huderaback

Operation polo

largest and richest of all princely states, covered a large portion of the Deccan plateau.

- Nizam Mir Usman Ali was presiding over a largely Hindu population in the princely state.
- He was very clear on his demand for an independent state and blatantly refused to join the Indian dominion.
- He drew support from Jinnah and the tussle over Hyderabad grew stronger over time.
- Both requests and threats from Patel and other mediators failed to change the mind of the Nizam, who kept expanding his army by importing arms from Europe.
- Things took a turn for the worse when armed fanatics (called Razakars) unleashed violence targeted at Hyderabad's Hindu residents.
- The Congress government decided to make a more decisive turn after the Lord Mountbatten resignation in June 1948.
- On September 13, 1948, Indian troops were sent to Hyderabad under 'Operation Polo'.
- In an armed encounter that lasted for about four days, the Indian army gained full control of the state and Hyderabad became the integral part of India.
- Later, in an attempt to reward the Nizam for his submission, he was made the governor of the state of Hyderabad.

Jammu and Kashmir

- It was a princely state with a Hindu king ruling over a predominant Muslim population which had remained reluctant to join either of the two dominions.
- The case of this strategically located kingdom was not just very different but also one of the toughest as it had important international boundaries.
- The ruler of Kashmir Maharaja Hari Singh had offered a proposal of standstill agreement to both India and Pakistan, pending a final decision on the state's accession.
- Pakistan entered into the standstill agreement but it invaded the Kashmir from north with an army of soldiers and tribesmen carrying weapons. In the early hours of 24th October, 1947, thousands of tribal pathan swept into Kashmir.
- The Maharaja of Jammu and Kashmir appealed to India for help. He sent his representative Sheikh Abdullah to Delhi to ask for India's 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.
- According to the terms of the document, the Indian jurisdiction would extend to external affairs, communications and defence. After the document was signed, Indian troops were airlifted into the state and fought alongside the Kashmiris.
 - On 5th March, 1948, Maharaja Hari Singh announced the formation of an interim popular government with Sheikh Mohammed Abdullah as the Prime Minister.
 - In 1951, the state constituent assembly was elected. It met for the first time in Srinagar on 31st October 1951.
 - In 1952, the Delhi Agreement was signed between Prime Ministers of India and Jammu & Kashmir giving special position to the state under Indian Constitutional framework.
 - On 6th february 1954, the J&K constituent assembly ratified the accession of the state to the Union of India.
- The President subsequently issued the constitution order under Article 370 of the Constitution extending the Union Constitution to the state with some exceptions and modifications.
- As per Section 3 of the J&K constitution, Jammu & Kashmir is and shall be an integral part of the Union of India.
- On 5th of August 2019, the President of India promulgated the Constitution (Application to Jammu and Kashmir) Order, 2019.
- The order effectively abrogates the special status accorded to Jammu and Kashmir under the provision of Article 370 - whereby provisions of the Constitution which were applicable to other states were not applicable to Jammu and Kashmir (J&K).