

**16**

375en16

INDO-PAKISTAN WAR (1947-1948)

India and Pakistan gained independence amidst population displacement and violence. Kashmir became the major bone of contention during the Partition. War with Pakistan in August 1947 led to the signing of instrument of accession between Maharaja Hari Singh and Government of India on 26th October 1947. This further caused tensions in Pakistan and it sent its troops and Mujahideens to take over Kashmir. War of 1947 was the first of the many wars between India and Pakistan. Two other states were Army under tooks operations to ensure national integration, were Hyderabad where operation polo was launched . Other one was in Goa, the Portuguese and their sympathisers were driven out by the combined action of Navy, Air Force and the Army and the operation was called VIJAY.



Objectives

After studying this lesson, you will be able to:

- identify the reasons behind the problem of Kashmir;
- describe the role played by Indian Air Force during the India-Pakistan war of 1947-48 and
- describe the liberation of Hyderabad and Goa.

16.1 Genesis of the Kashmir Problem

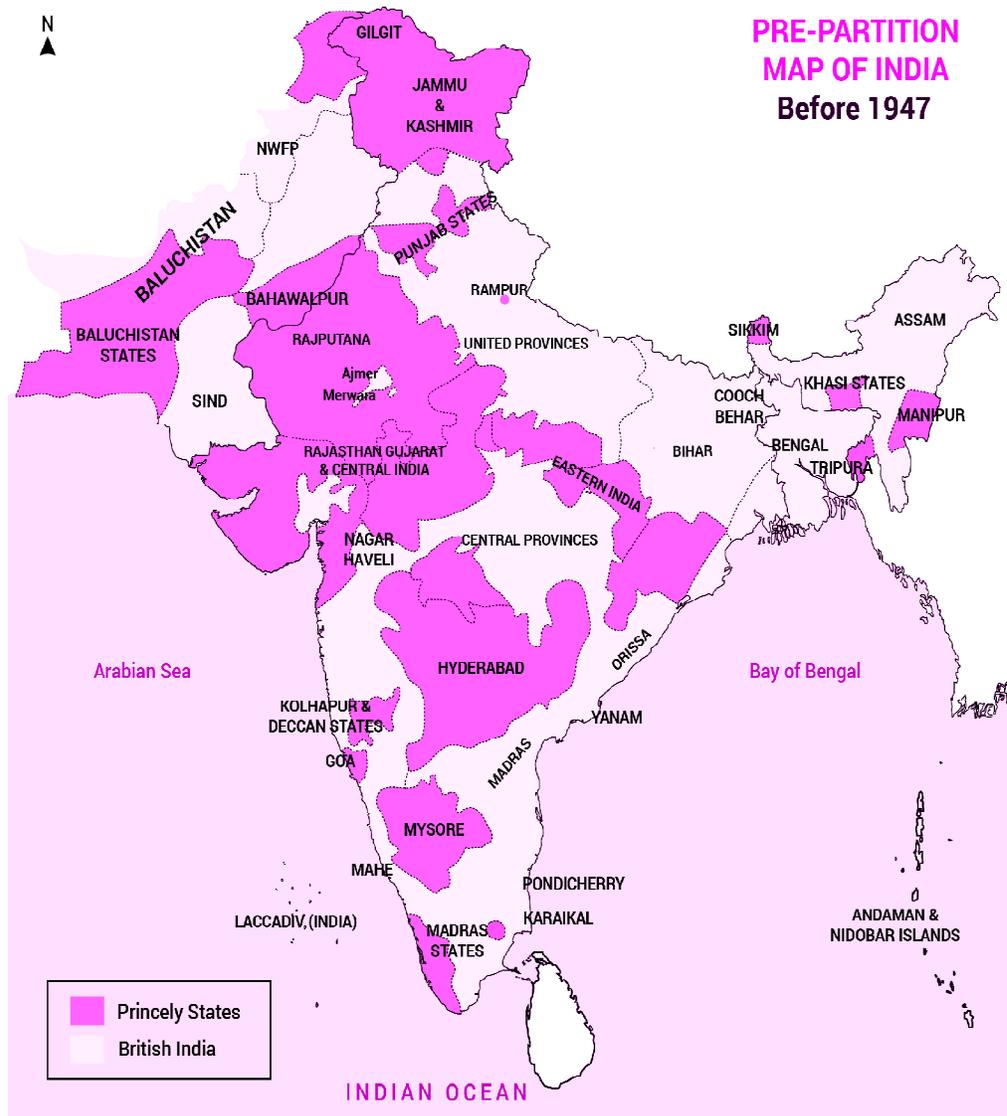
In August 1947 when the Indian subcontinent became independent, rulers of the 565 princely states, whose lands comprised two-fifths of India [Map 16.1] and a population of 99 million, had to decide which of the two new countries to join, India or Pakistan. This is how India looked like before 1947.

Module - V

Major Wars Post Independence



Note



Map 16.1 Pre-Partition Map of India

The ruler of Jammu and Kashmir, whose state was situated between the two new countries, could not decide which country to join. The King, Maharaja Hari Singh was a Hindu but his population was predominantly Muslim. Instead he signed a "standstill" agreement with Pakistan in order that services such as trade, travel and communication would be uninterrupted. India did not sign a similar agreement. Pakistan violated this agreement as soon as it was signed and started applying economic and other pressures to force it to accede to Pakistan. The only rail link with Jammu & Kashmir was cut off and the traffic along the main road Srinagar-Rawalpindi was also interfered with. When these pressures failed, tribal raids were organized from Pakistan into various parts of Jammu & Kashmir. This became the beginning of the Kashmir problem.



Activity

16.1

Look up the Internet and write down in your notebook, who are Mujahideen.

16.1.1 : Invasion of Kashmir Valley

The invasion of the valley was carried out from across the Pakistan border. The invasion was well planned and carried out in two phases. When first phase commenced thousands of raiders came across the border and carried out several border raids along the Pakistan - Kashmir border. This phase started on 20th October 1947. These raiders mostly comprised of Hazara and Pashtun tribesmen from Pakistan's North-West Frontier Province.

The invaders came into Kashmir in two lots. One from Muzaffarabad towards Srinagar and the other came from Nowshera-Poonch area. They quickly captured towns and villages and came upto Srinagar town. On 24th October the ruler, Maharaja Hari Singh, sent an urgent message to Governor General of India, Lord Mountbatten, seeking immediate India's help to stop the invaders. When Pakistan launched a large-scale offensive, Kashmir accepted to merge with India by signing the Instrument of Accession on 26th October 1947. Indian army was quickly deployed in Srinagar and Poonch and defeated the invaders.

Pakistan invaded Kargil, Srinagar and Poonch in October 1947. All these areas were of Muslim majority population



Map 16.2: The Invasion route



Intext Questions

16.1

1. Who was Maharaja Hari Singh ?
2. Who were the first invaders in Kashmir during 1947 ?
3. When was the Instrument of Accession signed between the Government of India and Maharaja Hari Singh?

Module - V

Major Wars Post Independence



Note



Note



Activity 16.2

See the map above and identify the places from where the raiders from Pakistan came into India in 1947.

16.2 The Indian Armed Forces in 1947

ARMY	India	Pakistan
Armoured Regiments	12	6
Artillery Regiments	18.5	8.5
Infantry Battalions	88	33

AIR FORCE	India	Pakistan
Fighter Squadrons	6	2
Transport Squadrons	1	1

NAVY	India	Pakistan
Sloops	4	2
Mine Sweepers	3	1

16.2.1 Major Battles During the War in 1947-48

During the war of 1947-48, the Indian Army took part in several battles at different areas. It happened during the winter and summer seasons. It is important to learn the major battles, which will help you to understand the course of the war and the strategies employed. Given below are the major battles fought in Kashmir to throw out the Pakistanis during winter of 1947.

The battles took place in Srinagar, Kargil and Poonch

Operation Gulmarg: Battle in Srinagar

Three hundred men of 1 Sikh, under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Dewan Ranjit Rai, were flown to Srinagar on the morning of 27th October. Colonel Rai's task was to secure the airfield as well as Srinagar town. The raiders were delayed for nearly two days by Col Rai's gallantry efforts. This valuable time enabled our army to rush more troops to Srinagar airfield. Colonel Rai had played a vital role in the defence of Srinagar and was awarded Maha Vir Chakra, posthumously.



1. Which areas in Jammu and Kashmir did raiders from Pakistan capture?
2. Who was Lieutenant Colonel Dewan Ranjit Rai and why was he awarded Maha Vir Chakra in 1947?

Battle of Shelatang

Airplanes of the Indian Air Force brought in more troops, guns and ammunition at Srinagar airfield. The next task was to throw out the invaders from the Kashmir valley. This was done by one brigade sized force of the Indian Army. The main attack took place in a place called Shelatang. The attack was so quick and fierce that the enemy was defeated within 20 minutes. All the raiders panicked and ran towards Muzaffarabad. The Indian Air Force bombed and fired at the raiders causing huge casualties. Baramula town and Uri were captured quickly thus ending the war in Kashmir valley.

Attack on Naushera

The winter months meant hardly any operations in the north and action was confined to the south, in Jammu area. Enemy was concentrating his troops for an attack on Naushera which was an important place between Jammu and Poonch. The enemy attacked Naushera on the night of 5th and 6th February from three sides. After a bitter battle, the attack was repulsed with heavy losses to the enemy. It was also the biggest battle of the Kashmir War. Enemy was defeated because of our very effective Artillery.

Attack on Poonch

The raiders attacked Poonch town in October 1947 and surrounded it. Indian Army led by Lieutenant Colonel Pritam Singh was already inside the Poonch and he started defended the town. The army went on patrols by night and fought and killed the raiders. This action did not allow the enemy to enter Poonch town. Later in December 1947, Air Force landed their aircraft carrying more troops and guns. Similar to what was done in Srinagar. Because of the attacks by raiders, the area faced problem of refugees & their settlement. The Air Force aircraft after dropping the army soldiers carried the refugees to Jammu and other safe areas. The daring attacks by Indian Army stopped the raiders from coming any further.

16.2.2 Attack on Kargil: Operation Bison

You have learnt that the Pakistani invaders had come to Kargil also. An operation was launched on 01 November 1948 through Zoji La pass to capture Kargil. It was a daring attack led by General Thimayya. He used tanks, artillery and Air Force to



Major Wars Post Independence



Note

defeat the Pakistanis. By 22 November 1947 all areas upto Kargil were free of the invaders. At this time Colonel Sher Jung Thapa defended Skardu. He defeated all attacks by the enemy for one long year without any additional troops or ammunition. Finally he had to surrender to the Pakistanis as no reinforcement could be provided to him and Skardu is now in Pak occupied Kashmir (POK).



Intext Questions

16.3

1. On a map of India mark the following:
 - (a) Zoji La
 - (b) Kargil, Dras and Matayin.
2. What was the name of the operation for the liberation of Kargil in the year 1948?

The Ceasefire

The Kashmir dispute was referred to the U.N. on the advice of Lord Mountbatten by the then Prime Minister, Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru. In December 1947, India had complained with the United Nations Organisation about the attack on Kashmir, by regular and irregular troops from across Pakistan. In the early stages Pakistan kept denying that her troops were involved in the fighting, and was saying that it was a revolt by the local tribes; later on, however, Pakistan accepted her direct involvement. The United Nations Security Council, by a resolution of 13th August 1948, called for an immediate cease-fire between the two sides and for setting up of a commission to supervise the cease-fire. Both sides agreed to the cease-fire and it came into being on 1st January 1949. And a commission known as United Nations Commission for India and Pakistan (UNCIP) was set up to supervise the ceasefire. United Nations Military Observers Group for India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP) was made responsible to ensure that either side did not violate the ceasefire line.

16.3 Annexation of Hyderabad

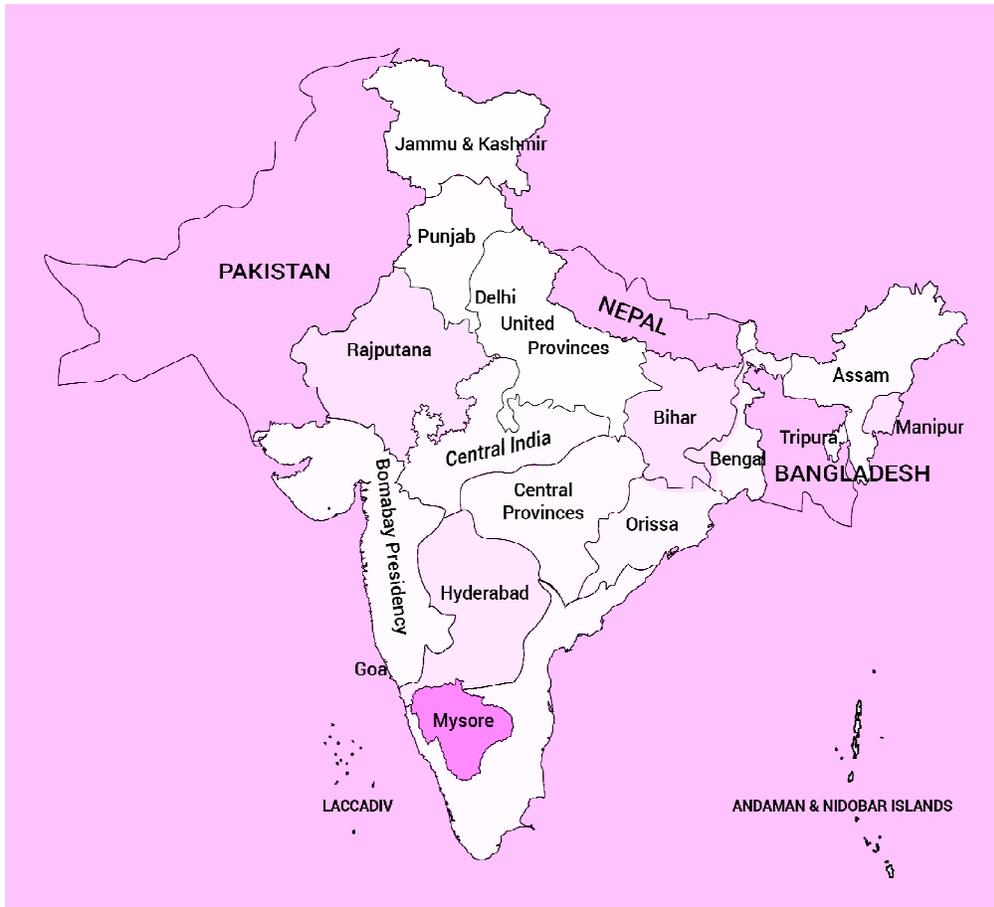
British India consisted of Princely States and Provinces. About 60 percentage of the Indian subcontinent's territory were provinces and 40 percentages were Princely States. Provinces were British territories completely under British control while the Princely states were states in British India with local rulers or kings with honorary titles like Maharaja, Raja, Maharana, Rana, Nizam etc. Among these Hyderabad was one of the princely states ruled by Nizam in South India.

- 1) Hyderabad was a multilingual state with people speaking Telugu, Marathi, Kannada and Urdu. It consisted of present-day Telangana, Karnataka,

Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh. The Nizam Mir Osman Ali Khan was a Muslim ruler who ruled a Hindu majority state. It was recognized as the richest state and the Nizam was the richest man in the world. The state was actually self-reliant, had its own currency (Hyderabad Rupee), its own army, railway network, radio network, postal system etc. In Map 16.3 we see the provinces in Indian continent prior to 1947.



Note



Map 16.3: India during British period

- 2) After the crown rule ended, the last Governor General of India Lord Mountbatten gave the princely states the choice to either join India or Pakistan or remain independent. The Nizam of Hyderabad initially approached the British Government with a request to take on the status of an independent constitutional monarchy under the British Commonwealth of Nations. This request, however, was rejected by the Governor General of India. When it was clear that India would not accept an independent Hyderabad, the Nizam even threatened to throw in his lot with Pakistan. The Nizam had a tendency towards Pakistan and India was waging a war in Jammu and Kashmir with the same nation; India became cautious with Hyderabad. The Nizam was adamant and unwilling to

Major Wars Post Independence



Note

consider any other option which eventually led India to send the army to Hyderabad and crush the rebellion.

16.3.1 Operation Polo

- 1) As a first step, the Central Government came up with the Standstill Agreement, in November, 1947, which only sought an assurance, that Hyderabad would not accede to Pakistan, and would remain in India. In accordance with the Standstill Agreement, K.M. Munshi was appointed as the Indian Government's envoy and Agent General to Hyderabad. Munshi was mistreated by the Nizam's Government; he was not even given proper accommodation. The Razakars were a private army maintained by the Nizam of Hyderabad. This army started harassing and looting the general public. Against such a background, the Indian Home Minister Sardar Patel decided to annex Hyderabad.
- 2) Operation POLO was the code name for the Hyderabad Police Action. Indian Army sent infantry, tanks and artillery to take part in the operations. The operation began on 13 September 1948 with battle fought at Naldurg Fort near Solapur. The operation itself took five days in which the Razakars and the Hyderabad military were defeated swiftly.
- 3) The 'Hyderabad State Army' was Completely routed, with 490 dead and 122 injured, and around 1647 becoming prisoners. The Razakars' fate was even worse, they lost 1373 of their men, and 1911 were captured, and with it their pipe dream of hosting an independent Hyderabad too varnished. Nizam knew he had lost the game. It ended the autocratic-feudal regime and integrated the Hyderabad State into Indian union. Many voices were raised questioning the legitimacy of the decision to annex Hyderabad. However, it was necessary to launch an operation to make the geographically and culturally integral state of Hyderabad as part of India.



Intext Questions

16.4

1. What do you know about Police Action in Hyderabad?
2. Why was annexation of Hyderabad necessary?
3. When was Operation POLO launched?

16.3.2 Annexation of Goa

Background

- (a) Portuguese were the first to come to India as traders followed by the Dutch, the British and the French. Portuguese sailor Vasco da Gama arrived at Calicut, an

important sea port located on the South-West India on May 20, 1498 AD. The rise of Portuguese in India took place in 1505 AD, Francisco de Almeida was appointed as first Portuguese Governor in India. His policy to control the Indian Ocean was known as the Blue Water Policy.

- (b) Goa was captured by the Portuguese Governor Alfonso de Albuquerque in 1510 AD and he is considered the real founder of Portuguese power in India. Goa subsequently became the headquarters of Portuguese settlement in India. The Portuguese hold over the coastal areas and superiority in naval power helped them significantly. By the end of 16th century, the Portuguese captured not only Goa, Daman, Diu and Salsette but also vast stretches of land along the Indian coast.

The Goa Inquisition

The Portuguese colonial administration enacted anti-Hindu laws with the intent to humiliate Hindus and encourage conversions to Christianity. They passed laws banning Christians from employing Hindus and making the public worship by Hindus a punishable violation. The Goa Inquisition refers to the office of Inquisition acting in the Indian state of Goa and the rest of Portuguese empire in Asia established in 1560.

Post Independent India's View on Goa

After India's independence from the British in 1947, Portugal refused to accede to India's request to relinquish control of its Indian territory. From 1954 the Portuguese brutally suppressed peaceful Satyagraha campaigns by Indians, aimed at forcing the Portuguese to leave Goa. The Portuguese used force and took actions. The leaders. As a result India closed its consulate which had operated at Panjim since 1947, imposing an economic embargo against the territory of Portuguese Goa. The Indian government adopted a 'wait and watch' attitude from 1955 to 1961 with numerous representations to the Portuguese Salazar regime and attempts to highlight the issue before the International community. In 1961, India launched Operation Vijay and liberated Goa from the Portuguese. The Salazar regime in Portugal refused to recognize Indian sovereignty over Goa, Daman and Diu and continued representation in Portugal's National Assembly until 1974. Following the Carnation Revolution that year, the new government in Lisbon restored diplomatic relations with India, recognizing Indian sovereignty over Goa, Daman and Diu. Due to the military takeover, and wishes of the people of Portuguese India were not taken officially, the people continue to have the right to Portuguese citizenship. Since 2006, that has been restricted to those born during Portuguese rule.

Module - V

Major Wars Post Independence



Note

Major Wars Post Independence



Note

Operation Vijay

The liberation of Goa was the process in which the Republic of India annexed the Portuguese occupied Indian territories of Goa, Daman and Diu. It started with the action carried out by the Indian Armed Forces led by General Chaudhari on 13 December 1961. This action is referred as the "Liberation of Goa". The armed action was code named 'Operation VIJAY' by the Indian Armed Forces. The operation involved air, sea and land strikes for over 36 hours, and it was a decisive victory for the Republic of India, ending 451 years of rule of Portugal over its remaining enclaves in India. The engagement lasted two days and twenty-two Indians and thirty Portuguese were killed in the fighting. The brief conflict drew a mixture of worldwide praise and condemnation. In India, the action was seen as liberation of Indian territory, while Portugal viewed it as an aggression against national soil and its citizens.

- (a) The strategy employed was very successful as the Indian Army sealed main land routes connecting Goa and India and co-ordination with Air Force and Navy was the backbone of success. With Indian Air Force bombarding radio station at Bambolim and the airport at Dabolim and the Navy placing its advance force comprising frigates INS Betwa, INS Beas and gigantic aircraft carrier INS Vikrant along the coast of Goa, the blockade was complete.
- (b) Finally on 19th December 1961 Indian national flag was hoisted by Major General K.P.Candeth and at 6 PM the operation came to halt with Portuguese Governor Salo deSilva formally surrendering to Brig. K.S. Dhillon under headlights of the car of Portuguese Governor.



Activity

16.3

List the Param Veer Chakra winners during 1947-48 Jammu & Kashmir. Find the images of winners and paste on the map of J & K on the location where they fought the war.



Intext Questions

16.5

1. What was Operation Vijay?
2. When was Operation VIJAY launched?
3. When was Goa liberated from the Portuguese?



What You Have Learnt

- The background to the Kashmir conflict.
- The strength of the Indian Armed Forces post independence.
- The major operations carried out by the Indian Armed Forces during the 1947-48 War with Pakistan, that includes Operation Gulmarg, Battle of Shelatang, Attack on Naushera and the subsequent summer operations.
- Annexation of Hyderabad through armed operation named POLO.
- Liberation of Goa from the Portuguese occupation through armed operation named VIJAY.



Terminal Exercises

1. Write a brief note on the background of 1947 India Pakistan War.
2. List out the course of actions carried out by the Indian Armed Forces during 'Operation Gulmarg'.
3. What were the princely states and provinces in British India before Independence?
4. Explain the major events that led to the annexation of Hyderabad with Indian Union.



Answers to Intext Questions

- 16.1**
1. Maharaja Hari Singh was the King of Kashmir at the time of India Pakistan War in 1947-1948.
 2. Hazara Tribesmen, Pashtun tribesmen.
 3. 26th October 1947.
- 16.2**
1. Muzaffarabad, Domel, Uri and Baramula.
 2. Lieutenant Colonel Dewan Ranjit Rai commanded the 1 Sikh Division. He stopped the advance of the Pakistani invaders and secured Srinagar airport. Against overwhelming odds Rai and his soldiers fought for two days and he was killed in defence of Srinagar. For his brave action he was awarded the Mahavir Chakra.
- 16.3**
1. Locate in the map of India.
 2. Operation Bison
- 16.4**
1. It was an operation carried out by the Indian Security Forces to annex Hyderabad into the Indian Union.
 2. The ruler of Hyderabad wanted a separate nation and did not want to be a part of India.

Module - V

Major Wars Post Independence



Note

Major Wars Post Independence



Note

3. 13 September 1948.
- 16.5**
1. Operation VIJAY was a military action carried out by the Indian Armed Forces to liberate the Portuguese occupied Indian Territories.
 2. 13 December 1961.
 3. 19 December 1961.

