On 15 August 1947, India was liberated from the British rule. India had many challenges at that time. Independence was acquired after a long struggle hence the people of India had immense hope from the administration. Due to the nation's partition about 70-80 lakh refugees flooded in. The new Govt. had to arrange for their employment food and shelter.

There are 562 princely states in India before independence. It was a big challenge to make these estate rulers agree for merging their states in a Unified Nation. India had to decide the territorial border with the neighbouring countries and develop good relations.

India was weakened economically by the British Rule Therefore a strong need of resurgence was expected. Diversities pertaining to region, language and caste may be seen in Indian, was a great task to identify the substance of national integrity with in the diversity and evoke the feeling of national pride. Thus there were so many challenges in front of the country; we will study some of them in this lesson.

**Formation of Constituent Assembly and Creation of new Constitution**

Before 1947, British were the rulers and British parliaments form the rules to execute administration in India. During the law formation only the British interests were kept in mind; participation of Indians was not there. Occasionally some demands were accepted just to please the Indians. Thus the Indian people were demanding for the participation in formation of constituent assembly.

**Formation of Constituent Assembly**

After the Second World War the protestation against the British rule was increased in India. Bombay naval revolt struggle of Azad Hind Fauj and other happening made it evident to the British rulers that the time has come to liberate India. Eventually, through a cabinet committee the long raised demand of Indians to participate in the constitution formation was accepted and consequently Indian constituent Assembly was formed in 1946. This assembly incorporated the representatives of princely states and the representatives of the Governor General. Its structure was democratic. Representatives from the provinces were elected on the basis of limited suffrage and the representatives of the princely states were nominated by them. One representative was elected for the population of 10 lakh. Total member of this constituent assembly 389 out of which 292 members were from the British rule provinces 4 from the chief commissioner ruled provinces and the rest 93 members
were elected from princely states. Some of the rulers were hesitant is sending their representatives in the constituent assembly but Bikaner Maharaja Shardul Singh took an initiative in this respect and sent his representative which encouraged the other rulers also to do so. Dr. Rajendra Prasad was the President of this assembly. British ruler divided the nation into two parts, India and Pakistan respectively before leaving India. Consequently, the constituent assembly divided in to two. In Indian constituent assembly only 299 members were left because Pakistan's constituent assembly was separated and representatives of Hyderabad had not joined.

The constituent assembly comprised of representatives from different classes who were highly educated. Deliberation were made for almost three years contemplating on the various alternatives, thus a constitution was formed with a view to address every class and community of Indian society. Democratic Parliamentary system was adopted for administration.

To ensure the participation of a common man which can eventually produce capable national leaders? This is how the constituent assembly came up with a new constitution for Indians. Today, India is a chief democratic republic in the world. Dr. Rajendra Prasad who was the President of this assembly became the first President of India.

Activity –
Do these also – collect information regarding the important members of the constitution committee and collect some pictures also.

Some facts related to constituent assembly:
- The first meeting of the constituent assembly was held on December 9, 1946 in an assembly hall, which is presenting known as Lok Sabha Central Hall.
- There were 389 members of the constituent assembly in all.
- 299 Members were left in the constituent assembly after some of the members separated themselves with the assembly to join Pakistan as per their June 3, 1947 plan.
- Constituent assembly had distributed its work in 17 committees. Chairman of the Draft Committee was Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar.
- On November 26, 1949 the Constitution was accepted.
- On January 26, 1950 the constitution was enforced.

Member of constitution – Committee coming from Rajasthan
- Pt. Mukut Bihari Lal
- Sh. Manikya Lal Verma
- Sh. Jai Narain Vyas
- Sh. Balwant Singh Mehta
- Sh. Ramchandra Upadhyay
- Lt. Col. Dalel Singh
- Gokul lal Asawa
- Kunwar Jaswant Singh
- Sh. Raj Bhadur
- Sir V.T. Krishnamachari
- Heera Lal Shastri
- Sh. C.S. Vanktachari
- Sardar K.M. Pannikar
- Sir T. Vijayraghav Aacharya
Merger of Princely States in India

In British rule in India, there were two types of states. First which were governed by the British Governor. Second were the princely states which were ruled by the kings under the supremacy of British. These states were situated all over India. Some states were bigger in area and some were small. These states were under British rule through treaties and pacts.

British rulers divided all the regions into two parts viz. India and Pakistan at the time of freeing India. All the treaties and pacts made earlier were cancelled. British Rule abandoned their supremacy and gave authority to the princely state as to whether join India or Pakistan or they may remain free. This policy of British rulers created chaos as some of the state rulers wanted to remain free and some were misled by the Pak leaders who wanted them to be associated with Pakistan. These states were situated in the middle area of India and their public wanted to unite with India. This chaotic situation could be dangerous for India; hence a princely state department was constituted under the chairmanship of Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel to resolve this issue. Sardar Patel motivated the state rulers to merge their state in India and also advised them to decide in accordance with the geographical, economical feasibility and stay with the public-will.

At the outset, the state rulers of Baroda and Bikaner accorded their consent to unite with Indian Republic. On the other side affected by an allurement of Jinnah, Nawab of Bhopal influenced some the State Rulers of Rajasthan and made a plan to join with Pakistan; but Mewar state was situated in between their State and Pakistan. Consecutively a representative of these states contacted Maharana Bhupal Singh to convince him in this respect. But the Maharana had shown his disagreement to the proposal. He replied “Mewar will remain in India, as it is already decided by my forefathers. I could have possessed the State – bigger than Hyderabad, if I had to betray”. Thus, Maharana Bhupal Singh proved to be a Patriot and failed the allurement of Jinnah.
Activity-
Do this also – To recognize the states such as – Hyderabad, Bhopal, and Mewar etc. on the old map of India.

Almost all states consented to unite with Indian Republic before August 15, 1947, except Junagarh, Hyderabad & Kashmir. Later on, the people of Junagarh protested against their Nawab and united with India. Hyderabad's Nizam ignored his public feeling and determined not to merge his State in Indian Republic; but the merger was made with the intervention of military forces, on the initiative taken by Sardar Patel. Aiming to acquire the territory of Kashmir, Pakistan attacked on it. But Maharaja Hari Singh, the Ruler of Kashmir and the other political parties accorded their consent to merge their State in Indian Republic and also got united with India. Thus, the ceaseless efforts of Sardar Patel made it possible the merger of Princely States into an Indian Republic and the rest of India remained undestroyed. Sardar Patel is known as Loh Purush – the Iron Man for his firm determination, he had shown in the entire incident.

To Re-instate the displaced people
At the time of freedom around 70-80 lakh people were displaced from their native places and migrated to Indian from Pakistan, due to the partition. These migrated persons reached India in a severe tragic condition, leaving behind all essential commodities in Pakistan. Some of them had lost their family members. They were in intense need of mental and financial support. Indian Government's priority was to rehabilitate these people and provide them employment, education and other amenities for their children so that they can also contribute towards the National Development.

Re-instatement of these People was the first and foremost priority. Most of the Sindhis arrived from the Western side of India, Sikhs from the North and Bengalis from the Eastern side of India. For the first six months the staying arrangements were made for these people at the places like schools and colleges. Then after, the camps were set up in Ajmer, Kutch, Gandhi Dham, Adipur, Kalyan, Delhi, Karnal, Dandkarnaya etc., to accommodate the refugees. Arrangements for evening schools and colleges were made, as many people had to go for their job in the day time. New Technical Education Institutes were established so that they can develop skills which were needed at their new residence.

In the coming years the refugees contributed a lot for the development of society and Nation. People had developed new skills to acclimatize with the new atmosphere. In a short period of time the inhabitants made the new Cities flourish. The Sindhi Refugees started their business and trade in Ulhasnagar (Maharashtra), Gandhidham (Gujarat), Adipur (Gujarat) etc.

The Punjabi refugees made the wide land suitable for farming in the areas like – Pilibheet (UP), Shivpuri (MP), Sri Ganganagar (Rajasthan). Within a short time these areas were green with the crops.
Tragedy of the Partition

We met with a Caravan, which was destined to India through Shekhupura; we had a talk with them, some of their responses were heart rending. One old farmer shared his experience – “many Rulers have changed in this country. Many have come and gone, but this is the first time, when the public is compelled to change along with the Ruler”. An old woman said, “Partitions may be seen in any family but it happens peacefully. But why this extortion and blood shed here”? I came across the results of the accidents completely when I reach the camp in Kurukshetra, a little far from Delhi, where I saw two lakh seventy inhabitants dwelled in tents and huts. And also saw fifteen mile long caravan of refugees coming from the district Montgomri to India.

(Reference: 'Bharat Kurzen Se Nehru aur Unke Paschat', written by a Journalis – Shri Durgadas)

Small and Large scale industries were established in the cities like – Delhi, Karnal (Haryana), Panipat (Haryana), Kanpur (UP) by the refugees. To meet with the shortage of houses, model towns were developed in many cities.

Amongst the refugees many of them became great political leaders and many others earned name and fame in the field of business and industry. Despite of the adverse conditions the refugees of 1947 have proved themselves capable and worthy in every field of life such as – research, journalism, films, singing etc.

Activity-
Try to find some persons who are migrated from Pakistan.
Try to know about their experiences coming on the way from Pakistan.
How had they started their life with a new start?

Relation with the Neighbouring Countries

A commission was constituted under the chairmanship of British officer – Red Cliff to decide the border line of India and Pakistan at the time of Partition. This commission has decided the border line between the two countries. Today, this border line is known as ‘Red Cliff’ Line.
Princely States were free to decide either to unite with India or Pakistan. Most of State Ruler accorded their consent for the merger of their state and unite with the Indian republic due to the acumen and expert direction of Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel and the state Secretariat. Kashmir Maharaja had also given his consent to merge his state in Indian republic but the Pakistan tried to acquire the territory of Kashmir forcibly and attacked under the cover of local tribe 'Kabayalis'. Although the Indian army drove away the Pakistani army and the tribe, still the bigger area of Kashmir is under the unauthorized possession of Pakistan till date. Though the Pakistan has been defeated in 1948, 1965, 1971 and 1999 by the Indian army but still tension prevails in this area yet now.

Do you know that in the war of 1971, around 90000 soldiers of Pakistan surrendered before the Indian army and a new country Bangladesh emerged in the place of Eastern Pakistan?

In the North side we had a dispute with China regarding some border areas. China has an unauthorized possession over a big Indian territory. We are having friendly relations with the other neighbouring countries such as – Nepal, Myanmar, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, and Maldives. India plays a role of an elder brother towards these countries. The borders are open for the people of Nepal and Bhutan. The people confined to these countries can be seen working anywhere in India. Since last few years India has developed good relationships with the south eastern states, where the Indian civilizations and culture are prevalent for so many years.

In the colonial period, the British Rulers had moulded the Indian economy in the favour of British Interest. The Indian cottage industry was ruined and India had become mere an originator of agricultural raw material. So that England can procure the raw material from India for their finished products.

Some of the fertile land went under the area of Pakistan. A well planned scheme was needed for the economic reconstruction and to make the country strong enough for poverty eradication. In 1950, the planning commission was constituted. Under the aegis of this commission, various schemes of work plan were designed. The work plan was earmarked to be accomplished in the targeted period of five years. These schemes are known as five year plan. In the second five year plan the focus was on heavy industries. During this, Dams were constructed and large scale industries were established. Later on, agriculture and community development was focused under the five year plan. Presently, Twelfth five year plan has been commenced from 2012.
It was a general complain of the State Governments for not having representation in the planning commission. Consequently, a new institution - policy commission has been founded in place of planning commission to give representation to all the states for the enhancement of their economic growth. Prime Minister is the ex officio chairman of this commission and chief ministers of all states and deputy governor of the union territories are the members. The noted economist Arvind Pangadia is the first deputy chairman of this commission.

Deputy Chairman of Policy Commission Arvind Pangadia belongs to District Bhilwara, Rajasthan.

Reorganization of States

It was felt in the free India to redefine the interstate borderline so as to facilitate people who deal with the administration. Before freedom the geographic area of some states was very big, such as Bombay. This State included the present Maharashtra and Gujarat. Madras state included the Present Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and some parts of Karnataka. The State named central provinces and Brar included many area of middle Hindustan. In view of the geographical area and population; some states were bigger than many countries of the world. There were more than 500 princely states which had to attach with any administrative unit. A State reorganization commission was formed to redefine the state border lines. Contemplating on various alternatives, it was advised by the commission to form the state line on the basis of language. Thus, Madras was divided into Mysore, Andhra Pradesh and Madras. Later, the Madras was renamed as Tamil Nadu. Mysore was renamed as Karnataka. Bombay was divided into Gujarat and Maharashtra; and the middle India was Madhya Pradesh. The process of making Rajasthan was going on for quite long time which has given it a permanent shape.

As it is mentioned before, that the process of redefining the state border lines was aimed to facilitate the public, thus, as and when the public expressed their views regarding the necessity of a separate state the task of reorganization of states has been accomplished. Gradually, Punjab and Haryana came into existence as State in 1966, In November 2000; Uttaranchal was parted from Uttar Pradesh and become a separate
state. Later on Uttaranchal was renamed Uttarakhand. On the other side, Madhya Pradesh was divided into two parts, and Chhattisgarh came into existence as State. Similarly, Jharkhand is separated from Bihar. Recently, Telangana emerged from Andhra Pradesh and have attained a status of an individual state. At present, there are many demands to form new states. There is a recent demand to form Bundelkhand Pradesh and Vidarbh Pradesh, which is not fulfilled as yet.

**Activity**-
Compare the map of 1953 to the present map of India, indicating the changes occurred in the situation of states.

**Unification of Rajasthan**

Today, the area which we know as Rajasthan was earlier known as Rajputana, before Freedom. Rajputana – means the land of Rajputs. Rajputana was consisting of many princely states. The governance of these princely states was carried out under the observation of British government. The territory of Ajmer – Merwara was directly under the British Rule. After freedom, the Rajasthan emerges as a state by combining all these areas.

Although, the princely states agreed for the merger in India, but many of them were too small in terms of geographical area and population that to form a separate state was neither feasible according to the administrative point of view nor their development. Hence, the princely state department decided to merge these states into the bigger neighboring states, which have the population of less than 10 lakh and revenue, less than 1 Crore. Consecutively, the princely state rulers of Rajasthan tried to form a union by their own efforts. Mewar maharani took an initiative in this regard and proposed to form a Rajasthan-Union. Maharaval Dungarpur proposed to from a Vagar Sangh by merging the Vagar States. Kota Maharao tried to form Hadauti Sangh but couldn't succeed.

However, first of all in 1948, Alwar, Bharatpur, Dholpur and Karoli of Mewat area came forward and decided to unit together. On the advice of K.M. Munshi this organization was named as Matsya Sangh. Alwar was made the capital of Matsya Sangh.
After a few days, 9 Princely States of the south East and South formed a Union, in the name of Sanyukta Rajasthan; it included Banswara, Kota, Bundi, Tonk, Jhalawar, Pratapgarh, Shahpura, Kishangarh, Dungarpur and two Chief Ships – Kushalgarh and Lava. Kota was nominated as a capital of the Sanyukta Rajasthan.

After 3 weeks, the Princely state Mewar, presently known as Udaipur also joined the union and was made capital of the Sanyukta Rajasthan. Mewar Maharana Bhupal Singh was nominated as Raj Pramukh and Manikya Lal Verma was made Prime Minister.

Next Year, on March 30, 1949, the rest four princely states joined this union, now, Jaipur, Jodhpur, Jaisalmer and Bikaner also became the member of Sanyukta Rajasthan. The name of Sanyukta Rajasthan was changed to Vrihat Rajasthan. Jaipur was made the capital of Vrihat of Rajasthan. Mewar Maharana Bhupal Singh was nominated as Maharaja Pramukh, Maharaja Mansingh of Jaipur Raj Pramukh and Pandit Heerlal Shastri was made Prime Minister of Vrihat Rajasthan. After the enforcement of Indian Constitution, all the Prime Ministers of states subsequently become Chief Ministers.

On May 15, 1949, Matsya Sangh also joined in Vrihat Rajasthan.

Now, Sirohi was the only princely state which was not merged in the Rajasthan. Thus, in 1950, during the first republic day celebrations of India Sirohi also became a part of Rajasthan except the area of Delwara and Abu.

On the advice of state reorganization commission of Indian government, the area of Ajmer Merwara was also included in Rajasthan. Delwara and Abu of Sirohi, Tehsil of Sunel, Tappa of Madhyapradesh were also merged in Rajasthan. Sironj was merged in Madhya Pradesh.
This is how the present Rajasthan was unified on November, 01 1956; but the Rajasthan Day is celebrated on 30th March attuned with the Vrihat Rajasthan. At present, Rajasthan is a biggest state as per its geographical area with the population of more than 6 Crore on the basis census 2011.

### Unification of Rajasthan: A Glimpse

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</table>
Do you know that –
1. Jodhpur was the largest Princely State in Rajputana.
2. 19 Princely States, 3 Chiefships and one centrally governed Ajmer Merwara were in Rajputana.
3. Chief Ministers of the States were called Prime Ministers before the constitution of India was enforced.

Activity –
Names of some important persons, who contributed in the unification of Rajasthan are given here:-
Search and tell that :-
1. What was other contribution in the history of Rajasthan of the person whose names have been mentioned above?
2. Look for the names of the people, except the above mentioned people, who contributed in the unification of Rajasthan.

Glossary

- Displaced: One who has displaced from his native place or who was made / compelled to leave
- Autonomy: Self Rule subject only to its own laws
- Re-instate: To re-establish in former position

Exercise

Write the correct answers of question no. one and two in the bracket-

1. Which one of the following is not a neighbouring country of India?
   (a) Pakistan  (b) England  (c) China  (d) Nepal  

2. Who out of the following was the first President of India?
   (a) Dr. Radha Krishnan  (b) Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar  
   © Dr. Rajendra Prasad  (d) Vallabh Bhai Patel
11. Which commission was formed to determine the inter-state border lines?
12. Who is the Chairman of Policy Commission at present?
13. Which Princely States were included in Sanyukta Rajasthan?
14. What is the contribution of Sindh Refugees to the Society?
15. Write a note on relations with the neighbouring countries of India.
16. What is the contribution of Sardar Patel in the Unification of India?
17. Describe the main challenges in front of India after Freedom.
18. Describe the incidents occur at the time of re-organization of States after Freedom.
19. Describe the various steps of Rajasthan's Unification.
20. What were the problems of merger in Princely States of India?

Activity-

1. If you have any displaced family around, ask about their experiences after the partition.
2. Prepare a list of Cabinet ministers of Rajasthan State.
3. Prepare a list of the displaced persons who have achieved name and fame in politics, art, and literature or in any other field.
4. Identify the present district of Rajasthan in the map of Rajasthan