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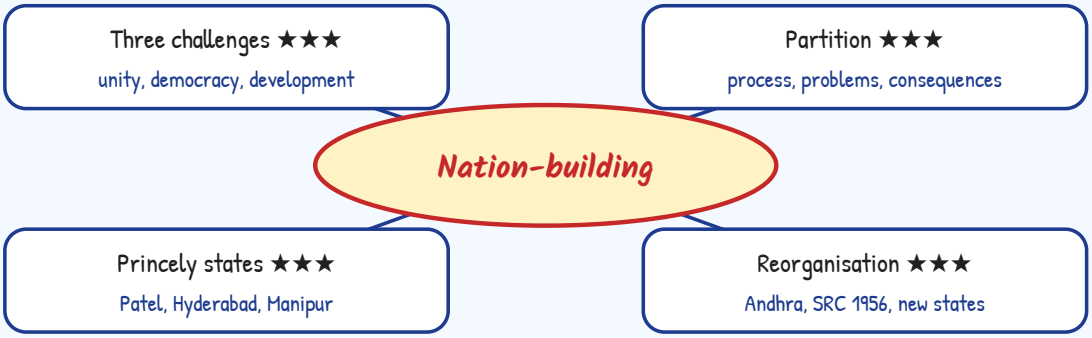
Chapter 8
Challenges of Nation-Building

Challenges for the new nation: three challenges · Partition: displacement and rehabilitation, the process, consequences · integration of princely states: the problem, the government's approach, Hyderabad, Manipur · reorganisation of states: the Andhra movement, the States Reorganisation Commission, later states

Chapter map (★ = most important for exams)



Syllabus and weightage

6 marks. Most frequent: the three challenges, problems and consequences of Partition, Gandhi's role in communal harmony, integration of princely states (Patel, Instrument of Accession, Hyderabad, Manipur, Junagadh), reorganisation of states (Potti Sriramulu, SRC), maps of states and dates of their formation.

★ **Exam tip:** At the hour of midnight of **14–15 August 1947**, India attained independence; Nehru addressed the Constituent Assembly with his famous "**Tryst with Destiny**" speech. Independence came with Partition: **1947 was a year of unprecedented violence and trauma.** There was a consensus that India would be governed by a democratic government, and that the government would work for the good of all, especially the poor and socially disadvantaged.

8.1 Three challenges ★★★

1. **To shape a nation that was united, yet accommodative of the diversity** in society: India was a land of continental size and diversity, with different languages, cultures and religions; at that time it was widely believed that a country full of such diversity could not remain together for long; the partition only confirmed this fear; there were serious questions about the future of India: would India survive as a unified country? Would it do so by emphasising national unity at the cost of every other objective? Would it mean rejecting all regional and sub-national identities? There was also the urgent question of the integration of territory.
2. **To establish democracy:** India adopted **representative democracy** based on the parliamentary form of government; these features ensure political competition in a democratic framework; the Constitution granted **fundamental rights** and extended the **right to vote to every citizen**; the challenge was to develop democratic practices in accordance with the Constitution.
3. **To ensure the development and well-being of the entire society** and not only some sections: the Constitution clearly laid down the principle of **equality** and special protection to socially disadvantaged groups and religious and cultural communities; the **Directive Principles of State Policy** set out the welfare goals that democratic politics must achieve; the real challenge was to evolve effective policies for economic development and the eradication of poverty.

Added reference material (not assessed): Patel and national integration. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (Kheda 1918, Bardoli 1928), first Deputy PM and Home Minister, the "Iron Man", integrated about 565 princely states; he faced key challenges from Hyderabad, Junagadh and Kashmir; Indian forces compelled Hyderabad and Junagadh to merge; he is remembered as a "Nationalist, Catalyst and Realist".

8.2 Partition: displacement and rehabilitation ★★★

The process: it was decided that British India would be divided into two countries, India and Pakistan, following the "**two-nation theory**" advanced by the **Muslim League**: India consisted of not one but two "people", Hindus and Muslims; that is why it demanded Pakistan, a separate country for the Muslims. The Congress opposed this theory, but several political developments in 1940-47 (political competition between the Congress and the Muslim League and the British role) led to the demand for Pakistan being accepted. The principle of **religious majorities**: areas where Muslims were in a majority would make up Pakistan; the rest would stay with India.

Problems/difficulties of Partition:

1. There was **no single belt** of Muslim-majority areas in British India: two areas of concentration, one in the west and one in the east; so Pakistan was to comprise two territories, **West and East Pakistan**, separated by a long expanse of Indian territory.
2. **Not all Muslim-majority areas wanted to be in Pakistan: Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan**, the undisputed leader of the North Western Frontier Province (NWFP), known as "**Frontier Gandhi**", was staunchly opposed to the two-nation theory; eventually his voice was ignored and the NWFP was merged with Pakistan.
3. Two Muslim-majority provinces of British India, **Punjab and Bengal**, had very large areas where non-Muslims were in a majority; eventually these provinces were bifurcated on the basis of religious majority at the district or even lower level; this decision could not be made by midnight of 14-15 August; many did not know on Independence Day which side of the border they were in.
4. The problem of **minorities** on both sides of the border: lakhs of Hindus and Sikhs in areas that were now in Pakistan and an equally large number of Muslims on the Indian side; as soon as it became clear that the country was going to be partitioned, minorities on both sides became easy targets of attack; no one had anticipated the scale of the problem.

Consequences of Partition ★★★

- The year 1947 was the year of one of the largest, most **abrupt, unplanned and tragic transfers of population** human history has known; there were killings and atrocities on both sides of the border; in the name of religion, people of one community ruthlessly killed and maimed people of the other community; cities like Lahore, Amritsar and Kolkata became divided into "communal zones".
- **Minorities** were forced to leave their homes and often move at a few hours' notice; they were forced to seek temporary shelter in "refugee camps"; the local administration and police were often unhelpful.
- **Women** were the worst victims: they were often attacked, abducted, raped and killed; abducted women were forced to convert to the religion of the abductor; in many cases families killed their own women to preserve the "family honour".
- The partition was not merely a division of properties, liabilities and assets, or a political division of the country and the administrative apparatus; the **financial assets**, and things like tables, chairs and typewriters, paper-clips, books and also musical instruments of the police band were divided; the employees of the government and the railways were also "divided". It was also a violent separation of communities who had hitherto lived together as neighbours.
- **Estimates:** the partition forced about **80 lakh people** to migrate across the new border; between **5 and 10 lakh** people were killed in partition-related violence.
- The political consequence: the Indian leaders did not adopt a Hindu state; India remained **secular**, and Muslims who stayed were equal citizens (Nehru's letter to Chief Ministers, 1947). **Gandhi**'s fast in Delhi and his presence in Kolkata helped reduce the violence; he was assassinated on 30 January 1948 by Nathuram Godse.

8.3 Integration of princely states ★★★

The problem: British India was divided into the **British Indian provinces** and the **princely states**; the provinces were directly under British control, while several large and small states ruled by princes enjoyed some form of control over their internal affairs as long as they accepted British supremacy (paramountcy); princely states covered **one-third** of the land area of the British Indian empire, and one out of four Indians lived under princely rule. Just before independence, the British announced that with the end of their rule, **British paramountcy** over the princely states would also lapse: all **565 princely states** would be legally free to join India or Pakistan or **remain independent**. This was a very serious problem and could threaten the very existence of a united India: the ruler of **Travancore** announced its decision to remain independent; the **Nizam of Hyderabad** made a similar announcement the next day; rulers like the Nawab of **Bhopal** were averse to joining the Constituent Assembly.

Government's approach: the interim government took a firm stance against the possible division of India into small principalities of different sizes; the Muslim League opposed the Congress and took the view that the states should be free to adopt any course they liked. **Sardar Patel**, India's Deputy PM and Home Minister, played a historic role in negotiating with the rulers **firmly but diplomatically** and bringing most of them into the Indian Union. Three considerations guided the approach: (i) most princely states' people clearly wanted to become part of India; (ii) the government was prepared to be flexible in giving autonomy to some regions; (iii) in the backdrop of Partition, integration and consolidation of the territorial boundaries had assumed supreme importance.

Before 15 August 1947, peaceful negotiations brought almost all states whose territories were contiguous to the new boundaries into the Union; the rulers signed the "**Instrument of Accession**", meaning their state agreed to become part of India. Accession of **Junagadh, Hyderabad, Kashmir and Manipur** proved more difficult: Junagadh's Nawab wanted Pakistan; after a **plebiscite** it joined India; Kashmir's case (see Chapter 14).

Hyderabad ★★★

Hyderabad was the **largest princely state**, surrounded entirely by Indian territory; parts of it are today in Telangana, Maharashtra and Karnataka. Its ruler, the **Nizam** (Mir Osman Ali Khan), was one of the world's richest men; he wanted an **independent status** for Hyderabad. He entered into a **Standstill Agreement** with India in **November 1947** for a year while negotiations went on. Meanwhile a **movement of the people** of Hyderabad State against the Nizam's rule gathered force; the peasantry in the **Telangana** region in particular, who were victims of the Nizam's oppressive rule, rose against him; women who had seen the worst of this oppression joined the movement in large numbers; the **Communists and the Hyderabad Congress** were in the forefront. The Nizam responded by unleashing a para-military force known as the **Razakars** on the people; the Razakars were extremely communal and brutal; they murdered, maimed, raped and looted, targeting particularly non-Muslims. In **September 1948**, the Indian army moved in to control the Nizam's forces (police action); after a few days of intermittent fighting, the Nizam surrendered, leading to Hyderabad's accession to India.

Manipur ★★★

A few days before independence, the Maharaja of Manipur, **Bodhachandra Singh**, signed the Instrument of Accession with the Indian government on the assurance that the internal autonomy of Manipur would be maintained. Under pressure from public opinion, the Maharaja held **elections in Manipur in June 1948** and the state became a **constitutional monarchy**: Manipur was the **first part of India to hold an election based on universal adult franchise**. In the legislative assembly there were sharp differences over the question of merger with India: the state Congress wanted the merger while other political parties were opposed. The Government of India succeeded in pressurising the Maharaja into signing a **Merger Agreement in September 1949**, without consulting the popularly elected Legislative Assembly; this caused a lot of anger and resentment in Manipur, the repercussions of which are still being felt.

8.4 Reorganisation of states ★★★

- The process of nation-building did not come to an end with Partition and integration; the challenge was to draw the **internal boundaries** of the Indian states so that the linguistic and cultural plurality of the country could be reflected without affecting the unity of the nation. During colonial rule, state boundaries were drawn either on **administrative convenience** or simply coincided with the territories annexed by the British or ruled by the princely powers.
- The national movement had promised the linguistic principle: after the **Nagpur session of the Congress in 1920**, the principle was recognised as the basis of reorganisation of the Congress itself; many provincial Congress committees were created by linguistic zones. Things changed after independence and Partition: the leaders felt that carving out states on the basis of language might lead to **disruption and disintegration**, and might draw attention away from other social and economic challenges; so the central leadership decided to postpone the matter.
- **The Andhra movement:** the decision to postpone was challenged by local leaders and people: protests began in the Telugu-speaking areas of the old Madras province (present Tamil Nadu, parts of Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Karnataka); the **Vishalandhra movement** demanded that the Telugu-speaking areas be separated; **Potti Sriramulu**, a Congress leader and a veteran Gandhian, went on an **indefinite fast** that led to his **death after 56 days**; this caused great unrest and violent outbursts; many legislators resigned in protest; finally, the Prime Minister announced the formation of a separate **Andhra state in December 1952** (it came into being on 1 October 1953).
- The formation of Andhra spurred the struggle for making other states on linguistic lines; these struggles forced the Central Government into appointing the **States Reorganisation Commission in 1953** (Fazl Ali, K.M. Panikkar, H.N. Kunzru) to look into the question of redrawing the boundaries of states; the Commission in its report (1955) accepted that the boundaries of the state should reflect the boundaries of **different languages**; on the basis of its

report, the **States Reorganisation Act was passed in 1956**, leading to the creation of **14 states and 6 union territories**.

- **Later states:** Maharashtra and Gujarat (1960, from Bombay); Punjab and Haryana (1966); Himachal Pradesh (1971); Nagaland (1963), Meghalaya, Manipur and Tripura (1972), Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh (1987); Sikkim (1975); Goa (1987); Chhattisgarh (from MP), Uttarakhand (from UP) and Jharkhand (from Bihar) in 2000; Telangana (from Andhra Pradesh) in 2014. In 2019 Jammu and Kashmir was reorganised into two UTs.
- The experience of the 1950s showed that linguistic states **strengthened democracy and unity**: they accepted diversity; the fear that they would cause disintegration proved unfounded.

NCERT exercises, solved ★★★

2. Match principles with instances: (a) mapping boundaries on religious grounds (b) on grounds of different languages (c) by geographical zones within a country (d) on administrative and political grounds.

> **Ans.** (a) India and Pakistan (Partition); (b) Andhra Pradesh and other linguistic states; (c) Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand (hill states); (d) Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh (tribal regions carved for administrative and political reasons).

4. Bismay: "Merger was an extension of democracy to the people of princely states." Inderpreet: "Force was used; democracy comes by consensus." Your opinion?

> **Ans.** Both have a point: merger freed people from autocratic princely rule and gave them democratic rights (Hyderabad's people had rebelled against the Nizam); but in cases like Hyderabad (army action) and Manipur (merger without consulting the elected assembly) force or pressure was used, causing resentment. On balance integration extended democracy, but consent should be built.

5. Gandhi ("a crown of thorns") and Nehru ("a step, an opening of opportunity"): the agenda of nation-building.

> **Ans.** Gandhi warns that power brings responsibility: rulers must be humble, serve the poor and end violence; Nehru sees freedom as an opportunity to build a modern, prosperous India. The agenda: unity, democracy, development with equality and humility in power. (Either may appeal, with reasons.)

6. Reasons Nehru gave for keeping India secular.

> **Ans.** Nehru argued that a large Muslim minority remained in India and must be given security and equal rights as citizens; the state must not discriminate on religion. The reasons were not only ethical and sentimental (the values of the freedom movement) but also **prudential**: treating minorities badly would fester and poison the body politic, invite retaliation against minorities in Pakistan, and threaten national unity and peace.

7. Two differences between the challenge of nation-building in the eastern and western regions at independence.

> **Ans.** (i) In the west (Punjab) the transfer of population was massive, violent and largely completed within months; in the east (Bengal) migration continued for years, with refugees arriving long after 1947. (ii) The east also had to integrate the North-East (Assam, Manipur, Tripura) with its many tribal and linguistic groups, and faced continuing problems with East Pakistan; the west faced the Kashmir dispute and the integration of large princely states in Rajasthan and Gujarat.

8. Task of the SRC and its most important recommendation.

> **Ans.** To look into redrawing state boundaries; it recommended that state boundaries reflect the boundaries of languages, leading to the 1956 Act (14 states, 6 UTs).

9. "The nation is an imagined community held together by common beliefs, history, political aspirations and imaginations." Identify features that make India a nation.

> **Ans.** A shared freedom struggle and history, the Constitution and democratic values, unity in diversity, common political aspirations (development, equality), shared culture and symbols (flag, anthem), and accommodation of diversity through federalism and linguistic states.

Important exam questions

What was the Instrument of Accession? 1

> **Ans.** The document by which a princely state's ruler agreed to become part of India.

Why is Manipur's merger seen as controversial? 2

> **Ans.** The Maharaja was pressured to sign the Merger Agreement (1949) without consulting the elected assembly, causing lasting resentment.

CBSE board questions 2024–2026, fully solved ★★★

Every question on this chapter from the 16 board papers of 2024 (59/1–5), 2025 (59/1, 2, 4–7) and 2026 (59/1–5), with complete answers based on the marking schemes and NCERT. Repeated questions are shown once with all paper codes.

Multiple choice questions (1 mark)

CBSE 2025 · 59/6/1 Assertion (A): The first challenge after independence was to keep India united. Reason (R): Deputy PM and Home Minister Sardar Patel played an important role in unifying India. (A) both true, R explains A (B) both true, R does not explain A (C) A false, R true (D) A true, R false 1

> **Ans.** (A) as per the board key: Patel's integration of the princely states met the challenge of unity.

CBSE 2025 · 59/6/1 On the basis of which language was Andhra Pradesh formed? (A) Telugu (B) Malayalam (C) Tamil (D) Kannada 1

> **Ans.** (A) Telugu.

CBSE 2026 · 59/1/1 Which led to the formation of Andhra state in 1952? (A) need to reorganise internal boundaries at the end of colonial rule (B) reorganisation of the Congress on linguistic lines after the Nagpur session 1920 (C) death of Congress leader Potti Sriramulu, which caused great unrest and led several Madras legislators to resign in protest (D) the Tamil-speaking people of Madras demanding reorganisation 1

> **Ans.** (C) Potti Sriramulu died after a 56-day fast for a separate Andhra state; the violent protests that followed forced Nehru to announce the formation of Andhra state in December 1952.

CBSE 2026 · S9/1/1 Which statement is NOT correct about the princely states? (A) they were ruled by princes (B) all princely states had accepted to be an integral part of India after the end of British rule (C) the princes accepted British supremacy and had some control over internal affairs (D) after the end of paramountcy they were free to join India or Pakistan or remain independent 1

> **Ans. (B)** is not correct: almost all states signed the Instrument of Accession, but Junagadh, Hyderabad, Kashmir and Manipur were difficult cases, so not all accepted at once.

CBSE 2026 · S9/3/1 Match states with the states they were carved from: 1. Gujarat 2. Haryana 3. Meghalaya 4. Chhattisgarh — (i) Assam (ii) Bombay (iii) Madhya Pradesh (iv) Punjab. (A) 1-i, 2-iii, 3-iv, 4-ii (B) 1-ii, 2-iv, 3-i, 4-iii (C) 1-iii, 2-iv, 3-i, 4-ii (D) 1-ii, 2-i, 3-iv, 4-iii 1

> **Ans. (B) 1-ii, 2-iv, 3-i, 4-iii:** Gujarat from Bombay (1960), Haryana from Punjab (1966), Meghalaya from Assam (1972), Chhattisgarh from Madhya Pradesh (2000).

CBSE 2026 · S9/3/1 The States Reorganisation Commission was appointed in 1953: (A) for administrative efficiency (B) to end complexities of colonial boundaries (C) to ensure nation building (D) for demarcating state boundaries on the basis of language 1

> **Ans. (D)** The SRC (Fazl Ali, K.M. Panikkar, H.N. Kunzru), set up after the Andhra agitation, recommended that state boundaries reflect the boundaries of languages; the States Reorganisation Act 1956 created 14 states and 6 union territories.

CBSE 2026 · S9/4/1 Match: 1. Sardar Patel 2. Bodhachandra Singh 3. Potti Sriramulu 4. Jawaharlal Nehru — (i) Tryst with Destiny (ii) first Deputy Prime Minister (iii) Vishalandhra movement (iv) Maharaja of a princely state. (A) 1-iii, 2-iv, 3-ii, 4-i (B) 1-ii, 2-iv, 3-iii, 4-i (C) 1-ii, 2-iii, 3-iv, 4-i (D) 1-iv, 2-iii, 3-i, 4-ii 1

> **Ans. (B) 1-ii, 2-iv, 3-iii, 4-i:** Patel was the first Deputy PM; Bodhachandra Singh was the Maharaja of Manipur who signed the Instrument of Accession (1949); Potti Sriramulu fasted for a separate Andhra (Vishalandhra movement); Nehru's "Tryst with Destiny" speech.

CBSE 2026 · S9/4/1 Statement I: During the colonial period, state boundaries were drawn for administrative convenience. Statement II: After independence, redrawing of state boundaries was based on languages. (A) both true (B) both false (C) I true, II false (D) I false, II true 1

> **Ans. (A) Both true.** Colonial provinces followed administrative convenience or the territory of princely states; after 1956 (SRC) most states were reorganised on linguistic lines.

CBSE 2026 · S9/5/1 Who advanced the "two-nation theory"? (A) British Government (B) Muslim League (C) Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan (D) Lord Mountbatten 1

> **Ans. (B) The Muslim League**: it argued India consisted of two "people", Hindus and Muslims.

CBSE 2026 · S9/5/1 Assertion (A): There were killings and atrocities on both sides of the border in 1947. Reason (R): The planned transfer of population had failed. (A) both true, R explains A (B) both true, R does not explain A (C) A true, R false (D) A false, R true 1

> **Ans. (C)** A is true; R is false: there was no planned transfer of population; Partition was sudden and unplanned, and the migration was unforeseen and chaotic.

CBSE 2024 · S9/5/1 Which princely state initially opposed joining the Indian Union? (A) Baroda (B) Hyderabad (C) Mysore (D) Gwalior 1

> **Ans. (B) Hyderabad**: the Nizam wanted independence; it joined after police action in September 1948.

CBSE 2024 · 59/S/1 Chhattisgarh was carved out of: (A) Uttar Pradesh (B) Bihar (C) Jharkhand (D) Madhya Pradesh 1

> **Ans.** (D) Madhya Pradesh (2000).

Short answer questions (2 marks)

CBSE 2025 · 59/1/1 Explain two commonly agreed goals of the national movement that were achieved after independence. 2

> **Ans.** (i) **Democracy:** India would be run as a democratic government, with universal adult franchise and regular free elections. (ii) **Equality and social justice:** government would work for the good of all, especially the poor and socially disadvantaged groups, without discrimination of religion, caste or gender; both were written into the Constitution.

CBSE 2025 · 59/S/1 Explain the "two-nation theory" advanced by the Muslim League. 2

> **Ans.** The Muslim League argued that India consisted not of one but **two "people"**, Hindus and Muslims, who had different religions, cultures and traditions; therefore Muslims needed a **separate homeland, Pakistan**. The Congress opposed it, but the political developments of the 1940s, communal conflict and the British withdrawal led to Partition on this basis.

Questions (4 marks): long answer, passage and cartoon

CBSE 2025 · 59/6/1 Explain Mahatma Gandhi's role in reducing communal tension and violence at the time of Partition. 4

> **Ans.** (i) On 15 August 1947 Gandhi was in **Kolkata**, not celebrating; he went among riot-hit areas and persuaded Hindus and Muslims to give up violence; his presence greatly improved the situation. (ii) He went on a **fast unto death** in Delhi (January 1948) for communal harmony; it had a dramatic effect: communal tension reduced and many people, including Muslims of Delhi, could return safely to their homes. (iii) He insisted that **Muslims should be allowed to live in India with dignity** as equal citizens, and that India should give Pakistan its dues of Rs 55 crore, which the government agreed to. (iv) His efforts angered extremists; he was assassinated by **Nathuram Godse** on 30 January 1948, which shocked the nation and led to a ban on communal organisations; communal violence declined.

CBSE 2026 · 59/1/1 Study the given cartoon carefully and answer the questions that follow:



Cartoon from CBSE 2026 · 59/1/1, Q. 25

(i) Name the leader talking to the Prince in this cartoon. (ii) What does the Prince sitting on the back of a poor man indicate? (iii) What message is being conveyed by the cartoon? [VI: (i) Nehru's midnight speech of 14–15 August 1947 (ii) the first Deputy Prime Minister (iii) explain the two-nation theory] 4

Ans. (i) **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.** (ii) The rulers of princely states lived off and suppressed the ordinary, poor people of their states. (iii) Patel persuaded (and where needed pressured) the princes to sign the **Instrument of Accession**, freeing the people from princely rule and unifying the country. **VI:** (i) "Tryst with Destiny"; (ii) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel; (iii) the Muslim League's theory that India consisted of two "people", Hindus and Muslims, so a separate country (Pakistan) was needed for Muslims.

CBSE 2026 · 59/3/1 Explain two major concerns of the government about reorganising states on linguistic lines after independence. 4

Ans. (i) The national leadership feared that carving out states on the basis of **language might lead to disruption and disintegration** of the country, especially after Partition on religious lines. (ii) It could **divert attention from other social and economic challenges** facing the new nation (development, refugees, security). Hence the leaders postponed it, until the Andhra movement (Potti Sriramulu) forced the issue; later, linguistic states actually strengthened democracy and national unity.

CBSE 2026 · 59/4/1 (a) Describe four consequences of the partition of British India. OR (b) Describe four problems in the process of partition. 4

Ans. **(a)** (i) **Largest population transfer** in history: about 80 lakh people migrated across the new border. (ii) **Communal violence:** between 5 and 10 lakh people were killed; minorities on both sides were attacked. (iii) **Women** were abducted, raped and forced to convert; families killed their own women for "honour". (iv) **Division of assets and property**: government employees, railways, the army, debts; refugees had to be rehabilitated (camps, new cities). **(b)** (i) There was no single belt of Muslim majority; Pakistan had to be in **two parts**, West and East. (ii) Not all Muslim-majority areas wanted Pakistan: the **NWFP**, led by Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan, opposed it. (iii) **Punjab and Bengal** had large non-Muslim populations, so they had to be divided district by district. (iv) The problem of **minorities** on both sides of the border: millions were trapped, uncertain where to go, and faced violence.

CBSE 2024 · S9/S/1 Passage: the interim government opposed the division of India into small principalities; the Muslim League wanted states to be free to adopt any course; Patel negotiated firmly but diplomatically with the princes, bringing most into the Union. (24.1) Principle followed for the division of British India in 1947: (A) administrative control (B) ethnic composition (C) religious majorities (D) equality (24.2) First Deputy Prime Minister: (A) Ambedkar (B) Patel (C) V.K. Menon (D) Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan (24.3) Number of princely states at independence: (A) 556 (B) 566 (C) 655 (D) 565 (24.4) Which statement about princely states is NOT correct? (A) the government was ready to give autonomy to some regions (B) the ruler of Junagadh had decided to be part of independent India (C) princely states covered one-third of the land area (D) some states clearly wanted to join India 4

Ans. (24.1) **(C)** religious majorities. (24.2) **(B) Sardar Patel.** (24.3) **(D) 565.** (24.4) **(B)** is not correct: Junagadh's Nawab wanted to join Pakistan; a plebiscite later confirmed the people's wish to join India.

Long answer questions (6 marks)

CBSE 2025 · S9/2/1 (a) Describe three circumstances in which the States Reorganisation Commission was set up. OR (b) Describe the circumstances and events that led to Manipur's accession to India in 1949. 6

Ans. **(a)** (i) After independence the challenge was to **draw internal boundaries** so that the linguistic and cultural plurality of the country was reflected without affecting national unity; colonial boundaries had been drawn for administrative convenience. (ii) The national movement (Congress, Nagpur session 1920) had **promised linguistic states**, but after Partition leaders feared that linguistic division could lead to separatism, so they postponed it. (iii) **Protests in Telugu-speaking areas** demanding Vishalandhra; **Potti Sriramulu's death** after a 56-day fast led to violent protests, and Andhra state was announced in December 1952; this spurred similar demands elsewhere, so the SRC was appointed in 1953 (report 1955; Act 1956). **(b)** (i) A few days before independence, the **Maharaja of Manipur, Bodhachandra Singh**, signed the Instrument of Accession on the assurance that Manipur's internal autonomy would be maintained. (ii) Under public pressure he held **elections in June 1948** on universal adult franchise, and Manipur became a **constitutional monarchy**: the first part of India to hold elections under universal adult franchise. (iii) In the legislative assembly there were sharp differences: the state Congress wanted merger with India, other parties opposed it. (iv) The Government of India pressured the Maharaja into signing a **Merger Agreement in September 1949**, without consulting the elected assembly; this caused resentment in Manipur that is still felt.

CBSE 2025 · S9/4/1 (a) Describe four consequences of the partition of British India in 1947. OR (b) Describe four events related to the princely state of Hyderabad before its accession to India. 6

Ans. **(a)** (i) The most **abrupt, unplanned and tragic transfer of population** in history: about 80 lakh people crossed the border. (ii) **Violence**: between 5 and 10 lakh people killed in communal riots; cities divided into "areas" for each community. (iii) **Women** were targets: about 68,000 abducted, raped and forced to convert; families killed their own women for "honour". (iv) **Division of assets and liabilities**: financial assets, government employees, railways and the army were divided; hatred between communities grew, and the trauma left deep scars. **(b)** (i) Hyderabad was the largest princely state, ruled by the **Nizam** (one of the richest men in the world), who wanted **independence** and signed a standstill agreement in November 1947. (ii) A **people's movement** grew against his oppressive rule, led by the Communists and the Hyderabad Congress, especially of peasants in the **Telangana** region and

women. (iii) The Nizam unleashed the **Razakars**, a para-military force that murdered, raped and looted, especially targeting non-Muslims. (iv) In **September 1948** the Indian army moved in (Operation Polo); after a few days the Nizam surrendered, and Hyderabad acceded to India.

CBSE 2025 · S9/7/11 (a) Explain two reasons for setting up the States Reorganisation Commission and the basis on which new states were created. OR (b) Explain three challenges India faced at independence. 6

Ans. (a) (i) After independence the challenge was to **draw internal boundaries** so that the linguistic and cultural plurality of the country was reflected without affecting national unity. (ii) **Colonial boundaries** were drawn for administrative convenience or followed princely states, not language; the national movement had promised linguistic states; after the **Andhra agitation** and Potti Sriramulu's death (1952), similar demands rose everywhere, so the SRC was set up in 1953. **Basis:** its report (1955) accepted that state boundaries should reflect the boundaries of **languages**; the **States Reorganisation Act (1956)** created **14 states and 6 union territories. (b)** (i) **To shape a nation that was united** yet accommodative of diversity: many languages, cultures and religions; after Partition, unity was the first concern. (ii) **To establish democracy**: a representative democracy based on the parliamentary form, with fundamental rights and universal adult franchise had to be made to work. (iii) **To ensure development and well-being** of the entire society, not only some sections: equality, social justice, removing poverty and unemployment (Directive Principles).

CBSE 2026 · S9/2/11 (a) How did the princely states pose a threat to India's national security? OR (b) Explain any four problems faced during the partition of India. 6

Ans. (a) (i) British India had two parts: the provinces and about 565 **princely states** covering one-third of the land and 28% of the people; at independence British paramountcy lapsed and the princes were **legally free to join India or Pakistan or remain independent**. (ii) Rulers of **Travancore, Hyderabad and Bhopal** announced they wanted independence; this threatened to divide India into many small countries. (iii) The princes of **Junagadh, Hyderabad, Kashmir and Manipur** created special difficulties; Hyderabad's Nizam was backed by the Razakars, Kashmir was attacked by Pakistan-backed raiders. Patel's firm diplomacy and the Instrument of Accession solved most cases. **(b)** (i) **No single belt** of Muslim majority: there were two areas, West and East, so Pakistan was split into two parts. (ii) Not all Muslim-majority areas wanted to join Pakistan, e.g. the **NWFP** under Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan. (iii) **Punjab and Bengal** had very large non-Muslim populations, so they had to be divided district by district. (iv) The problem of **minorities** on both sides: massive violence, about 80 lakh people displaced, 5–10 lakh killed, women abducted and forced to convert; division of property, staff and assets.

CBSE 2024 · S9/1/1 (a) Describe three major challenges India faced immediately after independence. OR (b) Describe Mahatma Gandhi's role in reducing communal violence at the time of Partition. 6

Ans. (a) (i) **Shaping a united nation** that accommodated diversity: many languages, cultures and religions; Partition and the integration of about 565 princely states made unity the first concern. (ii) **Establishing democracy**: making a parliamentary system with fundamental rights and universal adult franchise work in a poor, largely illiterate country. (iii) **Development and well-being** of the whole society: removing poverty, unemployment and inequality (Directive Principles), planning for economic growth with social justice. **(b)** (i) On Independence Day Gandhi was in **Kolkata**, among riot-hit areas, persuading Hindus and Muslims to give up violence; his presence calmed the city. (ii) In Delhi he went on a **fast unto**

death (January 1948) to stop communal violence; it had a dramatic effect: tension eased and Muslims could return safely to their homes. (iii) He insisted that India must protect **Muslims as equal citizens** and pressed the government to pay Pakistan its dues; this angered extremists, and he was assassinated by Nathuram Godse on 30 January 1948; the shock led to a ban on communal organisations and a decline in communal violence.

CBSE 2024 · 59/2/1 (a) Describe the difficulties India faced in getting all princely states to merge into the Union. OR (b) Describe the events that led to the accession of Hyderabad. 6

Ans. (a) (i) At independence British paramountcy lapsed; about **565 princely states** became legally free to join India or Pakistan or **remain independent**; this was a very serious problem that could have broken India into many small countries. (ii) Rulers of **Travancore, Hyderabad and Bhopal** announced they wanted independence; others delayed. (iii) **Special cases**: Junagadh (Muslim ruler of a Hindu-majority state wanted to join Pakistan; a plebiscite confirmed accession to India), **Hyderabad** (the Nizam wanted independence; Razakars terrorised people; military action in 1948), **Kashmir** (the ruler wanted independence until Pakistan-backed invasion; he then acceded) and **Manipur** (merger in 1949 without consulting the elected assembly). (iv) The government (Patel, with V.P. Menon) used **persuasion and firmness**: the Instrument of Accession, guarantees of autonomy and privy purses, so most states joined peacefully. **(b)** (i) Hyderabad, the largest princely state, was ruled by the **Nizam**, who wanted independence and signed a **Standstill Agreement** (November 1947) for a year while talks went on. (ii) A **people's movement** against the Nizam's oppressive rule grew, especially among peasants in **Telangana**, led by the Communists and the Hyderabad Congress; women joined in large numbers. (iii) The Nizam unleashed the **Razakars**, a para-military force that murdered, raped and looted, especially targeting non-Muslims. (iv) In **September 1948** the Indian army moved in (Operation Polo); after a few days of fighting the Nizam surrendered and Hyderabad acceded to India.

CBSE 2024 · 59/3/1 (a) Describe three major challenges India faced at independence in 1947. OR (b) Describe three major difficulties in the way of the partition of British India in 1947. 6

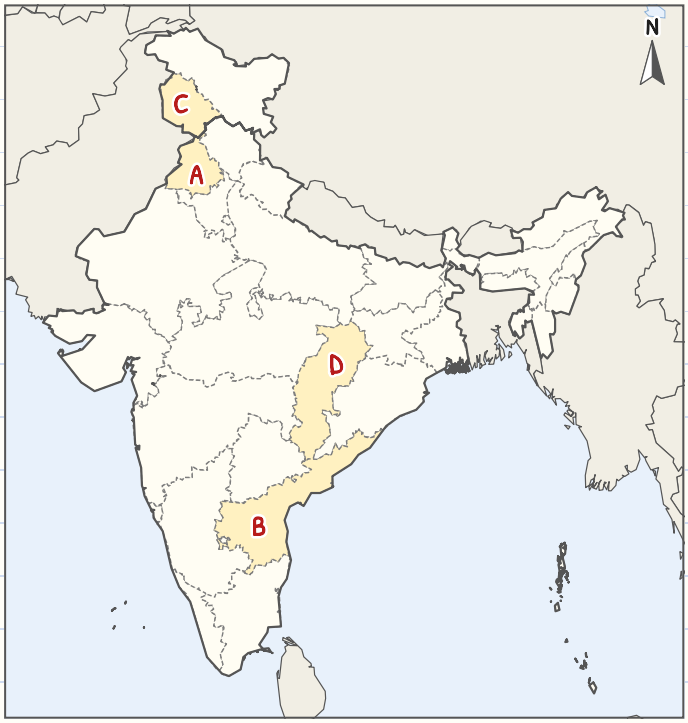
Ans. (a) (i) **Shaping a nation** that was united yet accommodative of diversity: many languages, cultures and religions; Partition and about 565 princely states made unity and integrity the immediate concern. (ii) **Establishing democracy**: a representative, parliamentary democracy with fundamental rights and universal adult franchise had to be made to work. (iii) **Development and well-being** of the entire society: removing poverty and inequality and ensuring social justice for the weaker sections (Directive Principles). **(b)** (i) **No single belt of Muslim majority**: there were two areas, one in the west and one in the east, so Pakistan had to be made of two territories (West and East Pakistan) separated by a long stretch of India. (ii) **Not all Muslim-majority areas wanted Pakistan**: Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan, the "Frontier Gandhi" of the NWFP, opposed the two-nation theory, but his voice was ignored. (iii) **Punjab and Bengal** had very large non-Muslim populations, so they were divided at the district or lower level; and (iv) the problem of **minorities on both sides**: lakhs of Hindus and Sikhs in Pakistan and Muslims in India were trapped, leading to violence and migration.

CBSE 2024 · 59/4/1 (a) Describe four consequences of the partition of British India in 1947. OR (b) Describe three problems faced during the process of partition. 6

Ans. **(a)** (i) The **largest, most abrupt and unplanned transfer of population** in history: about 80 lakh people migrated. (ii) **Communal violence**: between 5 and 10 lakh killed; cities divided into communal zones; refugees lived in camps. (iii) **Women** were abducted, raped and forced to convert; families killed their own women for "honour". (iv) **Division of assets**: properties, liabilities, government employees, railways and the army were divided; it left a lasting legacy of hatred and hostility between India and Pakistan. **(b)** (i) **No single Muslim-majority belt**: Pakistan had to be in two parts separated by India. (ii) **Not all Muslim-majority areas wanted Pakistan**: the NWFP's Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan opposed it. (iii) **Punjab and Bengal** had large non-Muslim populations and had to be divided district by district; (iv) the problem of **minorities** on both sides, who faced violence and had to flee.

Map questions

CBSE 2025 · 59/1/1 In the given political outline map of India, four States have been marked as A, B, C and D. Identify these States on the basis of the information given below and write their correct names in your answer-book along with the respective serial number of the information used and the concerned alphabets given in the map (format: serial number of the information used, concerned alphabet, name of the State): (i) The Princely State whose ruler resisted its merger with India. (ii) The State that was most affected by the partition of the country. (iii) The State carved out from Madhya Pradesh. (iv) The State that was formed in 1952.

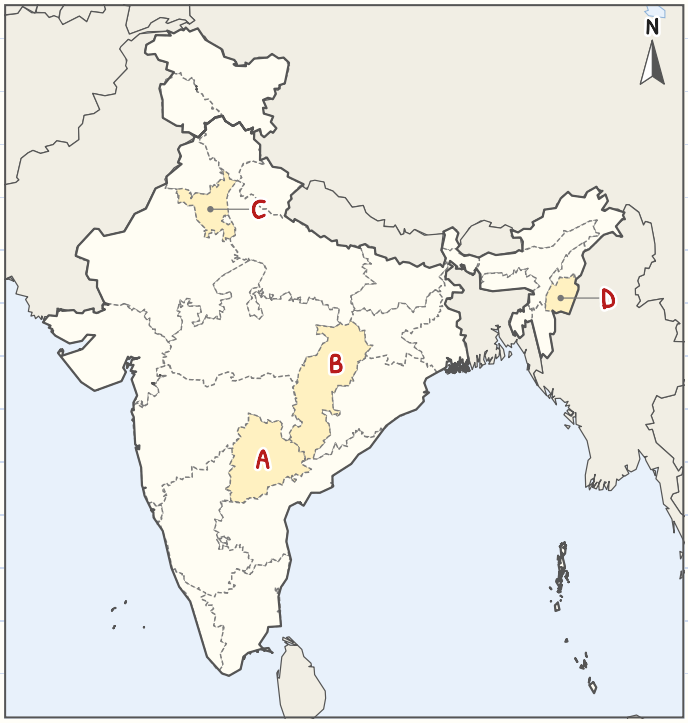


Political outline map of India: states A, B, C and D as marked in CBSE 2025 · 59/1/1, Q. 25

[VI: a UT that was earlier a state; a state most affected by Partition; state carved from MP; state formed in 1952] 4

Ans. (i) **C – Jammu and Kashmir** (its ruler Hari Singh did not want to join either country until the 1947 invasion). (ii) **A – Punjab.** (iii) **D – Chhattisgarh** (2000). (iv) **B – Andhra Pradesh** (announced December 1952). **VI:** Jammu and Kashmir / Ladakh; Punjab or West Bengal; Chhattisgarh; Andhra Pradesh.

CBSE 2025 · 59/5/1 In the given political outline map of India, four States have been marked as A, B, C and D. Identify these States on the basis of the information given below and write their correct names in your answer-book along with the respective serial number of the information used and the concerned alphabets given in the map (format: serial number of the information used, concerned alphabet, name of the State): (i) The State to which Maharaja Bodhchandra Singh belonged. (ii) The State which was created in 1966. (iii) The State which earlier was a part of Madhya Pradesh. (iv) The State which was created in June 2014.

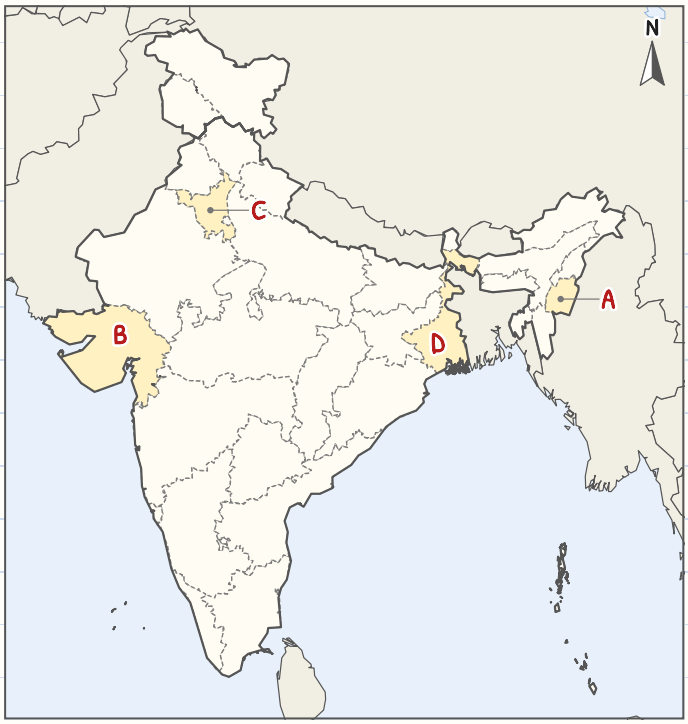


Political outline map of India: states A, B, C and D as marked in CBSE 2025 · 59/5/1, Q. 25

[VI: state carved from MP; state of Bodhachandra Singh; first Home Minister; two princely states that were initially not ready to join India] 4

> **Ans.** (i) D – Manipur. (ii) C – Haryana. (iii) B – Chhattisgarh. (iv) A – Telangana (2 June 2014). VI: Chhattisgarh; Manipur; Sardar Patel; any two of Hyderabad, Travancore, Junagadh, Jammu and Kashmir, Manipur.

CBSE 2026 · 59/5/1 In the given political outline map of India, four States have been marked as A, B, C and D. Identify these States on the basis of the information given below and write their correct names in your answer-book along with the respective serial number of the information used and the concerned alphabets given in the map (format: serial number of the information used, concerned alphabet, name of the State): (i) The state which was bifurcated between India and Pakistan at the time of the partition. (ii) The state which was created in 1966. (iii) The state to which the first Deputy Prime Minister Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel belonged. (iv) The state to which Maharaja Bodhchandra Singh belonged.



Political outline map of India: states A, B, C and D as marked in CBSE 2026 · 59/5/1, Q. 25

[VI: first Home Minister; year Andhra state formed; theory behind Partition; year Jharkhand was created] 4

Ans. (i) **D – West Bengal** (Bengal was divided; Punjab also was). (ii) **C – Haryana.** (iii) **B – Gujarat.** (iv) **A – Manipur. VI:** Sardar Patel; December 1952 (Andhra came into being on 1 October 1953); the two-nation theory; 2000.

Practice set

1. Name the three challenges at independence.
2. What was the two-nation theory?
3. How many people migrated at Partition?
4. Who were the Razakars?
5. Who was Potti Sriramulu?
6. What did the 1956 Act create?

Answers

Ans. 1. Unity with diversity, democracy, development of all.

2. The Muslim League's claim that Hindus and Muslims were two nations.

3. About 80 lakh.

4. The Nizam's para-military force.

5. A Gandhian who died after a 56-day fast for Andhra state.
6. 14 states and 6 union territories.

Multiple choice: 20 MCQs

1. Nehru's speech at midnight on 14–15 August 1947:
(a) Do or Die (b) Quit India (c) Tryst with Destiny (d) Purna Swaraj

2. The two-nation theory was advanced by the:
(a) Muslim League (b) Congress (c) British (d) Hindu Mahasabha

3. "Frontier Gandhi" was:
(a) Maulana Azad (b) Liaquat Ali (c) Rafi Kidwai (d) Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan

4. Number of people killed in Partition violence:
(a) 10,000 (b) 5 to 10 lakh (c) 80 lakh (d) 1 lakh

5. Number of princely states:
(a) 556 (b) 565 (c) 655 (d) 500

6. Princely states covered ___ of the land area:
(a) one-tenth (b) two-thirds (c) half (d) one-third

7. The first princely state to announce independence:
(a) Travancore (b) Bhopal (c) Hyderabad (d) Kashmir

8. The leader who integrated the princely states:
(a) Nehru (b) Ambedkar (c) Sardar Patel (d) Rajaji

9. The Nizam signed a Standstill Agreement in:
(a) 1949 (b) August 1947 (c) September 1948 (d) November 1947

10. The Indian army moved into Hyderabad in:
(a) 1947 (b) September 1948 (c) 1949 (d) 1950

11. The first part of India to hold elections on universal adult franchise:
(a) Kerala (b) Hyderabad (c) Manipur (d) Delhi

12. Manipur's Merger Agreement was signed in:
(a) September 1949 (b) 1948 (c) 1947 (d) 1956

13. The Congress recognised the linguistic principle at its ___ session (1920):
(a) Lucknow (b) Nagpur (c) Lahore (d) Karachi

14. Potti Sriramulu fasted for:
(a) 21 days (b) 30 days (c) 56 days (d) 45 days

15. The SRC was appointed in:
(a) 1960 (b) 1952 (c) 1956 (d) 1953

16. Gujarat and Maharashtra were created in:
(a) 1960 (b) 1956 (c) 1966 (d) 1972

17. Haryana was carved out of Punjab in:
(a) 1966 (b) 1960 (c) 1971 (d) 1956

18. Jharkhand was carved out of:
(a) Odisha (b) MP (c) UP (d) Bihar

19. Telangana was created in:
(a) 2000 (b) 2014 (c) 2019 (d) 2009

20. Junagadh joined India after a:
(a) war (b) treaty (c) plebiscite (d) court verdict

1 (c) · 2 (a) · 3 (d) · 4 (b) · 5 (b) · 6 (d) · 7 (a) · 8 (c) · 9 (d) · 10 (b) · 11 (c) · 12 (a) · 13 (b) · 14 (c) · 15 (d) · 16 (a) · 17 (a) · 18 (d) · 19 (b) · 20 (c)

Assertion–Reason (6)

(a) Both A and R true, R explains A. (b) Both true, R does not explain A. (c) A true, R false. (d) A false, R true.

1. A: Pakistan was made of two parts. R: There was no single belt of Muslim-majority areas.
2. A: Punjab and Bengal were divided. R: They had large areas with non-Muslim majorities.
3. A: Leaders postponed linguistic reorganisation after 1947. R: They feared it could lead to disintegration.
4. A: Manipur's merger was welcomed by all. R: The Maharaja signed the Merger Agreement in 1949.
5. A: The Indian army moved into Hyderabad in 1948. R: The Razakars committed atrocities on the people.

6. A: Linguistic states weakened Indian unity. R: The SRC recommended language-based boundaries.

Key: 1 (a) · 2 (a) · 3 (a) · 4 (d) · 5 (a) · 6 (d)

- **Last-night summary:** Tryst with Destiny; three challenges: unity in diversity, democracy (representative, parliamentary, rights, adult franchise), development and well-being (equality, DPSP). Partition: two-nation theory (Muslim League), religious majorities; problems: no single belt (West and East Pakistan), NWFP (Ghaffar Khan), Punjab and Bengal divided, minorities. Consequences: 80 lakh migrated, 5–10 lakh killed, women abducted, assets divided, communal zones; India stayed secular; Gandhi's fast; assassinated 30 January 1948.
- Princely states: 565, one-third of land; paramountcy lapsed; Travancore, Hyderabad, Bhopal; Patel firm but diplomatic; three considerations; Instrument of Accession; difficult cases: Junagadh (plebiscite), Hyderabad (Nizam, Standstill Agreement Nov 1947, Telangana peasants, Communists, Razakars, army Sept 1948), Kashmir, Manipur (Bodhachandra Singh, June 1948 elections, Merger Agreement Sept 1949).
- Reorganisation: colonial boundaries; Nagpur 1920; postponement; Vishalandhra, Potti Sriramulu (56 days), Andhra (Dec 1952); SRC 1953 (Fazl Ali), Act 1956 (14 states, 6 UTs); later: Gujarat, Maharashtra 1960; Haryana 1966; NE states 1963–87; 2000 (Chhattisgarh, Uttarakhand, Jharkhand); Telangana 2014; linguistic states strengthened unity.