

## Role of VP Manon in the Integration of India

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### ABSTRACT

Before Britishers left India they introduced three options for every princely state. Sardar Patel and other freedom fighters desperately wanted to unite the country as India as we are in today's date. So to build a united country nearly 580 states' Maharaja's signature was required on a document known as Instrument of accession. V P Menon's contribution was major to get those signatures on Instrument of accession by different states' Maharaja.

**Keywords:** *Partition of India, Instrument of Accession, V P Menon, Sardar Patel*

As per the Indian Independence Act, 1947, British India was divided into India and Pakistan and the roughly 580 princely states that had signed subsidiary alliances with the British had their sovereignty restored to them. In essence, these princely states were given the option to remain independent or to join the Dominion of India or Pakistan.

According to Section 6(a) of the Act, before joining India or Pakistan, these states had to sign an Instrument of Accession, in which they would specify the terms on which they were becoming part of the new dominions.

### PRE INTEGRATION ERA:

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel once said, dedicated to the Indian state's Prince that, "The Rajas and Maharajas of India live in a state of constant fear. Under the ominous shade of the Empire, many small States have shriveled like a tender plant and become lifeless because of dried-up roots. By giving their people responsible government, they can make their States stronger again". "The State's safety doesn't lie in seeking the protection of the empire, but in the love of their people". Patel declared that 'the whole of India is one country', and advised the Princes that "they will be sadly mistaken if they can rest content with trumpeting their loyalty to the Empire. The time will come when what they do not do on advice, they will have to do in their hour of defeat."

Sardar Vallabhbhai Pate had assured the Princes that in "Independent India, the States have nothing to fear. Those of the States which have started setting up representative institutions have lost nothing. The States have no cause to distrust their people. People's trust is the sign of a State's fearlessness. Remember: the State is for the people, not people for the State".

In 1937, December 25, at the eleventh conference of the Rajpipla Lok Sabha, Patel spoke in the same tone, "We in British India are no doubt slaves. But you living in the States are doubly slaves. You are slaves of a slave! That's why your condition is worse."

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In 1938, May 22, Patel stated at the twelfth Deccan States Conference at Sangli in Maharashtra, "There is no country in the world which has 600 Princely States. Some of these are very small; but even an owner of six to seven villages calls himself a Raja! Rajas cannot claim independence by wearing a crown. They are slaves."

### **VP MENON:**

On a bright spring day in 1914, a youthful Malayali strolled into the Government of India's midyear workplaces in Gorton Castle Shimla. No one knew who Vappala Pangunni Menon was then, at that point. He was all of 19-years of age, and he accompanied a letter suggesting him for a typist's work in the home office. Later on Rao Bahadur Vappala Pangunni Menon, turned into an Indian government employee who filled in as Secretary to the Government of India in the Ministry of the States, under Sardar Patel. Throughout the following forty years, VP Menon would be on the forefront of India's advancement towards autonomy, as he would be known.. He was the vital typist of the Montagu Chelmsford Report. In 1924, he had joined the Reforms Office, a part of the public authority of India, which had shepherded India along the way to self-administration. He stayed with the Reforms Office until 1947.

### **INTEGRATION OF INDIA:**

It was in such barren conditions that India took up the assignment of persuading the heads of many august states to agree to it. That it prevailed with regards to doing as such in under two years after Independence was no supernatural occurrence. The 'coordination project' was the individual accomplishment of two surprising men — Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the primary Home Minister and Deputy-Prime Minister in Jawaharlal Nehru's Cabinet; and his effective comrade V.P. Menon.

Together, they convinced the leaders of one august state after another — almost 600 altogether — to sign the Instruments of Accession to the Indian state. It helped that India, as the replacement state to British India, kept a questionable authority over the august states to, as Menon clarified, "ensure their regions against outside hostility and to safeguard harmony and request all through the country."

Menon was the Secretary in the Ministry of States which was set up by the Government of India in 1947 to manage the increase of royal states. While the country appropriately recalls Sardar Patel's huge endeavors in guaranteeing that more than 500 august states flawlessly joined the Union of India, hardly any realize that it was Menon working behind the scenes, bridging the nation and convincing various Maharajas and Nawabs to acquiesce.

Possibly Menon's most critical responsibility was thinking about the primary methodology on advancement that vital the illustrious states to concur simply in the three matters of defence, external endeavors and trades. Since these issues were truly non-questionable, Menon acknowledged they would be immediately recognized by the rulers. In his book "Joining of the Indian States", Menon describes moving toward Sardar and calling attention to the benefits of this arrangement: "The essential solidarity of India would be accomplished and, when the new constitution was outlined, we could work out the important subtleties."

It was Menon's strategy steered by Sardar Patel that was at long last reflected in the Instrument of Accession (IoA) executed by the states turning into a piece of the Union of India in 1947 and their consistent joining from there on.

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One of the states to which Menon went to get its increase was Jammu and Kashmir. By October 25, 1947, an assault by Afridi tribesmen had arrived at the edges of Srinagar, constraining the Maharaja of Jammu and Kashmir to get away from the city and migrate to Jammu. On October 26, the Defense Committee of the Indian Government held a gathering to examine the practicality of a tactical mediation in Jammu and Kashmir. Ruler Mountbatten, who was essential for this gathering, saw that since Jammu and Kashmir had not consented to one or the other India or Pakistan, it was an autonomous country. As indicated by Mountbatten, if the Maharaja agreed to India, troops could be shipped off to salvage the state. Therefore, it was Menon who promptly traveled to Jammu and got the Maharaja's mark on the Instrument of Accession. Menon got back to Delhi with the executed Instrument of Accession which was then acknowledged by the Government of India.

The next challenge for Menon and his team after getting accession securely, in the Ministry of States was to ensure complete integration. While this was a lawfully complicated but politically direct matter in regard to most royal states, arrangements between delegates of the Government of India and Sheik Abdullah, the Prime Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, corresponding to J&K's status in India neglected to produce a mutually acceptable result.

There is a book named "V.P. Menon: The Unsung Architect of Modern India", written by Ms Narayani Basu, was held at the Observer Research Foundation, on 26th of February at Ashoka University.

The book is a memoir of V.P. Menon, who turned into the secretary of the Ministry of States in free India and who was very dear to the 'iron man' of India, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, close by whom he envisioned the geographical and political coordination of India as we see it today. The book endeavors to "bring an overseer out from behind the scenes of power" says the essayist – Narayani Basu who is similarly the remarkable granddaughter of V.P. Menon. The book talks about a work of art "poverty to newfound wealth" excursion of this man whose life was never characterized by show. It is additionally a significant document of the political changes in the pre-and post-freedom period.

### **MORAL SITUATION OF ADMINISTRATORS**

As indicated by the writer of this book Ms Narayani Basu, "Menon encountered an ethical difficulty as a representative under the British Administration in the scenery of the autonomy developments". She explained that, "Menon wasn't the main administrator under the British government confronting this ethical issue. H.V. Iyengar, working in the Indian Civil Services (ICS) under the British Empire, composed that the he and different administrators looked for guidance from Sardar Patel, to which he answered that they were making the best choice serving the Britishers as after the autonomy India would require all around experienced and prepared officials in organization and administration".

### **THE PARTITION PHASE**

Because of an inquiry by Dr Raghavan, the writer Ms Basu depicted Jinnah of the 1920s as an alternate man from what he became in the last part of the 1940's. Jinnah was entirely receptive and got a kick out of the chance to encourage young fellows and talk with them, referring to Menon's memory of his first cooperation when Jinnah asked Menon out for lunch. Another cooperation occurs in the 1930's when both meet in Cairo and examine legislative issues. From that point they wouldn't meet until 1946 when Jinnah, as Menon noted, had turned into an exceptionally changed man, who was hellbent on parcel and Pakistan. As per Basu, Menon

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consistently considered parcel of India simply a hypothesis which would never turn into a reality, until Jinnah demonstrated it in any case. Menon continued to push for the Shimla Conference imagining that Jinnah was recently harmed and would settle and the parcel will not occur, however we know how it ended up.

### THE IDEA OF INTEGRATION

In the conversation, Dr Raghavan represented the issue of joining and the manner in which it was conceptualized. She discovered a similitude between the British thoughts on the combination of India and Menon's opinion. The writer differ saying that Menon had effectively understood that Pakistan was unavoidable and that the little and huge Princely states were deliberately significant and crucial for the 'map' that he, at the end of the day, had introduced to Lord Mountbatten which had been driven by the prospect of introducing a 'Joined India' to the world. This came according to a nationalistic point of view that Menon had created at that point.

### POLITICAL VS. PERSONAL LIFE

Ms Basu said in her book that she has not sought to glorify the man but present him along with his imperfections: For example Menon was a dispassionate husband who couldn't achieve much when it came to being a family man. This started a brief yet an important discussion which concluded that political and national responsibilities often outweigh the social or personal responsibilities and it's not an easy job to handle the two together. Thus, despite the important role of Sardar Patel in the unification of India, the role of V. P. Menon cannot be forgotten for the united India today.

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### Conflict of Interest

The author declared no conflict of interest.

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