77th Anniversary of Operation Polo

Prelims: Current events of National & International importance | History of India & Indian National Movement.

Why in news?

September 13 marks the 77th anniversary of Operation Polo.

- **Operation Polo** is launched by the Indian Armed Forces' military action in September 1948, to ***annex the princely state of Hyderabad*** into the Indian Union.
- It is also known as the Police Action.
- **Reason** - Nizam of Hyderabad, Mir Osman Ali Khan, refused to join India or Pakistan after its independence and sought to remain as an independent ruler.
- Thus, Hyderabad Nizam doesn't want to sign the ***Instrument of Accession.***

  Instrument of accession is an agreement by which the ruler of the princely states agreed to the accession of his kingdom to independent India.

- **Hindu majority state** - The majority of its population was Hindu, its ruler was a Muslim, who held the hereditary title of the Nizam.
- **Strategic Importance -** Hyderabad was a *large landlocked state* in south India, covering present day Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, and the Marathwada region of Maharashtra.
- **India's Concerns**-India feared that an independent Hyderabad would be a security threat, a potential center for instability, and could align with foreign powers.
- **Standstill Agreement** - In November 1947, a temporary standstill agreement was signed between both the parties, agreeing to the fact that the ties would continue the same as they did under the British.
- Soon after this, an exploitative, communal agricultural structure and the

linguistic struggle broke out against the Nizam.

- Razakars, a paramilitary body, the staunch supporters of the Nizam, who went about brutally suppressing the movement against him.
- In the meantime, the Nizam sought to widen the issue by moving the United Nations, took the advice and assistance of Pakistan, and began stockpiling arms.
- Against such a background, the Indian Home Minister Sardar Patel decided to annex Hyderabad.
- On September 13, 1948, the Indian Army marched into Hyderabad following the outbreak of hostilities.
- **Outcome -** The Nizam of Hyderabad and Razakars surrendered to the Indian army and Hyderabad was annexed into the Indian Union on 18th September 1948.
- The Nizam remained as the titular head of Hyderabad, until December 1949.
- Thereafter an unelected civilian government was appointed by the Ministry of States. Elections were finally held in 1952.

Quick facts

• **Kashmir** joined India via an ***Instrument of Accession***.
• **Junagarh** was integrated into India via a ***referendum***.

Reference

Indian Express | Operation Polo

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