# Modern History · GS - I

**Assess the main administrative issues and socio-cultural problems in the integration process of Indian Princely States.**

| EXAM YEAR | PAPER | SUBJECT |
|---|---|---|
| 2021 | GS - I | Modern History |

| MARKS | WORD LIMIT |
|---|---|
| 10 | ~150 words |

## Answer Hint

**Political integration, Instrument of Accession, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, V. P. Menon, Hyderabad, Junagadh, Jammu and Kashmir, administrative consolidation, communal tensions, regional identities, national unity.**

## Model Answer

### Introduction

At Independence in 1947, more than 560 princely states had to be integrated into the Indian Union to establish political unity and administrative stability.

### Administrative Issues

- **Accession:** Persuading rulers to sign the Instrument of Accession while addressing concerns over sovereignty and privileges.
- **Political resistance:** Hyderabad, Junagadh and Jammu and Kashmir presented complex territorial and security challenges.
- **Administrative consolidation:** Small states had to be merged, civil services integrated and laws, taxation and governance harmonised.
- **Democratic transition:** Autocratic princely administrations needed to be replaced with accountable institutions.

### Socio-cultural Problems

- **Diverse identities:** Linguistic, religious and regional differences complicated integration.
- **Communal tensions:** Partition-related violence and competing territorial claims intensified mistrust.
- **Popular aspirations:** People demanded civil liberties, representative government and an end to feudal privileges.

**Conclusion**

Through diplomacy, constitutional arrangements and, where necessary, coercive measures, Sardar Patel and V. P. Menon facilitated integration. Subsequent reorganisation accommodated regional identities while strengthening national unity.