

1. Examine the recurring patterns of tribal and peasant uprisings in Hyderabad State. To what extent was the Nizam's administration responsible for these revolts, and how were these movements suppressed or accommodated?

Introduction

Throughout the 19th and early 20th centuries, Hyderabad State witnessed a series of tribal and peasant uprisings. These movements, deeply rooted in economic exploitation, feudal oppression, loss of traditional rights, and state-backed injustice, were responses to both systemic exploitation and the repressive policies of the Nizam's administration. The revolts followed identifiable patterns and were met with a combination of brutal suppression and limited reforms.

I. Recurring Patterns of Tribal and Peasant Uprisings

1. Resistance to Economic Exploitation

- Excessive and illegal taxes such as Cents Tax, Marriage Tax, and revenue without land rights burdened peasants and tribals.
- Jagirdars, Deshmukhs, and Maktadars, often supported by the state, imposed unaffordable levies and fines.

2. Fight Against Social Oppression

- Forced labor (Vetti) and religious conversions provoked social resistance, especially from Dalit and tribal communities.

3. Protection of Traditional Rights

- Forest policies restricted Podu cultivation and access to forest resources, leading to unrest among Adivasi groups like the Gonds and Kolams.

4. Violent Revolt Against Feudal Exploitation

- Land alienation and abuse by feudal lords led to direct violent confrontations, often resulting in assassinations of oppressive landlords.

II. Notable Incidents and Movements

Revolt	Leaders	Cause	Outcome
Kolanpaka Revolt	Arutla Ram Chandra Reddy & Lakshmi	Illegal taxation & conversions by Jagirdar	Resistance & re-conversion through Arya Samaj
Bethavolu Agitation	Tadakamalla Sita Ramchandra Rao	Exorbitant taxes by Maktadar	Protest & demand for tax abolition
Visnoor Land Agitation	Shaik Bandagi	Land dispute with Deshmukh	Bandagi murdered after winning court case
Munugodu Revolt	Kancharla Rami Reddy	Feudal harassment	Deshmukh killed by villagers
Paritala Struggle	Local peasants	Illegal levies by Jagirdar	Jagirdar's agent killed in uprising

III. Tribal Movements and Armed Resistance

1. Ramji Gond Rebellion (1857–60)

- Led tribal warriors in resistance against British and Nizam forces.
- Suppressed violently; executed along with 1,000 followers.

2. Nayakpod and Kolam Rebellion (1879–80)

- Protested forest department's exploitation.
- Resulted in heavy crackdown and forest policing.

3. Konda Reddy Revolt (1915–16)

- Opposed forest officers and outsider encroachments.
- Reflected long-standing grievances over forest alienation.

4. Komaram Bheem Movement

- Iconic Gond leader who led an uprising for “Jal, Jungle, Zameen”.
- Killed in confrontation with Nizam's forces; later memorialized as a symbol of tribal resistance.

IV. Role of the Nizam's Administration

1. Complicity with Feudal Exploiters

- Nizam's government provided legal and military protection to Deshmukhs and Jagirdars, perpetuating oppression.
- Repressive taxation and land policies intensified agrarian distress.

2. Forest Department and Tribal Displacement

- Creation of a formal forest bureaucracy stripped tribals of access to ancestral lands.
- Policies prioritized state revenue over tribal welfare.

V. State Response: Suppression and Limited Reform

1. Violent Repression

- Revolts, particularly tribal armed resistances, were crushed using state force, often in collaboration with the British.
- Ramji Gond's execution exemplifies the brutality of the response.

2. Partial Accommodation

- Following Komaram Bheem's rebellion, the Nizam appointed Christopher Von Fürer-Haimendorf to study tribal conditions.
- Resulted in the Dastur-ul-Amal Act (1940) to offer limited redress to tribal grievances.

Conclusion

The tribal and peasant revolts in Hyderabad State followed a consistent pattern of resistance against economic exploitation, loss of traditional rights, and social injustice, fueled by feudal oppression and enabled by the Nizam's complicit administration. Though suppressed with state violence, these movements succeeded in spotlighting systemic injustices. Figures like Komaram Bheem continue to inspire grassroots resistance and tribal empowerment in Telangana today, and modern commemorations such as the Jodeghat Memorial (2016) serve as reminders of these enduring struggles.

2. What was Operation Polo? Provide a chronological account of the political and military developments that culminated in the integration of Hyderabad State into the Indian Union."

Introduction

Operation Polo, popularly known as the "Police Action", was a **military operation conducted by the Indian government in September 1948** to integrate the princely state of Hyderabad into the Indian Union. This decisive action was undertaken in response to increasing lawlessness, communal tensions, and the violent activities of the **Razakars**, the paramilitary wing loyal to the Nizam. The operation marked the **end of the Nizam's rule** and the consolidation of Indian territorial unity post-Independence.

I. Background and Political Context

1. Hyderabad's Standstill Agreement (1947)

- After Independence, Hyderabad signed a **standstill agreement** with India to maintain status quo but **refused to accede** to the Indian Union.
- The Nizam, **Mir Osman Ali Khan**, aspired for Hyderabad to remain **independent**, even exploring support from Pakistan and foreign powers.

2. Rise of Razakar Militia

- Led by **Qasim Razvi**, the Razakars unleashed **communal violence**, oppressed dissenters, and resisted integration with India.
- This led to widespread unrest and a breakdown of law and order.

3. Failure of Diplomatic Negotiations

- Despite repeated attempts by Indian leaders including **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel**, the Nizam refused to merge.
- The situation deteriorated, prompting the Indian government to initiate **military intervention**.

II. Legal and Strategic Framing of Operation Polo

- The action was officially termed "**Police Action**" to avoid international repercussions, as India wished to avoid projecting it as a war between two sovereign entities.
- Operation costs were shown under the **Education Department budget**, not under Defence or Home Affairs.
- **C. Rajagopalachari**, the then Governor-General, endorsed the name *Police Action* to frame it as an internal administrative intervention.

III. Chronological Account of Operation Polo

13th September 1948: Launch of Military Offensive

- Indian troops, under **Southern Commander Lt. Gen. Rajendra Singh**, launched multi-pronged attacks from:
 - ✓ **Solapur (J.N. Chaudhari)**
 - ✓ **Vijayawada (A.A. Rudra)**
 - ✓ **Berar/Hospet (Shiva Dattu Singh)**
 - ✓ **Bombay (D.S. Dhar)**
- Air support came from **Pune** airbase under **Commander Mukherjee**.
- **Lt. Col. Ram Singh** captured **Naldurg**, the first major city to fall.

13–16 September 1948: Rapid Advance

- Indian forces swiftly overpowered scattered resistance from **Hyderabad's army** and Razakar units.
- Skirmishes continued, but **coordination among Indian divisions ensured quick progress**.

17th September 1948: Surrender and Integration

- **Nizam Osman Ali Khan**, seeing imminent defeat, held talks with **K.M. Munshi** at Lake View Guest House.
- That evening, at **7 PM**, the Nizam made a **radio announcement on Deccan Radio**, announcing Hyderabad's accession to the Indian Union.
- Indian forces **officially entered Hyderabad**, marking the end of the operation.

IV. Post-Operation Developments

1. 18th September 1948

- General El Edroos, Commander of the Hyderabad State Forces, surrendered to Major General J.N. Chaudhari.
- Qasim Razvi was arrested and detained at Tirumalgiri military camp.
- Prime Minister Mir Laiq Ali was placed under house arrest.

2. 22nd September 1948

- The Nizam withdrew the complaint filed at the United Nations against the Indian government, ending international dispute.
- The Nizam was retained as the Raj Pramukh (constitutional head) of Hyderabad State under the Indian Constitution.

V. Legacy and Commemoration

- 17th September is commemorated in various forms:
- Hyderabad-Karnataka Liberation Day in Karnataka.
- Marathwada Mukti Sangram Din in Maharashtra.
- Telangana Liberation Day or Telangana Vimochana Dinotsavam, although political consensus remains divided.

In 2022, the Government of India officially declared **September 17 as Hyderabad Liberation Day**.

Conclusion

Operation Polo was a swift, strategic, and politically significant military action that ensured the **integration of Hyderabad into the Indian Union**, ending centuries of feudal rule. The operation not only reinforced the **territorial unity of India** but also exposed the challenges of integrating **princely states** in a newly independent nation. It remains a defining moment in the history of India's post-independence nation-building process.