

Write a short note on the integration of princely states into Indian Union.

- There were around six hundred princely states in pre-independent India.
- The princely states were given the option to join any union.
- Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel was the Union Minister for the Department of States.
- V.P. Menon was the Secretary of the Department of States.
- Patel and V.P. Menon prepared an Instrument of Accession.
- Princely states had to hand over their control over defence, information and communication, external affairs to the Government of India.
- All princely states except Junagarh, Hyderabad, Kashmir joined in the Indian Union.
- Later on these states were integrated into the Indian union through conciliation talks and military interventions under the initiative of Patel and V.P. Menon led the process.