

The Court of the Nizams:
Hyderabad, 1947

HYDERABAD

MUNUC 37

Model United Nations of the University of Chicago

CHAIR LETTER

Hello delegates!

My name is Arzoo Usgaonkar, and I am thrilled to be your Chair for The Court of the Nizams: Hyderabad 1947. This committee is incredibly special to me as I am an international student from India and I am so excited to share a part of my culture and heritage with you. Before I do, here's a bit about me. I'm originally from Goa and Punjab, but grew up in Mumbai. Thereafter, I came to the University of Chicago for my undergraduate studies and I'm currently in my third year, pursuing Economics and Psychology. I've been actively involved in MUN since 7th grade and continued this involvement through MUNUC and ChoMUN. I was a Chair for On the Chopping Bloc: Food Policy in a Boiling World at ChoMUN XXVII, an Experienced Assistant Chair for JCC Bakumatsu Japan, 1860 at MUNUC 36 and an Assistant Chair for The Maratha Confederacy at ChoMUN XXVI. My MUN journey has been incredible - it has bolstered my confidence, improved my public speaking skills, and allowed me to meet some of my best friends. Hence, I'm terribly excited to be your Chair at MUNUC 37 and hope we can give you an experience as enriching as I have found mine to be.

I am very passionate about my culture and history and look forward to seeing you not only understand and experience it, but also help chart its course. Throughout the committee, I hope to see delegates discuss the pros and cons of joining India/Pakistan, or forming an independent state. I look forward to seeing some beautiful character arcs develop, and to see delegates convincing the room to side with them in taking Hyderabad forward to its best possible future!

In case you have any questions, or would like some restaurant recommendations, feel free to reach out to me at arzoo@uchicago.edu. I hope to see you soon!

Best,

Arzoo Usgaonkar

Chair, The Court of the Nizams: Hyderabad 1947

arzoo@uchicago.edu

P.S. I'm terribly excited to play the role of your Nizam, Asaf Jah VII, also known as Mir Osman Ali Khan!

CRISIS DIRECTOR LETTERS

Hello delegates!

My name is Annika Naramreddy, and I am thrilled to be one of your Crisis Directors for The Court of the Nizams: Hyderabad 1947. Having grown up in Hyderabad, this committee has a special place in my heart, and I am excited to share a part of its rich history with you. A little bit about myself: I was born in sunny San Jose but moved to Hyderabad when I was 4 and relocated again to Dallas two years ago (so when someone asks me where I'm from my answer is 'it's complicated'). I am currently pursuing Economics and Data Science at the University of Chicago, with aspirations of attending law school, I am particularly intrigued by the intersection of AI and machine learning with the legal domain, especially in financial law. Outside of my academic/career interests, I love exploring the Chicago food scene, lifting, and am always down to take a walk to nowhere.

I've been actively involved in MUN since 5th grade and have continued my involvement through MUNUC and ChoMUN.. The past year, I was an Assistant Chair for JCC Bakumatsu Japan, 1860: The Bakuhan Government at MUNUC 36 and also an Assistant Chair for On the Chopping Bloc: Food Policy In a Boiling World at ChoMUN XXVII. My passion for MUN has only deepened over the years, serving as a catalyst for personal growth and meaningful connections. It's with great enthusiasm that I take on the role of Crisis Director at MUNUC 37, hoping to facilitate an enriching experience for all participants.

With my intimate knowledge of Hyderabad's history, I am keen to witness how you, esteemed delegates, navigate the pivotal moments of 1947. I anticipate vibrant discussions on the pros and cons of aligning with India or Pakistan or forging an independent path. I eagerly await the character arcs and directives that will shape Hyderabad's fate within our committee.

In case you have any questions or want any insider insights into the city, feel free to reach out to me at anaramreddy@uchicago.edu. Looking forward to seeing you soon.

Best,

Annika Naramreddy

Chair, The Court of the Nizams: Hyderabad 1947

anaramreddy@uchicago.edu

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to MUNUC 37! My name is Jack Foley, and I will be one of two of your Crisis Directors for The Court of the Nizams: Hyderabad, 1947. Alongside my fellow execs, Arzoo and Annika, we are excited to join you in a weekend filled with rigorous debate and difficult decisions. To introduce myself, I am currently a third-year at the College majoring in English and Spanish Language and Literature. I originally come from the great state of New Jersey, from a suburb not far from NYC, and I can talk endlessly about my home state. This will be my third year participating in MUNUC; last year I was the Crisis Director for The End of Francoism: SPAIN 1977, and the year prior I was an Assistant Chair (AC) in Bolivia: Unity in Strength. When I am not spending time in MUNUC, you can find me playing viola in the University Symphony Orchestra, watching a movie at Doc Films, or exploring Chicago.

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you all to the Court of Nizams in the city of Hyderabad, the “City of Pearls.” I hope that in the upcoming months you engage critically with the problems and history we will set forth for you. The situation that Hyderabad faces in post-colonial South Asia is quite unique—the religious, social, economic and political tensions that plague the region will become the meat of the decisions and compromises you will have to make as delegates. Although we may be situated in a deeply conservative society that is rapidly changing, I implore you to use your 21st-century sensibilities to solve these issues; that is, this does not give you free license to engage in offensive or intolerant behavior. This won’t be a problem, but I wanted to get that out of the way before we started. I know you all will work hard to both research your personal assignments and to understand the complexities and nuances of the challenges Hyderabad faces.

As one of your co-Crisis Directors, I will be working behind the scenes in the backroom to help direct the committee through responding to your notes and planning crisis breaks. This will be a hybrid committee, and

we will be moving between crisis and GA elements, so please do not hesitate to email both me and Annika if you have any questions about mechanics. We are here to help you succeed!

I can't wait to see you all at MUNUC 37!

Sincerely,

Jack Foley

Crisis Director, The Court of the Nizams: Hyderabad, 1947

jpfoley@uchicago.edu

SENSITIVITY STATEMENT

In the middle of the 20th century, South Asia saw great turmoil, especially with the end of over two-hundred years of colonial rule and the partition of the land into the states of India and Pakistan. Our committee is set to begin in September 1947, just after the partition.

It was a time of great involuntary migration and religious disharmony, leading to the displacement of over 15 million people and the deaths of 2 million. This was a time when there were acts committed that we would today classify as unethical, and both politically and socially unacceptable.

To be somewhat historically accurate, many of our committee's delegates will be representing real historical figures of various backgrounds. However, please note that MUNUC will not tolerate any use of discriminatory, hurtful, or inappropriate action and words in committee under any circumstances, especially not under the guise of "historical accuracy."

Please use only twenty-first century values while crafting your narratives and character arcs at all points during the conference. This applies to your private notes, directives, speeches, unmoderated caucuses, and even your conduct outside of committee time. There are several ways in which you can explore ideological and other differences without bringing in topics like religion and ethnicity. To this end, please also note that specifically in this committee, we will not be allowing any formation of new states based on religion.

We take ensuring the comfort and respect of every individual at MUNUC extremely seriously, and we will act against delegates and/or delegations who do not display the same. Please keep this in mind as you craft your arcs. We look forward to having you in committee!

COMMITTEE STRUCTURE AND MECHANICS

As you are probably aware, Hyderabad 1947 is a hybrid committee, which means it involves both General Assembly (GA) sessions and Traditional Crisis sessions, which will provide you with the best of both worlds. We understand that many of you may only be familiar with one type of session, or neither, so we hope that you find the following section helpful in preparing for conference.

Traditional Crisis

The first three sessions of the conference will be in a continuous crisis format, which includes mechanics such as backroom notes and arcs, as well as the use of directives instead of resolutions. The purpose of these first three sessions are to address the immediate crises that would arise in Hyderabad following the end of British rule and the partition of India. Committee will be fast paced, but this will allow you to make quick decisions to match the speed of which problems would arise in post-partition Hyderabad.

The most unique element of crisis sessions is the backroom. Throughout crisis sessions, you will be allowed to send notes to the backroom with the purpose of building up your arc. An arc is your personal character's storyline throughout the committee where they want to influence committee actions and end up coming out on top. This may be a bit vague, but you should take away that your backroom arc is personal, and you should be selfish in your desires in the backroom. Make your decisions based on what will be the best outcome for your character in the committee.

The basic structure of an arc should be as follows: resource building, reasoning, and the execution of your arc. Whether you wish to be a spy, leader of a rebellion, or a business executive, all arcs should roughly follow this form. This means that you should demonstrate to the backroom that you have all the resources you need to fulfil your plan. Accordingly, you all need to demonstrate to the backroom that you have a structured reasoning of why

you are doing what you are doing, a detailed plan, and a definable and realistic end goal. The backroom loves to see both detailed plans and clear goals when reading crisis notes. Finally, you have the execution of your plan, the moment when the stars align, and the various gears shift into place. This is the apex, the peak, of your arc, where all the plans you have made—all the spies planted, all the farmers enraged, all the overseas trade connections—help you control the committee. Be sure to not to start out with guns blazing, as patience is a virtue. Bide your time, be decisive, but do not let your plan fail by executing steps too early. There is a certain rhythm to the backroom elements. However, do not worry because we are here to help you both during conference and before. Please reach out if you have any doubts or questions.

As an addendum, this committee is a bit unusual in that we start off with the traditional crisis first and move into the GA at the end. This indicates that all arcs should be completed by the end of the third session. Consequently, we will be more lenient on allowing certain actions in the backroom given the time constraints, so you have the ability to be a little quicker in your actions than you might in a crisis committee that has more committee sessions.

General Assembly

The next sessions will be in the traditional GA format. There will be no use of backroom, just use of frontroom elements that you might be more familiar with, such as mods and unmods. The aim for these sessions is to decide whether Hyderabad is to become an independent nation or join either India or Pakistan. You will need to either write a constitution or a treaty, accordingly, as your resolution.

This part of the conference should be more straightforward: you will oscillate between moderated and unmoderated caucuses, focus on debate, and work together across factions to write your working papers, which will turn into resolutions. There will be virtually no backroom—but that does not mean you will be rid of us!

We'll still be present, giving some breaks to help you focus on topics that you might be forgetting or ignoring in your resolution.

As for working papers and resolutions, this is your chance to be verbose, loquacious, and in the nitty-gritty details. These documents have to be detailed because they will either be detailing the relationship between Hyderabad and the larger country or it will be the constitution of Hyderabad. These are no small matters, so be thoughtful and precise.

And always, if you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact us and ask anything that might be causing any doubts!

HISTORY OF THE COMMITTEE

To understand our committee, and your roles as delegates, it is imperative that you first understand who the Nizams were and what exactly the Princely State of Hyderabad was prior to 1947.

Who Were the Nizams?

The title of Nizam or Asaf Jahi is derived from Persian and means order or arrangement. Hence, it was often given to a high-ranking state official who oversaw a part of a state's population.¹ The Nizam of Hyderabad, more specifically, was a title given to the ruler of the state of Hyderabad.²

How Did the Nizams Come To Power?

The Mughal Empire was a formidable empire that controlled much of what is the north and central region of present-day South Asia.³ Its last key ruler, Shah Jahan, had a trusted advisor named Ghazi ud-Din Khan Feroze Jung I, and a Grand Vizier (equivalent to a prime minister) named Sadullah Khan. The advisor was married to the Grand Vizier's daughter (Safiya Khanum) and they had a son named Qamar Ud-din Khan. As he grew up, Qamar Ud-din Khan was an important administrator of Shah Jahan's court and oversaw 6 provinces in the princely state. He was also titled Nizam-ul-Mulk Fateh Jung. He was responsible for defeating the then ruler of the Deccan plateau (the region where Hyderabad is located) and gained control of the region. Over time, he separated from the Mughal Court. Hence, he became responsible for founding the Princely State of Hyderabad- which can also be referred to as the Asaf Jahi Dynasty.⁴

¹ "Nizam | Definition of Nizam in English by Oxford Dictionaries," February 11, 2018.
<https://web.archive.org/web/20180211131310/https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/nizam>.

² Outlook India. "A Brief History of The Nizams of Hyderabad." Accessed August 16, 2024.
<https://www.outlookindia.com/traveller/ot-getaway-guides/the-nizams>.

³ "Mughal Dynasty | Map, Rulers, Decline, & Facts | Britannica." Accessed August 16, 2024.
<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Mughal-dynasty>.

⁴ Outlook India. "A Brief History of The Nizams of Hyderabad." Accessed August 16, 2024.
<https://www.outlookindia.com/traveller/ot-getaway-guides/the-nizams>.

While Nizam-ul-Mulk Fateh Jung founded the dynasty, there were six other Nizams who led it after him.

Their names are as follows:⁵

1. Qamar Ud-din Khan / Nizam-ul-Mulk (Asaf Jah I)
2. Nizam Ali Khan (Asaf Jah II)
3. Mir Akbar Ali Khan (Sikandar Jah Asaf Jah III)
4. Mir Farkhunda Ali Khan (Nasirud-Daula Asaf Jah IV)
5. Mir Tahniyat Khan (Afzal-ud-Daula Asaf Jah V)
6. Mahbub Ali Khan (Bahadur Asaf Jah VI)
7. Osman Ali Khan (Bahadur Asaf Jah VII)

The Princely State of Hyderabad:

A princely state was a nominally sovereign entity ruled by a local monarch or prince under the suzerainty of the British Empire. These states retained internal autonomy but recognized the ultimate authority of the British Crown, which managed their external affairs and provided military protection. The rulers of these states exercised significant control over local administration, economy, and cultural affairs while adhering to treaties and agreement with the British Empire.

The Princely State of Hyderabad, also known as Hyderabad Deccan, was one of the largest and most significant princely states in India during British rule. In 1858, Hyderabad officially became a princely state under direct British rule when the post-1858 imperial constitution was enforced.

⁵ Testbook. "Nizam of Hyderabad, Nizam Dynasty, 1st, Present & Last Nizam?" Accessed August 16, 2024. <https://testbook.com/tspsc-preparation/nizam-of-hyderabad>.

Hyderabad was in the Deccan Plateau and comprised parts of present-day Telangana, Karnataka, and Maharashtra. Its central location in India made it a crucial region for trade and politics, bridging the northern and southern parts of the country. Furthermore, the State of Hyderabad under the leadership of its 7th Nizam, Mir Sir Osman Ali Khan, was the largest and most prosperous of all the princely states of India, highlighting the state's significance. Curiously enough, Hyderabad enjoyed a relatively high degree of internal autonomy even when compared to other princely states, maintaining their own army, currency and postal system.

The significance of Hyderabad's geographic location and economy, combined with its high degree of internal autonomy, underscored the influence and power of the Nizam. This set the stage for conflict and deliberation when the British Empire gave the princely states of India the right to choose whether to join India, join Pakistan, or become an autonomous state during Indian independence.

History of the Problem

South Asia, As A Whole

To understand the history of Hyderabad, it would be both helpful and productive to know a little more about South Asia as a whole to better contextualize the specific history of the Nizams.

The history of pre-Mughal South Asia is primarily characterized by various kingdoms that controlled swaths of area across the subcontinent. There was no true centralized power nor national state in the way we understand countries to be organized today. Many different parties battled over control of the more valued parts of the subcontinent, including the Ganges River valley, the Deccan Plateau, etc.

At this time, while there were many factions vying for power across the subcontinent, a new power entered the conversation: the Turks. These conquerors came to North India from Central Asia, establishing dynasties such as the Delhi Sultanate and the Timurid dynasty, which had connections to the Mughal Empire. These dynasties set the stage for the rise of the Mughal dynasty in the 16th century; the Turkic dynasties were Muslim, used Persian as their language of communication, and were noticeably culturally and politically distinct from the indigenous populations of the subcontinent.⁶

The Mughal Empire

The Mughal Empire originates from the Turkic dynasties that ruled the northern part of India in the centuries before their- the Mughal Empire's- rise. The dynasty itself was founded in 1526 by Babur, a prince descended from Timur of the Timurid dynasty and Chagatai, the second son of the Mongol emperor Chinggis

⁶ Sanjay Subrahmanyam et al., "The early Turkish Sultans," Encyclopedia Britannica, August 17, 2024, <https://www.britannica.com/place/India/The-Khaljis>

Khan. He originated from what is now modern-day Uzbekistan but began to conquer territories towards the south in the north of India.

The first—and one of the most important—figures of the Mughal Empire was Akbar (1556-1605). He greatly expanded the reach of the Empire across the subcontinent, stretching from Afghanistan to the Bay of Bengal at the time of his death.

One of the more notable aspects of Akbar's rule was the participation of Hindu's in his government. He greatly reduced discrimination against non-Muslims in the Empire by abolishing the *jizyah*—the tax paid by non-Muslims—in lieu of military service, abolishing the forced conversion of prisoners, and removing the tax on pilgrimages- an important element of Hindu religious life.

At the same time, Akbar was known for centralizing the Empire and creating a strong central government, with the emperor at the top and his various minister's underneath to compartmentalize the administration of the empire. The empire was divided into uniformly organized regional governments that paid taxes to the central government and were ultimately subject to the emperor.

Another key ruler from the Mughal Empire that deserves mentioning was Shah Jahan, most known for constructing the Taj Mahal. His reign as emperor was marked by increased territorial acquisitions, enlarging the size of the empire further than the extent of Akbar, especially into the Deccan states- where the state of Hyderabad would later emerge.

Other than these regional conquests, Shah Jahan was known for his insatiable desire to build. His conception of the empire was one of grandeur and architectural splendor. He centralized the state through the construction of religious buildings such as Moti Masjid, "Pearl Mosque," and the Jāmi' Masjid, "Great Mosque," as well as grand structures like the Red Fort and of course the resplendent mausoleum constructed for his wife, the Taj Mahal. Shah Jahan took it upon himself to improve the cultural production of the state, not only through

architecture, but also through literature and calligraphy. It is good to keep in mind that the state is not all just politics—the production of literature, art, and culture is equally as important in the creation of an empire.

The final important figure of the Mughal Empire was Aurangzeb, the son of Shah Jahan who came to power after he emerged victorious in a brutal war of succession. Although the empire reached its largest extent under his rule, Aurangzeb also began to sow the seeds of the Mughal Empire's decline. Aurangzeb excluded both Hindus and Sikhs from administrative positions, destroying temples and religious sites- unsurprisingly inciting revolts against his rule in majority-Hindu and majority-Sikh areas. He reinstated the jizyah (see above) and other taxes on the various regional governments under his rule, furthering the turmoil under his rule.

After the reign of Aurangzeb came a series of emperors who had to confront the increasing unrest and poor financial decisions rooted in the mistakes of themselves and their predecessors. The empire began to break up into various kingdoms and polities, with the new Maratha empire conquering most of the northern part of the subcontinent. Until the British gained full control of the region in the 19th century, South Asia still experienced no true centralized political control, with the Marathas coming the closest to building an empire that would match the dominance of the Mughals.⁷

Colonization of India

While the first part of this section focused on the Mughal Empire and its demise, the second part will deal with the European colonization of India up until 1947.

The earliest European contact with South Asia was through Vasco da Gama, a Portuguese explorer who made it around the Cape of Good Hope to dock at Calicut in the present day state of Kerala. This established

⁷ The Editors of Encyclopedia Britannica, "Mughal dynasty," Encyclopedia Britannica, August 3, 2024, <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Mughal-dynasty>.

trade connections between the Portuguese and parts of India, leading the Portuguese to become more belligerent and colonize many cities along the coast with India, most noticeably Goa, which- as of 1947- remains under Portuguese rule. Many other European powers followed suit, including the Dutch, French, and English, as they sought to emulate the Portuguese in establishing trade cities under their power up and down the coasts of India.

Although the French and the British fought many battles to gain jurisdiction over parts of the subcontinent, that story is not ours to take up. The short story is that the British ended up winning, leading to the major influence of the British East India Company in the region.

The East India Company, a company of stockholders who profit off its success, primarily traded in spices, silks, tea, cotton, and other commodities. The company first began operating in a few coastal cities, with very little territorial ambition. Soon, though, this changed. The East India Company began to exercise increased influence over many Indian states, gaining permission from many local authorities to own land, create fortifications, and conduct trade without any tariffs. The EIC began to hire mercenaries and engage militarily with other European countries- as aforementioned with France overthrow Indian rulers who opposed their control and install puppet governments in their place-such as in Bengal. The East India Company was regulated by the British government, essentially placing many areas of the subcontinent under indirect jurisdiction of a foreign power. A series of wars followed; including a war that led to the complete defeat of the Marathas in 1818.⁸

Not just a simple maritime trade company, the East India Company operated more and more like a *de facto* government. It had the ability to collect revenue for its personal use and had a complex system of administration throughout the region. This quasi-governmental system was supported by the EIC's very own army, one that participated in the defense of its own interests and enforced policies such as the revenue collection.

⁸ H. V. Bowen, *The Business of Empire: The East India Company and Imperial Britain, 1756-1833* (Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2008), 4.

By 1833, the British East India Company resembled a militarized state, a stark contrast from the late-18th-century.⁹

Nevertheless, the East India Company's reign came to an end in the aftermath of what is known as the Sepoy Mutiny. For a bit of context, sepoys were Indian soldiers who were in the employment of the East India Company. There are a variety of factors that helped spark the revolt, including fears of the Westernization of India, the increasing control of the British in the subcontinent, the replacement of Indian officials with British ones, etc. The turning point came when a new rifle was introduced, and to use it, sepoys had to bite off the end of a lubricated cartridge. A rumor soon spread that the cartridges were made with the lard of pigs and cows, forbidden for consumption by Muslims and Hindus respectively, angering both these groups. Both groups refused to bite off the cartridges, resulting in punishment. The harsh punishments enraged many within the army, causing them to shoot their British officers and march on Delhi to nominally reinstate a Mughal Emperor. The rebellion spread, but it was essentially nipped in the bud when no other Indian princes joined the effort. In response, the British abolished the East India Company in 1858 and established the authority of the British Raj, direct British rule.¹⁰

Ancestry of the Nizams:

As mentioned previously, the Nizams were the rulers of the Hyderabad State. According to the Golden Book of India¹¹, written by Sir Roper Lethbridge in 1893, the Nizams were descendents of the First Caliph, Abu Bakr (the successor of Prophet Muhammed). More directly, the Nizams descended from Abid Khan¹², a Persian

⁹ Ibid, 6.

¹⁰ The Editors of the Encyclopedia Britannica, "Indian Mutiny," Encyclopedia Britannica, August 1, 2024, <https://www.britannica.com/event/Indian-Mutiny>.

¹¹ Lethbridge, Roper. The Golden Book of India, a Genealogical and Biographical Dictionary of the Ruling Princes, Chiefs, Nobles, and Other Personages, Titled or Decorated, of the Indian Empire. London Macmillan, 1893. <http://archive.org/details/goldenbookofindi00lethuoft>.

¹² Bowen, H. V. The business of empire: The East India Company and Imperial Britain, 1756-1833. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2008.

from Samarkand who was mentored by Prince Aurangzeb- the Mughal Emperor.. Abid Khan's son, Ghazi Uddin Khan¹³, was married to the daughter of the formal imperial prime minister. Their son, Mir Qamaruddin Khan¹⁴, was the first Nizam of Hyderabad.

To help you better understand the history of Hyderabad, the following sections will be split into the rules of its seven officially recognized Nizams.



The First Nizam: Nizam-ul-mulk Asaf Jah I / Mir Qamaruddin Khan / Chin Qilich Khan.

Asaf Jah I¹⁵ was the First Nizam of Hyderabad and the founder of the Asaf Jahi Dynasty. Asaf Jah I initially began as a nobleman in Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb's court. He held the position of Naib of the Deccan Sultanates- where he was in charge of the executive and judicial branches of the Mughal Empire as well as the head of the military-until 1721.¹⁶ After 1721, the Mughal Empire was so weak that Asif Jah was leading a nation that was *de facto* independent.¹⁷

¹³ Indian-tour-and-travel. "Ghaziuddin Khan's Madarsa and Tomb," October 10, 2019. <https://indiantourandtravel.com/ghaziuddin-khans-madarsa-and-tomb/>.

¹⁴ Testbook. "Nizam Ul Mulk Asaf Jah - Complete History Explained UPSC Exam." Accessed August 16, 2024. <https://testbook.com/ias-preparation/nizam-ul-mulk>.

¹⁵ "Portrait of Asaf Jah I - Deccan Painting - 19th Century." Accessed August 16, 2024. <https://openverse.org/image/d4b9d0dd-ca21-410d-8687-ca3f95e6c4eb>.

¹⁶ BYJUS. "Nizam-Ul-Mulk UPSC Notes - About, Early Life, Later Life, Death, Career, Post Aurangzeb, Later Mughals and Asaf Jah I, Governor of Bijapur, Viceroy of Deccan, Governor of Malwa, Mughal Empire's Grand Vizier, Nizam of Hyderabad, War against the Marathas, Nader Shah and Asaf Jah I, Legacy, Titles and FAQs." Accessed August 16, 2024. <https://byjus.com/free-ias-prep/nizam-ul-mulk/>.

¹⁷ Financialexpress. "Meet Asaf Jah, the First Nizam of Hyderabad and Aurangzeb's Main Man: Know about His Life, Massive Wealth & Journey," May 28, 2023. <https://www.financialexpress.com/life/lifestyle-meet-asaf-jah-the-first-nizam-of-hyderabad-and-aurangzebs-main-man-know-about-his-life-massive-wealth-journey-3104661/>.

It is important to note that he, and every following Nizam, was never the ruler of a state that was *de jure* independent of the Mughal Empire. Throughout Nizam rule, the Mughal flag was flown, Nizam's were never crowned and Friday prayer sermons were conducted under Aurangzeb's name.¹⁸ Yet, the Nizams were in control of drafting laws, raising armies and generally running their own government.¹⁹

To establish order, Asaf Jah I divided his kingdom into 3 parts - the Sarf-i-Khas (his private estate), the Diwan's territory (for expenses of the government), and the land on which common men lived.²⁰ The third was under the control of Muslim nobles titled jagirdars, zamindars, or deshmukhs (landowners) who collected revenue from the villages under them and paid nazars (gifts) to the Nizam (similar to a feudal system). Asaf Shah I strategically spread out the territories given to each noble so that none could carve out a kingdom for themselves. This system ensured a steady income for the Nizam and the treasury of Hyderabad. Another key source of revenue was the Golconda mines in the region- home to a staggering array of diamonds and other precious gems.²¹

While the reign of the Asaf Jahi Dynasty was rather peaceful, there were a few key points of conflict. Towards the end of the first Nizam's rule, the Mughal Empire was rapidly losing power. At the same time, a new stronghold was being established by another empire – the Maratha Confederacy.²² In 1727, this new confederacy fought a war with the Nizam and he was forced to agree to several terms set by the Marathas, including recognizing Chhatrapati Shahu as the only Maratha Ruler.²³ The Nizam was also made to pay tax (called *Chauth*) to the

¹⁸ Outlook India. "A Brief History of The Nizams of Hyderabad." Accessed August 16, 2024. <https://www.outlookindia.com/traveller/ot-getaway-guides/the-nizams>.

¹⁹ Unacademy. "NIZAM-UL-MULK." Accessed August 16, 2024. <https://unacademy.com/content/karnataka-psc/study-material/history/nizam-ul-mulk/>.

²⁰ Testbook. "Nizam Ul Mulk Asaf Jah - Complete History Explained UPSC Exam." Accessed August 16, 2024. <https://testbook.com/ias-preparation/nizam-ul-mulk>.

²¹ "Golconda Diamonds: Unveiling the Extraordinary Legacy of Nature's Masterpieces - Only Natural Diamonds." Accessed August 16, 2024. <https://www.naturaldiamonds.com/in/epic-diamonds-in/golconda-diamonds/>.

²² "Maratha Confederacy | Maratha Empire, Peshwa, Shivaji | Britannica." Accessed August 16, 2024. <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Maratha-confederacy>.

²³ Unacademy. "A Short Note On Shahu." Accessed August 16, 2024. <https://unacademy.com/content/railway-exam/study-material/ancient-history-of-india/a-short-note-on-shahu/>.

Marathas. This furthers the notion that the Asaf Jahi Dynasty was never completely autonomous from other strongholds in India at the time.

Asaf Jah I ruled for 24 years before passing away in 1748. Upon his death, there was a great power struggle, lasting 14 years, in Hyderabad, with the British, French, Marathas and the sons of the late Nizam all vying for command of the territory. Only after the family of Asaf Jah I emerged victorious, was the second Nizam named.²⁴

The Second Nizam: Nizam Ali Khan Asaf Jah II.

After great turmoil, the fourth son of Asaf Jah I became the second Nizam of the Asaf Jahi Dynasty. He was commonly referred to as Mir Ali Khan and his reign began in 1762. He ruled the Deccan for almost 42 years, and his time is considered the most eventful and challenging period of the Dynasty.²⁵

Mir Ali Khan saved the Asaf Jahi Dynasty from ruin by securing alliances with other key Indian powers. He settled affairs with the Marathas, and allied with both the British and the French- depending on which alliance would be the most advantageous at the time. In fact, he even appointed a French general as an advisor and military leader in his court. These strategic alliances contributed to Hyderabad's ability to largely retain its independence. Unlike in most of the other states in South Asia, the East India Company did not meddle in the daily affairs of Hyderabad. In exchange for autonomy, the Nizam would keep the Marathas away from the Deccan, refrain from allying with Hyder Ali of Mysore (who was on hostile terms with the British), and remove French troops from

²⁴ Outlook India. "A Brief History of The Nizams of Hyderabad." Accessed August 16, 2024.

<https://www.outlookindia.com/traveller/ot-getaway-guides/the-nizams>.

²⁵ Testbook. "Nizam of Hyderabad, Nizam Dynasty, 1st, Present & Last Nizam?" Accessed August 16, 2024.

<https://testbook.com/tspc-preparation/nizam-of-hyderabad>.

the Nizam's army.²⁶ Mir Ali Khan was also responsible for moving the capital of Hyderabad from Aurangabad to the city of Hyderabad in 1763.²⁷

The Third Nizam: Mir Akbar Ali Khan Sikandar Jah Asaf Jah III.

Sikandar Jah's reign was generally considered prosperous and largely uneventful for the Asaf Jahi Dynasty. During this period, the Second Anglo-Maratha War ended in 1805 and the Nizam of Hyderabad came under the protection of the East India Company, although Hyderabad still maintained relatively high levels of autonomy.²⁸

The only key thing to note in this time is that Sikandar Jah was responsible for altering the region's internal administration, by placing European officers in charge of revenue management. While this seemed like a strategic move to have better relations with the British and French, it ended poorly as the assistant revenue minister (Raja Chandulal) was corrupt and embezzled a great deal of money from Hyderabad's treasury.²⁹

The Fourth Nizam: Mir Farkhunda Ali Khan Nasirud-daula Asaf Jah IV.

Nasirud-Daula, the eldest son of Sikandar Jah, inherited a state in trouble. Not only were the state's finances heavily depleted, but Hyderabad had been hit by a series of natural disasters. He was forced to concede some border districts of the Princely State (such as Berar) to the British in exchange for assistance.³⁰

²⁶ Outlook India. "A Brief History of The Nizams of Hyderabad." Accessed August 16, 2024.
<https://www.outlookindia.com/traveller/ot-getaway-guides/the-nizams>.

²⁷ ibid

²⁸ Unacademy. "Second Anglo-Maratha War." Accessed August 16, 2024.
<https://unacademy.com/content/mppsc/study-material/history/second-anglo-maratha-war/>.

²⁹ Outlook India. "A Brief History of The Nizams of Hyderabad." Accessed August 16, 2024.
<https://www.outlookindia.com/traveller/ot-getaway-guides/the-nizams>.

³⁰ ibid

Realizing that the state needed to change if it wanted to survive, Nasirud-Dala began the process of restoring the Asaf Jahi Dynasty to its former glory. With the help of two noblemen, Siraj-ul-Mulk and Mir Turab Ail Khal Salar Jung I, Nasirud-Daula implemented a new, modern system of revenue administration.³¹ He divided the state into sixteen districts, each headed by a *taluqdar* who would manage various judicial and local administrative issues within his district. To the surprise of some, building a more obvious hierarchy actually led to greater transparency in the administration of the state.³²

In addition to saving Hyderabad from financial ruin, Nasirud-Daula was a patron of education and the arts. Under his reign, Hyderabad saw the construction of schools, commercial centers, bridges and churches (important to note when thinking about questions of religious tolerance and pluralism).³³ Lastly, Nasirud-Daula was extremely forward thinking. He banned the practice of Sati in 1856 (the “act or custom of a Hindu widow burning herself to death or being burned to death on the funeral pyre of her husband”; Hyderabad was the first princely state to do this).^{34,35}

³¹ “Attributed to? A Sorgato : Venezia - Sir Mir Turab Ali Khan, Salar Jung I (1829-83).” Accessed August 16, 2024. <https://www.rct.uk/collection/2915373>.

³² Testbook. “[Solved] SalarJung Reforms MCQ [Free PDF] - Objective Question Answer for SalarJung Reforms Quiz - Download Now!” Accessed August 16, 2024. <https://testbook.com/objective-questions/mcq-on-salarjung-reforms--637c79e712c3acf7c98be0c3>.

³³ Outlook India. “A Brief History of The Nizams of Hyderabad.” Accessed August 16, 2024. <https://www.outlookindia.com/traveller/ot-getaway-guides/the-nizams>.

³⁴ Testbook. “[Solved] SalarJung Reforms MCQ [Free PDF] - Objective Question Answer for SalarJung Reforms Quiz - Download Now!” Accessed August 16, 2024. <https://testbook.com/objective-questions/mcq-on-salarjung-reforms--637c79e712c3acf7c98be0c3>.

³⁵ “Sati Definition & Meaning - Merriam-Webster.” Accessed August 16, 2024. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/sati>.

The Fifth Nizam: Mir Tahniyat Khan Afzal-ud-daula Asaf Jah V.

Afzal-ud-Daula, prioritized political stability in Hyderabad during his tenure.³⁶ Thus, he retained his father's prime minister, Salar Jung I, and furthered the divide of his territory for administrative purposes- creating five new zones named *subas*, under which were the sixteen *taluqdars*.

To further progress and prosperity, he donated land to create a Bombay-Madras railway line- which passed straight through Hyderabad. This led to significant economic development in the state especially when paired with his initiative to build the Afzalgunj bridge, and the new bazar.³⁷ Under Afzal-ud-Daula, the state of Hyderabad officially became part of the British Indian Empire.³⁸ Unlike other states, this princely state had full

³⁶ Ekbote Gopal Rao. The Chronology Of Modern Hyderabad (1954), 1954.
<http://archive.org/details/in.ernet.dli.2015.505918>.

³⁷ Outlook India. "A Brief History of The Nizams of Hyderabad." Accessed August 16, 2024.
<https://www.outlookindia.com/traveller/ot-getaway-guides/the-nizams>.

³⁸ Testbook. "Nizam of Hyderabad, Nizam Dynasty, 1st, Present & Last Nizam?" Accessed August 16, 2024.
<https://testbook.com/tspc-preparation/nizam-of-hyderabad>.

autonomy (except in being subject to the British Monarch). Sadly, Afzal-ud-Daula's reign was short-lived, as he passed away at the young age of 42.

The Sixth Nizam: Mir Mahbub Ali Khan Bahadur Asaf Jah VI.



Mir Mahbub Ali Khan was less than three-years-old when he gained the title of Asaf Jah VI. However, he only took over responsibility for governance of the Deccan plateau in 1885, when he turned seventeen.³⁹ Before he became of age, Ali Khan's co-regents Mir Turab Ali Khan Sir Salar Jung I and Nawab Rasheeduddin Khan (Shams-ul-Umara III) governed the Princely State.⁴⁰

Mir Mahbub Ali Khan was known to be kind and keenly focused on the development of Hyderabad. He implemented reforms that brought cotton and silk mills, railways, and new methods of measuring revenue to the state. He encouraged education by setting up new schools and reorganized governance systems (the police, taxes, judiciary and more). He also funded medical education and

³⁹ "Portrait of Mir Mahboob Ali Khan - Asaf Jah VI in Chiraan Fort." Accessed August 16, 2024. <https://openverse.org/image/6add5087-dc59-40ab-92e3-c0d30e9bc3e5>.

⁴⁰ Outlook India. "A Brief History of The Nizams of Hyderabad." Accessed August 16, 2024. <https://www.outlookindia.com/traveller/ot-getaway-guides/the-nizams>.

established several modern hospitals.⁴¹ Unfortunately, the Nizam fell down stairs and passed away at age 46.⁴² His family and friends were devastated.



The Seventh Nizam: Mir Osman Ali Khan Bahadur Asaf Jah VII.

Mir Osman Ali Khan, the final Nizam, is considered the most popular, powerful and strategic ruler of the Asaf Jahi Dynasty.⁴³ He is the most relevant Nizam to this committee as the Independence of Pakistan and India, and Hyderabad's choice of acceding to one or creating an independent state occurred during his rule. He will also be chairing the committee, so best to get on his good side!

Mir Osman Ali Khan was known to care deeply for his subjects - he was responsible for abolishing the death penalty from the criminal code, setting up Osmania University (a prestigious institution till date), and for restoring and erecting several public buildings. He believed in secularism and freely donated to many charitable organizations, regardless of religion. Some notable contributions include the Aligarh Muslim University, Banaras Hindu University, Golden Temple in Amritsar, and the Lady Hardinge Medical College. Mir Osman Ali Khan organized the expansion of transportation systems (road, railway and postal) and built several dams to help

⁴¹ ibid

⁴² Testbook. "Nizam of Hyderabad, Nizam Dynasty, 1st, Present & Last Nizam?" Accessed August 16, 2024. <https://testbook.com/tspc-preparation/nizam-of-hyderabad>.

⁴³ "Mir Osman Ali Khan." Accessed August 16, 2024. <https://openverse.org/image/752f1417-99a2-4816-b6ca-7f458cb7fab6>.

organize irrigation practices.⁴⁴ While these efforts are no doubt beyond commendable, it may have helped that he is considered to be one of the wealthiest men in history.⁴⁵

The seventh Nizam was also a political strategist. Three years after his reign began, World War I broke out, and he provided the British military and financial assistance, effectively maintaining good ties with the monarchy and Westminster. He continued to show this support in World War II, sending 80,000 men that formed a personal army - known as the 19th Hyderabad Regiment - to Malaya, North Africa, Persia, Singapore and Burma to aid the British.⁴⁶ In showing this support, he was able to rule over Hyderabad as a client king, even though the British Monarchy was exercising tighter-than-ever control over the Indian subcontinent.⁴⁷

Given this semi-independent status, when the British left South Asia in 1947, Hyderabad was given the critical choice that this committee will be responsible for making: join India, join Pakistan, or try to remain independent.

Map of Hyderabad Post Partition in 1947:

Please note that this is only for reference of geographical areas. Any of the annexations in later years are not part of our committee, and our committee may / may not execute actions in the same manner.⁴⁸ This map is simply to allow delegates a better understanding of the extent of Hyderabad's importance within post-partition South Asia.

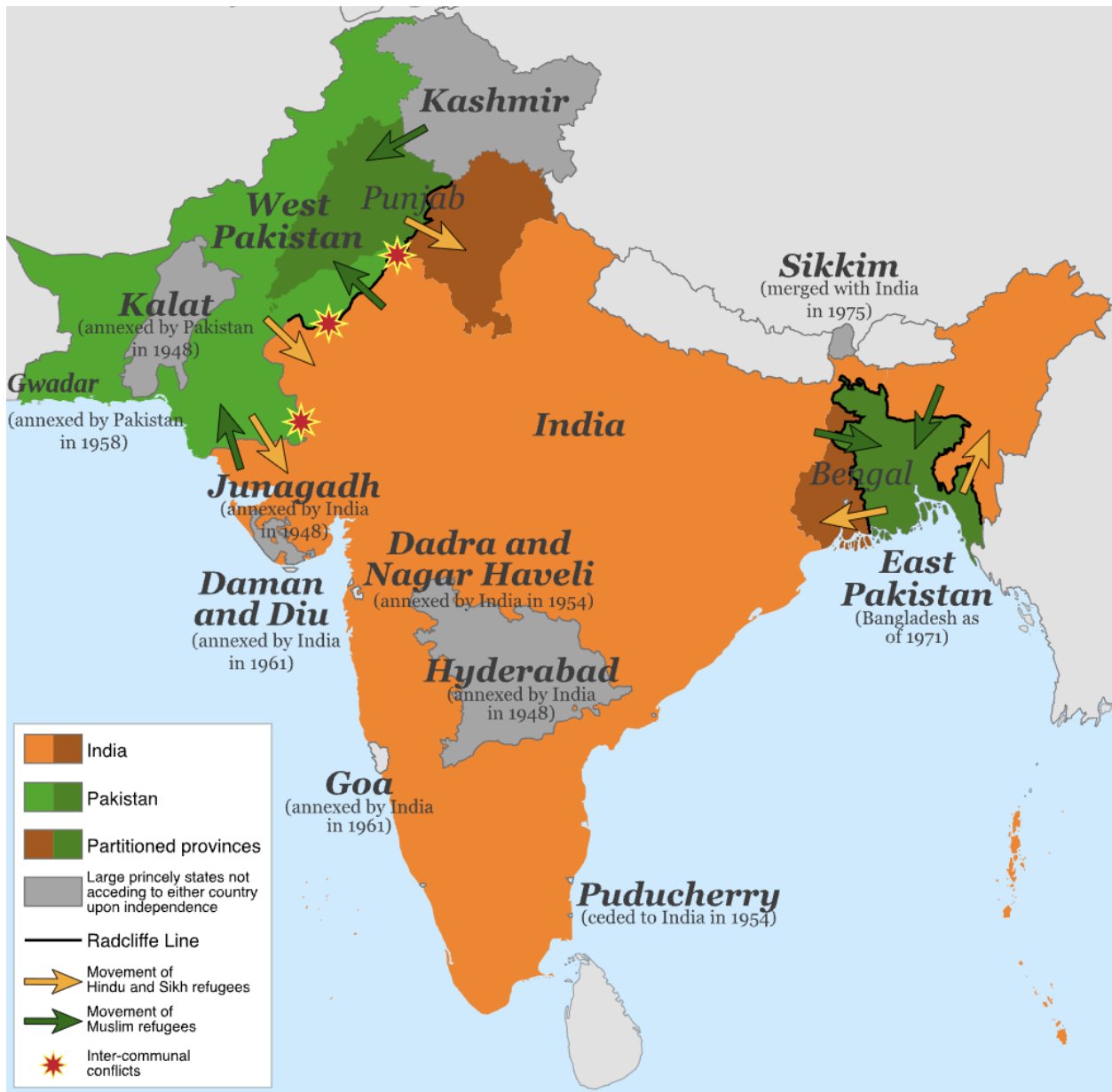
⁴⁴ Outlook India. "A Brief History of The Nizams of Hyderabad." Accessed August 16, 2024. <https://www.outlookindia.com/traveller/ot-getaway-guides/the-nizams>.

⁴⁵ Financialexpress. "Know Mir Osman Ali Khan, the Last Nizam of Hyderabad and India's First Billionaire – He Owned a Rs 1000 Crore Paperweight, 50 Rolls-Royce Cars," June 26, 2024. <https://www.financialexpress.com/life/lifestyle-know-mir-osman-ali-khan-the-last-nizam-of-hyderabad-and-indias-first-billionaire-he-owned-a-rs-1000-crore-paperweight-50-rolls-royce-cars-3521518/>.

⁴⁶ The Vickers Machine Gun. "19th Hyderabad Regiment," May 24, 2019. <https://vickersmg.blog/world-service/india-including-india-pakistan-and-bangladesh/british-indian-army/19th-hyderabad-regiment/>.

⁴⁷ "Osman Ali | India, Nizam, Monarch | Britannica." Accessed August 16, 2024. <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Osman-Ali>.

⁴⁸ "Partition of India 1947 En." Accessed August 16, 2024. <https://openverse.org/image/efd22be6-87aa-4b10-9bca-5bd374330c60>.



Statement of the Problem

Political State of Hyderabad

The Telangana Rebellion

One of the most pressing issues Hyderabad faces is the Telangana Rebellion, which began two years ago- in 1946. With a lack of support from the British- who had been instrumental in suppressing previous rebellions- the independent state of Hyderabad had significant challenges in addressing the rebellion.

The Telangana Rebellion is a communist-led, armed revolt of peasants against the Nizam of Hyderabad. The rebellion escalated out of agitations in 1944-46 regarding the perceived oppressive landlordism led by the Nizam of Hyderabad. For centuries, Hyderabad has been a feudal monarchy wherein most of the land was owned by aristocrats known as Doras. Although feudalism was common in India, feudal exploitation in Hyderabad was more severe than elsewhere in India. The Doras had almost complete power over peasants and could subject them to agricultural slavery. The condition of the Hyderabad peasantry only worsened thanks to the food crises arising from the Great Depression and then the Second World War. The peasants decided to take action in the 1940s, increasingly turning towards communism, which they saw as an attractive solution to their problems. Furthermore, the attempts of the Nizam and the Doras to suppress the movement only further motivated the peasants.

The revolt officially began on 4 July 1946, when a local village leader was killed by the agents of a *Dora*. The rebels established a system of government composed of village communes and an inter-village network. Operating on the grassroots level, by 1948, the rebellion covered nearly all of the state and had communes in at least 4,000 villages. The rebels, including a significant number of women, took up arms against the Doras,

attacking and plundering their estates and refusing to work under the feudal system. The Nizam and his advisors struggled to address the Telangana Rebellion due to its systematic and expansive nature.⁴⁹

Razakars

The Razakars are a paramilitary force in the independent Hyderabad state whose stated goal is to defend against any potential Indian invasion. The Razakars, headed by Khasim Razvi, are the stormtroopers of the *Majlis-e-Ittehad-ul-Muslimeen* (MIM), a political organization that has insisted on Hyderabad being declared a Muslim state. The Razakars demanded special powers from the Nizam, which led to their instatement as a paramilitary group. However, they soon started to abuse the powers granted to them by the Nizam.

The Razakars terrorized the Hindu population, aggravating tensions between Hindus and Muslims, which were already elevated given the population split between the two groups. The Razakar militia was also known for brutally putting down proponents of the Telangana Rebellion and activists who advocated mergers with India. However, there are also some Razakars that have provided aid to the Telangana rebels, plundering estates of *Doras* themselves. The Razakars, including those that aided the Telangana Rebellion, have created heightened political unrest in Hyderabad. To put it simply, the Razakars and the Telangana Rebellion are widely acknowledged as the two biggest issues faced by the state of Hyderabad.⁵⁰

The Hyderabad State Congress

The Hyderabad State Congress was established in 1938 to pursue a more democratic government in Hyderabad, since the government was then heavily skewed towards the elite Nizams, who were predominantly

⁴⁹ P. Sundarayya, *Telangana People's Armed Struggle, 1946-51* (Calcutta: CPI(M) Publications, 1972).

⁵⁰ Ramachandra Guha Kumar, "A Tale of Two Massacres in Hyderabad Karnataka," *Frontline*, The Hindu, August 9, 2023, accessed August 17, 2024, <https://frontline.thehindu.com/the-nation/history-a-tale-of-two-massacres-in-hyderabad-karnataka-razakars-1948-police-action-annexation-of-hyderabad-nizam-anti-muslim-attacks-kalaburagi-bidar/article67442047.ece>

Muslim. The political group stressed secularity and soon launched nonviolent protests the Nizam rule. This led to the Nizam introducing a public safety law that effectively banned the organization only a few months after its formation.

The ban was lifted in 1946, and the group has since become a leading voice in Hyderabad. The Hyderabad State Congress actively campaigned for the state's integration into the Indian union, which the Nizam opposed. Furthermore, the Razakars have engaged in violence against activists of the Hyderabad State Congress, further heightening tensions across the independent Hyderabad state.⁵¹

Mounting Pressures from India

Hyderabad stretches across the Deccan Plateau of central India and is a vital geographic link between Northern and Southern India. Not only has Hyderabad's autonomy hindered the Indian government's sovereignty, but the state's also strategic position gives it the potential to sever the link between Northern and Southern India. This threat to Indian security has only exacerbated by the very real possibility that Hyderabad aligns itself with governments hostile to India, such as Pakistan.⁵² But beyond these strategic factors, the Indian government's biggest objection to the Nizam rule is that the Muslim minority outnumbers the Hindu majority in the government by a significant amount. The ratio of Muslims to Hindus is 9 to 1 in the army and police and 6 to 1 in other government positions. This ratio is all the more stark given the fact that out of Hyderabad's population of 17 million, only 2 million are Muslim.⁵³

⁵¹ Shreejit Paliath, "India Couldn't Afford an Independent Hyderabad — It Would've Become a 'Cancer in Nation's Belly'," *The Print*, July 30, 2023, accessed August 17, 2024, <https://theprint.in/pageturner/excerpt/india-couldnt-afford-an-independent-hyderabad-it-wouldve-become-a-cancer-in-nations-belly/1973894/>.

⁵² Ibid.

⁵³ Time Magazine, "India: The September Uprising," *Time*, October 18, 1948, accessed August 17, 2024, <https://web.archive.org/web/20090703045913/http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,799076-1,00.html>.

A combination of these factors has led to Hyderabad being described by some of the more bellicose Indian politicians as “cancer in the belly of India,” with the Indian government placing significant pressure on the Nizam to accede to India.⁵⁴ Sardar Vallabhai Patel, the foreign minister of India, challenged the Nizam, even stating “Accede or die.” The Indian government hasn’t been all talk and no action; it implemented a tight blockade on Hyderabad, with machinery and trucks labeled for Hyderabad being redirected to Bombay. In Hyderabad, food supplies have dwindled and the prices of basic foods, such as potatoes, have soared. Furthermore, the license of the airline that connected Hyderabad to the state of India was suspended by Indian aviation authorities. Some of the Nizam’s officials believe that Hyderabad will not be able to survive more than six months under these conditions. Therefore, the Nizam has approached the United Nations Security Council for arbitration on the issue, although the UNSC has not yet addressed the issue.⁵⁵

The Role of Pakistan

The Nizam and Mohammed Ali Jinnah, the founder of Pakistan, have historically worked together to maintain Hyderabad’s independence from India. In a letter to Jinnah that was leaked earlier this year, the Nizam made the following statement:

“H.E.H [His Exalted Highness, referring to the Nizam] would of course much prefer to have close relations with Pakistan rather than with the Dominion of India. It is the landlocked position of Hyderabad in the belly of the most Hindu part of Hindustan which makes it inevitable for H.E.H. with his vast Hindu population to make, if possible, some friendly arrangement with Hindustan... H.E.H. has definitely made up his mind not to accede but he may be driven to closer unity by treaty in regard to External Affairs than he would have wished. But a treaty, as the British have shown, can be denounced. When Pakistan and Hyderabad are in a strong enough

⁵⁴ Paliath, “India Couldn’t Afford an Independent Hyderabad.”

⁵⁵ *Time*, “India: The September Uprising.”

position to enable Hyderabad to resist political and economic pressure by the surrounding Hindustan, H.E.H. would review the position to make his ties closer with Pakistan and less close with the Dominion of India.”

Many outside observers have suspected that the Nizam’s negotiations with India are subject to Jinnah’s approval, with the Nizam frequently asking Jinnah to weigh in on any political decisions. Furthermore, Jinnah has even publicly warned that if the Indian Congress attempted to exert any pressure on Hyderabad, he would provoke all Muslims to rise and defend the “oldest Muslim dynasty in India.”⁵⁶

Economic State of Hyderabad

Hyderabad had a population of approximately 17 million and a largely self-sufficient, export-based economy- although some worry that Hyderabad is dangerously reliant on fuel imports-which has contributed to the Nizam’s belief that the state could maintain an independent existence. The personal wealth of the Nizam has only further fuelled the Nizam’s faith in an independent Hyderabad. In fact, the Nizam has often been characterized as “the richest man in the world,” earning 25 million rupees annually from his lands and 5 million from the state treasury.⁵⁷

Despite the political unrest caused by the Telangana Rebellion, the movement has also allowed for significant economic gains for the urban working class and rural peasantry of Hyderabad, although at the expense of the Nizam and other wealthy landowners. Proponents of the Telangana movement have redistributed land and livestock, reduced rates, ended forced labor, and argue that their actions have led to wages increasing by 100 percent.⁵⁸

⁵⁶ Madhav Godbole Sharma, "The Accession of Hyderabad and the Nizam’s Conspiracies," *The Sunday Guardian*, July 15, 2023, accessed August 17, 2024, <https://sundayguardianlive.com/opinion/accession-hyderabad-nizams-conspiracies>.

⁵⁷ Paliath, "India Couldn’t Afford an Independent Hyderabad."

⁵⁸ G. K. Karanth, "Caste in Contemporary Rural India," CORE, 2004, accessed August 17, 2024, <https://core.ac.uk/download/217898.pdf>.

So what exactly drives Hyderabad's economy? In addition to agriculture, coal mining, tobacco growing and processing, and cement production are among the most important industries of Hyderabad.⁵⁹ The Nizam's lavish taste for pearls has also led to the establishment of a large pearl processing industry. This pearl industry arose alongside a diamond industry that has flourished thanks to the Golconda Mines in Hyderabad.⁶⁰

However, Hyderabad's booming economy has been significantly weakened by the economic blockade placed by India on the state. This economic blockade has led to a lack of food supplies and surging prices that led to some government advisors believing that the state could not last more than six months under these conditions.⁶¹

On the flip side, the government of Hyderabad has divested itself of its Indian securities, banned the Indian currency, halted the export of ground nuts, and organized gun-running from Pakistan. These actions are regarded by the Indian government as part of a "comprehensive plan to break up the economic cohesion of India." This is an issue of significant concern to India given the country was already in an economic crisis.⁶²

Fun Fact: The Koh-i-Noor Diamond, one of the largest diamonds in the world that is a part of the Crown Jewels of the United Kingdom, is from the Golconda Mines!

Religion

To put it bluntly, religion cannot be ignored when it comes to understanding the tensions that have plagued Hyderabad over the past decade. As has been mentioned at length throughout this background guide, the

⁵⁹ Tirthankar Roy, *The Princely States and the Making of Modern India* (London: Routledge, 2022), accessed August 17, 2024, https://books.google.com/books?hl=en&lr=&id=6tQBEEAAQBAJ&oi=fnd&pg=PT5&dq=the+princely+states+tirthankar+roy&ots=kog6mhwu1F&sig=Zt17Ly-Q4cWy4di2_oYsXTbi4Ws#v=onepage&q&f=false.

⁶⁰ "Pearls from China Dominate Hyderabad Pearl Market," *India Today*, November 19, 2012, accessed August 17, 2024, <https://www.indiatoday.in/lifestyle/whats-hot/story/pearls-from-china-dominate-hyderabad-pearl-market-121994-2012-11-19>.

⁶¹ *Time*, "India: The September Uprising."

⁶² Karanth, "Caste in Contemporary Rural India."

Nizams were a Muslim ruling family- and a majority of their government's members are Muslim- ruling over a population that was majority Hindu. This arrangement has functioned, to a certain extent, for many years, but many worry that the partition may exacerbate these issues to a breaking point.

Many Muslims in the state fear that acceptance into the Indian Union will entail the oppression of the Muslim minority in Hyderabad. There was considerable Hindu organizing in the early 1940s, notably the formation of the political party the All-India Hindu Mahasabha, which began to keep a record of all, "tyrannous and political injustices and unfairness on the Hindus in all Provinces and particularly under Muslim administration and Muslim states." Hindu nationalists wanted to take advantage of poorer Muslims who were excluded from the traditional power structure of the Nizams, imploring them to take up the fight against the Nizams to join the Indian Union. However, it is not hard to see why Hyderabad's Muslim minority would be deeply afraid of Hindu nationalist organizations such as the AIHM, even if the leaders of the state of India consider their nation to be secular.

As you enter into discussion and debate about how to deal with these problems, it is important to remember that it is important to reconcile these differences. A government only grows stronger when its citizens are united, not divided by religious intolerance.⁶³

⁶³ Taylor C. Sherman, "The Integration of the Princely State of Hyderabad and the Making of the Postcolonial State in India, 1948–56," *The Indian Economic & Social History Review* 44, no. 4 (December 2007): 489–516, <https://doi.org/10.1177/001946460704400404>, 494–5.

CHARACTER BIOS

Shahab Jung (Minister of Police and Public Works):

Shahab Jung enters committee as the Minister of Police and Public Works. Before entering government, he was the Police Chief in the city of Hyderabad, hailing from a family of considerable prestige, the Salar Jungs. He takes great pride in keeping an orderly city and state, and will stop almost short of nothing to ensure there is no unrest across the region. He is a trusty follower of the Pakistan movement, but this did not get in the way of his commitment to ensuring religious toleration. A solitary man, he keeps to himself most of the time, but many of his closest friends comment that he is an avid cricket fan.

Alexander Pinhey (British Resident of Hyderabad):

Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Pinhey was born in Mumbai and has spent the majority of his life in British India rather than the metropole. An important figure in the British administration of Hyderabad, he has decided to stay in the city despite the departure of the British following independence for a variety of personal reasons. He remains close to many British confidants who have stayed in India, and has many close ties to former British-Indian officials who have returned back to London. He enjoys typical British things—tea, crumpets, beans on toast—but also has a love for collecting Hyderabadi antiques.

Palash Gadde (Administrator To the Nizam's Estate)

Palash Gadde is the premier Administrator to the Nizam's Estate. He is a close associate of the Finance Minister, Aditi Aluri, and often employs her help to manage the finances of the estate. Gadde has access to many of the most important buildings across Hyderabad, including many hospitals, schools, colleges, and universities as well as grand palaces such as the Chowmahalla Palace. He has intimate knowledge of the financial wellbeing of the Nizam family, and he is not afraid to use this to his advantage.

Aditi Aluri (Minister of Finance):

Aditi is Mir Osman Ali Khan's finance minister. She is responsible for not only receiving taxes from the 16 taluqdars but also for managing all of the Nizam's own funds. As the Nizam is fond of donating funds for various purposes, she is also responsible for their allocation. Aditi is known throughout the Deccan for her love for playing cards, especially the game of tash. She is also infamous for her love of counting cards! At the moment, Aditi is married only to her work, but is being pressured to choose a suitable husband, with whom a merger of assets could prove profitable.

Fathima Reddy (Minister of Foreign Affairs):

Fathima is the Foreign Affairs Minister of Hyderabad. As the child of a rare interfaith couple (her father was Muslim and mother Hindu), she is particularly suited to navigating complex socio-political affairs - as is, she's had to do it all her life. Her experiences make her a great peacemaker, but have no doubt, she is cunning and will stop at nothing to make everyone bend to her will. She loves to travel and is rarely present in court, but when she is, you know something's brewing and she's there to diffuse the tension (or maybe to stir the pot?). So far, Fathima has traveled much of South and South East Asia.

Nishanth Nadella (Minister of Arts and Culture):

Nishanth Nadella is the Arts and Culture Minister of the Asaf Jahi Dynasty under Mir Osman Ali Khan. The Nizam is extremely fond of developing cultural institutions - both religious and secular. Nishanth is responsible for ensuring the construction and smooth operation of such centers and for promoting general social well-being of Hyderabad. Nishanth is new to this role after the sudden death of his father, the previous Arts and Culture Minister. He is both grieving and trying to make a name for himself - he has big shoes to fill. He is yet to

build strong connections in court and prior to this role, he was a trained Bharatnatyam dancer, traveling across South Asia to display his skills.

Chandni Patil (Minister of Education):

Chandni Patil is the Education Minister for Hyderabad. Her role is particularly important as Mir Osman Ali Khan is a patron of education across the land. She has been responsible for the creation and maintenance of Banaras Hindu University, Aligarh Muslim University and the Indian Institute of Science. She is also responsible for every school in the land, setting the curriculum of each and ensuring that the quality of teaching remains high. As part of her role, she also interacts closely with the Jamia Nizamia, Darul Uloom Deoband, and the Shri Shivaji Educational Society. In her free time, Chandni enjoys writing and translating literary works from Hindi to Telugu.

Subhedar (Chief Judicial Power in Civil Matters)

The Subhedar holds the title of Chief Judicial Power in Civil Matters for the state of Hyderabad. As a cornerstone of the Nizam's court, the Subhedar is entrusted with the vital responsibilities of adjudicating civil cases, collecting revenue under the intricate feudal system, and ensuring the diligent implementation of government policies. In moments of respite from their judicial duties, the Subhedar indulges in the rich cultural tapestry of Hyderabad, often seen at local poetry recitals and debates.

Kotwal (Head of Criminal Justice Administration):

The Kotwal is the Head of Criminal Justice Administration in the state of Hyderabad. Renowned for a strict sense of justice and an unwavering dedication to maintaining order, the Kotwal plays a pivotal role in the state's criminal justice system. Their responsibilities encompass adjudicating criminal cases, overseeing crime investigations, and market regulation. The Kotwal's intervention in the state's markets include ensuring fair trade practices, monitoring the quality and pricing of goods, and curbing fraudulent activities. Although the Kotwal is

quite picky in his companionships, those the Kotwal favors receive the greatest gift of all, their infamous Hyderabadi Biryani.

Bhakti Vedantam (Army General):

Bhakti Vedantam is the Army General of Hyderabad. She is responsible for safeguarding the region's borders, maintaining internal security, and leading the troops in times of conflict. Her leadership has been instrumental in modernizing the army and enhancing its capabilities. She is also deeply committed to the welfare of soldiers, initiating programs to improve their living conditions and training. However, the General's power lies in delicate balance with the powers of the Razakars (the paramilitary force of Hyderabad), often going head to head with Khasim Razvi- the Razakars' leader. Outside the military realm, Bhakti is an avid reader of history, with a personal library rich in rare manuscripts.

Chinmay Talukdar (Taluqdar of Aurangabad):

Chinmay Talukdar is the Taluqdar of Aurangabad, a key figure in the feudal hierarchy of Hyderabad under the Nizam's rule. As a Taluqdar, Chinmay oversees the collection of revenue, the maintenance of law and order, and the implementation of the Nizam's policies in their taluk (Aurangabad). Chinmay's taluk is of significant importance given that it is a commercial and trade center under the Nizams. The region's cultural and architectural heritage also led Chinmay to be deeply involved in the cultural life of Aurangabad. She has established several cultural centers in the region, contributing to the cultural development of Aurangabad.

Tamara Talukdar (Taluqdar of Medak):

Tamara Talukdar is the Taluqdar of Medak. Responsible for overseeing the region's governance, she manages revenue collection, upholds law and order, and implements the Nizam's policies in Medak. Tamara is of particular importance given Medak's economic significance as a region of high agricultural productivity and

connection to major trade routes. She is a fervent advocate for gender equity, having launched several initiatives aimed at empowering local women and supporting small-scale enterprises. Tamara is also well-known for her sharp analytical skills and strategic thinking, which she credits to her mother who is well-known for being the wittiest lawyer in the state.

Tajdar Talukdar (Taluqdar of Adilabad):

Tajdar Talukdar is the Taluqdar of Adilabad, overseeing the administration and governance of this important region under the Nizam's rule. Adilabad's geographical position as a border district makes it a key area for managing regional defense and trade routes. Adilabad is also known for its production of cotton, a significant economic resource for the state of Hyderabad. The region also had plenty of natural resources, being covered in forests with abundant minerals, contributing to the state's overall wealth. Beyond the many facets of governing Adilabad, Tajdar Talukdar is also Tamara Talukdar's brother, inheriting a blend of astute legal acumen and a commitment to service.

Devika Talukdar (Taluqdar of Karimnagar):

Devika Talukdar is the Taluqdar of Karimnagar. She is involved in overseeing local governance, managing administrative duties, and addressing the needs of the community within Karimnagar. Karimnagar's strategic location made it important for managing the northern regions of the Hyderabad state and is positioned on major trade routes. Devika has made significant efforts to improve educational and social infrastructure in Karimnagar. His initiatives include establishment of new schools and healthcare centers, which have greatly enhanced the quality of life for residents.

Udesh Talukdar (Taluqdar of Nizamabad):

Udesh Talukdar is the Taluqdar of Nizamabad. Entrusted with the governance of this pivotal region,

Udesh manages revenue collection, enforces law and order, and implements the Nizam's policies with a focus on efficiency and fairness. Nizamabad is known for its agricultural productivity, growing key crops like cotton, rice, and pulses. Udesh has made significant efforts to develop infrastructure in the region, including improvements in irrigation, education, and health services. This development contributed to the overall growth of the taluk and its integration into the broader administrative framework of the Hyderabad state.

Malini Talukdar (Taluqdar of Warangal):

Malini Talukdar is the Taluqdar of Warangal. In her role, she is responsible for managing the region's administration, overseeing revenue collection, and ensuring enforcement of the Nizam's policies. Warangal is a strategic point for managing the central and Eastern parts of the Hyderabad state, which Malini is also responsible for. She has also undertaken significant efforts to enhance infrastructure in the region, including the establishment of schools and health services. Outside of her official duties, Malini is a passionate historian and often organizes lectures and exhibitions on Warangal's rich heritage.

Jahaan Talukdar (Taluqdar of Khammam)

Jahaan Talukdar is the Taluqdar of Khammam. He is responsible for carrying out the policies and rules of the Nizams in the region of Khammam, which includes revenue collection among other administrative activities. The region's top sources of revenue are agriculture, especially with rice, jowar (grain sorghum), and maize alongside the mining of important resources such as coal, garnets, iron ore, and talc. Jahaan in his free time is a passionate fan of theater, with a major theater located in the region's capital, and enjoys taking long runs around Lakaram lake, a major tourist attraction.

Iman Talukdar (Taluqdar of Mahabubnagar)

Iman Talukdar is the Taluqdar of Mahabubnagar. Part of her responsibilities as Taluqdar is to ensure the proper administration of Nizam policies within her district and represent their needs at a higher level. She is of the Jain faith, one of few across the subcontinent in comparison to the other major South Asian religions, and joins committee ready to protect the interests of those of her faith. Separate from this, Iman enjoys cycling and catching up with the many villagers in her district.

Aadhya Choudhry (Taluqdar of Nalgonda)

Aadhya Choudhry is the Taluqdar of Nalgonda. She is responsible for her constituents, mostly farmers and agrarian workers, and assuring the administration of Nizam policies and revenue collection throughout Nalgonda. Farmers often grow crops such as paddy and cotton, and Aadhya herself is known to enjoy chicken biryani. She is a strong supporter of environmental protection and regulation, aspiring to increase the quality of water for her residents. Aadhya was a university professor before becoming Taluqdar of Nalgonda, signifying her respect for new research and discoveries as well as her good connections within higher education.

Bharat Choudhry (Taluqdar of Rangareddy)

Bharat Choudhry is the Taluqdar of Rangareddy. He is in charge of the governing of this region, which includes the enforcement of Nizam policies, such as revenue collection, and the administration of the region. His district lies on the outskirts of the city of Hyderabad, pitting many of his rural residents against the urban dwellers in the city. Nonetheless, he is a large advocate of urban renewal and expansion as a manner to improve the quality of life of those in his region. On the side, he enjoys playing piano and has an impressive collection of origami animals, which he learned to make on a trip to Japan when he was young.

Charita Choudhry (Taluqdar of Hyderabad)

Charita Choudhry is the Taluqdar of the city of Hyderabad and the surrounding area. Entrusted with the governance of this pivotal region, she manages revenue collection, enforces law and order, and implements the Nizam's policies. Her key position as a Taluqdar of the most populous city in the region gives many benefits, as she can employ the help of key figures hailing from the most economically prosperous region. Charita is an avid proponent of the repatriation of British stolen wealth from the region, including many diamonds such as the Koh-i-noor that were mined from the Golconda mines, some of which sit on the periphery of her district. Other than this, she enjoys discovering the most hidden corners of Hyderabad and joining political rallies in the city.

Daksh Choudhry (Taluqdar of Bidar):

Daksh Choudhry is the Taluqdar of Bidar. He is tasked with overseeing governance, managing local administration, coordinating revenue collection, and implementing the Nizam's directives in this historically significant district. He is also responsible for ensuring effective administration and regional stability in the northern parts of the Hyderabad State. In addition to these responsibilities, Daksh plays a vital role in fostering local development by supporting infrastructure projects such as the improvement of roads and public amenities. Beyond administrative duties, the Taluqdar has a passion for martial arts and is trained in Silambam.

Geeta Choudhry (Taluqdar of Naded):

Geeta Choudhry serves as the Taluqdar of Nanded. She manages the district's administration and ensures the efficient collection of revenue. Her responsibilities also include enforcing the Nizam's policies and maintaining regional stability within Nanded, an important area for overseeing southern parts of the Hyderabad state. Geeta is known for her proactive approach to local development, having spearheaded several infrastructure projects, including the enhancement of transportation networks and the expansion of educational and healthcare

facilities. Outside of her administrative duties, Geeta is a dedicated advocate for cultural preservation, frequently organizing community events and workshops to highlight Nanded's rich historical and cultural heritage.

Jahangir Choudhry (Taluqdar of Parbhani):

Jahangir Choudhry is the Taluqdar of Parbhani, where he is responsible for overseeing the district's administration and ensuring effective revenue management. His role includes implementing the Nizam's policies and maintaining order. Jahangir has made significant contributions to local development through the modernization of infrastructure, including the improvement of roads and construction of many bridges. Outside of his official duties, Jahangir is a patron of musical arts, supporting an elite musical academy and himself being trained in playing the Damru and Dholak. A gentle soul, Jahangir is a proponent of animal protection and is against the sport of hunting game.

Kirti Choudhry (Taluqdar of Gulbarga):

Kirti Choudhry serves as the Taluqdar of Gulbarga, where she oversees the district's administration, manages revenue collection, and ensures the implementation of the Nizam's policies. Gulbarga, with its strategic importance in the northern region of Hyderabad state, demands her meticulous attention to maintain regional stability and effective governance. Kirti is also known for her foresight and ability to lead effective defensive measures against threatening forces. Outside of her more administrative and tactical roles, she greatly enjoys gardening - having cross-bred various plants successfully to develop new types of edible fruits. She is passionate about science at large and uses some of her personal funds to support research in optimizing agricultural practices and healthcare.

Lalit Choudhry (Taluqdar of Raichur):

Lalit Choudhry is the Taluqdar of Raichur, where he is entrusted with managing the district's administration, overseeing revenue collection, and implementing the Nizam's policies. Raichur's pivotal location in the northern part of the Hyderabad state makes Lalit's role essential for maintaining regional stability and effective governance. He faces the constant threat of Kriti's forces coming in and trying to take over his lands. Lalit, in his 60s has lived a long life and is especially worried about the transition of power to his son, who he believes is not ready to be Taluqdar yet. He has been the region's longest governor, and cares deeply for his people. To this end, he has deployed several funds for the expansion of educational and healthcare services. He is also a passionate reader and owns a library containing 6000 volumes, translated to Telugu.

Kishen Pershad (Prime Minister of Hyderabad):

Kishen Pershad is the current Prime Minister of Hyderabad. A long-time family friend of the Nizams, he has been one of their staunchest supporters throughout the years. He is also equally loved by many constituents for his handling of the Great Musi Flood, but that does not mean he is equally loved by all. He usually maintains great relationships with the British Resident. Pershad is a champion of the arts and culture, as in his free time he enjoys writing Sufi poetry in Urdu and Persian, which he practices alongside his love for painting and music.

Anika Rao (Agriculture Minister):

Anika Rao is the Agriculture Minister of Hyderabad. Her role is vital in maintaining the stability and prosperity of Hyderabad's agrarian economy, which forms the backbone of the region. She is involved in initiatives to improve irrigation, soil fertility and crop rotation practices to improve food security.

Anika works closely with the minister of finance and taluqdars to implement policies that support tenant farmers while preserving traditional farming practices. In her free time, Anika loves gardening and cooking, she even has her own published recipe book.

Shivani Konidela (Minister of Transportation):

Shivani Konidela is the Transportation Minister of Hyderabad. Tasked with modernizing and expanding Hyderabad's transport infrastructure, they oversee the development of road and rail networks critical to trade and mobility within the state. Recognizing the need for efficient transportation in Hyderabad's rapidly growing urban centers, they are instrumental in initiatives to pave new highways and improve public transit systems, while also supporting local bullock cart drivers who play an essential role in rural transportation. Shivani is a big time train enthusiast and will talk endlessly about trains with you if you let her.

Khasim Razvi (Head of Razakars):

Khasim Razvi is the head of the Razakars, the paramilitary force in Hyderabad. While officially tasked with supporting the Nizam's government and maintaining order, Razvi usually propagates the Majilis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen's (MIM's) objectives. It is important to note that Razvi is also the president of MIM, a party that advocates for establishing Hyderabad as a Muslim state. Despite his public persona, Razvi keeps his personal life under wraps. His focus remains on the Razakars and his actions and decisions are closely watched given their impact on the dynamics of power within Hyderabad.

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