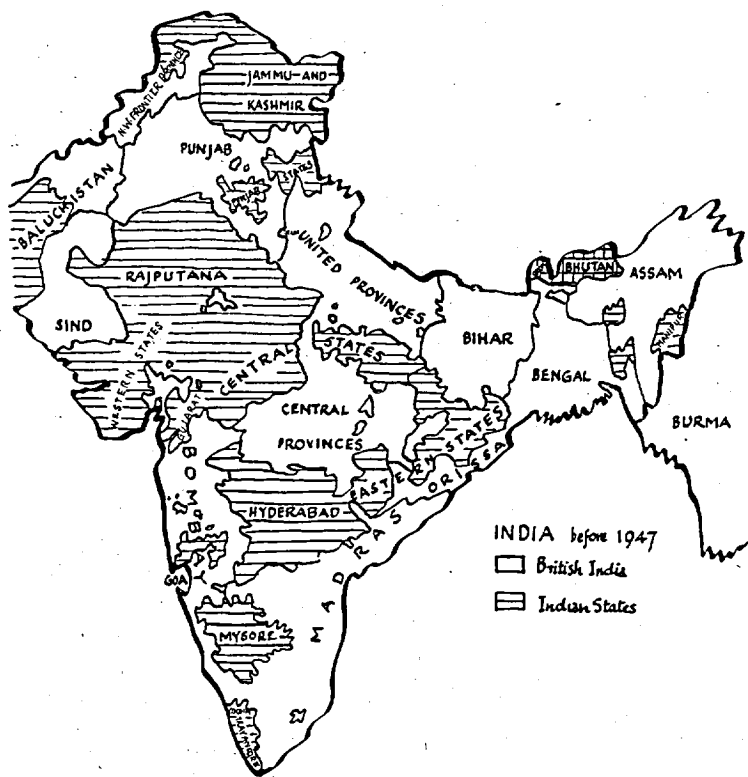


The New Map of India

Up to the time India and Pakistan attained their independence in August 1947, hundreds of political units of every shape and dimension were included in the territory which is now the Republic of India. Prior to 1947 there were in British India 12 governors' provinces ruled from the vice-regal capital of Delhi, although with some degree of popular local government; of these the United Provinces with over 60 million people had the largest population. In "Indian" India there existed a complex of 554 princely states and territories, some of great extent and population, others simply scattered parcels of land. The largest princely state was Hyderabad with a population of 17 million people living in an area of more than 80,000 square miles; a typical small state was Pataudi, with a population of only 22,000 people living in 53 square miles.



On November 1, 1956, only nine years after Independence, the number of political units in India had been reduced to thirteen states* and six small centrally-administered territories. In place of the old haphazard political fragmentation, India has been divided on primarily linguistic lines. Hindi, the

*The state of Jammu and Kashmir, which is in a special category, is excluded from this article.