



# CURRENT AFFAIRS



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## OPERATION POLO

*This article covers "Daily Current Affairs" and the Topic details "Operation Polo". This Topic has relevance in the Modern History section of the UPSC CSE exam.*

### **For Prelims:**

*Facts about Operation Polo?*

### **For Mains:**

*GS 1: Modern History  
Process of Integration?*

### **Why in the news**

September 13, 2023, commemorates the 75th anniversary of Operation Polo, a significant military operation initiated by the Indian Army on September 13, 1948, aimed at integrating the princely state of Hyderabad into the Indian Union.

### **Background:**

Hyderabad State, ruled by the Nizam Mir Osman Ali Khan, was one of the largest princely states in British India. Despite its predominantly Hindu population, the Nizam, a Muslim ruler, sought to maintain Hyderabad's independent status as India gained independence in 1947.

### **Controversial Status:**

The Nizam's desire for independence clashed with the Hindu majority's aspiration to merge with the Indian Union. This conflict was exacerbated by communal tensions, particularly between the Hindu majority and the Muslim ruling elite represented by the Razakars, a private militia accused of committing atrocities against Hindus. These events fueled the demand for Hyderabad's integration into India.

### **Sardar Patel's Diplomacy:**

Initially, the Indian government, led by Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, attempted peaceful negotiations to integrate Hyderabad. However, the Nizam's reluctance and the deteriorating communal situation thwarted these efforts.

### **Operation Polo:**

Operation Polo was initiated due to the Nizam of Hyderabad's desire to maintain his state's independence following India's independence in 1947. The Nizam exploited India's focus on the Kashmir conflict with Pakistan, diverting resources and attention away from Hyderabad. In November

1947, a standstill agreement was signed between the Nizam and India, postponing Hyderabad's immediate integration into India for a year while maintaining existing conditions.

Several factors prompted the launch of Operation Polo on September 13, 1948:

- **Escalating Tensions:** During the standstill agreement period, the Nizam's administration in Hyderabad bolstered the Razakars, an irregular force led by Maj Gen SA El Edroos, which targeted the predominantly Hindu population in the state.
- **Border Incursions:** The Razakars engaged in cross-border raids, causing tensions along Hyderabad's borders.
- **Overtures to Pakistan:** The Nizam hinted at the idea of establishing an independent entity within India's borders by making diplomatic overtures to Pakistan.
- **Threat of Secession:** The Nizam's actions, along with the presence of the Razakars, raised concerns about Hyderabad attempting to secede from India, posing a threat to India's unity.
- In response, the Indian government took "Police Action" to prevent Hyderabad's secession and ensure its integration into India. The Nizam's forces numbered fewer than 25,000, with only a fraction being well-trained. Although the Razakars were numerous, they were not a formidable military opposition.
- Hyderabad's resistance crumbled within the first two days of Operation Polo, which was primarily conducted by Maj Gen Jayanto Nath Chaudhuri's 1 Armoured Division, with additional thrusts from the north, south, and east of the state.
- Operation Polo achieved success, Recognising the futility of resistance, the Nizam surrendered on September 17, 1948, by signing an Instrument of Accession, officially integrating Hyderabad into the Indian Union.

#### **Aftermath:**

Operation Polo marked the end of princely rule in India and led to the reorganization of Hyderabad into Andhra Pradesh, along with portions in Maharashtra and Karnataka. Many Razakars and Nizam's government officials were arrested and tried for their roles in the conflict. The operation's legacy remains a subject of historical debate, with some criticizing the use of force while others argue it was necessary to prevent further communal violence and secure Hyderabad's integration into India.

#### **Cultural Integration:**

Hyderabad's integration into India brought together people from diverse linguistic, religious, and cultural backgrounds, initiating a process of cultural assimilation and integration.

#### **Conclusion:**

Operation Polo played a pivotal role in India's early post-independence history, facilitating the integration of Hyderabad into the Indian Union. It was a multifaceted event marked by political, religious, and cultural tensions, leaving a lasting impact on the region's history and the broader narrative of Indian unity.

# OPERATION POLO

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**Operation polo is the code name for the police action against the Princely State of Hyderabad in September 1948 by the newly independent republic of India.**

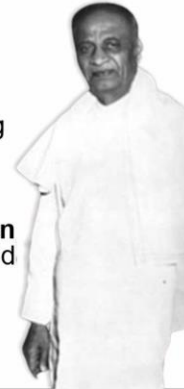
## BACKGROUND

- By 1948 Hyderabad had chosen to join neither Pakistan nor India.
- Hyderabad ruler, Nizam Mir Sir Osman Ali Khan, Asaf Jah VII presided over a largely Hindu population with an irregular army known as the Razakars.
- Seeing the events happening at Telangana & with the Razakars, the Indian Govt. undertook the military operation to annex Hyderabad.

## AFTERMATH



- The Indian military detained thousands of people, including Razakars, Hindu militants, and communists.
- The Nizam had abdicated upon the surrender of Hyderabad and signed an instrument of accession, joining India.



**SOURCE:**

<https://indianexpress.com/article/research/hyderabad-liberation-day-operation-polo-nizam-5361186/>

**Q.1 “Operation Polo” is related to:**

- (a) Ascension of Hyderabad
- (b) Liberation of Goa
- (c) Assimilation of Sikkim
- (d) Integration of Junagadh

**ANSWER: A**

**Q.2 Consider the following statements regarding Operation Polo and integrating Hyderabad into the Indian Union:**

1. Operation Polo was initiated due to the Nizam’s desire to integrate with Pakistan.
2. Hyderabad’s integration into India led to its reorganization into Andhra Pradesh, parts of Maharashtra, and Karnataka.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

**ANSWER: B**

**Q.3 Discuss the challenges and strategies employed by the Indian government in integrating princely states into the Indian Union after gaining independence in 1947. How did this process impact India's territorial integrity, governance, and nation-building efforts?**

**Rishabh**

## C-295 AIRCRAFT

*This article covers "Daily Current Affairs" and the topic details "C-295 Aircraft". This topic has relevance in the "Security" section of the UPSC CSE exam.*

**For Prelims:**

*What is C-295 Aircraft?*

**For Mains:**

*GS3: Security*

**Why in the news?**

India has received its first C295 transport aircraft from Airbus Spain, following a 2021 agreement to acquire 56 such aircraft from the aviation giant.

### C295 Aircraft Overview

- The C295, as described by Airbus, is a **versatile tactical transport aircraft** capable of fulfilling a wide range of missions, including:
  - Carrying troops and cargo
  - Maritime patrol
  - Airborne warning
  - Surveillance and reconnaissance
  - Armed close air support
  - Medical evacuation
  - VIP transport
  - Airborne firefighting
- This aircraft can **transport up to nine tonnes of payload** or **accommodate a maximum of 71 personnel**, achieving a maximum cruise speed of 260 knots.
- Notably, it is **equipped for air-to-air refuelling** and is compatible with fixed-wing aircraft and helicopters.
- Powered by two Pratt & Whitney turboprop engines, the C295 can cruise at altitudes of up to 30,000 feet and can swiftly take off from and land on unpaved, soft, sandy, or grassy airstrips.

- These aircraft have accumulated an impressive 500,000 flight hours, attesting to their reliability and effectiveness in various operational contexts.

## C295 Aircraft: Versatile Tactical Transport



**Missions:** Carrying troops and cargo, Maritime patrol, Airborne warning, Surveillance and reconnaissance, Armed close air support, Medical evacuation, VIP transport, Airborne firefighting.

**Payload Capacity:** Up to 9 tonnes or 71 personnel.

**Maximum Cruise Speed:** 260 knots.



**Air-to-Air Refuelling:** Compatible with fixed-wing aircraft and helicopters.

**Engines:** Powered by two Pratt & Whitney turboprop engines.

**Altitude Range:** Cruises at altitudes of up to 30,000 feet.

**Versatility:** Swift takeoff and landing on unpaved, soft, sandy, or grassy airstrips.

**Reliability:** Over 500,000 flight hours in various operational contexts.

### India's Aircraft Purchase

- In September 2021, India agreed to buy **56 Airbus C295 aircraft** for Rs 21,935 crore.
- The **first 16 C295s will come from Spain**, with the second arriving in May 2024, followed by 14 more by August 2025, all in flying condition.
- The **remaining 40 will be made in India, and assembled in Gujarat with Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL).**
- Indian Air Force (IAF) pilots and maintenance crews are receiving training.
- Indian deliveries of these locally-made aircraft will begin in 2026.

### Significance of the Acquisition

- Replacement of the ageing Avro fleet, dating back to the 1960s, boosts IAF's transport capabilities.
- It's India's first private sector 'Make in India' Aerospace program, challenging the state-owned Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).
- Expected to create 15,000 high-skilled jobs and 10,000 indirect jobs in the aerospace sector over a decade.

### Indigenous Components

- While major components of C295 aircraft such as engines and avionics are sourced from the United States, Airbus will transfer technology for most other components.
- Indigenous radar warning and missile approach warning systems will be developed by Bharat Electronics Limited, and the countermeasure dispensing system will be provided by Bharat Dynamics Limited.
- The airframe consists of over 14,000 parts, with Tata gradually increasing indigenous production.
- It is anticipated that the 32nd aircraft, scheduled for delivery in 2029, will be almost entirely Indian-made.

### Manufacturing Progress of C295 aircraft

- The manufacturing process involves the Hyderabad factory, which handles major components such as the fuselage and tail, starting production in July.
- After assembling these major sections, they will be transported to the Vadodara facility in the following year, where they will be fitted with engines, avionics, and other critical components sourced by Airbus from global firms.
- Subsequently, they will undergo testing before being delivered to the IAF. The Vadodara facility can produce 12 aircraft per year.
- Airbus's involvement extends beyond aircraft manufacturing. The company will provide spare support for 10 years and a performance-based logistics contract for five years, ensuring that 85 per cent of the aircraft fleet remains available to the IAF at any given time.
- Additionally, a training facility in Agra is set to become operational in late 2023.

Sources:

[IAF takes delivery of first C295 transport aircraft, 15 more from Spain in next 2 years | India News – The Indian Express](#)

### Q1. With reference to Airbus C295, consider the following statements:

1. The Airbus C295 aircraft is primarily designed for civilian use and is unsuitable for military missions.
2. The C295 can transport up to nine tonnes of payload or accommodate a maximum of 71 people while cruising at 260 knots.

### Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) None

Answer: (b)

**Q2. Consider the following:**

1. Airbus C295 aircraft is equipped for air-to-air refuelling and is compatible with both fixed-wing aircraft and helicopters.
2. All the C295 aircraft will be manufactured and assembled in India in collaboration with Tata Advanced Systems Limited.
3. This aircraft represents India's first private sector 'Make in India' Aerospace program, challenging the state-owned Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).

**How many of the abovementioned statements are correct?**

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

**Answer: (b)**

**Q3. Examine the role of indigenous aerospace manufacturing in bolstering India's national security. Discuss the challenges and opportunities associated with India's 'Make in India' Aerospace programs.**

**Gaurav Nikumbh**

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