

Pakistan's Founder Jinnah Was Opposed To The Name India

Why In The News?

- Since 5th September, When Opposition Politicians Posted Images Of An Official Invitation To A G20 Dinner Hosted By “**The President Of Bharat**” Instead Of The Usual “**President Of India**”, There Has Been Intense Debate Regarding The Country's Name.
- Congress MP **Shashi Tharoor** Recalled That “Muhammad Ali Jinnah... Objected To The Name ‘India’ Since It Implied That **Our Country (India) Was The Successor State To The British Raj And Pakistan A Seceding State**”.



Jinnah's Wish For The Name 'Pakistan'

- Muhammad Ali Jinnah, Pakistan's Founding Father, Always Wanted The **New Muslim Homeland To Be Called Pakistan**, The “Land Of The Pure”. Even Though Pakistan Would Be Carved Out Of The Original India, He Did Not Want The Name Of The New Country To Have Anything To Do With ‘India’.
- The Term ‘Pakistan’ Was Coined By **Choudhary Rehmat Ali In 1933** And Was Actually An Acronym For The Five Northern Provinces Of India - **Punjab (P), North-west Frontier Province Or Afghan Province (A), Kashmir (K), Sindh (S) And Balochistan ('Tan')**.
- By The Time The Movement For A Separate Islamic State In The Subcontinent Picked Up In The 1940s, The Name Became Ubiquitous In Muslim League

Speeches And Correspondence. By The Time Partition Became A Certainty, **'Pakistan' Was The Name Of The Choice For The New Islamic-majority State.**



A 'No' For Independent India To Be Called 'India'

- Jinnah Was Under The Impression That Neither State (India nor Pakistan) Would Want To Adopt The **British Title Of 'India'**. He Only Discovered His Mistake After Lord Mountbatten, The Last British Viceroy, Had Already Acceded To Nehru's Demand That **His State Remain 'India'**.
- Jinnah, According To Mountbatten, Was Absolutely **Furious** When He Found Out. Jinnah Wrote To India's First Governor General Lord Mountbatten, Complaining That The Name 'India' Is **"Misleading And Intended To Create Confusion"**.
- **Jinnah Was Never Really Happy With How The Partition Panned Out.** Despite The Muslim League's Claims, Pakistan Received Far Less Land Than Expected. For Jinnah, There Was A Very Real Danger Of Pakistan Becoming Subordinate To India. His Views On The Term 'India' Flowed From The Same Fears.
- The Use Of The Word Implied A Subcontinental Primacy Which Pakistan Would Never Accept. It Also Flew In The Face Of History, Since 'India' Originally Referred Exclusively To **Territory In The Vicinity Of The Indus River**. Hence It Was Largely Outside The Republic Of India But Largely Within Pakistan.
- Jinnah's Irritation At The Fact That The New Dominion Of India Was Not Called **"Hindustan"** (The Land Of The Hindus), Became Visible In An Exchange Of Letters With...Mountbatten.

- In September 1947, Mountbatten Invited Jinnah To Become The **Honorary President Of An Exhibition Of Indian Art In London**. Its Announcement Was To Include The Explanation That “The Exhibition Includes Exhibits From The **Dominions Of India And Pakistan**”.



- Mohammed Ali Jinnah Died On **September 11, 1948**, In Karachi, Pakistan. Year Later, In September 1949, When The Constituent Assembly Of India Began To Discuss The Draft Constitution Of India, The Name “Hindustan” Was Also On The Table But Was Quickly Rejected.