

States and the Union Territories

These notes are your ultimate revision weapon to revise States and the Union Territories. We've distilled years of previous exam questions (PYQs) into one powerful, concise resource. Everything you need to know, nothing you don't.

- **PYQs, Decoded:** All key concepts from past exams, organized and simplified.
- **Revise in Record Time:** Short, precise, and designed for last-minute review.
- **Focus on What Matters:** Master high-probability topics and boost your confidence.

Indian States and Union Territories: Constitutional and Historical Framework



Constitutional Provisions for State Formation & Alteration

Relevant Articles

- **Article 1:** Defines India as a "Union of States".
- **Article 2:** Empowers Parliament to admit new states into the Union or establish new states.
- **Article 3:** Empowers Parliament to:
 - Form a new state by separation from an existing state.
 - Form a new state by uniting two or more states or parts of states.
 - Increase or diminish the area of any state.
 - Alter the boundaries or the name of any state.
- **Article 4:** States that laws made under Article 2, 3, and 4 are not considered amendments under Article 368.

Power and Authority

- The **sole power** to create new states and alter boundaries/areas/names is vested in the **Parliament**.
- The President or the Central Government does not hold this executive power.
- India is an "**indestructible Union of destructible states**" because states have **no right to secede** (break away) from the Union.

Legislative Process

- A bill to create a new state or alter boundaries requires only a **simple majority** in Parliament and is **not deemed a constitutional amendment**.
- The bill must **amend the First Schedule** of the Constitution (which lists the states and territories).
- Before introducing the bill, the **President must refer it to the legislature of the affected state(s)** for expressing its views. However, the **consent of the state legislature is not required**; Parliament is not bound by the state's opinion.

Historical Context and Commissions for Reorganization

Basis for Reorganization

- Indian states were officially reorganized on a **linguistic basis** primarily in the year **1956**.
- **Andhra Pradesh** was the **first state** formed on a linguistic basis (created in **1953**).

Key Commissions

- **S.K. Dhar Commission (1948)**: Preferred **administrative convenience** over language for reorganization.
- **JVP Committee (Jawaharlal Nehru, Vallabhbhai Patel, Pattabhi Sitaramayya)**: Also initially **did not favor** linguistic reorganization.

- **States Reorganisation Commission (Fazal Ali Commission), 1953-1956:** Recommended the creation of **14 states and 6 union territories** in its 1956 report.

Chronology of State Formation

Year	State Formed	Key Details
1912	Bihar	Formed as an Indian state.
1948	Himachal Pradesh	Formed.
1953	Andhra Pradesh	First state created on a linguistic basis.
1956	Multiple States	Reorganization of states via an act of parliament.
1960	Gujarat & Maharashtra	Split from the state of Bombay.
1963	Nagaland	Came into existence.
1966	Haryana	Chronological order for three states: Rajasthan, then Maharashtra, then Haryana.
1971	Himachal Pradesh	Attained full statehood (previously a UT).
1972	Meghalaya	Formed.
1975	Sikkim	Became the 22nd state via the 36th Constitutional Amendment Act. (Integrated via the 35th Amendment Act, 1974, as an "Associate State").
1987	Goa	Attained full statehood; separated from Daman and Diu (56th Amendment).

2000	Chhattisgarh (Nov 1), Uttarakhand (Nov 9), Jharkhand (Nov 15)	Carved out of Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and Bihar, respectively.
2014	Telangana	29th state, carved out of Andhra Pradesh.

Union Territories (UTs)

Administration and Status

- Union Territories are **administered by the President** of India through an **Administrator** (or Lt. Governor) appointed by them.
- The term "State" in **Article 3 includes a Union Territory** for the purpose of forming new states, but a UT cannot be formed by including a state.
- **Delhi** is officially the **National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi**, with a special status granted by the **69th Constitutional Amendment Act (1991)**.

Representation

- A maximum of **20 seats** are reserved for Union Territories in the Lok Sabha.
- Currently, **19 members** are elected from UTs to the Lok Sabha.

Specifics of UTs

- **UTs where the President can make regulations for peace and governance (Article 240):**
 - Andaman and Nicobar Islands
 - Lakshadweep
 - Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu
 - *Note: Puducherry is **not** included under this power.*

- **Former Colonial Holdings:**
 - **Dadra and Nagar Haveli** were under **Portuguese** colonial rule until 1954.

Current Count and Recent Changes

- As of the latest data: **28 States and 8 Union Territories.**
- This count changed due to:
 - The creation of **Telangana** (2014).
 - The reorganisation of **Jammu & Kashmir** into two UTs: **Jammu & Kashmir** and **Ladakh** (2019).
 - The merger of **Dadra and Nagar Haveli** and **Daman and Diu** into a single UT (2019).

Key Distinctions, Clarifications, and Other Facts

Constitutional Distinctions



- **Article 2 vs. Article 3:**
 - **Article 2** deals with the **admission or establishment of brand new states** (e.g., from acquired territory).
 - **Article 3** deals with the **reorganization of existing states** within the Union.
- **Federal Nature:** The power of Parliament to unilaterally alter state boundaries without their consent demonstrates the **unitary nature** of the Indian federation.
- **Secession:** While states cannot secede, the advocacy of secession may **not** have absolute protection under freedom of expression.

Process of State Creation

- The power lies solely with the **Parliament of India** by passing a law; it cannot be done by a state assembly or a governor's ordinance.

Renamed Capitals and States

- **State Capitals:**
 - Madras → **Chennai** (Tamil Nadu)
 - Calcutta → **Kolkata** (West Bengal)
 - Bombay → **Mumbai** (Maharashtra)
 - Bangalore → **Bengaluru** (Karnataka)
 - Pondicherry → **Puducherry**
 - Trivandrum → **Thiruvananthapuram** (Kerala)
- **States:**
 - Mysore was renamed **Karnataka**.
- **Unique Case: Andhra Pradesh** has a three-capital system:
 - **Amaravati** (Legislative)
 - **Visakhapatnam** (Executive)
 - **Kurnool** (Judicial)

Regional Issues and Groups

- **River Water Disputes:** The **Kaveri River Water** dispute involves **Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Puducherry**.
- **Extremist/Terrorist Groups:**
 - **ULFA (United Liberation Front of Asom)** is active in **Assam**.
 - **People's War Group (PWG)** was based in **Andhra Pradesh**.

Know More About States and the Union Territories:

- [States and the Union Territories -Old Year Questions](#)
- [States and the Union Territories One Liner Questions & Answers](#)