

ARTICLE 3 OF THE INDIAN CONSTITUTION



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Article 3 of the Indian Constitution

Article 3 of the Indian Constitution empowers the Parliament of India to make changes to the existing states and union territories, including their formation, alteration, and names. It provides the constitutional framework for the reorganization of states within the Indian Union.

Explanation:

- 1. Formation of New States and Union Territories:** Article 3 grants the Parliament the authority to create new states within India or to change the boundaries of existing states. This means that the Parliament can, through legislation, establish entirely new states or alter the geography of existing ones.
- 2. Alteration of Names:** The article also allows for changes in the names of existing states. This is significant as the names of states can hold cultural, historical, or regional significance, and alterations reflect evolving identities or preferences.
- 3. Procedure for Changes:** While Article 3 provides the power to the Parliament to make such changes, it also specifies the procedure that must be followed:
 - The President's Recommendation:** The President of India must refer the proposal for such changes to the concerned state's legislature for their views.

- **State Legislature's Views:** The views of the state's legislature, if any, are taken into consideration by the Parliament. While the state legislature's views are important, they are not binding on the Parliament.
 - **Parliamentary Legislation:** The changes to state boundaries, names, or formation are effectuated through legislation passed by the Parliament. This means that both houses of Parliament (Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha) must approve such changes by a simple majority.
4. **Exception for Jammu and Kashmir:** Similar to Article 2, Article 3 does not apply to the state of Jammu and Kashmir. The reorganization or changes in boundaries of Jammu and Kashmir are governed by Article 370 and other special provisions.
 5. **Historical Significance:** Article 3 has historical significance as it facilitated the reorganization of states along linguistic lines in the early years of the Indian Republic. This linguistic reorganization aimed to better reflect the diverse linguistic and cultural identities of India's regions.
 6. **Democratic and Constitutional Framework:** Article 3 ensures that changes in state boundaries or names are carried out through a democratic and constitutional process. It allows for the evolving needs and preferences of the people to be accommodated within the constitutional framework.

Article 3 of the Indian Constitution is a crucial provision that empowers the Parliament to make changes to the formation, boundaries, and names of states and union territories within the Indian Union. It emphasizes the importance of

parliamentary legislation and democratic processes in carrying out such changes while also respecting the views of the concerned state's legislature.

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