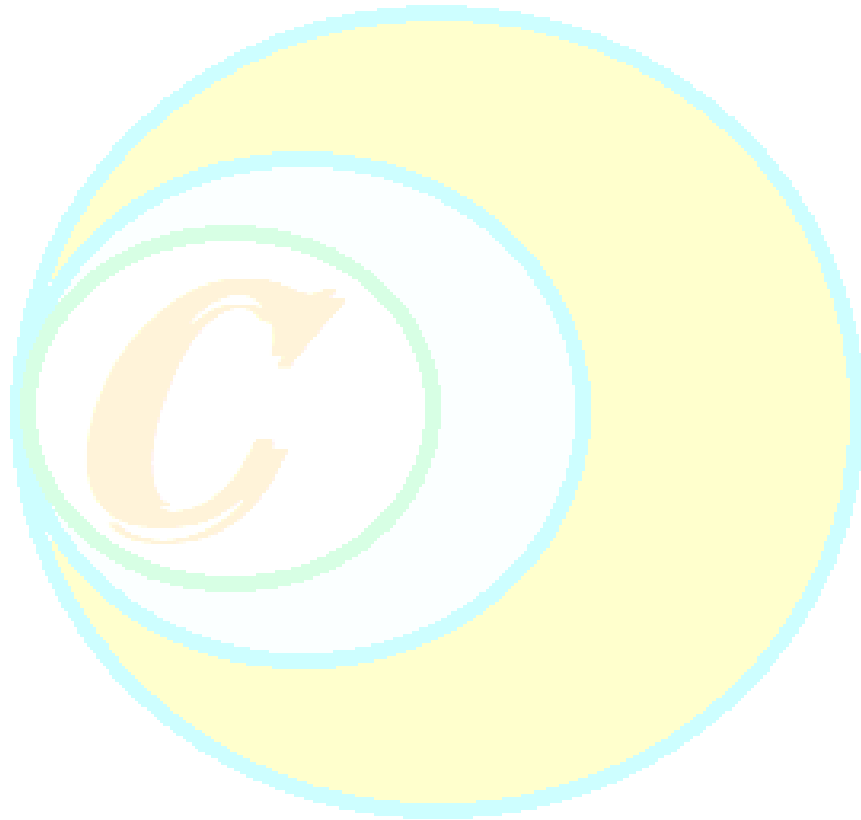


# ***The States Reorganization Act of 1956***



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**THE STATES REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1956 LED TO A SIGNIFICANT REORGANIZATION OF STATES IN INDIA, CREATING DISTINCT LINGUISTIC STATES.**

1. **Andhra Pradesh:** Formed from the Telugu-speaking regions of the erstwhile Madras Presidency.
2. **Kerala:** Created from the Malayalam-speaking regions of the erstwhile Madras Presidency.
3. **Karnataka:** Previously known as Mysore State, it included the Kannada-speaking regions of the old Mysore State, Coorg, and some areas of the Bombay Presidency.
4. **Maharashtra:** Formed from the Marathi-speaking regions of the Bombay Presidency.
5. **Gujarat:** Created from the Gujarati-speaking areas of the Bombay Presidency.
6. **Punjab:** Reorganized to create a Punjabi-speaking state.
7. **Haryana:** Carved out of the former state of Punjab, primarily for Hindi-speaking areas.
8. **Rajasthan:** Reorganized to bring together various princely states and regions into one state.
9. **West Bengal:** Remained a Bengali-speaking state but saw some border adjustments.

10. Tamil Nadu: Formed from the Tamil-speaking regions of the erstwhile Madras Presidency.

11. Orissa (now Odisha): Renamed from the old province of Orissa and expanded.

12. Bihar: Remained a separate state but with some territorial adjustments.

13. Uttar Pradesh: Reorganized with changes in boundaries but remained a Hindi-speaking state.

14. Madhya Pradesh: Formed from the central Indian regions and princely states, including the former Central Provinces and Berar.

The reorganization of states in India after 1956 was a significant and transformative process that reshaped the political and administrative landscape of the country. It was primarily driven by the need to address linguistic and regional aspirations, promote effective governance, and foster socio-economic development.

### **Background:**

- Before 1956, India's states and administrative boundaries were based on historical, colonial, and administrative considerations. This often led to multi-lingual and culturally diverse regions within a single state.
- The demand for linguistic states gained momentum as linguistic identity became a potent factor in Indian politics.

### **Key Milestones:**

#### **1. States Reorganization Act, 1956:**

- The States Reorganization Act, 1956, was a landmark legislation enacted to reorganize India's states along linguistic lines. It aimed to respect linguistic and cultural identities.
- The Act abolished the four-tier administrative structure (provinces, states, districts, and tehsils) and introduced a three-tier structure (states, districts, and tehsils).
- It was based on the recommendations of the Fazal Ali Commission, which proposed the reorganization of states primarily on linguistic grounds.

## 2. Creation of Linguistic States:

- One of the most significant outcomes of the Act was the creation of linguistic states.
- States such as Andhra Pradesh (for Telugu speakers), Karnataka (for Kannada speakers), Kerala (for Malayalam speakers), and others were formed to cater to the linguistic majorities in those regions.
- This move aimed to promote linguistic and cultural cohesion.

## 3. Reorganization of Existing States:

- Several existing states were reorganized to accommodate linguistic aspirations.
- For example, Punjab was reorganized to create Haryana, and Madhya Pradesh was formed by merging different regions and princely states.

## 4. Union Territories:

- The Act also led to the creation of union territories (e.g., Chandigarh) to serve as administrative centers and capitals for certain states.
- Some union territories, like Delhi, later gained statehood.

#### 5. **Special Provisions:**

- The Act included special provisions for certain regions with unique situations. For example, the bilingual state of Bombay was bifurcated into Maharashtra and Gujarat.

#### Significance:

- The reorganization of states based on linguistic lines helped manage linguistic diversity, promoting linguistic and cultural rights.
- It facilitated better administration and governance by aligning state boundaries with linguistic and regional identities.
- The move led to socio-economic development as states could focus on regional needs and development priorities.
- It also reduced linguistic tensions and paved the way for harmonious coexistence.

#### Challenges and Criticisms:

- While the linguistic reorganization was generally successful, it also presented challenges, including border disputes and resource allocation issues.

- Some critics argue that it reinforced linguistic identities at the expense of other factors like historical, geographical, and economic considerations.

### States Reorganization After 1956:

1. Goa: Formed on May 30, 1987, as a separate state, previously a union territory.
2. Arunachal Pradesh: Became a union territory on January 20, 1972, and a state on February 20, 1987.
3. Mizoram: Attained statehood on February 20, 1987.
4. Chhattisgarh: Formed on November 1, 2000, by partitioning Madhya Pradesh.
5. Jharkhand: Created on November 15, 2000, by separating from Bihar.
6. Uttarakhand: Established on November 9, 2000, after being carved out from Uttar Pradesh.
7. Telangana: Became India's newest state on June 2, 2014, after splitting from Andhra Pradesh.
8. Meghalaya: Became a separate state on January 21, 1972, carved out from Assam.
9. Manipur: Attained statehood on January 21, 1972.
10. Tripura: Gained statehood on January 21, 1972.
11. Haryana: Formed on November 1, 1966, by separating from Punjab.
12. Nagaland: Achieved statehood on December 1, 1963.

13.Himachal Pradesh: Became a state on January 25, 1971.

14.Sikkim: Joined the Indian Union as a state on April 26, 1975, becoming the 22nd state.

## Union Territories:

- Lakshadweep: Became a union territory on November 1, 1956, and remains so.
- Andaman and Nicobar Islands: Formed a union territory on November 1, 1956, and continue as one.
- Puducherry: Formerly known as Pondicherry, it became a union territory on November 1, 1954.
- Chandigarh: Established as a union territory on November 1, 1966, and serves as the capital of Haryana and Punjab.
- Daman and Diu and Dadra and Nagar Haveli: These two union territories were merged into one on January 26, 2020, and named Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu.

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