

UNION AND ITS TERRITORIES OF INDIA



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The term "Union" in the context of India refers to the political and administrative organization of the country. It signifies the federal structure of India, where power and authority are divided between the central government (Union Government) and the state governments. The Union of India is also sometimes referred to as the "Union of States."

The term "Union Territory" refers to regions or territories within India that are administered directly by the central government. Unlike states, Union Territories have limited autonomy and their own legislative assemblies in some cases. However, the central government has more control over Union Territories in matters of administration and legislation compared to states.

India has 8 Union Territories:

- Andaman and Nicobar Islands
- Chandigarh
- Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu
- Lakshadweep
- Delhi (National Capital Territory of Delhi)
- Puducherry (Puducherry, Karaikal, Mahe, and Yanam)
- Ladakh
- Jammu and Kashmir

Union of States:

1. Andhra Pradesh
2. Arunachal Pradesh
3. Assam
4. Bihar
5. Chhattisgarh
6. Goa
7. Gujarat
8. Haryana
9. Himachal Pradesh
10. Jharkhand
11. Karnataka
12. Kerala
13. Madhya Pradesh
14. Maharashtra
15. Manipur
16. Meghalaya
17. Mizoram
18. Nagaland
19. Odisha
20. Punjab
21. Rajasthan
22. Sikkim
23. Tamil Nadu
24. Telangana
25. Tripura



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26. Uttar Pradesh

27. Uttarakhand

28. West Bengal

Article 1 of the Indian Constitution:

1. Article 1 of the Indian Constitution defines the territory of India and serves as the foundational provision that outlines the geographical extent of the country. It is the first article in Part I of the Constitution, which deals with the Union and its territory.

Explanation:

Name and Territory of the Union: Article 1 begins by declaring that India, that is Bharat, shall be a Union of States. This signifies that India is not a single unitary state but a federation composed of different states and union territories.

2. **Territorial Limits:** The article goes on to specify the territory of India, which includes:

- a) The territories of the states.
- b) The union territories specified in the First Schedule.
- c) Such other territories as may be acquired or merged into India after the commencement of the Constitution.

3. **Change in Territory:** The inclusion of the clause regarding territories acquired or merged after the commencement of the Constitution is significant. It allows for the flexibility to modify the geographical boundaries of India through various means, such as agreements, treaties, or mergers.

4. **First Schedule:** The reference to the First Schedule is vital, as this schedule lists the names of states and union territories and provides details about their territories. Any changes or modifications to the list of states and union territories would require constitutional amendments.

Here are the key differences between the two:

Territory of India:

1. **Geographical Scope:** The "Territory of India" refers to the entire landmass and geographical boundaries of India. It encompasses all the land, water bodies, and airspace that are under Indian sovereignty and jurisdiction.
2. **Constitutional Definition:** The term "Territory of India" is defined in Article 1 of the Indian Constitution. It includes the territories of states, union territories, and any other territories that may be acquired or merged into India in the future.
3. **Static Definition:** The territory of India, as defined in the Constitution, remains relatively stable and does not change

frequently. Any alteration in the territory would typically require a constitutional amendment.

Union of India:

1. **Political Organization:** The "Union of India" refers to the political and federal organization of India. It signifies the federal structure of India, where power and authority are divided between the central government (Union Government) and the state governments.
2. **Part of the Constitution:** The term "Union of India" is not explicitly defined in the Constitution. However, it is implied throughout the Constitution, particularly in Part I (Articles 1 to 4), which deals with the Union and its territory.
3. **Dynamic and Administrative:** The Union of India represents the ongoing political and administrative framework where the central government exercises authority over matters specified in the Union List, while states have authority over matters in the State List. This division of powers can change over time through constitutional amendments.

The "Territory of India" encompasses the entire geographical area under Indian sovereignty, including states, union territories, and any acquired or merged territories.

On the other hand, the "Union of India" pertains to the political and federal structure of the country, highlighting the division of powers between the central

government and state governments. While the territory of India remains relatively stable, the Union of India is dynamic, reflecting the evolving balance of power between the center and the states.

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