

# Reorganisation of Indian States

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**Abstract:** The following paper attempts to study the reorganisation of states in India primarily based on agreements. It focuses on six special category states - Jammu and Kashmir, Sikkim, Manipur, Tripura, Nagaland and Mizoram and lays down the basic idea behind these agreements which led to integration of these states with the independent India. It is imperative to recognise these agreements as they form a crucial part of their special category status in India which also gets reflected in their demands for central assistance and Grants-in-aid.

**Keywords:** Reorganisation of states, Special Category status, Grants-in-aid.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

India as it is today is largely the result of linguistic reorganisation of Indian states under the States Reorganisation Act, 1956. This Act was essentially responsible for restructuring majority of the Indian states but there are yet some states that were merged with India based on agreements with the Government of India and not on language. This agreement based reorganisation was evident in the princely states of Manipur, Tripura and Jammu and Kashmir wherein it was important to persuade the rulers of that time to join the newly formed independent India. Moreover, the states of Nagaland, Mizoram and Sikkim were also part of this restructuring. All these states have received special category status due to their distinct characteristics like: international boundaries, hilly terrains, different socio-economic developmental parameters and geographical disadvantages which make them late starters in development. This paper emphasises on these special category states in order to understand their specific financial and other administrative needs that make them receive special attention in policy making. However, to give a more comprehensive picture, the paper also talks about restructuring of Indian states.

## 2. STATES WITH SPECIAL CATEGORY STATUS

### 1. JAMMU AND KASHMIR:

After India's Independence in 1947, initially the ruler of the princely state of Kashmir, Maharaja Hari Singh, refused to accede to either India or Pakistan but later after Pakistani invasion in the territory, he sought help from the Indian government and agreed to place Kashmir under the dominion of India. On 25 October 1947 Maharaja Hari Singh signed the Instrument of Accession with the Dominion Government and in 1956 Kashmir was integrated into the Indian Union under a new Constitution with Article 370, giving it a special status. This Instrument of Accession of 1947 was followed by the Delhi Agreement in 1952 to endorse the main decisions of the Constituent Assembly of the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

### 2. SIKKIM:

In 1947 when India became independent, a Treaty was signed between India and Sikkim in 1950, under which Sikkim was able to retain a special status of a protectorate of India. It was first given the status of an Associate State by the 35<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment Act, 1974 and later the 36<sup>th</sup> Amendment repealed the 35<sup>th</sup> Amendment, and made Sikkim a full state on 16<sup>th</sup> May, 1975, adding its name to the First Schedule of the Constitution.

### 3. MANIPUR

After independence, Manipur acceded to the new Union under the Merger Agreement of 1949. Manipur became a Union Territory after the States Reorganisation Act, 1956 and later became a full-fledged state in 1972 under North Eastern Areas (Reorganisation) Act of 1971.

**4. TRIPURA:**

Following the independence of India in 1947, The Maharani Regent of Tripura signed the Tripura Merger Agreement on 9 September 1949, as a result of which Tripura became a Part C state of India. It became a Union Territory, in November 1956 under the States Reorganisation Act and an elected ministry was installed in July 1963. It achieved statehood in 1971 under the North-Eastern Areas (Reorganisation) Act.

**5. NAGALAND:**

In 1957, the newly established central Indian government began diplomatic talks with representatives of Naga tribes, and the Naga Hills district of Assam. Initially, the area was recognised as a single political entity and a Union territory of India, namely the Naga Hills Tuensang Area (NHTA). It was directly administered by the Central government with a large degree of autonomy. But the tribal community of the hills expected greater autonomy, which resulted in widespread agitation and violence - including attacks on army and government institutions, as well as civil disobedience and non-payment of taxes. Hence, in July 1960, a 16-point Agreement was arrived between the Prime Minister of India and the leaders of the Naga People Convention (NPC), whereby Nagaland was recognised as a full-fledged state within the Union of India and received statehood in 1962.

**6. MIZORAM:**

In 1971, the government agreed to convert the Mizo Hills into a Union Territory which came to be known as Mizoram in 1972 under North-Eastern Areas (Reorganization) Act, 1971. In 1986 it received status of a state by the State of Mizoram Act, 1986. Following the Mizoram Peace Accord (1986) between the Government and the Mizo National Front (MNF), Mizoram was declared a full-fledged state of India in 1987 after ensuring full conditions of normalcy.

Among the 29 States in India, 6 were reorganised via agreements as described above and the remaining states were largely formed on linguistic basis under States Reorganisation Act, 1956 as explained below:

**3. OTHER STATES**

The following states were reorganised after independence on the basis of language or socio-economic differences:

**1. ANDHRA PRADESH:**

On October 1, 1953, 11 districts in the Telugu-speaking portion of Madras State became the new state of Andhra with Kurnool as the capital under the State of Andhra Pradesh Act, 1953. Later, on November 1, 1956 the Telangana region (Medak and Warangal divisions) of Hyderabad State was merged with it to form the united Telugu-speaking state of Andhra Pradesh under the States Reorganisation Act, 1956.

**2. ARUNACHAL PRADESH:**

Before 1962, Arunachal was popularly called North Eastern Frontier Agency and was constitutionally a part of Assam. Under North Eastern Areas (Reorganisation) Act, 1971, it was later constituted as a Union Territory and renamed Arunachal Pradesh. On 20th February, 1987, it became the 24th state of the Indian Union under the State of Arunachal Pradesh Act, 1986.

**3. ASSAM:**

In 1947, Assam including the present Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Mizoram and Meghalaya became a state of the Union of India and there has been no change in its boundaries till now.

**4. BIHAR:**

After Independence in 1947, the State of Bihar, with the same geographic boundary, formed a part of the Republic of India. In 1956, an area in the south-east, predominantly the district of Purulia, was separated and incorporated into West Bengal as part of the Linguistic Reorganization of Indian States under the States Reorganisation Act.

**5. CHHATTISGARH:**

The state was formed on 1<sup>st</sup> November under the Constitutional Amendment Act, 2000 (or Madhya Pradesh (Reorganisation) Act, 2000) by partitioning 16 Chhattisgarhi-speaking south-eastern districts of Madhya Pradesh with Raipur as its capital city. The division here was rooted in caste distinctiveness, with upper peasant Brahmins and Kurmis leading the movement for a separate state. Due to its rich endowment in rice and minerals, Chhattisgarh resented its disproportionate contribution in revenues to any return it had received from the state.

**6. GOA:**

At the time of independence, Goa remained under Portuguese control. The Indian government of Jawaharlal Nehru insisted that Goa, along with a few other minor Portuguese holdings, be turned over to India. However, Portugal refused. On 16 December 1961, Indian troops crossed the border into Goa and resulted in the unconditional surrender of Portuguese forces on 19 December. Goa was admitted to Indian statehood under Goa, Daman and Diu Reorganisation Act, 1987.

**7. GUJARAT:**

Gujarat was formed by splitting Bombay state in 1960 on linguistic lines under Bombay reorganisation act, 1960.

**8. HARYANA:**

On 1<sup>st</sup> November 1966, the state of Haryana was carved out of the Punjab on the basis of language under Punjab (Reorganisation) Act of 1966.

**9. HIMACHAL PRADESH:**

In 1954, Himachal Pradesh and Bilaspur merged to form a new state of Himachal Pradesh under The Himachal Pradesh and Bilaspur Act, 1954. Later under States Reorganisation Act of 1956, it was declared as a Union Territory but after the State of Himachal Pradesh Act, 1970, Himachal Pradesh emerged as the 18th state of the Republic of India.

**10. JHARKHAND:**

Jharkhand state was formed on 15<sup>th</sup> November under the Constitutional Amendment Act, 2000 (or Bihar (Reorganisation) Act, 2000) after almost half a century of people's movements to evolve a Jharkhandi identity, which disadvantaged societal groups articulated to augment political resources and influence the policy process in their favour. The Jharkhandi identity and the demand for autonomy was not premised solely on the uniqueness of its tribal cultural heritage but was essentially a fallout of the failure of development policy to intervene in socio-economic conditions of the tribals and non-tribals in the region.

**11. KARNATAKA:**

It was created on 1 November 1956, with the passage of the States Reorganisation Act. Originally known as the State of Mysore, it was renamed Karnataka in 1973.

**12. KERALA:**

Travancore and Cochin joined the Union of India on 1<sup>st</sup> July 1949 and were merged to form Travancore-Cochin. On 1 November 1956, merging the Malabar district, Travancore-Cochin, and the taluk of Kasargod, South Kanara, the State of Kerala was formed by the States Reorganisation Act.

**13. MADHYA PRADESH:**

Madhya Pradesh state was created by including the southern parts of the present-day Madhya Pradesh and north-eastern portion of today's Maharashtra. Under the States Reorganisation Act of 1956, this state was reorganised and its parts were combined with the states of Madhya Bharat, Vindhya Pradesh and Bhopal to form the new Madhya Pradesh state with Bhopal as its capital.

**14. MAHARASHTRA:**

Maharashtra was initially enlarged by the addition of Saurashtra and Kutch, the Marathi-speaking districts of Nagpur Division of Madhya Pradesh, and the Marathi speaking Marathwada region of Hyderabad under the States Reorganisation Act, 1956. Later it was split on linguistic lines under Bombay reorganisation act, 1960.

**15. MEGHALAYA:**

The 23<sup>rd</sup> Constitutional Amendment Act, 1969 (or Assam Reorganisation (Meghalaya) Act of 1969) accorded an autonomous status to the state of Meghalaya. In 1971, the Parliament passed the North-Eastern Areas (Reorganization) Act, which conferred full statehood on the autonomous state of Meghalaya.

**16. ODISHA:**

On 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1936, Orissa was formed on linguistic basis during the British rule in India with Sir John Austin Hubbak as the First Governor and was accorded the status of a state under the States Reorganisation Act, 1956. On 4 November 2011, the English rendering of the name Orissa was officially changed to Odisha.

**17. PUNJAB:**

In 1947 Punjab was partitioned into 2 parts - the Eastern part (or two rivers) became the Indian Punjab and the Western majority part (3 rivers) the Pakistan Punjab. In 1956, the Indian Punjab was enlarged by addition of the Patiala and East Punjab States Union under the States Reorganisation Act and later in 1966, it was divided into three parts on linguistic basis - Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Punjab (the present Punjab) under Punjab (Reorganisation) Act.

**18. RAJASTHAN:**

Rajasthan was formed on 30 March 1949, when the region known as Rajputana was merged into the Dominion of India. Under the States Reorganisation Act of 1956, it was enlarged by the addition of Ajmer state and parts of Bombay and Madhya Bharat states.

**19. TAMIL NADU:**

Madras Presidency became Madras State in 1947, comprising present day Tamil Nadu, coastal Andhra Pradesh and parts of Kerala. The state was subsequently split up along linguistic lines under States Reorganisation Act, 1956. In 1969, Madras State was renamed Tamil Nadu.

**20. TELANGANA:**

After the formation of the state of Andhra Pradesh in 1956 (as mentioned above) by combining Coastal Andhra, Telangana and Rayalseema, the Telangana movement was soon initiated in 1969 by social groups, students and government employees. They felt that the promises made to the people under the Gentlemen's agreement, signed to safeguard the interests of the people of Telangana, were actually breached and hence, demanded an independent state of Telangana. Following several agitations, on 3rd October, 2013, the Union Cabinet approved the creation of the state of Telangana.

**21. UTTAR PRADESH:**

With the adoption of a new Indian constitution in 1950, the United Provinces were renamed Uttar Pradesh and it became a constituent state of the Republic of India with the advent of the States Reorganisation Act, 1956.

**22. UTTARAKHAND:**

Uttaranchal state was formed on 9<sup>th</sup> November under the Constitutional Amendment Act, 2000 (or Uttar Pradesh (Reorganisation) Act, 2000). The formation of Uttaranchal, carved from Uttar Pradesh, fulfils long-voiced demands by the people of the Kumoan and Garhwali hills of north-western U.P. for an independent state based on cultural, social (caste), and economic distinctiveness. The hilly districts are populated by the Brahmin community, with comparatively few of the "backward castes" that dominate the most of Uttar Pradesh. On August 2006, it was renamed as Uttarakhand.

**23. WEST BENGAL:**

In 1950, the Princely State of Cooch Behar was merged with West Bengal. Later in 1955, the former French enclave of Chandannagar, was integrated into West Bengal and some portions of Bihar were subsequently merged with West Bengal under States Reorganisation Act of 1956.

**4. CONCLUSION**

The most imperative for the Indian Government after independence was the consolidation of a new nation state. As national integration was the most crucial, of the issues confronting the sovereign state, any movement that might disrupt the process of integration had to be dealt with stringently and in some cases, oppressively. The multi-ethnic and multi-linguistic character of the region brings forth ever increasing demands for autonomy or statehood on the basis of individual ethnic identities which in case of these six states has given them a distinctive character.

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