

History of state borders changes

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Information

- Name : History of state borders changes
- Country : India

History of borders changes

- **Context:** Seventy-two years after India's independence, the country's internal boundaries continue to change.
- It's been one year since the creation of two new Union territories (UTs) by bifurcating the state of Jammu and Kashmir.
- India's internal boundaries have undergone continuous evolution over the past seven decades, as the charts below show.
- **India's external boundaries** have in total changed only three times.

History of borders changes

- when Goa was subsumed into the Indian Union in 1961
- When **Pondicherry** was subsumed in 1962 (officially) and
- When **Sikkim** was subsumed in 1975.
- There was territory loss to Pakistan (1947) and China (1962) but these areas are still shown in India's official map.

States' Reorganisation in India

- While most regions in British India achieved independence on 15 August 1947, states, such as **Kashmir, Hyderabad, Junagadh, Manipur and Tripura**, became part of the Union in the period between 1947 and 1949.
- By 26 January 1950, India had formally **transitioned to a republic of states from a dominion**.
- This **union of states had three classifications** based on
 - 1. Whether they were former provinces (part A),
 - 2. Princely states (part B), and
 - 3. Territories that were going to be directly ruled by the Union government (part C), the precursor to UTs.

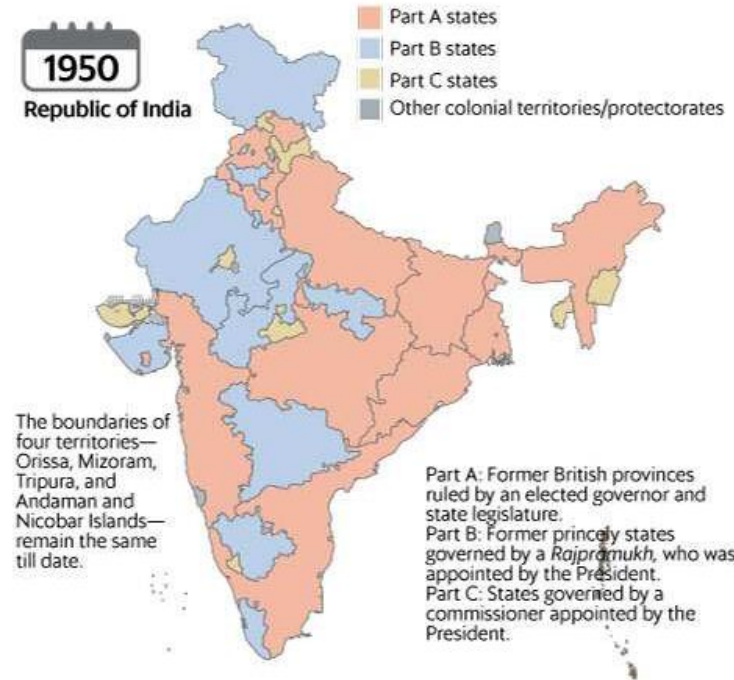
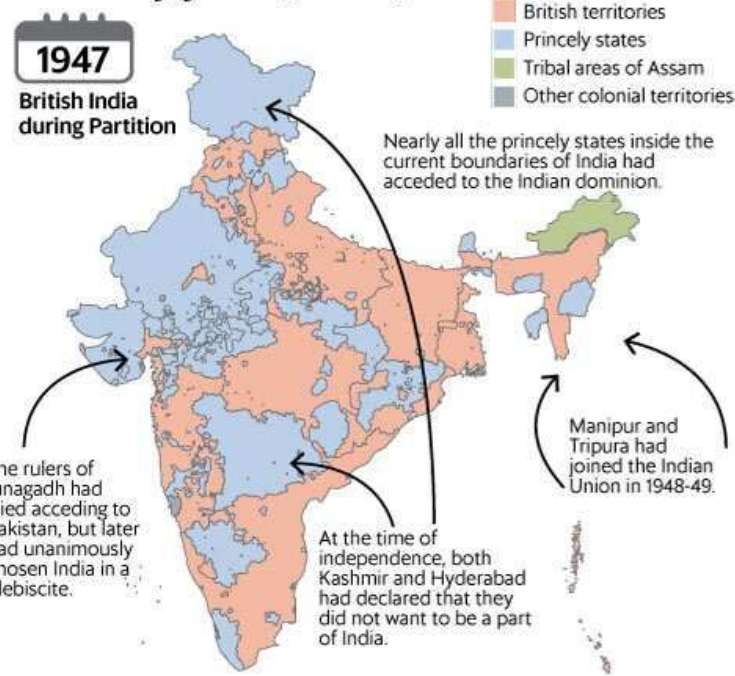
States' Reorganisation in India

- The biggest reorganization of India's internal boundaries occurred *in 1956* when an official **States Reorganization Act** was implemented. After that, there were nine changes in state boundaries.
 - In 1956, the country was organized into 14 states and six Union territories.
- **Six states and five UTs still retain their boundaries** from back then.

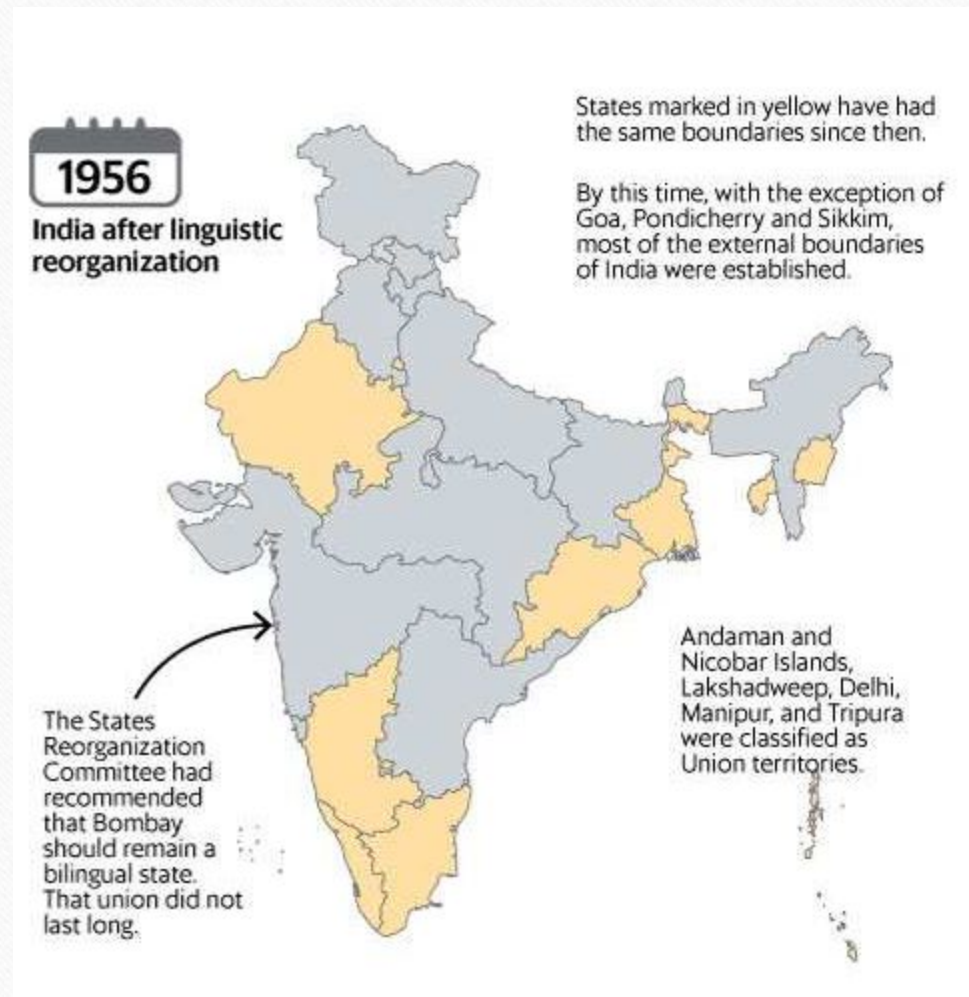
State border changes during years

Chart 1

The early years (1947-1956)



State border changes during years



About States' reorganisation in India

- In 1947, India consisted of 571 princely states that were combined together to form 27 states on the basis of political and historical considerations.
- In 1948, **SK Dhar commission** was appointed by the government to study the need for the reorganization of states on a linguistic basis.
- In 1948, **the JVP Committee** comprising Jawaharlal Nehru, Vallabh bhai Patel and Pattabhi Sitaramayya rejected the idea of reorganisation of states on a linguistic basis.
- In 1953, the **first linguistic state of Andhra** for Telugu-speaking people was born after the government was forced to separate the Telugu speaking areas from the state of Madras, in the face of a prolonged agitation.

About States' reorganisation in India

- The government did not agree with the recommendations fully but divided the country into 14 states and 6 union territories under the **States Reorganisation Act, 1956**.
- **The states were** Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Bombay, Jammu and Kashmir, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Madras, Mysore, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.
- The six union territories were Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi Islands, Manipur and Tripura.
- In 1960, Bombay state was divided to form the states of Gujarat and Maharashtra following violence and protests.

Conclusion

- Throughout the independence of India India's map and its external and internal borders are keep changing.
- Folloing are the changes has been seen :
- As external borders – Goa, Pondicherry, Sikkim
- As internal borders – Kashmir, Hyderabad, Junagadh, Manipur and Tripira.