



BHARATHIDASAN UNIVERSITY

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Programme: FIVE-YEAR INTEGRATED M.A. HISTORY

**Course Title : HISTORY OF INDIA FROM INDEPENDENCE TO
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Course Code: CC10

Unit-II

**The Initial Years: Reorganization of the States – Integration of the
Tribals**

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Re-organization of States

Causes

- Modern states are large and complex with several cultural and economic problems and historical experiences add complexity to their problems.
- Since independence, Indian state has to deal with the demands of separate statehood largely based on language, culture, ethnicity, and religion.

Linguistic Provinces Commission/Dhar Commission

- The Linguistic Provinces Commission, led by Justice S.K. Dhar, was established by the Constituent Assembly in 1948 to investigate whether linguistic provinces were desirable.
- However, Dhar Commission advocated against it, because it might jeopardize national unity and present administrative challenges.

JVP Committee

- In December 1948, the Congress formed a committee known as the JVP committee—with Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Vallabhbhai Patel, and Pattabhi Sitaramayya to reexamine the issue.
- The JVP Committee said that the timing was not right for the formation of additional provinces in its 1949 report.

Swami Sitaram's Fast, 1951

– 35 day fast

Potti Sreeramulu

- Potti Sreeramulu started indefinite fast for supporting his cause of states re organisation for Telugu speaking population.
- His death on 56th day of fast resulted in widespread violence and the government was forced to constitute a State Re organisation Commission.
- In 1953, the first state of Andhra Pradesh was created on basis of language.

Formation of State Re organisation Committee

- In August 1953, Nehru established the **State Re organisation Commission (SRC)**, which included **Justice Fazl Ali, K.M. Panikkar, and Hridaynath Kunzru**, to examine the entire issue of the restructuring of the states of the Union.
- In November 1956, the States Reorganization Act was finally approved by the legislature.
- It provided for fourteen states and six centrally controlled areas.

- **FOURTEEN STATES**
- It was a major reform to organize India's states and union territories along linguistic lines. The states were Bihar, Assam, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Punjab, Mysore, Madras, Kerala, Jammu and Kashmir, Bombay, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, and Orissa.
- **SIX CENTRALLY CONTROLLED AREAS.**
- Delhi, Manipur, Andaman & Nicobar, Tripura, Himachal Pradesh, Laccadive, Minicoy & Amindivi Islands.

After 1956

Bombay Re organization Act, 1960

- 1960 - Bombay state split into Maharashtra and Gujarat

Punjab Re organization Act, 1966

- 1966 - Haryana and Himachal Pradesh carved out of Punjab state

In 1963 - Nagaland carved out of Assam

North Eastern Region (Re-organization) Act, 1971

- In 1972, the states of Tripura, Manipur, and Meghalaya became full-fledged states

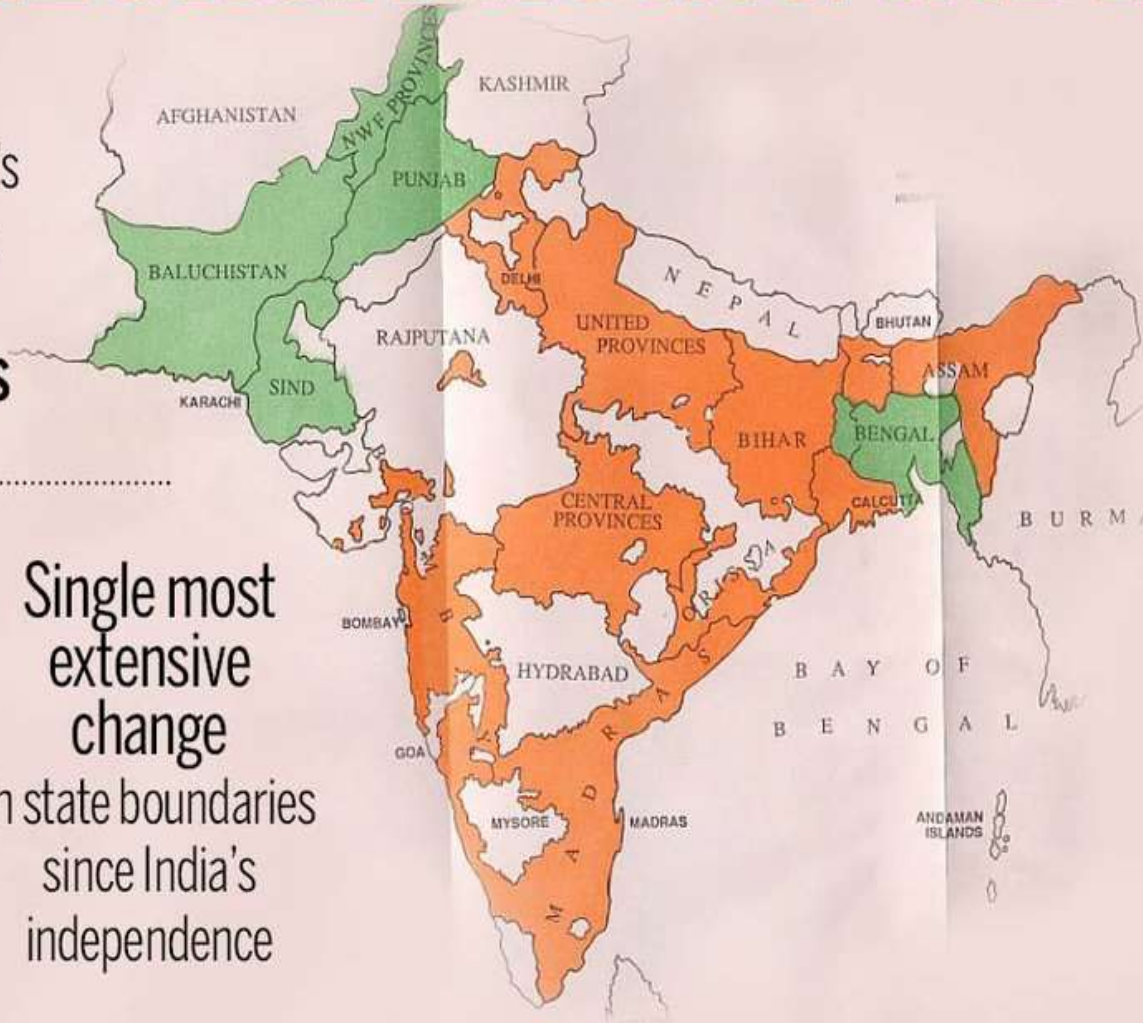
The States Reorganization Act, 1956 came into effect on November 1

REORGANISING INDIA

Changed the boundaries of India's states, organising them along **linguistic lines**

Andhra Pradesh, Kerala & Madhya Pradesh were **formed**

Single most extensive change in state boundaries since India's independence



Himachal Pradesh, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Delhi, Laccadive, Minicoy & Amindivi Islands, Manipur, & Tripura—Union Territories were **created**

INDIA 1956



Integration of Tribals

Background

- Task of integrating the tribal people into the mainstream was complex.
- 400 tribal communities nearly 38 million people in India

- 1971 Census

Impact of Colonialism

- Large number of traders, money lenders, and officials disrupted the tribals' traditional way of life.
- It transferred the tribals relationship with the forest
- To conserve forest and for commercial exploitation, colonial government introduced forest laws, which put severe restrictions on the tribals
- Munda Rebellion (Birsa Munda)
- Santhal uprising

India's Tribal Policy

- Nehruvian approach
- “The tribal areas have to progress, and they have to progress in their own way.
- Whatever changes were needed would be ‘worked out by the tribals themselves”
- Nehru stood for economic and social development of tribal people

Nehru laid broad guidelines for tribal policy by the government

- Tribals should develop along the lines of their own; there should be no imposition (or) compulsion from outside
- Tribal rights in land and forest should be respected and no outsider should be able to take possession of tribal lands
- It was necessary to encourage the tribal languages
- For administration, reliance should be placed on tribal people themselves
- There should be no over-administration of tribal areas

- Article 46 of the Indian Constitution indicates that the state should promote with special care the educational and economic interests of the tribal people, and should protect them from social injustice, and all forms of exploitation, through special legislation

Tribals in the Northeast

- North-eastern India, consists of over a hundred group, variety of languages.
- Objective of the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution was to enable tribals to live according to their own ways.
- Indian government also expressed its willingness to amend the constitutional provisions related to the tribal people

- North-East Frontier Agency (NEFA) was created in 1948 out of the border areas of Assam.
- Problems developed in the other tribal areas which were part of Assam administratively.
- Because, hill tribes of Assam had no cultural relations with Assamese and Bengali residents.
- Some demanded a separate hill state in mid-1950s

- ▣ In 1960, various political parties of the hill areas merged into the All Party Hill Leaders Conference (APHLC)
- ▣ Passage of the Assam Official Language Act, making Assam, the official language of the state, and the refusal of the demand to use the tribal languages in administration, had developed strong reaction, and agitation in the tribal districts.
- ▣ Finally, in 1969, Meghalaya was carved out of Assam as “a state within a state”.
- ▣ But, in 1972, Meghalaya became a separate state

Nagaland

- Nagas – inhabitants of the Naga hills living along the Northeast frontier on the Assam-Burma border.
- Numbered 5 lakhs in 1961.
- After Indian independence, Government of India followed a policy of integrating the Naga areas with Assam.
- But, rebellion broke out.
- Under the leadership of A.Z. Phizo, demanded separation from India, and complete independence
- In 1955, separatist Nagas decelerated the formation of an independent government and launched a violent insurrection.

- Nagas organized an armed struggle, but Govt. of India sent an army to Nagaland in 1956 to restore peace.
- In 1957, armed rebellion broke out headed by Dr Imkongliba.
- They negotiated for the creation of the state of Nagaland within the Indian union.
- Finally, state of Nagaland came into existence in 1963.

Mizoram

- People in the Mizo district of the Northeast, demanded democratizaion of Mizo society, economic development, and adequate representation in the Assam legislature.
- In 1961, the Mizo National Front (MNF) was formed, with Laldenga as President.
- In 1966, the MNF declared independence from India, proclaimed a military uprising, and attacked military and civilian targets.
- Government of India controlled the insurgence.

- In 1973, Mizo district of Assam was separated from Assam, and as Mizoram, was given the status of a Union Territory.
- IN 1986, MNF agreed to abandon violent activities, and surrender before the Indian authorities with arms.
- Finally, Mizoram state came into existence in February 1987, with Laldenga as Chief Minister

Jharkhand

- Jharkhand, the tribal area of Bihar consisting of Chota Nagpur and the Santhal Parganas.
- In 1971, two-thirds of Jharkhand's population was non-tribal.
- The Jharkhand party was founded in 1950 under the leadership of Jaipal Singh.
- It won 32 seats in Chota Nagpur and became main opposition party in the Bihar Assembly in the 1952 elections
- Party demanded a state where tribal people would predominate.

- The States Reorganisation Commission of 1955 rejected the demand for a separate Jharkhand state on the ground that the region did not have a common language.
- In 1972, the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) was formed.
- It demanded a separate state, on behalf of the peasants and workers of the region.
- In 1970s, Shibu Soren became the charismatic leader of JMM.
- Finally, on 15th November 2000, the state of Jharkhand came into existence.