Reorganisation of States

1. **Post-Partition Challenge:**
   o Nation-building continued after partition and integration of Princely States.
   o Internal boundaries of Indian states needed redefinition.
   o Aim: Reflect linguistic and cultural plurality without harming national unity.
2. **Colonial State Boundaries:**
   o Based on administrative convenience.
   o Aligned with British annexations or princely territories.
3. **Pre-Independence Stand:**
   o National movement rejected colonial divisions as artificial.
   o Linguistic principle was accepted for state formation.
   o Congress (Nagpur session, 1920) reorganized itself on linguistic lines.
4. **Change After Independence:**
   o Leaders feared linguistic division could cause disintegration.
   o Other socio-economic issues were prioritized.
   o Decision to postpone linguistic reorganization due to:
     ▪ Uncertainty of Princely States' fate.
     ▪ Fresh memories of partition.
5. **Local Resistance & Vishalandhra Movement:**
   o Protests in Telugu-speaking areas of Madras province.
   o Demand: Separate Andhra state for Telugu-speaking regions.
   o All political groups in Andhra supported linguistic reorganization.
6. **Potti Sriramulu's Role:**
   o Veteran Gandhian, went on an indefinite fast.
   o Died after 56 days, triggering widespread unrest and violence.
   o Police firings led to deaths and injuries.
   o Resignations of legislators in Madras.
7. **Formation of Andhra State:**
   o Prime Minister announced Andhra state in December 1952.
   o Inspired other linguistic state movements.
8. **States Reorganisation Commission (1953):**
   o Set up due to growing demands.
   o Recommended state boundaries based on languages.
   o Led to **States Reorganisation Act, 1956**:
     ▪ Created **14 states** and **6 union territories**.
9. **Concerns About Linguistic States:**
   o Fear of separatism and national disintegration.
   o Pressure from people forced acceptance of linguistic states.
   o Seen as a more democratic approach.
10. **Impact of Linguistic Reorganisation:**
    o Over 50 years later, it strengthened national unity.
    o Gave common basis for state boundaries.
    o Changed democratic politics and leadership:
      ▪ Opened political space beyond English-speaking elite.
    o Accepted and institutionalized diversity:
      ▪ Democracy meant recognizing and accommodating differences.
      ▪ Encouraged plurality of ideas and ways of life.
    o Shaped politics in the later years within this framework.