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Candidate must adhere to the word limit specified in the question.
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Ans. The State creation and reorganisation has been a dynamic process in India. It addressed the linguistic, ethnic, cultural and developmental demands. Article 2 and 3 of the Indian constitution forms the bedrock of India's territorial flexibility.

Process of state creation and reorganisation →

① Article 2 :

↳ Admission of new states through treaties, agreements etc

eg Sikkim (1975)

↳ Establishment of new states which were not part of India during independence

eg Goa (1987)

② Article 3 :

↳ Create new states from existing states

↳ Merge two or more states

↳ Increase or decrease area

↳ Alter name and boundary

It can be introduced only with ~~the~~ prior recommendation of President. States are also consulted but their opinion is not binding.

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States Reorganisation :

- ↳ States Reorganisation Act, 1956 → created linguistic states like Andhra and Karnataka on the recommendations of Fazl Ali Commission
- ↳ 1971-87 → Northeastern states like Meghalaya and Mizoram to address cultural identity
- ↳ 2000 → Creation of Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Uttaranchal to address developmental disparities, better governance etc.
- ↳ 2014 → Telangana was created due to long-standing regional aspirations.

Comparison between USA and India —

<u>Parameters</u>	<u>India</u>	<u>USA</u>
Federalism	Flexible	Rigid
Constitutional basis	Art 2 and 3	Article IV, Section 3
Authority	Parliament	Congress
State consent	Consulted but opinion is not binding	Consent is mandatory
Judicial role	Limited as decision of Parliament is final Page	Federal courts can intervene in disputes

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Frequency of changes	Frequent and driven by cultural, linguistic or developmental needs	Rate due to sovereignty and complex procedures
Examples	Sikkim Goa Jharkhand Uttarakhand	Alaska Hawaii West Virginia Maine

India adopts a unique approach which shows its adaptability in a diverse democracy. The creation of various states show how India addressed the linguistic, cultural, regional and developmental needs of people while maintaining the unity and integrity of the country. On the other hand the approach of USA emphasises sovereignty of state requiring consent and cooperation for any change. The system of USA is quite stable but at the same time it highlights the challenges of rigid federalism.

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India's emphasis on these factors has strengthened national unity in following ways -

① Empowered marginalised communities —

↳ Decentralised governance leads to more devolution of powers. It ultimately empowers the marginalised community
Eg. Jharkhand

② Political inclusivity —

↳ Formation of new state gives new political opportunity to people to decide their fate
↳ Their say in political discourse, debate increased which creates a sense of inclusion and strengthens participatory democracy.

③ Cultural consolidation

↳ Many regions like Jharkhand suffers from cultural subjugation. If statehood granted it leads to ethnolinguistic homogeneity.

↳ It will strengthen their identity which will lead to stronger bond of fraternity and civic cohesion.

④ Reduced regional chauvinism —

↳ Creation of new states lead to prioritisation of their own needs which leads to

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Reduction of regional chauvinism and creates a sense of unity.

eg. formation of Telangana from Andhra Pradesh

Although it promotes national unity but it creates challenges of regionalism also as follows —

① Political Balkanisation —

- ↳ Continuous fragmentation weakens national unity.
- ↳ Smaller states may strengthen centrifugal tendencies disrupting the federal balance.

② Increased Political Opportunism —

- ↳ Regional political elites prioritizes sub-regional populism over national priorities.
- ↳ Political exploitation undermines genuine developmental goals.

③ Identity Politics Amplification —

- ↳ Brings opportunity of political mobilisation
- ↳ Increased focus on local identity risks creating division over identity.

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Way forward — Balancing Regional Aspirations with National Integrity

① New State Reorganisation Commission —

- ↳ The present scenario poses serious challenges in terms of widening per capita income, literacy, displacement of tribal population etc.
- ↳ A new reorganisation commission should be constituted to address genuine demand of statehood and on the basis of merit it should be awarded.

② Regional Councils for Transitional Autonomy —

- ↳ Establish Regional Councils to act as a bridge b/w full statehood and status quo

③ Geo-economic mapping —

- ↳ Ascertain whether new state is economically viable or not.

④ Comprehensive Policy framework —

- ↳ Policy framework which addresses cultural identity through autonomy and that should be bottom up approach.

⑤ Strengthen local bodies —

- ↳ Local bodies suffer from 4 F
 - Fund
 - Function
 - Functionaries
 - Framework

↳ Empower them to bridge the development deficit

In present time data is the new oil. We should make a policy based on data which directly empowers the citizens to realise their freedom and choices in align with Amartya Sen's idea of "Development as Freedom."