States and union territories of India

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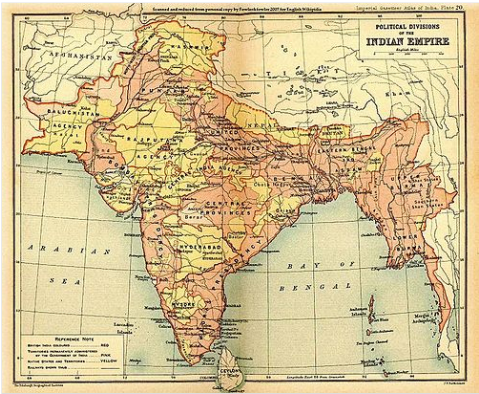| Category	Federated states
Location	Republic of India
Number	28 States 8 Union territories
Populations	**States**: Sikkim – 610,577 (lowest) Uttar Pradesh – 199,812,341 (highest) **Union Territories**: Lakshadweep – 64,473 (lowest) Delhi – 16,787,941 (highest)
Areas	**States**: Goa – 3,702 km^2 (1,429 sq mi) (smallest) Rajasthan – 342,269 km^2 (132,151 sq mi) (largest) **Union territories**: Lakshadweep – 32 km^2 (12 sq mi) (smallest) Ladakh – 59,146 km^2 (22,836 sq mi) (largest)
Government	State Governments Union Government (union territories)
Subdivisions	Divisions Districts

India is a federal union comprising 28 states and 8 union territories, for a total of 36 subnational entities.[1] The states and union territories are further subdivided into 800 districts and smaller administrative divisions by the respective subnational government.[2]

The states of India are self-governing administrative divisions, each having a state government. The governing powers of the states are shared between the state government and the union government. On the other hand, the union territories are directly governed by the union government.[a]

History

1876–1919

The British Raj was a very complex political entity consisting of various imperial divisions and states and territories of varying autonomy. At the time of its establishment in 1876, it was made up of 584 constituent states and the directly ruled territories of the Crown. The entire empire was divided into provinces and agencies.

The administrative divisions of the Indian Empire in 1909

A province consisted of territory under the direct rule of the Emperor of India (who was also the King of the United Kingdom and the Dominions) and a few minor states, ruled by Indian princes under the suzerainty of the Emperor. A Governor or Lieutenant-Governor acted as the representative of the Emperor to that province and head of government of the directly ruled territories in the province.

The governor or lieutenant-governor also served as the Emperor's representative to the constituent states of the province. The first three of the lieutenant-governorships were territories annexed to India from other powers and temporarily governed by the erstwhile Bengal Presidency, before being made into their own separate provinces. Agra and Bengal were still considered *de jure* parts of the defunct Bengal Presidency for judicial and legal purposes. Agra was separated in 1878 and merged with Oudh.

The Bengal Presidency was re-established in 1912 as a governorship. All these provinces had their own legislatures established by the Indian Councils Acts, and high courts established by Indian High Courts Acts. Laws passed by these legislatures needed the dual assent of the governor or lieutenant-governor of the province and the governor-general of India, who functioned as the representative of the Emperor.

- There were three governor's provinces in 1912, styled "Presidencies" as a historical memento that they had been once governed by presidents. These were:
  - Bombay
  - Madras (officially Presidency of Fort St. George)
  - Bengal (from 1912)
- There were six lieutenant-governor's provinces in 1905. These were:
  - Burma
  - Punjab
  - Central Provinces
  - Bengal (till 1912)
  - Eastern Bengal and Assam (1905–1912)
  - Agra and Oudh
    - North-Western Provinces and Oudh (1878–1902)
    - United Provinces of Agra and Oudh (1902–1935)

In addition to these, there were certain territories ruled directly by the Government of India through nominated chief commissioners. These were former independent states annexed to India and since ruled directly by the Supreme Government.

- There were the three chief commissioner's provinces. These did not have a legislature or a high court. These were:
  - Ajmer-Merwara
  - Coorg
  - Oudh (till 1878)
  - Delhi (from 1911, capital of India)

A vast majority of the Indian states in the late nineteenth century were, in terms of imperial divisions, organised within the provinces. However a good number of states were organised into imperial structures called agencies, or residencies. An Agent to the Governor-General (AGG) functioned as the Emperor's representative to all the states in the agency.

- At the time of establishment of the empire, there were only two agencies:
  - Rajputana
  - Central India
- In addition, these kingdoms were neither part of a province or an agency and had direct relations with the Emperor:
  - Kashmir and Jammu
  - Nizamate of Hyderabad
  - Kingdom of Mysore

1919–1935

In 1919, the fourth Government of India was enacted by the Crown. This saw many major changes. The legislatures of the provinces were made elected ones rather than nominated ones. Some provinces were given bicameral legislatures. All provinces were elevated to governorships and all lieutenant governors were made governors. Burma was given a special status and made an autonomous province.

- There were ten governor's provinces now. These were:
  - Bombay
  - Madras
  - Bengal
  - Burma
  - Punjab
  - Central Provinces and Berar
  - United Provinces
  - North-West Frontier Province
  - Assam
  - Bihar and Orissa
- There were four chief commissioner's provinces. Their status mostly remained unchanged. These were:
  - Ajmer-Merwara
  - Coorg
  - Balochistan
  - Delhi

The Chamber of Princes was established by Emperor George V in 1920. One of the major consequences of this was the creation of many more agencies from the states of the provinces, thus granting them direct relations with the Emperor instead of with the Governors.

- There were now 8 imperial agencies and residencies. These were:
  - Punjab States (formerly part of Punjab Province)
  - Madras States (formerly part of Madras Presidency)
  - Deccan States Agency and Kolhapur Residency (formerly part of Bombay Presidency)
  - Western India and Gujarat States Agency and Baroda Residency (formerly part of Bombay Presidency)
  - Eastern States (formerly part of Bengal Presidency, Bihar and Orissa Province and Central Provinces)
  - Gwalior Residency (formerly part of Central India Agency)
  - Rajputana
  - Central India

This saw the separation of all the states from the provinces and addition to before-mentioned agencies. This left all the provinces with only territories under direct Crown rule.

- Some states were with direct relations with the Emperor. These were:
  - Kashmir and Jammu
  - Nizamate of Hyderabad
  - Kingdom of Mysore

1935–1947

The latter years of the Indian Empire saw the enactment of the last Government of India Act by the Crown. This act granted full autonomy to Indian provinces. Provincial laws no longer needed the assent of the governor-general. This act created the office of a Premier in each province, who functioned as the new head of government and was responsible to the provincial legislature.

Bengal, Madras and Bombay which had been till now styled Presidencies, were now officially styled as provinces. The provinces of Orissa and Sind were created from Bihar and Bombay respectively. The Province of Burma which had previously functioned as an autonomous province of India was now separated from the Indian Empire, and established as the Crown Colony of Burma.

- The new set of 12 governor's provinces were:
  - Bombay
  - Sind
  - Madras
  - Bengal
  - Burma
  - Punjab
  - Central Provinces and Berar
  - United Provinces
  - North-West Frontier Province
  - Assam
  - Bihar
  - Orissa
- There were 4 chief commissioner's provinces:
  - Ajmer-Merwara
  - Coorg
  - Balochistan
  - Delhi
- There were 8 imperial agencies and residencies:
  - Punjab States
  - Madras States
  - Deccan States Agency and Kolhapur Residency
  - Western India and Gujarat States Agency and Baroda Residency
  - Eastern States
  - Gwalior Residency
  - Rajputana
  - Central India
- Three kingdoms were in direct relations with the Emperor.

In 1947, the last Act of the Crown was passed. The act dissolved the Indian Empire, the Imperial Legislative Council and the Chamber of Princes. The Union of India was consequently established from 9 former Indian provinces (East Punjab, United Provinces, Central Provinces, Madras, Bombay, Bihar, Orissa, West Bengal and Assam) and 562 former Indian states.

1947–1950

Between 1947 and 1950, the territories of the princely states were politically integrated into the new Indian Union. Most were merged into existing provinces. Others were organised into new provinces and states, such as Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Malwa Union, Baghelkhand and Bundelkhand States Union, and Patiala and East Punjab States Union, made up of multiple princely states. A few, including Mysore, Hyderabad, Bhopal, and Bilaspur, became separate states.[3]

The new Constitution of India, which came into force on 26 January 1950, made India a sovereign democratic republic. The new republic was also declared to be a "Union of States". The constitution of 1950 distinguished between three main types of states:[3]

- Part A states, which were the former governors' provinces of India, were ruled by an elected governor and state legislature. The nine Part A states were:

- Assam (formerly Assam Province),
- Bihar (formerly Bihar Province),
- Bombay (formerly Bombay Province),
- East Punjab (formerly Punjab Province),
- Madhya Pradesh (formerly the Central Provinces and Berar),
- Madras (formerly Madras Province),
- Orissa (formerly Orissa Province),
- Uttar Pradesh (formerly the United Provinces), and
- West Bengal (formerly Bengal Province).

The administrative divisions of the Union of India in 1949

- The eight Part B states were former princely states or groups of princely states, governed by a rajpramukh, who was usually the ruler of a constituent state, and an elected legislature. The rajpramukh was appointed by the President of India. The Part B states were:

  - Hyderabad (formerly Hyderabad Princely State),
  - Jammu and Kashmir (formerly Jammu and Kashmir Princely State),
  - Madhya Bharat (formerly Central India Agency),
  - Mysore (formerly Mysore Princely State),
  - Patiala and East Punjab States Union (PEPSU),
  - Rajasthan (formerly Rajputana Agency),
  - Saurashtra (formerly Baroda, Western India and Gujarat States Agency), and
  - Travancore–Cochin (formerly Travancore Princely State and Cochin Princely State).

- The ten Part C states included both the former chief commissioners' provinces and some princely states, and each was governed by a chief commissioner appointed by the President of India. The Part C states were:

  - Ajmer (formerly Ajmer-Merwara Province),
  - Bhopal (formerly Bhopal Princely State),
  - Bilaspur (formerly Bilaspur Princely State),
  - Coorg State (formerly Coorg Province),
  - Delhi,
  - Himachal Pradesh,
  - Kutch (formerly Cutch Princely State),
  - Manipur (formerly Manipur Princely State),
  - Tripura (formerly Tripura Princely State), and
  - Vindhya Pradesh (formerly Central India Agency).

- The only Part D state was the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, which were administered by a lieutenant governor appointed by the union government.

States reorganisation (1951–1956)

Andhra State was created on 1 October 1953 from the Telugu-speaking northern districts of Madras State.[4]

The French enclave of Chandernagore was transferred to West Bengal in 1954. In the same year Pondicherry, comprising the former French enclaves of Pondichéry, Karikal, Yanaon and Mahé, was transferred to India. This became a union territory in 1962.[5]

Also in 1954, pro-India forces liberated the Portuguese-held enclaves of Dadrá and Nagar Aveli, declaring the short-lived *de facto* state of Free Dadra and Nagar Haveli. In 1961, India annexed it as the Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli.[6][7][8][9]

The States Reorganisation Act, 1956 reorganised the states based on linguistic lines resulting in the creation of the new states.[3]

As a result of this act:

- Madras State retained its name, with Kanyakumari district added to form Travancore–Cochin.
- Andhra Pradesh was created with the merger of Andhra State with the Telugu-speaking districts of Hyderabad State in 1956.
- Kerala was created by merging Malabar district and the Kasaragod taluk of South Canara districts of Madras State with Travancore–Cochin.
- Mysore State was re-organised with the addition of the districts of Bellary and South Canara (excluding Kasaragod taluk) and the Kollegal taluk of Coimbatore district from the Madras State, the districts of Belgaum, Bijapur, North Canara and Dharwad from Bombay State, the Kannada-majority districts of Bidar, Raichur and Kalaburagi from Hyderabad State and the Coorg State.
- The Laccadive Islands, Aminidivi Islands and Minicoy Island, which had been divided between the South Canara and Malabar districts of Madras State, were united and organised into the union territory of Lakshadweep.
- Bombay State was enlarged by the addition of Saurashtra State and Kutch State, the Marathi-speaking districts of Nagpur division of Madhya Pradesh and the Marathwada region of Hyderabad State.
- Rajasthan and Punjab gained territories from Ajmer State and Patiala and East Punjab States Union respectively and certain territories of Bihar were transferred to West Bengal.

India before and after the States Reorganisation Act, 1956.

Post-1956

Bombay State was split into the linguistic states of Gujarat and Maharashtra on 1 May 1960 by the Bombay Reorganisation Act.[10] The former Union Territory of Nagaland achieved statehood on 1 December 1963.[11] The Punjab Reorganisation Act, 1966 resulted in the creation of Haryana on 1 November and the transfer of the northern districts of Punjab to Himachal Pradesh.[12] The act designated Chandigarh as a union territory and the shared capital of Punjab and Haryana.[13]

Madras State was renamed Tamil Nadu in 1969. The north-eastern states of Manipur, Meghalaya and Tripura were formed on 21 January 1972.[14] Mysore State was renamed Karnataka in 1973. On 16 May 1975, Sikkim became the 22nd state of the Indian Union and the state's monarchy was abolished.[15] In 1987, Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram became states on 20 February, followed by Goa on 30 May, while erstwhile union territory of Goa, Daman and Diu's northern exclaves Damão and Diu became a separate union territory as Daman and Diu.[16]

In November 2000, three new states were created, namely:

- Chhattisgarh, from eastern Madhya Pradesh,
- Uttaranchal, from northwest Uttar Pradesh (renamed Uttarakhand in 2007), and
- Jharkhand, from southern districts of Bihar with the enforcement of Madhya Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2000, Uttar Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2000 and Bihar Reorganisation Act, 2000 respectively.[17][18][19][20]

Pondicherry was renamed Puducherry in 2007 and Orissa was renamed Odisha in 2011. Telangana was created on 2 June 2014 from ten former districts of north-western Andhra Pradesh.[21][22]

In August 2019, the Parliament of India passed the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, which contains provisions to reorganise the state of Jammu and Kashmir into two union territories; Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, effective from 31 October 2019.[23] Later that year in November, the Government of India introduced legislation to merge the union territories of Daman and Diu and Dadra and Nagar Haveli into a single union territory to be known as Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, effective from 26 January 2020.[24][25][26]

Current proposals

States and Union territories

States

State	ISO	Vehicle code	Zone	Capital	Largest city	Statehood	Population (2011)[27][28]	Area (km²)	Official languages[29]	Additional official languages[29]
Andhra Pradesh	IN-AP	AP	Southern	Amaravati	Visakhapatnam	1 November 1956	49,506,799	162,975	Telugu	Urdu[30]
Arunachal Pradesh	IN-AR	AR	North-Eastern	Itanagar		20 February 1987	1,383,727	83,743	English	—
Assam	IN-AS	AS	North-Eastern	Dispur	Guwahati	26 January 1950	31,205,576	78,438	Assamese, Boro	Bengali, Meitei[31]
Bihar	IN-BR	BR	Eastern	Patna		26 January 1950	104,099,452	94,163	Hindi	Urdu
Chhattisgarh	IN-CG	CG	Central	Raipur[b]		1 November 2000	25,545,198	135,194	Hindi	Chhattisgarhi
Goa	IN-GA	GA	Western	Panaji	Vasco da Gama	30 May 1987	1,458,545	3,702	Konkani	Marathi
Gujarat	IN-GJ	GJ	Western	Gandhinagar	Ahmedabad	1 May 1960	60,439,692	196,024	Gujarati, Hindi	—
Haryana	IN-HR	HR	Northern	Chandigarh	Faridabad	1 November 1966	25,351,462	44,212	Hindi	Punjabi[32]
Himachal Pradesh	IN-HP	HP	Northern	Shimla (Summer) Dharamshala (Winter)[33]	Shimla	25 January 1971	6,864,602	55,673	Hindi	Sanskrit[34]
Jharkhand	IN-JH	JH	Eastern	Ranchi	Jamshedpur	15 November 2000	32,988,134	79,714	Hindi	Angika, Bengali, Bhojpuri, Bhumij, Ho, Kharia, Khortha, Kurmali, Kurukh, Magahi, Maithili, Mundari, Nagpuri, Odia, Santali, Urdu[35][36]
Karnataka	IN-KA	KA	Southern	Bengaluru		1 November 1956	61,095,297	191,791	Kannada	—
Kerala	IN-KL	KL	Southern	Thiruvananthapuram	Kochi	1 November 1956	33,406,061	38,863	Malayalam	English[37]
Madhya Pradesh	IN-MP	MP	Central	Bhopal	Indore	1 November 1956	72,626,809	308,252	Hindi	—
Maharashtra	IN-MH	MH	Western	Mumbai (Summer) Nagpur (Winter)[38][39]	Mumbai	1 May 1960	112,374,333	307,713	Marathi	—
Manipur	IN-MN	MN	North-Eastern	Imphal		21 January 1972	2,855,794	22,327	Meitei	English
Meghalaya	IN-ML	ML	North-Eastern	Shillong		21 January 1972	2,966,889	22,429	English	—
Mizoram	IN-MZ	MZ	North-Eastern	Aizawl		20 February 1987	1,097,206	21,081	Mizo, English	—
Nagaland	IN-NL	NL	North-Eastern	Kohima	Dimapur	1 December 1963	1,978,502	16,579	English	—
Odisha	IN-OD	OD	Eastern	Bhubaneswar		26 January 1950	41,974,218	155,707	Odia	—
Punjab	IN-PB	PB	Northern	Chandigarh	Ludhiana	1 November 1966	27,743,338	50,362	Punjabi	—
Rajasthan	IN-RJ	RJ	Northern	Jaipur		26 January 1950	68,548,437	342,239	Hindi	English
Sikkim	IN-SK	SK	North-Eastern	Gangtok		16 May 1975	610,577	7,096	Nepali, Sikkimese, Lepcha, English[40]	Gurung, Limbu, Magar, Mukhia, Newari, Rai, Sherpa, Tamang
Tamil Nadu	IN-TN	TN	Southern	Chennai		1 November 1956	72,147,030	130,058	Tamil	English
Telangana	IN-TS	TG[41]	Southern	Hyderabad[c]		2 June 2014	35,193,978[45]	112,077[45]	Telugu	Urdu[46]
Tripura	IN-TR	TR	North-Eastern	Agartala		21 January 1972	3,673,917	10,491	Bengali, English, Kokborok	—
Uttar Pradesh	IN-UP	UP	Central	Lucknow		26 January 1950	199,812,341	240,928	Hindi	Urdu
Uttarakhand	IN-UK	UK	Central	Bhararisain (Summer) Dehradun (Winter)[47]	Dehradun	9 November 2000	10,086,292	53,483	Hindi	Sanskrit[48]
West Bengal	IN-WB	WB	Eastern	Kolkata		26 January 1950	91,276,115	88,752	Bengali, English	Nepali,[d] Hindi, Odia, Punjabi, Santali, Telugu, Urdu, Kamatapuri, Rajbanshi, Kurmali, Kurukh

State	ISO	Vehicle code	Zone	Capital	Largest city	Statehood	Population (2011)[27][28]	Area (km²)	Official languages[29]	Additional official languages[29]
Total							1,178,310,321	3,054,066		

a. A few union territories have their own representative territorial governments.

b. Nava Raipur is planned to replace Raipur as the capital city of Chhattisgarh.

c. Andhra Pradesh was divided into two states, Telangana and a residual Andhra Pradesh on 2 June 2014.[42][21] Hyderabad, located entirely within the borders of Telangana, is to serve as the capital for both states for a period of time not exceeding ten years.[43] The Government of Andhra Pradesh and the Andhra Pradesh Legislature completed the process of relocating to temporary facilities in the envisaged new capital city Amaravati in early 2017.[44]

d. Bengali and Nepali are the official languages in the Darjeeling and Kurseong sub-divisions of the Darjeeling district.

Union territories

State[49]	ISO[50]	Vehicle code[51]	Zone[52]	Capital[49]	Largest city[53]	Established[54]	Population (2011)[55]	Area (km²)[56]	Official languages[57]	Additional official languages[57]
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	IN-AN	AN	Eastern	Port Blair		1 November 1956	380,581	8,249	Hindi, English	—
Chandigarh	IN-CH	CH	Northern	Chandigarh		1 November 1966	1,055,450	114	English	—
Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu	IN-DH	DD	Western	Daman	Silvassa	26 January 2020	587,106	603	Hindi, English	Gujarati
Delhi	IN-DL	DL	Northern	New Delhi	Delhi	1 November 1956	16,787,941	1,484	Hindi, English	Urdu, Punjabi[58]
Jammu and Kashmir	IN-JK	JK	Northern	Srinagar (Summer) Jammu (Winter)[59]	Srinagar	31 October 2019	12,258,433	42,241	Dogri, English, Hindi, Kashmiri, Urdu	—
Ladakh	IN-LA	LA	Northern	Leh (Summer) Kargil (Winter)[60]	Leh	31 October 2019	290,492	59,146	Hindi, English	—
Lakshadweep	IN-LD	LD	Southern	Kavaratti		1 November 1956	64,473	32	English	Malayalam
Puducherry	IN-PY	PY	Southern	Pondicherry		16 August 1962	1,247,953	479	Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam	English, French
Total							32,672,429	112,348		

Former states and union territories

Former states

Map	State	Capital	Years	Present-day state(s)
	Ajmer State	Ajmer	1950–1956	Rajasthan
	Andhra State	Kurnool	1953–1956	Andhra Pradesh
	Bhopal State	Bhopal	1949–1956	Madhya Pradesh
	Bilaspur State	Bilaspur	1950–1954	Himachal Pradesh
	Bombay State	Bombay	1950–1960	Maharashtra, Gujarat, and partially Karnataka
	Coorg State	Madikeri	1950–1956	Karnataka

Map	State	Capital	Years	Present-day state(s)
	East Punjab	Shimla (1947–1953) Chandigarh (1953–1966)	1947–1966	Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Chandigarh UT
	Hyderabad State	Hyderabad	1948–1956	Telangana, and partially Maharashtra and Karnataka
	Jammu and Kashmir	Srinagar (Summer) Jammu (Winter)	1952–2019	Jammu and Kashmir UT and Ladakh UT
	Kutch State	Bhuj	1947–1956	Gujarat
	Madhya Bharat	Indore (Summer) Gwalior (Winter)	1948–1956	Madhya Pradesh
	Madras State	Madras	1950–1969	Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and partially Karnataka and Kerala

Map	State	Capital	Years	Present-day state(s)
	Mysore State	Bangalore	1947–1973	Karnataka
	Patiala and East Punjab States Union	Patiala	1948–1956	Punjab and Haryana
	Saurashtra	Rajkot	1948–1956	Gujarat
	Travancore–Cochin	Trivandrum	1949–1956	Kerala and partially Tamil Nadu
	Vindhya Pradesh	Rewa	1948–1956	Madhya Pradesh

Former union territories

Former union territories of India[54][61]

Name	Zone	Capital	Area	Begin	End	Successor(s)	Map
Arunachal Pradesh	North-Eastern	Itanagar	83,743 km^2 (32,333 sq mi)	21 January 1972	20 February 1987	As an Indian state	
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	Western	Silvassa	491 km^2 (190 sq mi)	11 August 1961	26 January 2020	Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu (UT)	
Daman and Diu	Western	Daman	112 km^2 (43 sq mi)	30 May 1987	26 January 2020	Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu (UT)	
Goa, Daman and Diu	Western	Panaji	3,814 km^2 (1,473 sq mi)	19 December 1961	30 May 1987	Goa (state), Daman and Diu (UT)	
Himachal Pradesh	Northern	Shimla	55,673 km^2 (21,495 sq mi)	1 November 1956	25 January 1971	As an Indian state	
Manipur	North-Eastern	Imphal	22,327 km^2 (8,621 sq mi)	1 November 1956	21 January 1972	As an Indian state	
Mizoram	North-Eastern	Aizawl	21,081 km^2 (8,139 sq mi)	21 January 1972	20 February 1987	As an Indian state	
Nagaland	North-Eastern	Kohima	16,579 km^2 (6,401 sq mi)	29 November 1957	1 December 1963	As an Indian state	
Tripura	North-Eastern	Agartala	10,491 km^2 (4,051 sq mi)	1 November 1956	21 January 1972	As an Indian state	

Responsibilities and authorities

The Constitution of India distributes the sovereign executive and legislative powers exercisable with respect to the territory of any state between the Union and that state.[62]

See also

- Administrative divisions of India
- Autonomous administrative divisions of India
- List of adjectives and demonyms for states and territories of India
- List of Indian state and union territory name etymologies
- List of princely states of British India (alphabetical)
- List of states and union territories of India by area
- List of states and union territories of India by population
- List of states in India by past population
- List of states of India by wildlife population
- Proposed states and union territories of India

Notes

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External links

- Official Government of India website: States and Union Territories (https://www.india.gov.in/india-glance/states-india)