



## Arunachal Pradesh and Assam Border Dispute

**For Prelims:** Assam-Arunachal Pradesh border dispute, Article 263 of the Constitution

**For Mains:** Northeast border disputes and related issues and way ahead

### Why in News?

Recently, the **Governments of Arunachal Pradesh and Assam** have decided to form **district-level committees** for resolving boundary disputes.

- The **district committees** will undertake joint surveys in the **disputed areas to find tangible solutions** to the long-pending issue based on **historical perspective, ethnicity, contiguity, peoples' will** and administrative convenience of both states.

### What are the Border Disputes in the Country?

<b>Assam-Arunachal Pradesh:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Assam shares an 804.10 km inter-state boundary with Arunachal Pradesh.</li><li>▪ The state of Arunachal Pradesh, created in 1987, claims some land that traditionally given to Assam.</li><li>▪ A tripartite committee had recommended that certain territories be transferred from Assam to Arunachal Pradesh. The two states have since been battling it out in the court over the issue.</li></ul>
<b>Assam-Mizoram:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Mizoram used to be a district of Assam before being <b>carved out as a separate union territory and later another state.</b></li><li>▪ Mizoram shares a border with the districts Cachar, Hailakandi and Karimganj of Assam.</li><li>▪ Over time, the two <b>states started having different perceptions</b> about where the border should be.</li><li>▪ While Mizoram wants it to be along an inner line notified in <b>1875 to protect tribal interests</b>, Assam feels that area feel is part of their historical homeland, Assam wants it to be demarcated according to the 1875 line.</li></ul>
<b>Assam-Nagaland:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ The border dispute between the two states has been going on since the <b>formation of Nagaland.</b></li><li>▪ The two states lay claim to Merapani, a small village next to the plains of Assam's Goalpara district.</li><li>▪ There have been reports of violent clashes in the region since the 1960s.</li></ul>
<b>Assam-Meghalaya:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Meghalaya has identified close to a dozen areas on which it has a dispute with Assam.</li></ul>
<b>Haryana-Himachal Pradesh:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ The two northern states have a border dispute over the <b>Parwanoo region, which lies in the state of Haryana.</b></li><li>▪ Haryana has laid a claim to a large part of the land in the area and has accused the Himachal Pradesh government of encroaching on its territory.</li></ul>
<b>Ladakh-Himachal Pradesh:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ The union territory of <b>Ladakh and Himachal both claim Sarchu</b>, a major halt point on the Manali highway.</li><li>▪ The region is located between <b>Himachal Pradesh's Lahaul and Spiti district and Ladakh's Leh district.</b></li></ul>
<a href="#">Maharashtra-Karnataka:</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Perhaps the biggest border dispute in the country is <b>between Maharashtra and Karnataka.</b></li><li>▪ Belgaum has a sizable population of <b>both Marathi and Kannada speaking people</b> and has been a part of both states.</li><li>▪ The area used to be part of the Bombay presidency from the time of the Britishers but was transferred to Karnataka in 1956.</li></ul>

## Why do inter-state border disputes remain unresolved?

- **Linguistic Idea of Reorganization:** Although the [States Reorganization Commission, 1956](#) was based on administrative convenience, states reorganized largely resembled the idea of one language one state.
- **Geographical Complexity:** The other complexity has been terrain — **rivers, hills and forests straddle two states** in many places and borders cannot be physically marked.
  - Colonial maps had left out large tracts of the northeast outside Assam as “thick forests” or marked them “unexplored”.
- **Indigenous Communities:** Indigenous communities were, for the most part, left alone. Boundaries would be drawn for administrative convenience when the “need” arose.
  - The **1956 demarcation** did not resolve the discrepancies.
  - When new states were carved out of **Assam (Nagaland in 1963, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Tripura and Manipur in 1972, and Arunachal Pradesh in 1987), it was still not addressed.**

## Way Forward

- Boundary disputes between the states can be settled by using satellite mapping of the actual border locations.
- Reviving the Inter-state council can be an option for resolution of an Inter-state dispute.
  - Under **Article 263 of the Constitution**, the Inter-state council is expected to inquire and advise on disputes, discuss subjects common to all states and make recommendations for better policy coordination.
- Similarly, [Zonal councils](#) need to be revived to discuss the matters of common concern to states in each zone—matters relating to social and economic planning, border disputes, inter-state transport, etc.
- India is the epitome of unity in diversity. However, to strengthen this unity furthermore, both the centre and state governments need to imbibe the ethos of [cooperative federalism](#).

## UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Questions (PYQs)

**Q. Which was the Capital of Andhra State when it was made a separate State in the year 1953? (2008)**

- (a) Guntur
- (b) Kurnool
- (c) Nellore
- (d) Warangal

**Ans: (b)**

- In 1953, following the death of Potti Sreeramulu (popularly called as Amarajeevi) due to fast unto death, Andhra State was carved out of Madras Presidency on linguistic basis with grouping of Telugu-speaking northern districts – Rayalaseema and Coastal Andhra, but it was only in 1956 that present-day Telangana was merged in Andhra Pradesh. Andhra Pradesh became the first State to be constituted under the State Reorganisation Act, 1956.
- Kurnool was the capital of Andhra State; and in 1956, Hyderabad was made capital of Andhra Pradesh.

[Source: TH](#)

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