



Punjab Suba Movement

Why in News

Recently, the **Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC)** commemorated the first entry of a police force inside the [Golden Temple](#) on **4th July, 1955** during the **Punjab Suba movement (Morcha)**.

Key Points

▪ About:

- It **started in Punjab soon after Independence**. Shiromani Akali Dal (Political Party) was leading the movement for a **Punjabi speaking state**.
 - However, **there was also opposition to this idea**.
- Those in favour of the demand used to raise the slogan **Punjabi Suba Amar Rahe** and those opposing the demand were raising slogans in favour of **'Maha-Punjab'**.
 - It was in April, 1955 that the government **banned the slogans fearing law and order problems under [section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure \(CrPC\)](#)**.
- The demand for creation of Punjabi Suba **automatically gave basis to the demand for having a separate state of Haryana**.

▪ Demand of the Movement:

- A Punjabi speaking **state which will have Punjabi speaking areas' population**.
- There should be **no attempt to temper for increasing or decreasing its size artificially**. The Punjabi speaking state **will be under the Indian Constitution**.

▪ Formation of Punjab:

- With the passage of the **Punjab Reorganization Act 1966** (and in accordance with the earlier recommendations of the States Reorganization Commission), **Haryana was separated from Punjab in 1966 to become the 17th state of India**.
- And the erstwhile state of **East Punjab was now divided into two states that is Haryana and Punjab**.
- Some **territory was also transferred to Himachal Pradesh**, then a Union territory.
- And the city of **Chandigarh** became a **Union territory to serve as the provisional capital of both the Punjab and Haryana**.

▪ Constitutional Provisions for Creation of States:

- Indian constitution **empowers the Union government to create new states out of existing states or two merge one state with another**. This process is called **reorganisation of the states**.
 - The basis of reorganisation could be **linguistic, religious, ethnic or administrative**.
- [Article 3](#) provides the following procedure:

- **Presidential reference** is sent to the State Assembly.
- After presidential reference, **a resolution is tabled and passed in the Assembly.**
- The Assembly has to pass a **Bill creating the new State/States.**
- A **separate Bill has to be ratified by Parliament.**

Advantages and Disadvantages of Creation of New States

Advantages	Disadvantages
Better management of economic resources	Possibility of increase in the inter-State water, power, and boundary disputes
More investment opportunities	The feeling of nationalism would diminish in the cries of regional autonomy
Faster economic growth	Small states depend to a substantial extent on the central government for financial aid
More people of the same small state and same province will have a say in their state affairs	Different statehood may lead to the hegemony of the dominant community

Current Statehood Demands in India

▪ Vidarbha:

- It comprises the **Amravati and Nagpur divisions of eastern Maharashtra.**

▪ Delhi:

- To gain the control of such substantive powers, Delhi government is aspiring for full statehood.

▪ Harit Pradesh:

- It consists of agriculturally dominated districts of **Western Uttar Pradesh.**

▪ Purvanchal:

- It is a geographic region of north-central India, which comprises the **eastern end of Uttar Pradesh state.**

▪ Bodoland:

- The Bodos are the largest ethnic and linguistic community in **northern Assam.**

▪ Saurashtra:

- Kathiawar Peninsula, also called Saurashtra Peninsula, peninsula in **southwestern Gujarat state.**

▪ Gorkhaland:

- It is a proposed state covering areas inhabited by the ethnic Gorkha (Nepali) people, namely **Darjeeling hills and Doars in the northern part of West Bengal.**

Source: IE