



Statehood Day for Manipur, Tripura, and Meghalaya

[Source: PIB](#)

Why in News?

The Prime Minister of India greeted [Manipur, Tripura, and Meghalaya](#) on their [Statehood Day \(21st January\)](#).

What is the Historical Context Behind the Statehood Day?

- **Merger of Manipur:** Before 1947, Manipur was an independent princely state. The **Maharaja, Bodhachandra Singh**, signed the '[Instrument of Accession](#)' with the Indian government, agreeing to [merge with India](#) while ensuring internal autonomy.
 - Manipur held its **first election based on universal adult franchise in 1948**, becoming a **constitutional monarchy**.
 - In 1949, under pressure from the Indian government, the **Maharaja signed the Merger Agreement** without consulting Manipur's elected assembly.
 - Following the merger, Manipur's State Assembly was dissolved, and it became a **Part C State, administered by the [President of India](#)** through a **Chief Commissioner or Lieutenant Governor**.
 - On 1st November 1, 1956, Manipur became a **Union Territory under the Union Territorial Council Act, 1956**. Later on 21st January 1972, Manipur was granted full statehood through the **North-Eastern Areas (Re-organization) Act, 1971 (NEA-(R) Act)**.
- **Merger of Tripura:** Tripura, a princely state, merged with India in 1949, facilitated by **Queen Kanchan Prabha Devi**, who assumed regency after **King Bir Bikram's** death.
 - After merging with India, **Tripura became a Part 'C' State**. In 1956, it became a **Union Territory**, and later on 21st January 1972, Tripura became a full-fledged State under the **NEA-(R) Act, 1971**.
- **Meghalaya:** Meghalaya's statehood journey began with demands for **greater autonomy from Assam**, particularly from the **Khasi, Jaintia, and Garo Hills**, who sought a **separate state to preserve indigenous cultures**, especially after Assam's attempt to impose **Assamese as the medium of instruction**.
 - In **1969, the Assam Reorganization (Meghalaya) Act** established **Meghalaya an autonomous state within Assam**.
 - Following this, the **NEA (R) Act, 1971** granted **full statehood to Meghalaya, making it the 21st state of India, with Shillong as its capital**.

North-Eastern Areas (Re-organization) Act, 1971

- **Manipur and Tripura:** Upgraded from Union Territories to full-fledged states.
- **Meghalaya:** Formed as a state from autonomous regions of Assam.
- **Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh:** Established as Union Territories.
- **Representation in the Legislature:** Allocated seats for the new North-Eastern states in the **Council of States** (Rajya Sabha) and the **House of the People** (Lok Sabha).
 - Ensured proper representation of [Scheduled Castes](#) and [Scheduled Tribes](#) in the **legislative assemblies**.

- **Judicial Reorganization:** Established the **Gauhati High Court** as the common High Court for the States of Assam, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Manipur, and Tripura.

REORGANISATION OF STATES IN INDIA

The States Reorganisation Commission set up in 1956 suggested the formation of 14 States and 6 UTs. At present, India comprises 28 states and 8 UTs.

1950 States classified into **4 categories**
- Part A, B, C and D (1st Schedule)

- **Part A** - Ruled by **Governor** with **elected State Legislature**
 - **Andhra Pradesh** (first state on linguistic lines) - 1953
- **Part B** - Former **Princely States**
- **Part C** - Former **Chief Commissioners' Provinces**, some **Princely states**
- **Part D** - Andaman and Nicobar Islands

7th Constitutional Amendment (1956) -

- Distinction between Part-A and Part-B states done away
- Part-C states were abolished
- Made total no. of (erstwhile) states - 14 and UTs - 6

Reorganisation/Creation of States/UTs after 1956

States Carved Out of Other States

- ↳ **Gujarat** and **Maharashtra** from Bombay (Bombay Reorganisation Act, 1960)
- ↳ **Nagaland** from Assam (State of Nagaland Act, 1962)
- ↳ **Haryana** from Punjab (Punjab Reorganisation Act, 1966)
- ↳ **Meghalaya** from Assam (North-Eastern Areas (Reorganisation) Act, 1971)
- ↳ **Chhattisgarh** from MP (Madhya Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2000)
- ↳ **Uttarakhand** from UP (Uttar Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2000)
- ↳ **Jharkhand** from Bihar (Bihar Reorganisation Act, 2000)
- ↳ **Telangana** from Andhra Pradesh (Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014)

States Formed by Granting Statehood

- ↳ **Himachal Pradesh** (State of Himachal Pradesh Act, 1970)
- ↳ **Manipur** and **Tripura** (North-Eastern Areas (Reorganisation) Act, 1971)
- ↳ **Sikkim** (36th Constitutional Amendment (1975))
- ↳ **Mizoram** (State of Mizoram Act, 1986)
- ↳ **Arunachal Pradesh** (State of Arunachal Pradesh Act, 1986)
- ↳ **Goa** (Goa, Daman, and Diu Reorganisation Act, 1987)

Formation of UTs

- ↳ Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Delhi, Lakshadweep - 1956
- ↳ Puducherry - 1962
- ↳ Chandigarh - 1966
- ↳ J&K and Ladakh - 2019
- ↳ Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu - 2020