



Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu (Merger of Union Territories) Bill, 2019

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Why in News

Recently, a **Bill to merge the Union Territories (UTs) of Daman and Diu (D&D) and Dadra and Nagar Haveli (DNH)** has been **introduced in the Lok Sabha**. It seeks to provide better delivery of services to the citizens of both Union Territories by improving efficiency and reducing paperwork.

Key Points

- Both UTs have two **separate constitutional and administrative bodies** which lead to a lot of **duplicacy, inefficiency and wasteful expenditure**.
- The merger will help in achieving the government's goal to have **Minimum Government, Maximum Governance**.
- Both of them have small population and limited geographical area so the merger will not be challenging and the services of officers will be used efficiently.
- The move comes after the landmark decision of **bifurcating the State of Jammu and Kashmir** into the **Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh**.

Minimum Government, Maximum Governance

- It is the motto of the central government to achieve a citizen-friendly and accountable administration.
- It aims to bring Government closer to citizens so that they become active participants in the governance process and reduce their time and efforts.
- An important step for Good Governance is the simplification of procedures and processes in the Government so as to make the entire system transparent and faster.
- Identification and repeal of obsolete laws and rules, identification and shortening of various official forms, leveraging technology to bring in transparency in public interface and a robust public grievance redress system are other aspects of it.

Daman and Diu and Dadra and Nagar Haveli

- These two UTs are located in the **western region** of India.
 - Daman and Diu are **two widely separated** districts situated on the **southern side of Gujarat**. Daman is an **enclave on Gujarat's southern coast** and Diu encompasses **an island off the southern coast of Gujarat's Kathiawar Peninsula**. It is in close proximity of the UT of DNH.
 - Dadra and Nagar Haveli consists of **two separate parts**. **Dadra is surrounded by the state of Gujarat** and **Nagar Haveli lies on the borders of Maharashtra and Gujarat**.
- Both were colonised by the **Portuguese** and were **liberated in December 1961**.
- In **1987, when Goa got statehood**, Daman and Diu were made a **separate** Union Territory from the previous **Union Territory of Goa, Daman and Diu**.



Source: TH