



Does India need smaller states?

## Description

### Reasons for separate statehood demands :-

- Unequal development.
- Poor governance.
- Negligence.
- Perceived negligence. Some people are feeling that they are neglected, though they are not.
- Differences in Language/ culture/ ethnicity.
- Historical reasons. Some regions have great history, so the people there want separate state.
- Located at a long distance from the administrative center. If the capital is very far from the region, they feel neglected. And it's difficult to travel to capital for administrative related works.
- Marginalization of people based on their region. There is an unequal distribution of state funds among regions within the states.
- Selfish motives of few politicians. Some politicians do spread misinformation and encourages people to protest for separate state, so that they will get power and monetary benefits.

### In Favor :-

- Decentralization and bringing the govt. closer to people enhances efficiency of governance.
- Problems like Naxalism can be tackled easily in smaller states because there will be more focus, if the area is small.
- In large states, administration may not know the needs of local people.
- In larger states, resource rich places may not get benefits of it's resources because the benefits may go to some other places of the same state.
- Administration of large states is complex.
- Kerala & Goa are small states and have developed very well.

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- Jharkhand, Uttarakhand done better in reducing poverty & in improving agriculture growth rate after being separated from their parent states – Bihar & Uttar Pradesh respectively.
  - The smaller states can support the local panchayats better than the larger states can.
  - Cultures, languages will be preserved.
  - Initially, when the states were reorganized on linguistic basis, there was a fear that this may lead to the secessionist tendencies. Instead, it made the unity of India stronger because everyone felt safe & secure as their aspirations were met. The same is the case with the separate statehood demands. If people are happy, there will be no threat to unity of India.

### Against :-

- More no. of states means the greater instability at the center.
- More no. of states can lead to more inter-state water disputes, power sharing and resource sharing problems.
- The places, which are in demand for statehood have no economic viability and hence will end up in creating more problems. Forming of new states involves a lot of expenditure on infrastructure and administration etc.
- If the present statehood demands are accepted, more separatist demands will start from the other regions.
- If we keep on dividing the states, it'll be very difficult to maintain the unity of the nation.
- Forming of new states can't guarantee the development of the region. Rather concentrating on effective planning and efficient use of resources can solve the problems.

### Facts :-

- At the time of independence, India consists of 562 princely states and 11 British provinces.
- Integration of Indian states is the result of the then Minister of Home & State Affairs, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's efforts.
- Potti Sriramulu's death during his fast unto death for the demand of 'Andhra' state ( NOT Andhra Pradesh) made Govt. to appoint States Reorganization Commission. States Reorganization took place on linguistic basis by States Reorganization Act, 1956.
- After further sub-divisions, India now has 29 states and 7 union territories. Telangana is the latest formed state.
- Still there are several [separate statehood demands](#).

### Conclusion :-

It's not the problem of smaller states or larger states, it's the problem of lack of good governance. Administration must take proper care in ensuring equal development.

### Your Turn...

What are your thoughts on this topic? Feel free to express your opinion in the comment section below.