



# Statehood Day of Himachal Pradesh

## Why in News

Recently, the Prime Minister of India greeted people of Himachal Pradesh (H.P.) on its statehood day (25<sup>th</sup> January).



## Key Points

- **History During British Rule:**

State Animal:	Snow Leopard
State Bird:	Western Tragopan
State Flower:	Pink Rhododendron
State Language:	Hindi & Local Dialects
Major Rivers and Dams:	Sutlej (Bhakra Dam, Gobind Sagar reservoir, Koldam Dam), Beas (Pandoh Dam, Maharana Pratap Sagar Reservoir), Ravi (Chamera Dam), Parbati
Major Lakes:	Renuka, Rewalsar, Khajjiar, Dal, Beas Kund, Dasaur, Brighu, Prashar, Mani Mahesh, Chander Tal, Suraj Tal, Kareri, Sreolsar, Gobind Sagar, Nako
National Parks	Great Himalayan National Park, Pin Valley National Park, Khirganga, Inderkila, Simbalbara

- The British territories in the hill came under British Crown after **Queen Victoria's proclamation of 1858**.
- The states of **Chamba, Mandi and Bilaspur** made good progress in many fields during British rule.
- During the **first World War (1914-18)**, virtually all rulers of the hill states remained loyal and contributed to the British war effort both in the form of men and materials.
- **History During Post-Independence Period:** The history of present day Himachal Pradesh in the post-independence era has been outlined below:
  - The **Chief Commissioner's province of H.P.** came into being on 15<sup>th</sup> April, 1948.
  - H.P. became a **part C state (under Part VII) on 26<sup>th</sup> January, 1950** with the implementation of the Constitution of India.
  - Bilaspur was merged with Himachal Pradesh on 1<sup>st</sup> July, 1954.
  - After recommendation of the **State Reorganisation Commission**, Himachal Pradesh became **Union Territory on 1st November, 1956**.
  - Kangra and most of the other hill areas of Punjab were merged with H.P. on 1st November, 1966 though its status remained that of a Union Territory.
  - On 18th December, 1970 the State of Himachal Pradesh Act was passed by Parliament and the **new state came into being on 25<sup>th</sup> January, 1971**. Thus H.P. emerged as the **eighteenth state of the Indian Union**.
  - Himachal Pradesh has come a long way since then. It has seen a number of full-fledged governments which have led the state towards economic self-reliance.

### State Reorganisation Commission

- Having achieved India's independence from British rule, reorganization of more than 500 princely states into effective provincial units was one of the biggest tasks.
- In pursuance of the same, **S. K. Dhar commission (1948) and JVP Committee (1948)** advocated for **reorganization of states based on geographical contiguity, administrative convenience, financial self-reliance and potential for development**.
- However, with the sudden death of **Potti Sriramalu** following hunger **strike in demand for Andhra state** created a volatile situation.
- The **Fazl Ali Commission (1953)** was set up and its recommendation for reorganization of state based on **linguistic criteria (other criteria were also included) was accepted**.

[Source: PIB](#)

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