



## Mains Practice Question

**Q.** Examine how the States Reorganisation Act of 1956 addressed linguistic and regional aspirations and analyze its impact on national integration and administrative efficiency. **(250 words).**

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### Approach

- Briefly introduce the historical context of linguistic and regional aspirations leading to the States Reorganisation Act of 1956.
- Discuss how the Act addressed linguistic demands, its administrative impact, and its role in fostering national integration.
- Conclude suitably.

### Introduction

The **States Reorganisation Act of 1956**, enacted on the recommendations of the **Fazl Ali Commission**, was a landmark in post-independence India, reorganizing state boundaries primarily on linguistic lines to accommodate regional aspirations, enhance administrative efficiency, and promote national integration.

### Body

#### Addressing Linguistic and Regional Aspirations:

- **Creation of Linguistic States:** The act provides a platform where people sharing a common language could collectively govern themselves, leading to a greater sense of unity, identity, and belonging.
  - The creation of **Andhra Pradesh as a Telugu-speaking state in 1953** set a precedent, and the act followed suit by forming states like Karnataka, Gujarat, etc., based on language.
- **Self-Determination and Representation:** The act granted linguistic communities political representation and administrative powers.
  - For example, the creation of **Kerala** unified **Malayalam-speaking regions of Travancore-Cochin** and parts of Madras, allowing the **Malayali community** to have a **single administrative entity**.
- **Cultural and Linguistic Harmony:** The act promoted cultural and linguistic harmony by creating states based on language, such as **Maharashtra** for **marathi speakers** and **Gujarat** for **Gujarati**, aligning administrative structures with local identities.
  - This reduced tensions among language groups and fostered more inclusive governance.

#### Impact of SRA, 1956 on National Integration and Administrative Efficiency:

- **Balanced Regional Accommodation:** The reorganization helped integrate diverse linguistic and regional groups, such as in Tamil Nadu and Kerala, into the national mainstream, promoting

political stability.

- However, it did not fully quell **all regional aspirations**, as seen in the later demands for separate states like **Telangana and Bodoland**.

- **Unity & Sub-Nationalism:** While the Act fostered **inclusion** and **strengthened India's pluralistic ethos** by allowing regional identities to thrive within a federal framework.
  - It also fueled **identity-based politics and regionalism**, evident in the rise of parties like **DMK, Shiv Sena, and TDP**.
  - The rise of **sub-nationalism** has sometimes weakened national identity by strengthening regional loyalties (ongoing movements for Gorkhaland and Bodoland).
- **Localized Governance:** The formation of linguistically coherent states allowed for more localized and responsive governance, as the **administration** was better aligned with the **cultural and linguistic realities** of the population.
  - However, many newly formed or **under-resourced states** still struggle with infrastructural and fiscal limitations, reducing efficiency.
- **Administrative Alignment:** The reorganization improved administrative alignment with local cultural and linguistic identities, fostering a sense of ownership and participation.
  - However, linguistic boundaries have fueled **inter-state disputes** over resources and administrative control (**Cauvery water dispute between Tamil Nadu and Karnataka**).

## Conclusion

The reorganisation of states in India, was crucial for accommodating **regional aspirations within a constitutional framework**. It strengthened federalism, and maintained unity amidst India's diverse linguistic landscape. However, the challenges highlight the need for a balanced approach based on **constitutionalism, federal harmony, and political stability** to ensure inclusive governance and national integration.

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