# Modern History · GS - I

**Linguistic reorganization of Indian States was driven by popular pressure from below. Comment.**

| EXAM YEAR | PAPER | SUBJECT |
|---|---|---|
| 2026 | GS - I | Modern History |

| MARKS | WORD LIMIT |
|---|---|
| 15 | ~250 words |

## Answer Hint

**Linguistic identity, colonial provinces, Congress principle, Andhra movement, Potti Sriramulu, States Reorganisation Commission, SRC 1956, popular mobilisation, federalism, national integration, regional aspirations**

## Model Answer

he linguistic reorganisation of Indian States was significantly shaped by popular mobilisation and regional aspirations from below, although political leadership and administrative considerations also influenced the final process.

During the national movement, linguistic identities gained political recognition, and the Indian National Congress itself organised several provincial units on linguistic lines. After independence, however, the leadership initially feared that linguistic states might encourage regionalism and threaten national unity.

Popular pressure became decisive in the demand for a separate Andhra State. The movement intensified after Potti Sriramulu's fast and death in 1952, compelling the government to create Andhra State in 1953. This demonstrated the political strength of mass linguistic mobilisation.

Subsequently, the States Reorganisation Commission examined linguistic, administrative and economic considerations. The States Reorganisation Act, 1956, substantially reorganised India's internal boundaries, creating a more systematic linguistic basis for state formation. Later movements, including those in Maharashtra, Gujarat and Punjab, further demonstrated the continuing influence of popular regional aspirations.

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However, linguistic reorganisation was not driven exclusively from below. The Union government balanced popular demands with concerns regarding economic viability, administrative efficiency, national security and national integration.

Paradoxically, linguistic federalism strengthened Indian unity by providing constitutional space for regional identities within the national framework.

Therefore, popular pressure was a major catalyst, but linguistic reorganisation emerged from an interaction between mass mobilisation, political negotiation and the Union government's broader nation-building objectives.

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