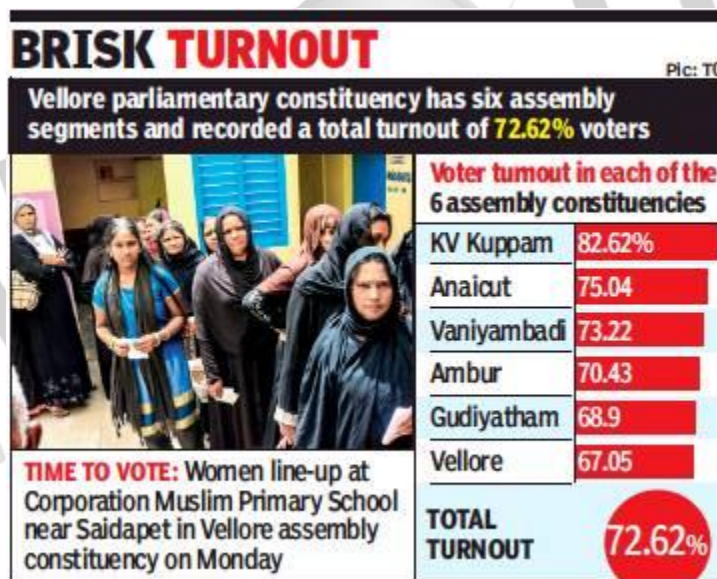


## EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – AUGUST 6, 2019

### TAMIL NADU

- ◆ **Vellore – recorded a voter turnout of 72.62% on August 5 by-elections**



- ✓ The Lok Sabha constituency witnessed the cancellation of elections in April over allegations of money distribution to influence voters.
- ✓ The counting of votes will take place on August 9
- ◆ **The Madras high court - appointed former DGP of Tamil Nadu Walter Isaac Devaram to monitor the Special Olympic fund misuse probe**
  - ✓ A division bench of Justices Vineet Kothari and C V Karthikeyan directed Walter Devaram to monitor the probe conducted by the state commissioner for persons with disabilities into the allegation of misappropriation of funds by the organisers of Special Olympics Bharat's football competition in Chennai
  - ✓ Walter Devaram is the president of Tamil Nadu Athletic Association















◆ **The Madras high court - has constituted a two-member committee to inspect and report the present condition of the 'Anantha Saras' tank from where Athi Varadar's idol is taken out once every 40 years**

- ✓ The committee comprises M Karthikeyan, assistant solicitor general, and M Maharajan, pleader for Hindu religious and charitable endowments (HR&CE) department
- ✓ Justice P D Audikesavalu passed the interim order on a plea seeking direction to the authorities concerned to clean, desilt, deepen and renovate the tank before the idol is returned there

## NATIONAL

◆ **The Lok Sabha - approved the amendments to the Motor Vehicles Act on August 5**

- ✓ The act was earlier approved by the Rajya Sabha

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS UNDER MOTOR VEHICLES (Amendment) Bill – 2019		
DESCRIPTION	OLD PENALTY (IN ₹)	PROPOSED PENALTY (IN ₹)
 Travel without ticket	200	500
 Driving without licence	500	5,000
 Driving despite disqualification	500	5,000
 Over speeding	400	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1,000 for Light Vehicle</li> <li>• 2,000 for Medium vehicle</li> </ul>
 Dangerous driving penalty	1,000	Upto 5,000
 Drunken driving	2,000	10,000
 Racing	500	5,000
 Overloading	2000 & 1000 per extra tonne	5,000
 No seatbelt	100	1,000
 Overloading of two wheelers	100	2,000 + licence suspended for 3 months
 No helmet	100	1,000 + licence suspended for 3 months
 Not providing way for emergency vehicles	–	10,000
 Driving without insurance	1,000	2,000
 Offences by Juveniles	–	Guardian: 25,000 with 3 years prison Juvenile to be tried under JJ Act. Vehicle registration to be cancelled
 Offences committed by enforcing authorities	–	Twice the penalty under the relevant section

Source: Ministry of Road Transport & Highways

Bloomberg | Quint

- ✓ The fresh amendments that have been brought includes a massive increase in fines for traffic violations
- ✓ Under the new provisions, carrying more than two passengers including driver in two-wheelers will attract ₹1,000 fine and the driver will be disqualified for holding licence for three months.
- ✓ Similarly, allowing a child below 14 years in a car without wearing seatbelt or child restraint will attract ₹1,000 fine.

◆ **The Lok Sabha – passes The Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill, 2019 on August 5**

- ✓ It is now introduced in the Rajya Sabha



- ✓ The Bill, introduced by Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan, seeks to ban commercial surrogacy and provides for constituting a National Surrogacy Board, State Surrogacy Boards, and the appointment of appropriate authorities for the regulation of the practice and process of surrogacy.
- ✓ The Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill regulates altruistic surrogacy and prohibits commercial surrogacy
- ✓ It defines surrogacy as a practice where a woman gives birth to a child for an eligible couple and agrees to hand over the child to them after the birth.
- ✓ The Bill allows altruistic surrogacy, which involves a surrogacy arrangement where the monetary reward only involves medical expenses and insurance coverage for the surrogate mother
- ✓ The bill seeks to allow surrogacy by infertile Indian couples from a “close relative”, while prohibiting foreigners, NRIs and PIOs from undertaking surrogacy in the country.
- ✓ Even singles, homosexuals and live-in couples cannot apply for surrogacy.
- ✓ Only Indian couples who are legally married for at least five years and possess a certificate from a doctor stating that they are medically unfit to produce a child can opt for surrogacy
- ✓ Besides, couples who already have children will also not be allowed to opt for surrogacy

## ◆ Lok Sabha – passes The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Bill 2019 by a voice vote on August 5

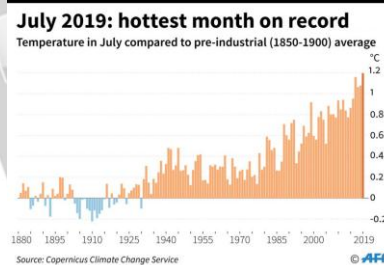
- ✓ Now, it will be sent to Rajya Sabha for approval
- ✓ The Bill provides a mechanism for social, economic and educational empowerment of transgender



- ✓ The bill makes provision for establishing a national authority for safeguarding rights of transgender
- ✓ A contentious provision that criminalized begging by transgender people has been removed from the bill
- ✓ According to the 2011 census, there are more than 4.80 lakh transgender in the country

## SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

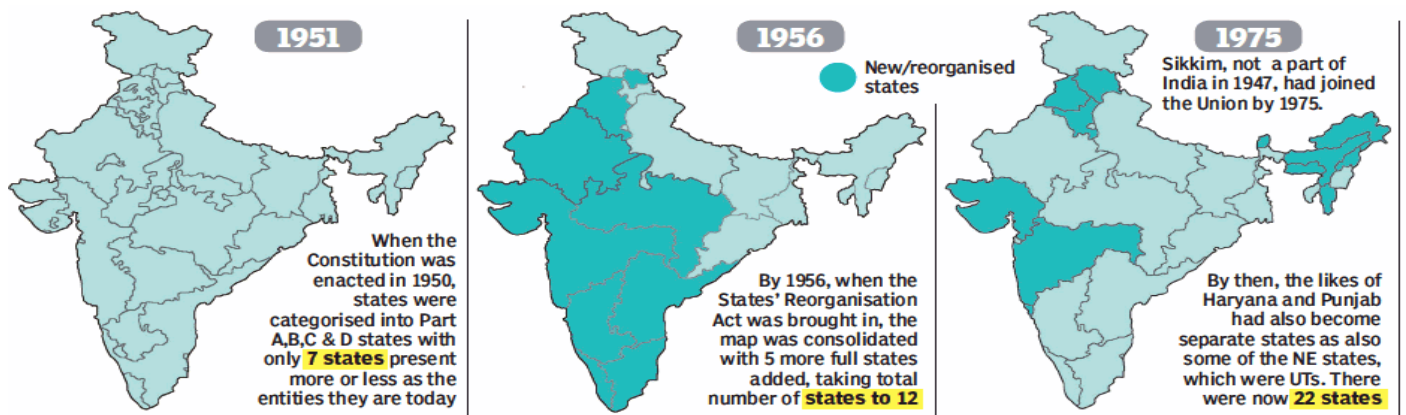
### ◆ July 2019 - was the warmest month across the globe ever recorded

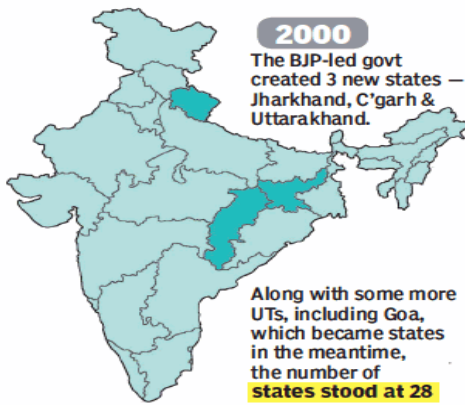


- ✓ The observation was based on the data released by the European Union's satellite-based Earth observation network
- ✓ The unusual heat across the globe was attributed to the continued greenhouse gas emissions and the resulting impact on global temperatures

## INDIAN STATES/UTs

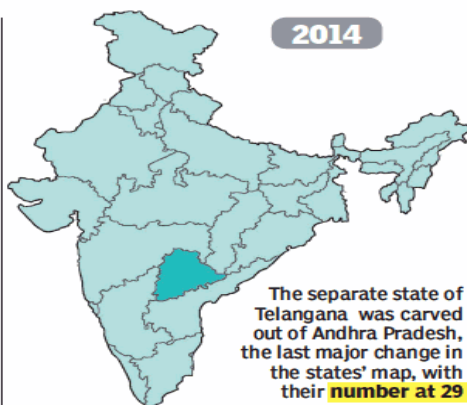
For the first time since the categorisation of states ended in 1956 with the States Reorganisation Act, a full-fledged state has become a Union Territory. J&K joined the Indian Union as a state in 1947. Since then, state boundaries in the country have seen major alterations





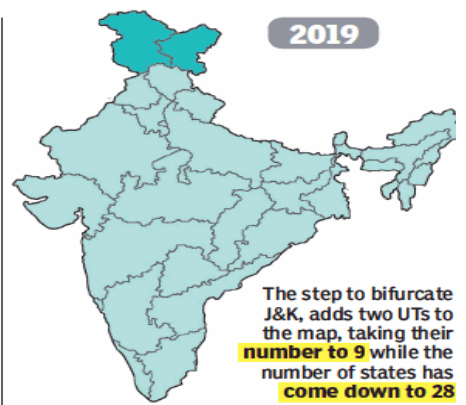
**2000**  
The BJP-led govt created 3 new states – Jharkhand, C'garh & Uttarakhand.

Along with some more UTs, including Goa, which became states in the meantime, the number of states stood at **28**



**2014**

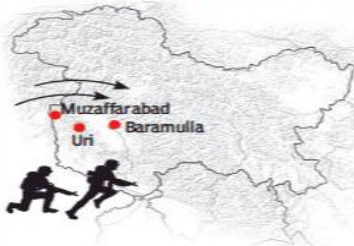
The separate state of Telangana was carved out of Andhra Pradesh, the last major change in the states' map, with their number at **29**



**2019**

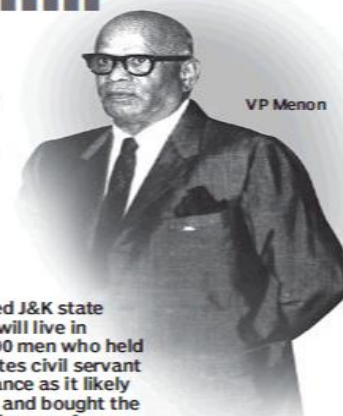
The step to bifurcate J&K, adds two UTs to the map, taking their number to **9** while the number of states has come down to **28**

# The Four Eventful Days That Decided The Fate of Kashmir



## 1 RAID ON KASHMIR (the final week of October 1947)

The attack on Kashmir by Pathan tribesmen was masterminded by Pakistan army and led by senior Pakistan army officer Akbar Khan. The British had succeeded in forging an uneasy peace with the tribes of the North-West Frontier but after the British withdrew, Pakistan incited the tribesmen into launching their attack. By the last week of October 1947, about 5,000 had entered Kashmir



VP Menon

## 2 INVADERS' ROUTE (October 23)

The tribesmen transited through Pakistan carrying modern military gear. The first stand-off was at Muzaffarabad where they faced a battalion of Dogra troops, capturing the bridge between Muzaffarabad and Domel, which itself fell to the attackers the same day. Over the next two days, they took Garhi and Chinari. The main group of attackers then proceeded towards Uri

## 3 THE GALLANT 300

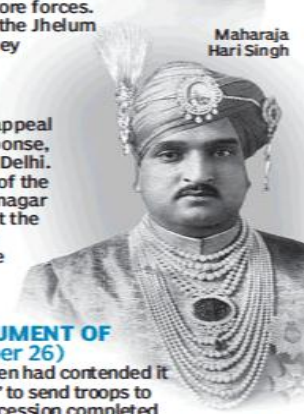
At Uri, Brigadier Rajinder Singh, who led J&K state forces, was killed. "He and his colleagues will live in history like the gallant Leonidas and his 300 men who held the Persian invaders at Thermopylae," writes civil servant VP Menon. The battle at Uri holds significance as it likely helped Maharaja Hari Singh avoid capture and bought the Indian government valuable time to bring in more forces. After the battle, the tribesmen travelled down the Jhelum river to Baramulla, the entry point into the Valley



The Sikh Regiment in Kashmir, 1947

## 4 THE FLIGHT OF HARI SINGH (October 24-25)

On October 24, the maharaja made an urgent appeal to the Indian government. He waited for a response, while the Cabinet's defence committee met in Delhi. VP Menon, administrative head and secretary of the states department, was instructed to fly to Srinagar on October 25. Menon's first priority was to get the maharaja and his family out of Srinagar. There were no forces left to guard the capital and the invaders were at the door. The king left the Valley by road for Jammu

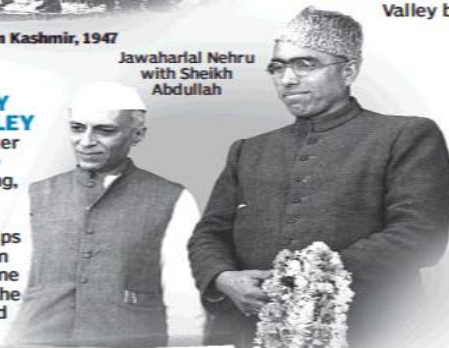


Maharaja Hari Singh

## 5 INDIAN TROOPS FLY INTO THE VALLEY

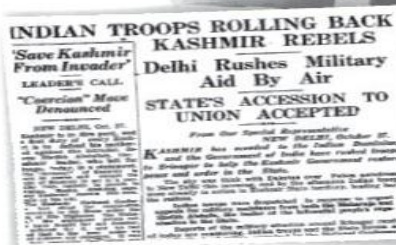
On October 26, after a Cabinet defence committee meeting, the government decided to fly two companies of troops to Srinagar. Menon himself took a plane to Jammu where the king was stationed

Jawaharlal Nehru with Sheikh Abdullah



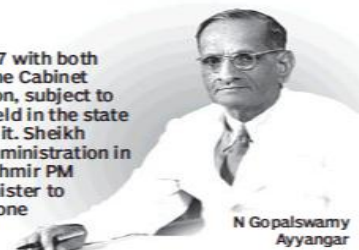
## 6 SIGNING OF INSTRUMENT OF ACCESSION (October 26)

Governor-general Mountbatten had contended it would be the "height of folly" to send troops to a neutral state without an accession completed "but that it should only be temporary prior to a referendum." Neither Nehru nor Sardar Patel attached any importance to the "temporary" clause, but Menon was carrying a message for the maharaja: he had to join the Union if he wanted to ward off the invasion. The king was ready to accede. In fact, according to Menon's memoirs, he had left word with an aide that if Menon did not return with an offer, he was to shoot the king in his sleep. Hari Singh signed the accession letter regretting that the invasion had left him with no time to decide what was in the best interest of his state, to stay independent or merge with India or Pakistan



## 7 FINAL ACT (October 27)

Menon returned to Delhi on October 27 with both the letter and Instrument of Accession. The Cabinet defence committee accepted the accession, subject to a provision that a referendum would be held in the state when the law and order situation allowed it. Sheikh Abdullah took charge of an emergency administration in Kashmir. Nehru appointed the former Kashmir PM N Gopalswamy Ayyangar as a cabinet minister to look after Kashmir affairs. Ayyangar was one of the chief architects of Article 370



N Gopalswamy Ayyangar

## ◆ **Rajya Sabha – adopts the J&K Reorganisation Bill, with 125 votes in favour and 61 against**

- ✓ Three key Opposition parties, the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), supported the government
- ✓ The AIADMK, Lok Jan Shakti Party, Republican Party of India, Akali Dal, Shiv Sena, YSR Congress Party, Telangana Rashtra Samithi and Biju Janata Dal all voted in support of the legislation
- ✓ The parties which opposed the Bill included the Congress, the DMK, the SP, the RJD, the CPI(M), the CPI, the Muslim League, the Kerala Congress and the MDMK

### The new order

Union Home Minister **Amit Shah** introduced two statutory resolutions to recommend that the President issue a notification rendering **Article 370** inoperative, and to accept the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Bill. A look at how the government changed the **special status** of the State **overnight**:

**370** Under Article 370, Jammu and Kashmir had its own constitution and the laws passed by Parliament were applicable to the State only with the State government's concurrence

**370** The President was empowered to decide which provisions of the Indian Constitution would be applicable with the State's assent

**35A** Article 35A protected the laws such as bar on outsiders buying property in the State and women marrying non-Kashmiris losing their property rights

■ These special measures could only be altered on the recommendation of the *Sadar-i-Riyasat* (on the advice of the Ministers Council) or by the 'Constituent Assembly'

■ President Ram Nath Kovind declared that all provisions of the Indian Constitution shall now apply to the State

**367** To scrap Article 370 altogether, a few clauses were added to Article 367 on Monday which contains "Interpretations": the reference to the 'Constituent Assembly' was amended to read 'Legislative Assembly of the State'. All references to the '*Sadar-i-Riyasat*' will be construed as references to the Governor

### SHARING OF POWER

The Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Bill, 2019, will bring about the following changes to the State

■ Two Union Territories to be formed out of the State of Jammu and Kashmir: UT of Ladakh (Kargil and Leh districts; ●) and UT of J&K (all other districts of the State of J&K ●)



■ Both UTs to have L-G, for now the Governor of State will continue as both

● Four sitting Rajya Sabha members of the State will become MPs of UT of J&K

● Five Lok Sabha seats to go to the UT of J&K

● Legislative Assembly of UT of J&K will have 107 seats to be chosen through a direct election

● One Lok Sabha seat to go to the UT of Ladakh

● 24 seats in PoK will be vacant

**No entry:** Barbed wire erected by the security personnel to block vehicles on a road during restrictions in Srinagar on Monday.  
■ REUTERS