

# Administrative Evolution of Indian Hill States 1947-2021

**Prem Singh Kutwal**

Associate Professor, Govt. College Bilaspur, District Bilaspur (H.P.) 174001

## Abstract

There were ten hill states in Union of India. They were Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Meghalaya, and Tripura. The smaller administrative division enables the government to deliver better governance. Hill States as a Region recorded higher growth in formation of new districts during 1951-2021 than Non-Hill States as a Region and India. Among hill states, Jammu & Kashmir was the oldest state and the youngest was Uttarakhand. Across hill states, Jammu & Kashmir and Arunachal Pradesh recorded the highest growth in formation of new districts and the lowest in Uttarakhand.

**Keywords:** Formation, Hill State, District.

## Introduction:

The states coterminous with hill terrain were given a status of hill state. There are ten hill states. They are also special category states. The central assistance to them had a component of 90 per cent grant and 10 per cent loan. There were eleven special category states. These were Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Assam. Except Assam, all special category states were hill states. After 14th Finance Commission recommendations, the status of special category states ceased to exist. After independence, different hill states came into existence at different point of times. The smaller administrative division enables the government to deliver better governance.

## Objectives

The major objectives of the study are to:

- Understand the formation of hill states after independence.
- Understand the formation of districts in Indian hill states.

## The Study Area

The present study was focused on the Indian hill states. These are Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, and Meghalaya. They have geographical contiguity. This region is known as Hill States as a Region. And the rest part of India is known as Non-Hill States as a Region in this study. It is spread between 21°57'N to 37°5'N latitudes and 72°40'E to 97°25'E longitudes covering an area of 515 thousand Km<sup>2</sup>. Administratively, there are 106 districts in 2011 that share one-seventh (15.67 per cent) of total geographical area of India and

contains 3.64 per cent of total population of the country. The Jammu and Kashmir Reorganized Act, 2019 passed on 5<sup>th</sup> August, 2019 bifurcated the Jammu & Kashmir into two union territories i.e. Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. However, the present study was based on erstwhile Jammu & Kashmir state.

### **Data and Methodology**

Methodology is an important tool to achieve the objectives formulated for the study. This research is based on secondary data. The secondary data was collected from Census of India, Human Development Reports, Development Reports of Indian hill states, Central Statistical Organization, Five Year Plans (Planning Commission of India), and National Institute for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog.

### **Formation of Indian Hill States**

Indian hill states came into existence at different times since independence. The discussion is as under:

#### **Jammu & Kashmir**

Maharaja Hari Singh was the king of Kashmir at the conclusion of British rule in the subcontinent in 1947. Pakistan backed tribesmen invaded Kashmir on 20<sup>th</sup> October, 1947. The King sought help from Mountbatten then Governor General of India. He agreed to extend help on the condition that ruler signed the instrument of accession. It was executed on 26<sup>th</sup> October 1947. Indian soldiers entered Kashmir to thresh out the intruders. The onset of harsh winter stopped them to do so. India took the matter to the United Nations. The UN resolution asked both India and Pakistan to vacate the area and hold a referendum under UN observation. India refused to accept the referendum because in 1952 the elected constituent assembly of Jammu & Kashmir voted in favour of confirming the Kashmir region's accession to India. In addition to it, this region had experienced demographic changes after 1947 due to migration of Kashmiri Hindu and settlement of non-native people in Pakistan administered Kashmir were also causes to refuse referendum.

India possess Jammu region, Kashmir valley, and Ladakh region. Jammu & Kashmir got special status of Article 370 in 1954. Pakistan occupied regions are Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Kashmir. Since Indo China War (1962), China occupied Aksai Chin area of the state. In 1950's Chinese army constructed road in Aksai Chin area which led to Sino-Indian War in 1962. In 1963, the Trans Karakorum Track was ceded by Pakistan to China.

The Article 370 was abolished by parliament of India in 2019. At the same time, reorganization act was passed. The state of Jammu and Kashmir was reconstituted into two union territories i.e. Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. The reorganization came into force from 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2019.

#### **Nagaland**

At the time of independence, the Naga Hills was a district in Assam. The Naga People's Convention in 1957 proposed the formation of a separate administrative unit by merging the Tuensang Frontier Division of the North-East Frontier Agency (NEFA-present Arunachal Pradesh) with the Naga Hills District of Assam. The Government of India accepted this proposal. On 1<sup>st</sup> December, 1957, the Union Government took over the administration of Naga Hills district of Assam and Tuensang Division of NEFA to form a separate administrative unit called 'Naga Hills-Tuensang Area (NHTA)'. In July 1960, the Sixteen Point Agreement was inked between the Prime Minister of India and representatives of Naga People's Convention. It paved the way to form Nagaland as a state of Indian Union. Nagaland came into existence

on 1<sup>st</sup> December, 1963 as the sixteenth state of the country with the enactment of the Constitution (13<sup>th</sup> Amendment) Act 1962. A distinctive feature of the new state was the special protection guaranteed under Article 371(A) of the Indian Constitution to safeguard the tribal law, traditional institutions and practices of the Naga (Nagaland, Human Development Report, 2004).

## Himachal Pradesh

Himachal Pradesh came into existence as centrally administered Chief Commissioner's province with integration of thirty hill states ruled by feudal rulers. Following in the footsteps of India's independence, this epoch making day was 15<sup>th</sup> April, 1948 and celebrated every year as Himachal day. Then, it covered areas of 25839 km<sup>2</sup>. The exchange of few pockets was notified on 15<sup>th</sup> January, 1950 with an objective to straighten out the irritating angularities in the border with the neighbouring province of the East Punjab, the United Provinces, and PEPSU. These did not add much to its size. Initially constituted as a centrally administered province, Bilaspur merged on 1<sup>st</sup> July, 1954 and the area rose to 28192 km<sup>2</sup>. Punjab reorganized in 1966, the hill areas of Punjab were transferred to Himachal Pradesh i.e. Shimla, Kangra, Kullu and Lahul & Spiti and hilly parts of districts of Hoshiarpur, Ambala, and Gurdaspur. Then, it covered 55,673 km<sup>2</sup> geographical areas. It attained its statehood on 25<sup>th</sup> January, 1971.

## Manipur

During the political integration of princely states, the merger agreement signed on 21<sup>st</sup> September, 1949 between king Budhachandra and Government of India. Manipur merged into India as part C state on 15<sup>th</sup> October, 1949. It was administered by the President of India through a Chief Commissioner. It became a Union Territory under the Union Territorial Council Act. 1956. The Territorial Council consisting of 30 constituted on 16<sup>th</sup> August, 1957. However, the territorial council was replaced by a Territorial Legislative Assembly from 23<sup>rd</sup> July, 1963. It became a full-fledged state on 21<sup>st</sup> January, 1972. The members of legislative Assembly were increased to 60. The first popular ministry, after attaining statehood, was installed on 20<sup>th</sup> March, 1972 (Economic Survey Manipur, 2008-2009).

**Table 1**

India: Formation of Hill States

Sr.	Hill State	Status in 1956 (Reorganization of States)	Union Territory/Statehood
1	Jammu & Kashmir	State	Statehood (26 <sup>th</sup> October, 1947), Jammu & Kashmir reorganized into two union territories i.e. Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh (2019)
2	Nagaland	Part of Assam	Statehood (1 <sup>st</sup> December, 1963)
3	Himachal Pradesh	Union Territory	Statehood (25 <sup>th</sup> January, 1971)
4	Manipur	Union Territory	Statehood (21 <sup>st</sup> January, 1972)
5	Tripura	Union Territory	Union Territory (1956) & Statehood (21 <sup>st</sup> January, 1972)
6	Meghalaya	Part of Assam	Statehood (21 <sup>st</sup> January, 1972)
7	Sikkim	State (protectorate of India)	Statehood (16 <sup>th</sup> May, 1975)

8	Arunachal Pradesh	Part of Assam	Union Territory (1972) & Statehood (20 <sup>th</sup> February, 1987)
9	Mizoram	Part of Assam	Union Territory (1972) & Statehood (20 <sup>th</sup> February, 1987)
10	Uttarakhand	Part of erstwhile Uttar Pradesh	Statehood (9 <sup>th</sup> November, 2000)

Source: Compiled from Various Government Documents.

Note: Hill states were arranged in chronological order of formation.

## Tripura

Tripura, the erstwhile princely state merged with the Indian Union after independence on the 15<sup>th</sup> October, 1949 as part C state. It became a Union Territory in November 1956. A popularly elected ministry was formed in Tripura in July 1963 and since then the state has democratic government. Tripura became a full-fledged state on the 21<sup>st</sup> January, 1972.

The partition of India in 1947 was a defining event in the history of Tripura and had an enduring effect on the process of social and economic development of the state. The partition was perhaps the largest movement of the evicted people in modern history. It witnessed a heavy influx of refugees into Tripura from erstwhile East Pakistan. They arrived with little wealth in hand. On the other hand, the partition resulted a huge infrastructural and economic setback for Tripura. It lost all its rail-heads to East Pakistan, now Bangladesh. The distance by road from Agartala to Kolkata was less than 350Km before partition. After partition, the route to Kolkata via Siliguri land corridor became 1700Km long. The partition aggravated the geopolitical isolation of Tripura and indeed, of the entire North-East Region.

## Meghalaya

The state formation process remained peaceful in Meghalaya. The demand for separate state of representatives from Khasi and Jaintia Hills district & Garo Hills district was not conceded by state reorganization commission. But demand became stronger for statehood when Assamese was proposed as Assam official language in the language bill, 1960. In July 1960, the representatives of hill area formed all party hill leaders' conference to exert pressure for the formation of separate state. Consequently, Meghalaya attained a status of autonomous state in 1970 and statehood in 21<sup>st</sup> January, 1972.

## Sikkim

Sikkim is situated on the north-east border of the country. It is the smallest landlocked hill state and uniquely positioned mountainous state having international borders from three sides. It has interesting history of evolution as state. Sikkim became protectorate of British India with the signing of Anglo-Chinese Convention at Kolkata in March 1890. Even after independence, Sikkim remained under special protectorate status till 1975. It had a special kind of governance. The external affairs, diplomacy, defence, and communication regulated by India whereas Sikkim retained its administrative autonomy (Sikkim Development Report, 2008).

In 1953, a state council constituted to allow for constitutional government under the Chogyal. Disappointment surfaced among masses due to unpopularity of Chogyal. It gave birth to violence in 1973. In 1975, the Prime Minister of Sikkim requested the Union Government of India for merging of Sikkim as state into India. In April 1975, Indian army disarmed the Chogyal's palace guards. Henceforth, a

referendum was conducted in which 97.05 per cent of polled votes favoured the abolishing the monarchy system and joining with India. In 1975, Sikkim attained statehood on 16<sup>th</sup> May, 1975 with the 38<sup>th</sup> amendment in Indian constitution and adding its name to the first schedule of the constitution.

### **Arunachal Pradesh**

The hill areas of northern districts of Assam were separated to form North-East Frontier Tracts in 1914. North-East Frontier Agency (NEFA) replaced the former name in 1954. In 1954, the North-East Frontier Agency came into existence with five frontier divisions. These were Kameng and Subansiri Frontier Division, Lohit Frontier Division, Tirap Frontier Division, Siang Frontier Division and Tuensang Frontier Division. Later, Tuensang Frontier Division became a part of Nagaland. Constitutionally a part of Assam, the NEFA administration was not fully integrated with Assam. It was administrated directly by the Governor of Assam, as a representative of the President of India. The legislative assembly of Assam could not enact laws for NEFA. The name Arunachal Pradesh was given to this area in 1972. In order to intensify the development efforts, Arunachal Pradesh was elevated to the status of Union Territory in 1972 and full-fledged statehood in 20<sup>th</sup> February, 1987 through the initiative of the central government. It became 24<sup>th</sup> state of Union of India (Arunachal Pradesh, Human Development Report, 2005).

### **Mizoram**

In Mizoram, secession movement started before independence. The Mizo hill areas became the Lushai Hills District in Assam at the time of independence. Later it was renamed the Mizo Hills District of Assam in 1954. Laldenga, Mizo leader, started movement for independence with the background of prevalent discontent with government about relief works to the victims of famine of Mautam in 1959-1961. Mizo National Front (MNF) intensified the secession movement under Laldenga's leadership in 1957 when Nagaland was accorded a separate status of Central Government Administrative Area. Initially, government started to suppress the Mizo's movement through armed forces, but later reconciliatory approach adopted with the help of Moderates in the MNF. Mizoram attained the status of Union Territory in 1972 and became a full-fledged state in 20<sup>th</sup> February, 1987.

### **Uttarakhand**

The North Western hilly region of the erstwhile Uttar Pradesh was carved out as Uttarakhand on 9<sup>th</sup> November, 2000. It is the youngest hill state and became 27<sup>th</sup> states on the political map of India. It is the youngest landlocked Indian hill state. The government has given a status of special category status on the basis of its geographical and strategic location. It has privilege to be the newest and the youngest special category state among Indian hill states.

#### **(i) Formation of New Districts in Hill States**

New districts were formed, keeping in view the administrative exigency of providing good governance to hill people. Smaller administrative units help to accelerate development processes and bringing the people closer to the administration.

### **Hill States as a Region**

The number of districts in Hill States as a Region was 24 in 1951. It rose to 76 in 1991. On the other hand, number of districts in Non-Hill States as a Region rose from 286 in 1951 to 390 in 1991 and in India 310

in 1951 to 466 in 1991. The growth of new districts in the region was substantially higher (217 per cent) than Non-Hill States as a Region (36 per cent) and India (50 per cent) during pre-reform period (Table 3). The number of districts in Hill States as a Region was 76 in 1991. It rose to 137 in 2021. On the other hand, number of districts in Non-Hill States as a Region rose from 390 in 1991 to 615 in 2021 and in India 466 in 1991 to 752 in 2021. Once again, the growth of new districts in the region was substantially higher (80 per cent) than Non-Hill States as a Region (58 per cent) and India (61 per cent) during post-reform period (Table 3).

**Table 2**

India: Growth of Districts in India, Non-Hill States as a Region, and Hill States as a Region, 1951-2021

Census Year	Districts in India	Districts in Non-Hill States as a Region	Districts in Hill States as a Region	Change (Number of Districts) in India	Change (Number of Districts) in Non- Hill States as a Region	Change (Number of Districts) in Hill States as a Region
1951	310	286	24	-	-	-
1961	340	303	37	30	17	13
1971	357	309	48	17	6	11
1981	412	341	71	55	32	23
1991	466	390	76	54	49	05
2001	593	501	92	127	111	16
2011	640	534	106	47	33	14
2021*	752	615	137	112	81	31

Source: Administrative Atlas of India, Census of India, 2011.

\* The data of districts (2021) compiled from all States/Union Territories' official website portal.

During last seven decades (1951-2021), dramatic progress was recorded in growth of new districts in Hill States as a Region. It reflects that governments of hill states had been more concerned to provide effective governance to hill people by formation of small administrative divisions.

## Hill States

### Jammu & Kashmir

The constitution of India came into force on 26<sup>th</sup> January, 1950. Jammu & Kashmir was put in the category of part B state. Administratively, Jammu & Kashmir had only one district named Jammu & Kashmir in 1951. The number of districts rose to 9 in 1961. These districts were Anantnag, Baramula, Dora, Jammu, Kathua, Ladakh, Punch, Srinagar, and Udhampur. It increased to 10 with formation of Rajouri district in 1971. Four new districts were created in 1979. These were Badgam, Kargil, Kupwara, and Pulwama. The total number increased to 14. Eight districts have been created in 2006. Thus, the total number of districts increased from 14 to 22. The newly created districts were Bandipore, Ganderbal, Kishtwar, Kulgam, Ramban, Reasi, Samba, and Shupian. There were 22 districts in 2011. Jammu & Kashmir was partitioned into two union territories in 2019 i.e. Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh. Ladakh has two districts. These



are Kargil and Leh. The remaining twenty districts were included in Jammu and Kashmir union territories (Table 4).

## Nagaland

Nagaland came into existence on 1<sup>st</sup> December, 1963 as the sixteenth state of Union of India. Nagaland emerged as second oldest hill state. There were two districts in 1951. These were Naga Tribal Area and Naga Hills-Tuensang. It had 3 administrative districts in 1971. These were Kohima, Mokokchung, and Tuensang part of Assam. Four new districts were created during 1971-1981. These were Mon, Phek, Wokha, and Zunheboto. The total numbers of district rose to 7 in 1981. With the creation of new district Dimapur, the total number of districts rose to 8 in 2001. In January 2004, three new districts were carved out by the state government, viz. Kiphire, Peren, and Longleng. Thus, Nagaland, 'the Land of Festivals' is administratively divided into 11 districts according to 2011 census. One new district was carved out in 2021. It was Noklak. The total number of districts rose to 12 in 2021 (Table 4).

## Himachal Pradesh

Himachal came into existence on 15<sup>th</sup> April, 1948. Administratively, it was initially divided into four districts i.e. Chamba, Mahasu, Mandi, and Sirmaur. The number of districts rose to five with merger of Bilaspur state in 1954. The border district Kinnaur was carved from the Mahasu district on 1<sup>st</sup> May, 1960 due to strategic importance. The number of districts rose to six. The state Re-organization Act, 1966, the hill areas of Punjab were transferred to Himachal Pradesh. It added four additional districts to Himachal Pradesh in 1966. These were Kangra, Kullu, Lahul & Spiti, and Shimla. Thus, the total number of districts rose to 10 in 1966. After statehood, Kangra district was trifurcated into Kangra, Hamirpur, and Una in 1972. The state government also re-drew the boundaries of Mahasu and Shimla districts. The new district created. It was Solan. In this process, the Mahasu district was completely wiped out. Since then, Himachal Pradesh has 12 districts (Table 4).

**Table 3**

India: Growth of Districts in Hill States, 1951- 2021

Sr.	Hill State	1951	1961	1971	1981	1991	2001	2011	2021**	Change (Numbers of Districts) 1951-2021
1	Jammu & Kashmir*	1	9	10	14	14	14	22	22	21
2	Nagaland	2	3	3	7	7	8	11	12	10
3	Himachal Pradesh	6	6	10	12	12	12	12	12	6
4	Manipur	1	1	5	6	8	9	9	16	15
5	Tripura	1	1	3	3	3	4	4	8	7
6	Meghalaya	2	2	2	5	5	7	7	12	10
7	Sikkim	1	1	1	4	4	4	4	6	5
8	Arunachal Pradesh	4	5	5	9	11	13	16	25	21
9	Mizoram	1	1	1	3	3	8	8	11	10
10	Uttarakhand	5	8	8	8	9	13	13	13	8
<b>Hill States as a Region</b>		<b>24</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>113</b>

Non- Hill States as a Region	286	303	309	341	390	501	534	615	329
India	310	340	357	412	466	593	640	752	442

Source: Administrative Atlas of India, Census of India, 2011.

\* Jammu & Kashmir was partitioned into two union territories in 2019 i.e. Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. Jammu and Kashmir has twenty districts and Ladakh has two districts.

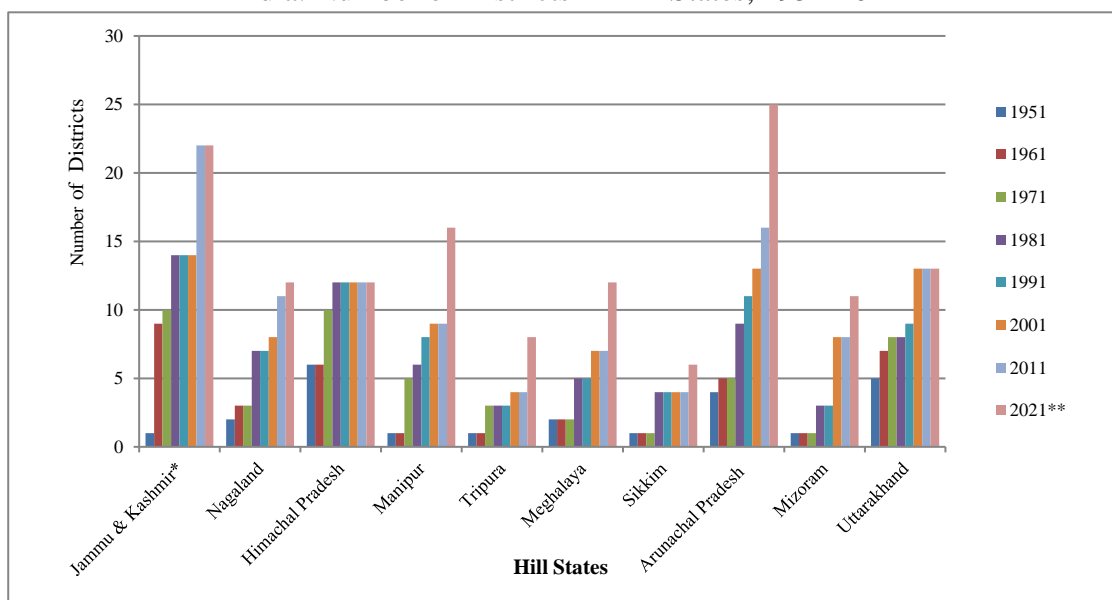
\*\* The data of districts (2021) compiled from all States/Union Territories' official website portal.

## Manipur

Manipur had only one district in 1951. Its name was Manipur. The number of districts rose to 5 in 1971 census. These were Manipur Central, Manipur East, Manipur North, Manipur South, and Manipur West. With the formation of Tengenpual the number of districts rose to six in 1981. Two more districts were added in 1991 census. The number of districts rose to eight. The name of the districts has been changed in 1991 census. These were Senapati, Tamenglong, Churachandpur, Chandel, Thoubal, Bishnupur, Imphal, and Ukhrul. Imphal district was divided into two districts in 2001 census. These were Imphal East and Imphal West. Thus, the total number of districts rose to nine. Seven new districts were carved out in 2016. These were Jiribam, Kamjong, Kangpokpi, Katching, Noney, Pherzawl, and Tengenpual. The total number of districts rose to 16 in 2016 (Table 4).

**Diagram 1**

India: Number of Districts in Hill States, 1951-2021



Source: Administrative Atlas of India, Census of India, 2011.

\* Jammu & Kashmir was partitioned into two union territories in 2019 i.e. Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh. Jammu and Kashmir has twenty districts and Ladakh has two districts.

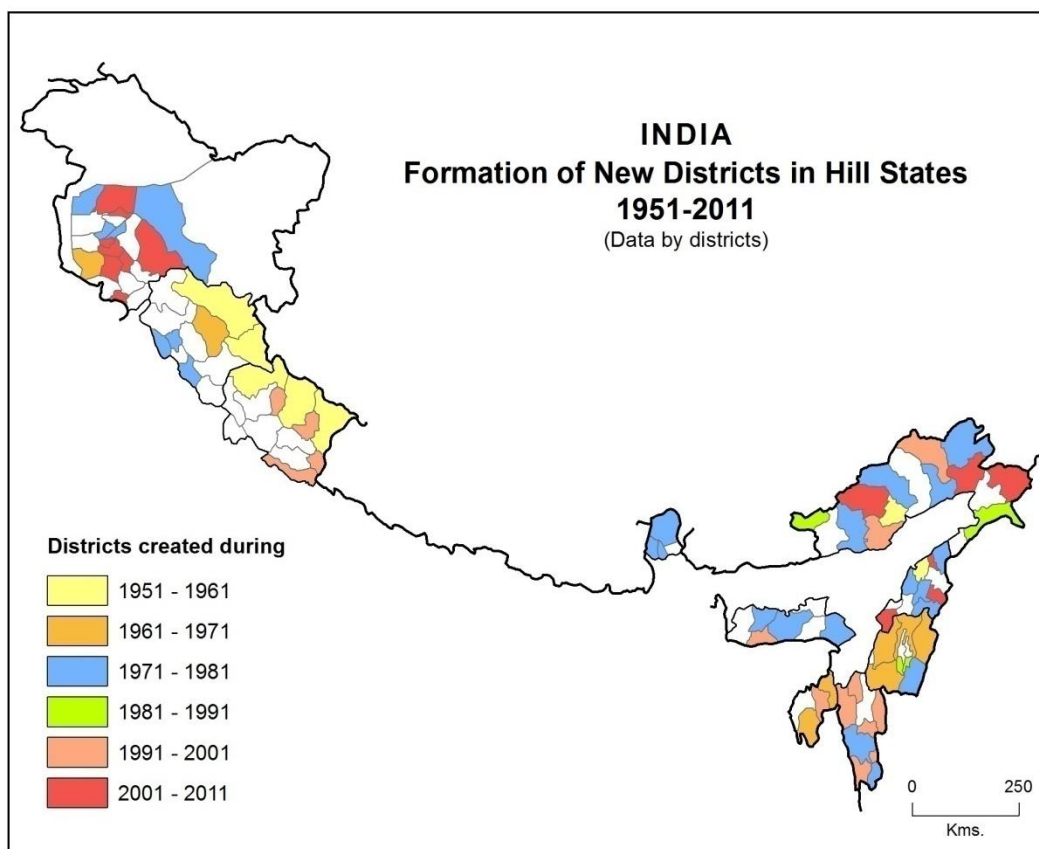
\*\* The data of districts (2021) compiled from all States/Union Territories' official website portal.

## Tripura

After independence of India, on 15<sup>th</sup> October 1949, the Regent Maharani of Tripura acceded to the Indian Union as 'C' category state. It became Union Territories in 1956 and attained statehood on 21<sup>st</sup> January, 1972. It had only one district till 1970. Tripura was trifurcated into three districts in 1970 for the better



attention of the problems and accelerating the pace of development. These were North Tripura, South Tripura, and West Tripura. Dhalai was created in 1995. It was carved out from North Tripura and South Tripura. Further, four new districts were formed in 2012. These were Gomati, Khowai, Sipahyala, and Unakoti. The total number of districts rose to 8 in 2012 (Table 4).



Source: Primary Census Abstract, Census of India, 2011.

Fig. 1

## Meghalaya

Meghalaya was the part of Assam with two districts United Khasi & Jaintia Hills and Garo Hills in 1951 census. Immediately after Meghalaya's statehood, the Jaintia Hills Civil Sub-Division of United Khasi and Jaintia Hills district was raised to the status of district. The total number of districts rose to three. East Garo Hills and West Garo Hills districts were created in October 1976. The total number of districts increased to 5. The Ri Bhoi Civil Sub-Division of East Khasi Hills district and Baghmara Civil Sub-Division (South Garo Hills district) of the West Garo Hills district were upgraded to the status of districts in 1992. Five new districts were formed during 2011-2021. The total number of districts rose to 12 in 2021. These were Eastern West Khasi Hills, East Garo Hills, East Jaintia Hills, East Khasi Hills, North Garo Hills, Ri Bhoi, South Garo Hills, South West Garo Hills, South West Khasi Hills, West Garo Hills, West Jaintia Hills, and West Khasi Hills.

## Sikkim

Sikkim is mountainous and landlocked state. It enjoyed a special kind of status 'Protectorate Status' from independence of India to till obtaining the status of full-fledged state. It had one

**Table 4**  
**India: Formation of New Districts in Hill States, 1951-2021**

Sr	Hill State	Number of District in Census Year							
		1951	1961	1971	1981	1991	2001	2011	2021*
1.	Jammu & Kashmir	Jammu & Kashmir	Anantnag, Baramula, Doda, Jammu, Kathua, Ladakh, Punch, Srinagar, Udhampur (9)	Anantnag, Baramula, Doda, Jammu, Kathua, Ladakh, Punch, Srinagar, Udhampur (10)	Anantnag, Badgam, Baramula, Doda, Jammu, Kargil, Kathua, Kupwara, Ladakh, Pulwama, Punch, Rajauri, Srinagar, Udhampur (14)	Anantnag, Badgam, Baramula, Doda, Jammu, Kargil, Kathua, Kupwara, Leh (Ladakh), Pulwama, Punch, Rajauri, Srinagar, Udhampur (14)	Anantnag, Badgam, Baramula, Doda, Jammu, Kargil, Kathua, Kupwara, Leh (Ladakh), Pulwama, Punch, Rajauri, Srinagar, Udhampur (14)	Anantnag, Badgam, Baramula, Doda, Ganderbal, Jammu, Kargil, Kathua, Kishtwar, Kulgam, Kupwara, Leh (Ladakh), Pulwama, Punch, Rajouri, Ramban, Reasi, Samba, Shupiyan, Srinagar, Udhampur (22)	<b>Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory:</b> Anantnag, Badgam, Bandipore, Baramula, Doda, Ganderbal, Jammu, Kathua, Kishtwar, Kulgam, Kupwara, Ladakh, Leh (Ladakh), Pulwama, Punch, Rajouri, Ramban, Reasi, Samba, Shupiyan, Srinagar, Udhampur (20) <b>Ladakh Union Territory:</b> Kargil, Leh (Ladakh) (2)
2.	Nagaland	<b>Naga Tribal Areas:</b> Naga Hills, Tuensang (2)	<b>Naga Hills-Tuensang Area:</b> Kohima, Mokokchung, Tuensang (3)	Kohima, Mokokchung, Tuensang (3)	Kohima, Mon, Mokokchung, Tuensang, Phek, Wokha, Zunheboto (7)	Kohima, Mokokchung, Mon, Phek, Tuensang, Wokha, Zunheboto (7)	Dimapur, Kohima, Mokokchung, Mon, Phek, Tuensang, Wokha, Zunheboto (8)	Dimapur, Kiphire, Kohima, Longleng, Mokokchung, Mon, Peren, Phek, Tuensang, Wokha, Zunheboto (11)	Dimapur, Kiphire, Kohima, Longleng, Mokokchung, Mon, Noklak, Peren, Phek, Tuensang, Wokha, Zunheboto (12)
3.	Himachal Pradesh	Chamba, Mahasu, Mandi, Sirmaur (4) <b>Parts of Punjab State:</b> Hill Area's of Gurdaspur and Hoshiarpur Districts of Punjab, Kangra District (1) <b>Bilaspur State:</b> Bilaspur (1)	Bilaspur, Chamba, Kinnaur, Mahasu, Mandi, Sirmaur (6) <b>Parts of Punjab State:</b> Hill Area's of Gurdaspur and Hoshiarpur Districts of Punjab, Kangra District (1)	Bilaspur, Chamba, Kangra, Kinnaur, Kullu, Lahul & Spiti, Mahasu, Mandi, Simla, Sirmaur (10)	Bilaspur, Chamba, Hamirpur, Kangra, Kinnaur, Kullu, Lahul & Spiti, Mandi, Shimla, Sirmaur, Solan, Una (12)	Bilaspur, Chamba, Hamirpur, Kangra, Kinnaur, Kullu, Lahul & Spiti, Mandi, Shimla, Sirmaur, Solan, Una (12)	Bilaspur, Chamba, Hamirpur, Kangra, Kinnaur, Kullu, Lahul & Spiti, Mandi, Shimla, Sirmaur, Solan, Una (12)	Bilaspur, Chamba, Hamirpur, Kangra, Kinnaur, Kullu, Lahul & Spiti, Mandi, Shimla, Sirmaur, Solan, Una (12)	Bilaspur, Chamba, Hamirpur, Kangra, Kinnaur, Kullu, Lahul & Spiti, Mandi, Shimla, Sirmaur, Solan, Una (12)

Sr	Hill State	Number of District in Census Year							
		1951	1961	1971	1981	1991	2001	2011	2021
4.	Manipur	Manipur (1)	Manipur (1)	Manipur Central, Manipur East, Manipur North, Manipur South, Manipur West (5)	Manipur Central, Manipur East, Manipur North, Manipur South, Manipur West, Tengenoupal (6)	Bishnupur, Chandel, Churachandpur, Imphal, Senapati, Tamenglong, Thoubal, Ukhrul (8)	Bishnupur, Chandel, Churachandpur, Imphal East, Imphal West, Senapati, Tamenglong, Thoubal, Ukhrul (9)	Bishnupur, Chandel, Churachandpur, Imphal East, Imphal West, Senapati, Tamenglong, Thoubal, Ukhrul (9)	Bishnupur, Chandel, Churachandpur, Imphal East, Imphal West, Jiribam, Kamjong, Kangpokpi, Katching, Noney, Pherzawl, Senapati, Tamenglong, Tengenoupal, Thoubal, Ukhrul (16)
5.	Tripura	Tripura (1)	Tripura (1)	North Tripura, South Tripura, West Tripura (3)	North Tripura, South Tripura, West Tripura (3)	North Tripura, South Tripura, West Tripura (3)	Dhalai, North Tripura, South Tripura, West Tripura (4)	Dhalai, North Tripura, South Tripura, West Tripura (4)	Dhalai, Gomati, Khowai, North Tripura, Sipahyala, South Tripura, Unakoti, West Tripura (8)

6.	Meghalaya	<b>Districts of Erstwhile State of Assam:</b> Garohills, United Khasi and Jaintia Hills(2)	<b>Districts of Erstwhile State of Assam:</b> Garohills, United Khasi and Jaintia Hills (2)	Garohills, United Khasi and Jaintia Hills (2)	East Garohills, East Khasi Hills, Jaintia Hills, West Garohills, West Khasi Hills (5)	Jaintia Hills, East Garohills, East Khasi Hills, West Garohills, West Khasi Hills (5)	East Garohills, East Khasi Hills, Jaintia Hills, Ri Bhoi, South Garohills, West Garohills, West Khasi Hills (7)	East Garohills, East Khasi Hills, Jaintia Hills, Ri Bhoi, South Garohills, West Garohills, West Khasi Hills (7)	East Garohills, East Khasi Hills, Jaintia Hills, Eastern West Khasi Hills, North Garohills, Ri Bhoi, South Garohills, South West Garohills, South West Khasi Hills, West Garohills, West Jaintia Hills, West Khasi Hills (12)
7.	Sikkim	Sikkim (1)	Sikkim (1)	Sikkim (1)	East District, North District, South District, West District (4)	East District, North District, South District, West District (4)	East District, North District, South District, West District (4)	East District, North District, South District, West District (4)	Gangtok, Gyalshing, Mangan, Namchi, Pakyong, Soreng(6)

Sr .	Hill State	Number of District in Census Year							
		1951	1961	1971	1981	1991	2001	2011	2021
8.	Arunachal Pradesh	<b>North-East Frontier Agency:</b> Abor Hills, Balipara Frontier Tract, Mishmi Hills, Tirap Frontier Tract (4)	<b>North-East Frontier Agency:</b> Kameng Frontier Division, Lohit Frontier Division, Siang Frontier Division, Subansiri Frontier Division, Tirap Frontier Division (5)	Kameng, Lohit, Siang, Subansiri, Tirap, (5)	Dibang Valley East Kameng, East Siang, Lohit, Lower Subansiri, Tirap, Upper Subansiri, West Kameng, West Siang (9)	Changlang, Dibang Valley, East Kameng, East Siang, Lohit, Lower Subansiri, Tirap, Upper Subansiri, Tawang, West Kameng, West Siang (11)	Changlang, Dibang Valley, East Kameng, East Siang, Lohit, Lower Subansiri, Papum Pare, Tirap, Upper Siang, Upper Subansiri, Tawang, West Kameng, West Siang(13)	Anjaw, Changlang, Dibang Valley, East Kameng, East Siang, Kurung Kumey, Lohit, Lower Dibang Valley, Lower Subansiri, Papum Pare, Tawang, Tirap, Upper Siang, Upper Subansiri, West Kameng, West Siang(16)	Anjaw, Changlang, Dibang Valley, East Kameng, East Siang, Kamle, Kra Daadi, Kurung Kumey, Lepa-Rada, Lohit, Longding, Lower Dibang Valley, Lower Siang, Lower Subansiri, Namsai, Pakke-Kessang, Papum Pare, Shi-Yomi, Siang, Tawang, Tirap, Upper Siang, Upper Subansiri, West Kameng, West Siang (25)
9.	Mizoram	<b>District of Erstwhile State of Assam:</b> Mizo Hills (1)	<b>District of Erstwhile state of Assam:</b> Mizo Hills (1)	Mizoram (1)	Aizawl, Chhimitupui, Lunglei (3)	Aizawl, Chhimitupui, Lunglei (3)	Aizawl, Champhai, Kolasib, Lawngtlai, Lunglei, Mamit, Saiha, Serchhip(8)	Aizawl, Champhai, Kolasib, Lawngtlai, Lunglei, Mamit, Saiha, Serchhip (8)	Aizawl, Champhai, Hnathial, Khawzawl, Kolasib, Lawngtlai, Lunglei, Mamit, Saiha, Saitual, Serchhip(11)
10.	Uttarakhand	<b>Districts of Erstwhile State of Uttar Pradesh:</b> Almora, Dehra Dun, Garhwal, Naini Tal, Tehri Garhwal (5)	<b>Districts of Erstwhile State of Uttar Pradesh:</b> Almora, Chamoli, Dehra Dun, Garhwal, Naini Tal, Pithoragarh, Tehri Garhwal, Uttarakashi (8)	<b>Districts of Erstwhile State of Uttar Pradesh:</b> Almora, Chamoli Dehra Dun, Garhwal, Naini Tal, Pithoragarh, Tehri Garhwal, Uttarakashi (8)	<b>Districts of Erstwhile State of Uttar Pradesh:</b> Almora, Chamoli, Dehra Dun, Garhwal, Naini Tal, Pithoragarh, Tehri Garhwal, Uttarakashi (8)	<b>Districts of Erstwhile State of Uttar Pradesh:</b> Almora, Chamoli, Dehra Dun, Garhwal, Hardwar, Nainital, Pithoragarh, Tehri Garhwal, Uttarakashi (9)	Almora, Bageshwar, Chamoli, Champawat, Dehradun, Garhwal, Hardwar, Nainital, Pithoragarh, Rudrapur, Tehri Garhwal, Udham Singh Nagar, Uttarakashi (13)	Almora, Bageshwar, Chamoli, Champawat, Dehradun, Garhwal, Hardwar, Nainital, Pithoragarh, Rudrapur, Tehri Garhwal, Udham Singh Nagar, Uttarakashi (13)	Almora, Bageshwar, Chamoli, Champawat, Dehradun, Garhwal, Hardwar, Nainital, Pithoragarh, Rudrapur, Tehri Garhwal, Udham Singh Nagar, Uttarakashi (13)

Source: Administrative Atlas of India, Census of India, 2011.

\*The data of districts (2021) compiled from all States/Union Territories' official website portal.

Note: Districts are arranged in alphabetic order.

district till statehood. Thereafter, administratively it was divided into four districts since statehood. These were East District, North District, South District, and West District. On the 21<sup>st</sup> December, 2021 the Re-organisation of Districts, Act, 2021 came into force. Two new districts were formed and renamed the existing districts. The total number of districts rose to six. These were Gangtok, Gyalshing, Mangan, Namchi, Pakyong, and Soreng (Table 4).

### **Arunachal Pradesh**

In 1914, the hill areas of northern districts of Assam were separated to form North-East Frontier Tracts. North-East Frontier Agency (NEFA) replaced the former name in 1954. The North- East Frontier Agency came into existence with five frontier divisions in 1954. These were Kameng and Subansiri Frontier Division, Lohit Frontier Division, Siang Frontier Division, Tirap Frontier Division, and Tuensang Frontier Division. Later, Tuensang Frontier Division became a part of Nagaland. Arunachal Pradesh, the land locked extreme North-Eastern state of India was administratively divided into 11 districts in 1991, which rose to 13 in 2001 and 16 districts in 2011. These were Anjaw, Changlang, Dibang Valley, East Kameng, East Siang, Kurung Kumey, Lohit, Lower Dibang Valley, Lower Subansiri, Papum Pare, Tirap, Upper Siang, Upper Subansiri, West Kameng, Tawang, and West Siang. Nine new districts were carved out during 2011-2021. These were Kamle, Kra Daadi, Lepa-Rada, Lonbgding, Lower Siang, Namsai, Siang, Shi-Yomi, and Pakke- Kessang. The total number of districts rose to 25 (Table 4).

### **Mizoram**

Mizoram used to be one district of Assam as Lushai Hills in 1951. The name of district Lushai Hills changed into Mizo Hills in 1961 Census. The name of Mizo Hills district changed again as Mizoram district in 1971. Mizoram attained the status of Union Territory in 1972 and became a full-fledged state in 20th February, 1987 with three administrative divisions. These were Aizawl, Chhimitupui, and Lunglei. Mizoram is the youngest state among seven sister states. The number of districts rose to 8 carved out from existing 3 districts. These were Aizawl, Champhai, Kolasib, Lawngtlai, Lunglei, Mamit, Saiha, and Serchhip in 1991 Census. Three new districts were formed in 2019. These were Hnathial, Khawzawl, and Saitual. The total number of districts rose to 11 in 2019 (Table 4).

### **Uttarakhand**

Uttarakhand had five hill districts of erstwhile Uttar Pradesh in 1951 Census. Three hill districts Chamoli, Pithoragarh, and Uttarkashi were created in 1961 Census. The total number of districts remained 8 for next 30 years. In 1991 Census, with the creation of Hardwar district, number of districts rose to 9. Four new districts carved out from existing districts in 2001. These were Bageshwar, Champawat, Rudraprayag, and Udham Singh Nagar. The state had 13 districts in 2011. These were Almora, Bageshwar, Chamoli, Champawat, Dehradun, Garhwal, Hardwar, Nainital, Pithoragarh, Rudraprayag, Tehri Garhwal, Udham Singh Nagar, and Uttarkashi (Table 4).

### **Conclusions**

Among hill states, Jammu & Kashmir is the oldest state and the youngest is Uttarakhand. Hill States as a Region recorded higher growth in formation of new districts during 1951-2021 than Non-Hill States as a Region and India. It reflects that governments were concerned to provide effective governance to hill people by formation of small administrative divisions. Across hill states, Jammu & Kashmir and

Arunachal Pradesh recorded the highest growth in formation of new districts and the lowest in Uttarakhand.

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