

The merger of Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu

December 26, 2019

Source: PIB & PRS India

Recently Parliament passed the Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu (Merger of Union Territories) Bill, 2019

Why merger?

Union Minister of State for Home Affairs has mentioned that the bill has been brought to provide for the merger of union territories of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, in view of fruitful utilization of manpower, improve administrative efficiency, reduce administrative expenditure and improve service delivery as well as facilitate better monitoring of schemes. It would also ensure better cadre management of employees, he added.

Key features of the bill

- **Amendment to First Schedule of the Constitution:** The First Schedule to the Constitution specifies the territories that come under various states and UTs. The Bill amends the First Schedule to merge the territories of the two UTs: (a) Dadra and Nagar Haveli, and (b) Daman and Diu. **The merged territory will form the UT of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu.** This will come into effect from the day notified by the central government.
- **Amendment to Article 240(1) of the Constitution:** It allows the President to make regulations for certain UTs, including the UTs of Dadra and Nagar Haveli, and Daman and Diu. The Bill amends the Article to replace these two UTs with the merged UT.
- **Representation in Lok Sabha:** The First Schedule to the

Representation of the People Act, 1950 provides one seat in Lok Sabha to each of the two UTs. The Bill seeks to amend the Schedule to allocate two Lok Sabha seats to the merged UT.

- **Services under the merged UTs:** Every person employed in connection with the affairs of the existing UTs will provisionally serve the merged UT. As of now, there will be no change in administration and service conditions and reservations. Similarly, there will be no change in the status of Group III and IV employees. The central government will determine whether every such person will finally be allotted for service in the merged UT.
- The merged UT will take steps to integrate employees into services under its control. The central government may give orders and instructions to the merged UT in this regard.
- **Advisory Committees:** The central government may establish Advisory Committees to assist in ensuring the fair treatment of all persons affected by these provisions and consideration of any representations made by them. Representations against any service orders must be made within three months from the date of publication, or notice of the order, whichever is earlier.
- **Applicability:** These provisions will not apply to members of All India Services (such as Indian Administrative Services, Indian Police Services, and Indian Forest Services), and persons on delegation from any state.
- **Jurisdiction of High Court:** The Bill provides that the jurisdiction of the **High Court of Bombay will continue to extend to the merged UT.**

Significance

The merger would bring about administrative convenience,

speedy development and effective implementation of central and state government schemes.