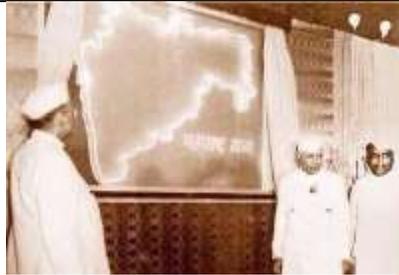


Maharashtra Day

- Maharashtra Day, commonly known as Maharashtra Divas, is a state holiday in the Indian state of Maharashtra, commemorated on May 1, 1960, commemorating the creation of Maharashtra from the partition of Bombay. Maharashtra Day is generally associated with parades, political speeches and ceremonies, and various other public and private occasions celebrating the history and traditions of Maharashtra. The celebration of the formation of the Marathi speaking state of Maharashtra is celebrated.

Maharashtra Day History



- The state of Bombay (Mumbai) was separated into two states, Maharashtra and Gujarat, in 1960. Under the State Restructuring Act, 1956, state boundaries were defined.
- The main issue was linguistic as there was a big difference between the speakers of Marathi, Gujarati and Konkani.
- The demand for a separate state for Marathi speakers started in 1940, and a joint general assembly was formed in present-day Mumbai for the state movement.
- However, the Quit India Movement and World War II pushed the conflict back.
- For several commissions to advocate for a separate state, it took more than two decades. In 1956, the then Prime Minister Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru declared Bombay as a Union Territory for 5 years. Later, the Lok Sabha passed a bilingual Bombay (Mumbai) state resolution. In March 1960, the Lok Sabha passed the state resolution. A month later, the lower house approved the Mumbai State Resolution. The state of Maharashtra came into existence on May 1, 1960, with Mumbai capital.

Maharashtra Day Significance



- From speeches to colourful parades, Maharashtra commemorates this day with great enthusiasm. Most of the schools, colleges and offices under the jurisdiction of the state and central government are closed on this day. Maharashtra Day is celebrated by a parade at Shivaji Park, Dadar, where the Governor of Maharashtra gives a speech. The state government and the private sector launch new projects and schemes on this day. On Maharashtra Day, the sale of liquor to Indians is banned across the state.

Formation of Samyukta Maharashtra



- Finally, after the sacrifice of 105 people, on May 1, 1960, the present major geographical divisions of Maharashtra, Konkan, Marathwada, Western Maharashtra, North Maharashtra, Vidarbha were merged to form the present Marathi speaking Maharashtra.
- While dividing the bilingual state, it was agreed that Maharashtra should pay Rs 10 crore to Gujarat and reduce the amount in the next 4 years.
- Also, Gujarati speakers claimed that Gujarati capitalists did the development and construction of Mumbai, and Mumbai got Maharashtra only by paying Rs 50 crore as 'interest'.
- Nehru wanted the state to be called 'Mumbai'. But apart from that, the Samyukta Maharashtra Samiti decided to name it 'Maharashtra' and the state was established on Labor Day, i.e. May 1.
- The first Chief Minister, Yashwantrao, brought the urn of Maharashtra. Mumbai became the new state's capital, and Nagpur became the vice capital.
- However, Belgaum and its environs and the Dangi speaking region of Gujarat were not included in Maharashtra. Belgaum, Nipani Karwar were included in Karnataka. Bidar, Bhalki, Santpur, Humamabad, Burhanpur, Saunsar, Multai, Bhainsade were considered controversial. Fifty villages in Umbergaon taluka, 144 villages of Ukai scheme in West Khandesh and the entire Dang district were included in Gujarat.
- Marathi speakers from the Belgaum Nipani Karwar area formed a 'Maharashtra Ekikaran Samiti' and started a strong agitation. Border residents also had to make sacrifices in this agitation. November 1 is still observed as Black Day in the border areas in his memory. The Maharashtra government took the border issue to the Supreme Court in August 2005.
- Efforts are still being made to include 865 villages in Maharashtra, including Belgaum. The unresolved border issue between Maharashtra and Karnataka remains. In 1966, the Central Government set up the Mahajan Commission on the Belgaum issue, and both the states did not agree with the recommendations of this commission.