

However , as there was no consensus on renaming United Provinces (UP) as Aryavarta over twenty possible names , including Hindustan came up for consideration. These included, in alphabetic order : Aryavarta , Aryavarta Pradesh, Avadh, Bharat Khand, Brij Koshal, Brahmavarta Prant, Bhagirath Pradesh ,Bhramadesh, Brahmadesh, Hindustan, Himalaya Koshlam, Himalaya Pradesh, Krishna Kushal province ,Madhyadesh, Naimisharayana Pradesh, Nava Hindu, Ram Krishna Prant, Rama Krishna Pradesh and Uttarakhand. There were many letters to the Editor in newspapers like The Pioneer, The National Herald ,The Leader and Swatantra Bharat , among others giving forceful arguments for one or the other name.The GB Pant cabinet decided to defer the decision as tempers tended to be frayed.

However, the decision could not have been postponed forever, as by October 1949, the Constituent Assembly wanted to finalize the names of the constituent units of India for 'India was a Union of states'. As the matter continued to be contentious , Dr Rajendra Prasad felt that rather than debate the issue in the Constituent Assembly, it was best left to the state governments to finalize the name of the province.

While the education Minister Sampooranand was firmly in favour of Aryavarta, and it appeared that this was also the majority view of the Cabinet and the state legislature, it was decided to refer the matter to the Provincial Congress Committee where an overwhelming number of members also supported this name. The name was endorsed by GB Pant, Sampooranand, Govind Sahai, A G Kher , PD Tandon and Charan Singh. However, this did not find favour with the Congress High Command, and Pant had to retract the proposal as the name was not 'acceptable to other parts of the country'. The feeling outside of the province was that names like Aryavarta or Hindustan signified not merely UP, but the whole of India. Constituent Assembly (CA) member from CP- Berar RK Sidhwa complained that UP (United Provinces) looked upon itself as the super -most province of India.

To break the deadlock, Dr Ambedkar moved a Bill , which was adopted by the CA, authorizing the Governor General to alter the names of provinces (as the states were then called) and Pant also agreed that names like Hind, Hindustan or Aryavarta will not be pressed for again. This was how Uttar Pradesh, a name which was not even put up for consideration became the name of the new state. Uttar Pradesh refers to the Northern part of the country , and over a period of time, the region has evolved its own identity and resisted any attempt to alter the boundaries by the creation of another state. However, it must be placed on record that there was a very strong

move in the early fifties to create a new state, right on the borders of New Delhi besides of course the demand for a separate Uttarakhand.

The first formal challenge to the boundaries of UP emanated from a resolution of the Delhi Legislative Assembly, which 'recommended to the Government of India that boundaries of Delhi state be enlarged to include the neighbouring districts of Punjab and UP so that an administratively and economically sound is created'. In fact, the memorandum submitted to the SRC on behalf of the Delhi state government stated "the people of this area (Delhi and the surrounding districts) have historic, cultural and economic ties. They have common language, dress, marriage rites, laws of succession, system of land tenure and customs." The representation went on to add that the province of Delhi had been broken up artificially 'both as a punishment for taking part in the so-called Mutiny of 1857, as well as a device to break down their morale and to crush their spirit'. The territories proposed to be included were the Agra, Meerut and Rohilkhand divisions of UP and the Ambala Division of Haryana and the Alwar and Bharatpur districts of Rajasthan. This proposal did not find a positive response, either from the Union government, or the states of UP, Punjab and Rajasthan.

However, what did cause a stir in the political circles of UP, and indeed in the Congress High Command was a memorandum submitted by 97 MLAs from the Western and hill districts of UP wanting to merge their areas with Delhi. The five points made in favour of their demand were: a) the sheer size of the state, which often led to the neglect of the Western districts and the hill areas; b) lesser development expenditure; c) need for rapid industrialization; d) geographical proximity to Delhi rather than Lucknow and e) the new state would not to develop a new capital for Delhi could serve the purpose'

The news that a hundred legislators could get together and submit a memorandum to the SRC caught the state and the central leadership of the Congress unaware, and they stepped in immediately to stall the move. Tandon and Pant closed ranks, and nipped this in the bud, and gave a counter memorandum to the SRC on why the territorial boundaries of UP should remain unchanged. They averred that the large size of UP was actually good for large scale development projects and for mobilization of resources. While the Chairman of the SRC Justice Fazal Ali and HN Kunzru were convinced with this argument the third member, KM Pannikar gave a strong note of dissent. He made the point that UP was too large to be administered. Dr Ambedkar also expressed the view that a state of the size and population of UP was actually creating political asymmetry.