Polity & Governance · GS - II

Discuss the nature of Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly after the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Act, 2019. Briefly describe the powers and functions of the Assembly of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2025	GS - II	Polity & Governance

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

UT with legislature, Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act 2019, Lieutenant Governor, unicameral legislature, State List, Police, Public Order, Concurrent List, financial powers, Parliament

Model Answer

Introduction

The Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019 transformed the former State into the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. Jammu and Kashmir was constituted as a Union Territory with a Legislative Assembly.

1. Nature of the Assembly

The Assembly is unicameral and has a normal five-year term unless dissolved earlier. Following delimitation, it comprises 90 elected seats, including reserved seats for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Unlike a full-fledged State legislature, its constitutional and legislative autonomy is limited by the Union Territory framework and the powers of Parliament and the Lieutenant Governor.

2. Powers and functions

Under Section 32 of the Reorganisation Act, the Assembly can legislate on matters in the State List except Public Order and Police, and on applicable Concurrent List matters. Parliament retains overriding legislative competence.

The Assembly performs legislative, deliberative and financial functions, including passing laws, discussing public policy and approving expenditure through the budgetary process. The Council of Ministers aids and advises the Lieutenant Governor on matters within its competence.

Conclusion

The J&K Assembly therefore represents democratic self-government within a Union Territory, but with substantially narrower powers than a State legislature.

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