Polity & Governance · GS - II

Explain the constitutional and political significance of reserving vacant Legislative Assembly seats for areas of Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 28/11/2026	GS - II	Polity & Governance

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Territorial claim, legislative representation, Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, vacant seats, sovereignty, constitutional framework

Model Answer

The reservation of seats for areas of Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK) in the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly reflects India's constitutional position regarding the territory.

Constitutional significance:

1. **Territorial claim:** The provision reinforces India's stated claim over the entire territory of the former princely State of Jammu and Kashmir.
2. **Legislative arrangement:** Under the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, as amended, 24 seats are kept vacant for areas under Pakistan's occupation.
3. **Representation:** The arrangement recognises the principle that these areas are part of the territorial framework of Jammu and Kashmir, while actual representation remains unavailable under present circumstances.

Political and diplomatic significance:

- It communicates India's position on territorial sovereignty.
- It remains relevant to India's diplomatic engagement with Pakistan.
- It highlights the relationship between territorial claims and democratic representation.

Challenges: The absence of elected representatives from these seats raises questions about the practical implementation of representation. The provision must also be understood separately from the allocation of seats to constituencies where elections are presently conducted.

Conclusion: The reserved-seat arrangement is both a legislative provision and an expression of India's territorial position. Its significance lies in the intersection of constitutional law, democratic representation and sovereignty.

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