

WRAP Exams · wrapexams.com

Prelims PYQ, Mains model answers, and copy evaluation. Write to the desk for this paper, a doubt, or the AI waitlist.

ask@wrapexams.com · +91 85951 84903 · wrapexams.com

Q4

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.

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2025 · GS II · 10 marks · Governance and Policy

Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.

Core demand of the question

- State what the J&K Reorganisation Act, 2019, did to the legislature
- Describe the Union Territory Assembly's powers and functions
- Note the Lieutenant Governor, the **2023 Article 370** judgment, and the 2024 elections

Revision summary

The 2019 Act replaced the State legislature with a J&K UT Assembly and a legislature-less Ladakh.

The House legislates on assigned State and Concurrent subjects; **police and public order** stay with the Union.

A Council of Ministers is responsible to the Assembly; the LG holds discretionary pockets.

In Re **Article 370 (2023)** upheld abrogation and pointed back to statehood.

2024 elections revived the Assembly as a working UT legislature, not yet a full State Vidhan Sabha.

Introduction

The **Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019**, ended the State legislature that had sat under the old Constitution of Jammu and Kashmir. In its place it created a **Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir with a Legislative Assembly** and a **Union Territory of Ladakh without one**. The Assembly that now exists is a **UT legislature**, closer to Puducherry than to a full State Vidhan Sabha, until Parliament restores statehood.

Body

Nature after 2019

The 2019 Act split the State, applied the Indian Constitution more fully, and provided for a unicameral Assembly for the J&K UT. Seats were rebased (the Act envisaged 114 after delimitation, with 24 still notionally related to Pakistan-occupied areas remaining vacant in practice as before). **Delimitation (2022)** produced **90 elected seats** for the UT, plus the power to nominate women members in specified circumstances. **Public order and police** were not left with the Assembly in the manner of a full State; they sit with the Union, as is

typical when a UT is carved for security-sensitive reasons. The **Lieutenant Governor** is the Centre's officer, with a Council of Ministers to aid and advise except where the Act gives the LG discretion - a structure that invites the same tensions the Court has parsed for **NCT of Delhi** (**Government of NCT of Delhi v. Union of India**), though the statutory text for J&K is its own.

This is **not** the old J&K Constituent Assembly, and not a **Sixth Schedule** council. It is an ordinary UT legislature created by Parliament under **Article 3** read with Union Territory provisions.

Powers and functions

The Assembly **makes laws** for the UT on **State List and Concurrent List** matters, with the **carve-outs** in the 2019 Act (notably **police and public order**). Money bills and the budget still need the executive's initiative. It **scrutinises** the Council of Ministers, who are collectively responsible to it. It can **debate, committee-examine, and recommend**. It does **not** control the army, external affairs, or the Union List. Land and local government remain live political subjects inside the UT list as assigned.

The LG's reference, assent and occasional direct rule (President's / Governor's style administration when the Assembly is not in place) marked 2019-2024. **In Re: Article 370** (December 2023) upheld the abrogation of the special provision and said **statehood should be restored. Assembly elections in 2024** returned a popular House, so the 2019 design is now a **working legislature under a promise of statehood**, not a vacant section of an Act.

- **Functions on the ground:** law-making for schools, health, local roads and the civil secretariat subjects; calling the government to account; and voicing regional claims (jobs, land, displaced persons) that a purely nominated administration could not.

Flow diagram

2019 Act -> UT J&K with Assembly
2019 Act -> UT Ladakh no House
UT J&K with Assembly -> Lieutenant Governor
UT J&K with Assembly -> Ministers to the House
SC 2023 -> Statehood to be restored

Conclusion

After 2019 the J&K House is a Union Territory Assembly with law-making minus **police and public order**, under a Lieutenant Governor. The 2023 judgment and the 2024 elections have put a people-backed legislature back in Srinagar, while full statehood remains Parliament's next constitutional step.

Facts & figures

Delimitation 2022

Set 90 elected seats for the J&K UT Assembly after the Reorganisation Act's framework.

In Re: Article 370 (2023)

Supreme Court upheld the 2019 changes and observed that statehood for J&K should be restored.

Police and public order

Kept with the Union for the UT, which is the main difference from a full State Assembly's domain.

WRAP Exams · Write. Read. Analyse. Practice. · <https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/gs-2/2025/discuss-the-nature-of-jammu-and-kashmir-legislative-assembly-after-the-jammu-and-kashmir-reorganization-act-2019-briefly-describe-the-powers/> · ask@wrapexams.com · wrapexams.com

WRAP Exams