

## **Governance Reforms in Jammu and Kashmir**

The Parliament has extended the President Rule In Jammu & Kashmir for another six months.

#### **Governance Issues in J&K**

The Central government has extended its rule in the state while promoting grassroot democracy which seems contradictory and violation of spirit of federalism. Other issues involved are:

- Poor economic development.
- Failure to deliver even basic facilities.
- Widespread corruption among government employees.
- Human Rights Abuse.
- Unemployment among youth.
- Security threat from Cross border infiltration.

### Initiatives Taken to address governance issues in J&K

# Rules-based order

The Centre is trying to set up a robust administrative mechanism devoid of corruption in Kashmir.
Here are a few of the steps:

- Concentrate on delivery of basic services in a rule-based manner without the intervention of local leaders
- Removal of the vast discretionary powers of the political executive
- Elimination of interview process for employment in Class IV category

- Opening of an 'Anti-Corruption Bureau', with six new police stations under its remit
- Devolve enough funds to local government; if not creating a completely new political landscape, at least green shoots of an alternative political discourse will get a fillip
- Budget Estimation and Management System (BEAMS) for expenditure management
- Expenditure allocation being transferred from the Planning and Development Department to Finance

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Divisional Status to Ladakh

• 'Back to Villages' program under which government officers visit villages to redress grievances of people at their doorsteps.

#### President's Rule in J&K

- In case of breakdown of Constitutional machinery in the state, there are two prescriptions
  - Governor's Rule under J&K Constitution
  - Presidential Rule under the Indian Constitution (Article 356)
- **Governor's rule** is **first** imposed for six months in the state with the approval of the President. In case, the constitutional crisis is not resolved within 6-months, **President's Rule** is extended to the state under article **356 of Indian Constitution** for a maximum period of 3-years with Parliamentary approval after every 6 months.
- President's Rule is extended to other states in case of breakdown of constitutional machinery under Art. 356 and under Art. 365 in case of failure of state govt to comply with orders of Central Govt. However, there is **no** such provision of **Governor's Rule** in other states.

Source: TH

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