

Nominated MLAs and Potential Impact on J&K Assembly

Why in News?

Recently, as the <u>Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) assembly election</u> results draw near, the nomination of five <u>Members of Legislative Assembly (MLAs)</u> by the <u>Lieutenant Governor</u> has raised concerns about its potential influence on government formation.

Key Points

- Nominations Before Assembly Formation:
 - The **Lieutenant Governor of J&K** is reportedly nominating five MLAs before the formation of the assembly, raising concerns in political circles.
 - The five nominated MLAs represent Kashmiri displaced persons and those from Pakistan-Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (POJK).
 - These MLAs will have full legislative powers and privileges, just like elected representatives.
- Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019:
 - The <u>J&K Reorganisation Act</u>, <u>2019</u> allows for the nomination of members to the assembly, with provisions to give representation to women.
 - A 2023 amendment to the Act expanded the nomination to include three additional members – two from the Kashmiri migrant community and one from POJK displaced persons, bringing the total to five.
- Majority Mark Shift:
 - The assembly's strength would expand to 95 members if these nominations go through, raising the majority mark for government formation to 48 seats.
- Puducherry Assembly Model:
 - The J&K assembly is modeled on <u>Puducherry</u>'s, where nominated members have the same powers and voting rights as elected representatives.

Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019

- It divided Jammu and Kashmir into 2 Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.
- It repealed <u>Article 370</u>, which had granted Jammu & Kashmir a unique status.
- Leh and Kargil districts were included in the Union Territory of Ladakh, while the remaining areas became part of Jammu & Kashmir.
- Five Lok Sabha seats were retained by Jammu & Kashmir, and one was transferred to Ladakh.
- Legislature: The seats in the Legislative Assembly will be reserved for tribal and scheduled caste people to keep the proportion intact of their population in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.
 - The Lt. Governors can nominate two women members for the Assembly to represent women if women are not sufficiently represented to justify equality between men and women.
 - The elected Legislative Assembly will be for 5 years, and the <u>Lt. The Governor</u> will summon the Assembly once every six months.
 - The Legislative Assembly has the right to pass a law for any given part of the Union Territory of J&K related to any of the matters listed in the Indian Constitutions State's List except for the "Police" and "Public Order."

Any matter specified in the <u>Concurrent List</u> will be applied to Indian Union Territories.
Furthermore, Parliament will have the decision-making power to create laws for Jammu Kashmir and its Union Territory.

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