

**POLITY**

**Context:** SC Verdict on Revocation of Article 370. Relevance of the judgement of the Supreme Court on the polity and the economy of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

**In News, why?**

Regarding the Union government's 2019 attempt to change Article 370 of the Constitution, the Supreme Court recently rendered a decision. The former state of Jammu and Kashmir's unique status was terminated by the abrogation. The court upheld the validity of the Constitutional order that nullified Article 370.

**What is the Supreme Court's most recent ruling?**

- Jammu and Kashmir Did Not Possess Sovereignty: The Supreme Court said that there is ample evidence in Article 370 and the J&K Constitution to demonstrate that Kashmir did not need to give up its sovereignty in order to enter into a merger deal.
- J&K was listed as a Part III State under Article 1 of the Indian Constitution, and Article 370(1) enforced that provision without alteration.
- The State of Jammu and Kashmir "is and shall be an integral part of the Union of India," as stated specifically in Section 3 of the J&K Constitution.
- Section 3 of the Indian constitution is absolute and cannot be amended, as stated in Section 147.
- Consequently, the Court declared that the Indian Constitution "became the supreme governing document of the land," and the J&K Constitution's Preamble exhibits a "clear absence of...a reference to sovereignty."

**Article 370 is a Provision That Is Temporary:**

- The SC based its decision on the fact that the transitory and transitional provisions found in Part XXI were positioned beside Article 370 by the authors of the Constitution.
- Subsequently, it was highlighted that Article 1 of the Instrument of Accession (IoA) applied to J&K in its entirety, as it was "abundantly clear" that "India that is Bharat shall be a Union of States."

**President's Rule Proclamations' Constitutional Validity:**

- The Supreme Court's Bench agreed that the President may enact "irreversible changes, including the dissolution of the State Assembly," but that "judicial and constitutional scrutiny" serves as a check on the President's authority.

**The Constitution of J&K Stands Inoperative:**

- The court ruled that the existence of the J&K Constitution, which limited the applicability of some Indian Constitutional articles to J&K, is no longer essential.
- The State of Jammu and Kashmir's Constitution is rendered inoperative as a necessary but implicit result of applying the Indian Constitution in its entirety to the state.

**A Truth and Reconciliation Commission to Examine Human Rights Should Be Established:**

- The SC suggested that the Union establish a "truth and reconciliation Commission" to look into human rights abuses by both state and non-state entities, similar to what South Africa did during apartheid. The workout ought to have a time limit.

**What J&K's special status was?**

- About: On August 5, 2019, the Constitution (Application to Jammu and Kashmir) Order, 2019, was issued by the President of India, exercising the authority granted under Article 370(1) of the Constitution.
- By doing this, the Indian government has altered Article 370 rather than repealing it.
- The state of Jammu and Kashmir's relationship with the Indian Union has been significantly changed as a result by the actions of the Indian government. What J&K's special status was?

**Background:**

- On 17th October 1949, Article 370 was added to the Indian constitution, as a 'temporary provision', which exempted Jammu & Kashmir, permitting it to draft its own Constitution and restricting the Indian Parliament's legislative powers in the state.
- It was introduced into the draft constitution by N Gopaldaswami Ayyangar as Article 306 A.

**What are the Key Changes brought Out by the Order of 2019?**

- Constitution (Application to Jammu and Kashmir) Order, 2019:

- The Constitution (Application to Jammu and Kashmir) Order, 2019 has replaced the Presidential Order of 1954.
- Subsequently, the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Bill, 2019, passed by Parliament divides the state of Jammu and Kashmir into two new Union Territories (UTs): Jammu & Kashmir, and Ladakh.
- This is the first time that a state has been converted into UTs.
- Of the six Lok Sabha seats currently with the state of Jammu and Kashmir, five will remain with the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir, while one will be allotted to Ladakh.
- The UT of Jammu and Kashmir will have an Assembly, like in Delhi and Puducherry.
- Ladakh will be a UT without legislature
- Kashmir will no longer have a Governor, but rather a Lieutenant Governor like in Delhi or Puducherry.

**The Abolition of J&K's Special Status:**

- There will be no more distinct flag, anthem, or constitution for Jammu and Kashmir.
- Dual citizenship will not be granted to Jammu and Kashmiri citizens.
- The citizens of Jammu and Kashmir will now have access to the Fundamental Rights guaranteed by the Indian Constitution, as the new union territory would be governed by it.
- This will also apply to Article 360, which is where a Financial Emergency can be declared.
- Jammu and Kashmir would be subject to all legislation enacted by Parliament, including the Right to Education and Information Acts.
- The Ranbir Penal Code of Jammu and Kashmir will be replaced with the Indian Penal Code.
- Article 35A, which derives from Article 370's requirements, is void and null

**What Kind of Legal Challenges Were There in the Abrogation of Article 370?**

- Constitutional Challenges: Article 370(3) states that in order to revoke Jammu and Kashmir's special status, the President must get the constituent assembly's approval. This was the case with the presidential order that attempted to do so.
- The 2019 Presidential decree, however, amends Article 367 by adding a subclause that reads "legislative Assembly of Jammu and Kashmir" in place of the previous phrase, "Constituent Assembly of Jammu and Kashmir."
- The phrase "Governor of Jammu and Kashmir acting on the advice and assistance of the council of ministers" refers to the governor of that state.
- Without proposing a constitutional amendment that would have needed a two-thirds majority in the Parliament, the government attempted to lessen the autonomy granted under Article 370.
- The Supreme Court heard a challenge to this provision, arguing that it could only have been inserted to the Indian Constitution by Presidential Order.
- Article 3 is violated by the conversion of Jammu and Kashmir into a Union Territory because the State Assembly did not refer the Bill to the President.
- The state government's approval is also necessary for the Presidential order to reorganize the state. But since the governor now rules Jammu and Kashmir, the governor's approval is taken to mean the government's approval.

**Problem with Federalism:**

- An agreement to cooperate between two sovereign nations was similar to the Instrument of Accession.
- The Supreme Court stated in Santosh Kumar v. State of J&K & ors, 2017 that Jammu and Kashmir has a unique status because of historical factors.
- In the 2016 case SBI v. Zaffar Ullah Nehru, the Supreme Court ruled that Article 370 cannot be removed without the Jammu and Kashmir Constituent Assembly's approval.

**What Indices of Security and Peace Exist in J&K Now That Article 370 Has Been Abrogated?**

- Decrease in Stonepelting and Militancy: There was a drop in stone pelting incidents as a result of increased security presence and intervention by federal agencies such as the National Investigation Agency (NIA).
- There were 222 stone-pelting occurrences in 2020 compared to 618 in 2019.

- There was a decline in security force injuries from 64 in 2019 to 10 in 2021.
- Reduction of Civilian Injuries: Between 2019 and 2021, there were 25 civilian injuries from baton charges and pellet guns, compared to 339 in 2019.
- Just 20 law and order events were reported in 2022, indicating that law and order in J&K has improved as well.

**Arrests of Over-Ground Workers (OGWs) and Militants:**

- From 82 in 2019 to 178 in 2021, OGWs of militant groups were arrested more frequently.
- Compared to the ten months prior, there has been a 32% decrease in terrorist activities between August 2019 and June 2022.

**The Way Ahead**

- To improve Kashmir, a ten-year plan focusing on the three E's (employment, education, and employability) should be implemented.
- By 2026, J&K will have achieved a "zero-terror incident" according to the strategy, which has been in place since 2020.
- The Kashmiri legitimacy issue should be resolved by following Gandhi's nonviolent and peaceful route.
- The administration can begin to address the issues raised by the Article 370 Action by initiating a thorough outreach initiative to all Kashmiris.
- In light of this, Atal Bihari Vajpayee's interpretation of Kashmiriyat, Insaniyat, and Jamhooriyat—the inclusive culture of Kashmir, humanitarianism, and democracy—for the resolution of the Kashmir dispute need to be a pillar of the forces promoting state reconciliation.

**GOVERNANCE**

**Context: Utilize the Odisha narrative to guarantee food security.**

**Context:** Odisha has developed a unique development model as a result of its efforts to climate-proof its agricultural sector in light of the threat that climate change poses to global food productivity.

**Introduction**

- The rising effects of the climate catastrophe portray a dire picture for the earth, peace, and prosperity when world leaders gather in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, for COP28, or the 2023 United Nations Climate Change Conference (November 30 to December 12, 2023).
- With the world witnessing an intensifying global food crisis brought on by escalating conflicts, mounting climate change, and distressed livelihoods, Odisha's transformative journey is being increasingly cited as a model and source of ideas for establishing equitable and sustainable food security.
- Three main elements emerge from Odisha's tale in the contemporary context: the state's strengthening of food security through agriculture transformation through community-driven approach and resilience building against the impact of climate change.

**Transformation of agriculture**

- Before the 2000s, Odisha had to buy rice from other States to make ends meet. In the last 20 years, however, the state has produced 13.606 million tons of food grains, the most on record, in 2022.
- Two things are noteworthy: productivity has improved despite steady crop area, and the majority of farmers are small/marginal farmers. The primary crop of Odisha, rice, has tripled in output during the past 20 years. The yield climbed to 27.30 quintals per hectare by 2020–21 from an average of 10.41 quintals per hectare in 2000–01.
- Previously referred to as the "land of hunger," the Kalahandi area is now renowned as Odisha's rice bowl. At the headquarters of the World Food Program of the United Nations, Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik stated this where he addressed Odisha's commitment towards achieving the 'Zero Hunger' goal of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2.
- Increasing the income of small and marginal farmers is the main goal. Their ability to create resilient livelihoods and increase their food security have both benefited directly from this.
- Paddy cultivation has declined but non-paddy crop cultivation has expanded as a result of the introduction of flagship programs like Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income Augmentation

(KALIA) and the dissemination of scientific crop management techniques through conventional and digital extension.

- Crop diversification and climate resilience have also benefited from initiatives like the Odisha Millet Mission.

### **Sustainability and Resilience**

- Odisha's physical characteristics and geographic location make it especially susceptible to the effects of climate change. Due to the potential for loss of life, livelihoods, possessions, and infrastructure, this phenomenon has the potential to undermine present growth plans and worsen poverty. To address these issues, Odisha has proactively created an extensive Climate Change Action Plan.
- This plan addresses a number of topics, such as energy, agriculture, forests, health, industries, mining, transportation, urban and water resources, energy, fisheries and animal resources, and forests and forests.
- From the bottom up, a strategy for achieving climate resilience is being established. To keep an eye on the agricultural program, the agricultural Weather Watch Group has weekly meetings, allows officers to tour fields, and uses video conferences.

### **Social defence**

- Due to the agricultural sector's continuous improvement, Odisha is now a surplus state for paddy output. It is the Food Corporation of India's fourth-largest contributor to the paddy pool.
- Based on data available for 2020–21, Odisha contributes 4.22% of India's total food grain production and 9% of the nation's rice production.
- The implementation of biometric technology in the Targeted Public Distribution System in the remote Rayagada district back in 2007 and rice fortification in the Gajapati district, to name a couple, are just two examples of the innovative pilot programs on improving food and nutrition security schemes that have been made possible by the partnership between the United Nations World Food Programme and the Government of Odisha.
- Odisha was ranked highest in the nation overall in the Department of Food and Public Distribution, Government of India's State Ranking Index for the National Food Security Act for 2022. The World Food Programme (WFP) and the Government of Odisha work together on projects related to food security, livelihood, and climate resilience.

### **Conclusion**

In light of the difficulties posed by climate change, Odisha's remarkable journey—from a shortage of food grains to the production of surplus—as well as its persistent efforts to diversify its crop base, protect smallholders' interests, and ensure the vulnerable have access to food and nutrition—offer other States a special model for development.

## **PRELIM FACTS**

### **1.The Wildlife Sanctuary of Kambalakonda**

**Context:** Inaugurated in the Eastern Ghats Biodiversity Centre in Visakhapatnam, the first-of-its-kind Nature Interpretation Center is located on the outskirts of the Kambalakonda Wildlife Sanctuary.

#### **About the Wildlife Sanctuary in Kambalakonda:**

- It is situated in the Andhra Pradesh state.
- This vast and expansive sanctuary is named after the nearby hillock known as "Kambalakonda," which serves as a green lung for the people of Vizianagaram.
- **Topography:** There are a lot of hills and steep slopes.
- **Vegetation:** It is home to dry evergreen forests, a rare and severely vulnerable forest type found only in Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, India.
- **Flora:** Magnificent plants such as *Abrus precatorius*, *Grewia tiliaefolia*, *Randia dumetorum*, and *Tectona grandis* are found there.
- The Indian screw tree has some of the most beautiful blossoms in the area. There are other fruits and flowers scattered throughout the environment, such as the blooms of the Bush plum tree and bunches of jungle berries.

- **Fauna:** Partridges, paradise flycatchers, tree pie, barking deer, leopards, and jackals are examples of avifauna, while mammals include quails and partridges.

## **2. otolith rings**

**Context:** Southampton University marine biologists have just devised a method to decipher the chemical of otoliths.

### **About otolith rings:**

- In the fish ear, the otolith is a rocky mass.
- These indicate the age of fish in a manner similar to tree rings.
- The otolith's various oxygen isotopes or forms reveal the temperature the fish was exposed to during its life. Carbon isotopes show the rate at which food was transformed into energy.
- Fitness trackers are carried in the ears of fish. Known by most as "earstones," bony fish have hard calcium carbonate formations just behind their brains.
- Fish use otoliths of three different kinds to help with hearing and balance:
- **Sagitta:** The largest of the three pairs of otoliths, sagitta is engaged in the detection of sound and the conversion of sound waves into electrical impulses, which is the hearing process.
- **Asteriscus:** The hearing process and sound detection are functions of this kind of otolith.
- **Lapillus:** Gravitational force and sound sensing are processes that involve this kind of otolith.
- Fish that are cartilaginous, like sharks, skates, and rays, lack otoliths, while other species have them in varying sizes and forms.

### **Significance:**

- A fish's species, size, age, growth rate, and season of death can all be determined from its otolith features.
- The temperature of the water that the fish resided in can be determined by analyzing the oxygen isotope readings of their otoliths.
- While researching the amounts of trace elements like barium might reveal the water's salinity levels.

## **3. The Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C)**

- The Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre is an organized and effective effort by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) to tackle cybercrime in the nation.
- It serves as a turning point in the struggle against online fraud. The planned Rs. 415 crores was authorized for the initiative in October 2018.
- Preventing the exploitation of cyberspace to support terrorist and extremist organizations is one of its purposes.

### **Other functions:**

- Determine the research needs and difficulties facing LEAs, then engage in R&D to create new technologies and forensic instruments in partnership with academic institutions and research centers in India and outside.
- Make recommendations for changes to cyber laws as needed to stay up with the rapidly evolving technology and global collaboration.
- In conjunction with the relevant MHA nodal body, to coordinate all actions pertaining to the implementation of Mutual Legal Assistance Treaties (MLAT) with other nations regarding cybercrimes.

## **4. Amrit Dharohar Scheme for Capacity Building**

**Context:** The Ministry of Tourism, in partnership with the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, launches the Amrit Dharohar Capacity Building Scheme 2023.

### **Important information:**

- The Amrit Dharohar Capacity Building Scheme-2023 saw the creation of an Alternative Livelihood Program by the two ministries.
- In order to enhance nature tourism at various Ramsar sites and give the local community alternative means of subsistence, the Indian Institute of Tourism and Travel Management (IITTM), an autonomous body under the Ministry of Tourism, will work with the MoEFCC to strengthen local community capacity.

- MoT and MoEFCC are working together to implement the initiative's "Nature-tourism and Wet" component, which aims to improve livelihood prospects benefiting local populations by utilizing the nation's Ramsar Sites' potential for natural tourism.

**Priority Ramsar locations under the program:**

- Bhitarkanika and Chilika in Odisha, Yashint Sagar and Sirpur in Madhya Pradesh, and Sultanpur National Park in Uttar Pradesh

**Amrit Dharohar: What is it?**

- The MoEF&CC created the Amrit Dharohar program, which is a component of the 2023–24 budget announcement, to assist local livelihoods, create jobs, and promote the unique conservation values of the Ramsar Sites across the nation.
- This project will be carried out in tandem with a number of ministries and agencies of the Central Government, State Wetland Authorities, and a network of formal and informal organizations and people.

**5.Red sprite**

**Context:** An astronaut from the European Space Agency (ESA) recently captured images of a rare phenomenon known as a red sprite.

**About Red Sprite:**

- A Transient Luminous Event (TLE) is a remarkable meteorological occurrence that is represented by a red sprite.
- Another term for stratospheric/mesospheric perturbations brought on by intense thunderstorm electrification is sprite.
- It sometimes happens above thunderstorms at a height of 40 to 80 kilometers (25 to 50 miles) above the surface of the Earth. This phenomenon is known as red lightning.
- Normally, lightning flashes go from the clouds to the ground.
- A sprite, on the other hand, travels in the other direction—into the atmosphere—much like reverse lightning.
- Because they occur so quickly—in less than a millisecond—it can be challenging for scientists to witness and record them.
- Furthermore, since the red sprites form above thunder clouds, it is difficult to study them from Earth and they are primarily observed from space.

**Other Transient Luminous Event**

- **Blue jets:** These can be difficult to see because they are relatively faint and have a blue color. It reminds me of Red Sprite.
- **Elves:** These are a kind of TLE that illuminate in the shape of expanding rings. They occur over thunderstorms at a height of around 100 km (62 miles), and they happen too swiftly for the unaided eye to see.

**ANSWER WRITING**

**Q. Discuss the need and challenges of sub-categorization of OBCs in India. How will it affect the existing reservation policy and the social justice agenda?**

**Introduction**

According to the Mandal Commission (1980), 52% of Indians belong to the disadvantaged OBC category. But different socioeconomic standing has resulted in unequal benefits from reservations. Article 340 of the Constitution gives the President the authority to form a commission to deal with issue. A five-person panel headed by Justice (Retd.) G. Rohini was established in 2017 to look at OBC sub categorization for fair representation.

**The following factors make the sub categorization of OBCs necessary:**

- To address the horizontal imbalances and intragroup disparities among OBCs. A 2018 data analysis revealed that only 10 OBC communities received 24.95% of the employment and seats allocated to them under the OBC quota, while 983 OBC communities (37% of the total) had no representation at all.

- To guarantee that the OBCs' most disadvantaged groups—such as de-notified tribes and nomadic tribes—benefit from reservations.
- To eliminate any duplications, ambiguities, contradictions, and inaccuracies from the Central List of OBCs in order to rationalize and streamline it.

**The following are the obstacles to OBC sub categorization:**

- The absence of current, trustworthy statistics on the demographics and socioeconomic standing of different OBC communities. The commission has asked for an all-India survey because it believes that the statistics from the Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC) are unreliable.
- Although no new pronouncements have been made on the subject, data on OBCs is anticipated to be collected in the Census of 2021.
- The social and political ramifications of OBC sub categorization. Sub categorization may lead to disputes and rifts over quota shares amongst various OBC communities.
- It might also be employed by the opposition or ruling parties as a tactic to alienate or placate certain vote-banks.

**The effects of OBC sub categorization on the social justice movement and the current reservation policy:**

- Sub-categorization has the potential to further social justice efforts by guaranteeing that the most disadvantaged and marginalized groups within the OBC receive sufficient representation and opportunities in the workforce and educational system.
- Additionally, it would calm some upper caste discontent and dissatisfaction that some dominating OBC communities are taking advantage of reservation privileges.
- However, sub categorization could weaken the current quota regime by further dividing and establishing a hierarchy among the OBCs.
- Additionally, by lowering the participation of some larger or more numerous OBC communities, it would compromise the idea of proportional representation.
- Additionally, it can draw attention away from the systemic problems and biases that faced by OBCs as a whole.

**Conclusion**

OBC sub categorization is a difficult and divisive topic that need for a comprehensive, well-rounded approach. Although it might alleviate some of the intra-group disparities among OBCs, it might also bring out new difficulties for the social justice movement and the reservation policy. Therefore, before implementing any sub-categorization system, it is crucial to establish a clear and consistent legal framework, a complete and reputable database, and an inclusive and wide-ranging consultation procedure.

**MCQs**

1. Consider the following statements about Article 356
  1. The proclamation of President's Rule should be approved in both Houses of Parliament within one month of its issue.
  2. After initial six months, President's Rule can be extended for a period of three years with parliamentary approval, every one year.
  3. A proclamation of revocation of President's Rule does not require approval by Parliament.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

a) **Only one**                      b) Only two                      c) All three                      d) None of the above
2. Consider the following statements about Indian Mouse Deer
  1. It is endemic to the Indian Subcontinent.
  2. It is listed as Endangered in IUCN Red list.

Choose the correct statements:

a) **1 only**                      b) 2 only                      c) Both 1 and 2                      d) Neither 1 nor 2
3. Consider the following statements about Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA)
  1. It aims to enhance the world's adaptive capacity, strengthening resilience and reducing vulnerability to climate change.
  2. It was proposed by the African Group of Negotiators (AGN) in 2013 and established in 2015 under Paris agreement.

3. Glasgow–Sharm el-Sheikh work program (GlaSS) is an initiative under GGA.  
How many of the statements given above are correct?  
a) Only one      b) Only two      c) **All three**      d) None of the above
4. Consider the following statements about Indian Forest & Wood Certification Scheme
1. The scheme offers voluntary third-party certification to promote sustainable forest management and agro forestry in the country.
  2. Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal will be responsible for overall management of the scheme.
- Choose the incorrect statements:  
a) 1 only      b) 2 only      c) Both 1 and 2      d) **Neither 1 nor 2**
5. Consider the following statements:
1. Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation is another name for retail inflation.
  2. It calculates the variation in the price of a selection of products and services that manufacturers usually buy.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?  
a) **1 only**      b) 2 only      c) Both 1 and 2      d) Neither 1 nor 2
6. In relation to the 1970 Patent Act, take into consideration the following claims:
1. The Indian Patents and Designs Act of 1911 was superseded by it.
  2. The Patents (Amendment) Act, 2021, updated the Act by extending the patent protection to all technological domains, including food, medicine, chemicals, and microorganisms
- Which of the statements given above is/are incorrect?  
a) 1 only      b) **2 only**      c) Both 1 and 2      d) Neither 1 nor 2
7. With reference to the Food and Agriculture organization (FAO), consider the following statements:
1. Among its projects is the Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS).
  2. It is a specialized UN agency that is in charge of organizing global initiatives to end hunger.
- Which of the statements given above is/are incorrect?  
a) 1 only      b) 2 only      c) Both 1 and 2      d) **Neither 1 nor 2**
8. Regarding the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C), consider the following statements:
1. Preventing the exploitation of cyberspace to support terrorist and extremist organizations is one of its purposes.
  2. It is a home affairs ministry initiative (MHA).
  3. After the events of September 11, 2008, the plan was authorized.
- How many of the statements given above is/are correct?  
a) Only one      b) **Only two**      c) All three      d) None
9. Consider the following statements
1. It is situated in the Andhra Pradesh state.
  2. It gets its name from the nearby hillock that serves as Vizianagaram residents' green lung.
  3. The Indian screw tree has some of the most beautiful blossoms in the area.
  4. On the edge of this wildlife reserve, the Eastern Ghats Biodiversity Centre has opened a first-of-its-kind Nature Interpretation Centre.
- Which of the wildlife sanctuaries is the subject of the aforementioned statements?  
a) Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary  
b) **Kambalakonda Wildlife Sanctuary**  
c) Rollapadu Wildlife Sanctuary  
d) Kaundinya Wildlife Sanctuary
10. Recently, 'Otolith Rings' was in the news. It is useful in which one of the following?  
a) Determining trees' age  
b) **Determining Fish's age**  
c) Determining the age of Coral Reefs  
d) Determining the age of rocks.