Defence & Security · GS - III

Separatist movements have been one of the major factors contributing to militancy and instability in Jammu & Kashmir (J & K). Bring out actions taken by the Government to bring J & K into national mainstream. Discuss pre and post abrogation status of Articles 370 and 35A. Also bring out positive impacts of abrogation of both articles in mainstreaming the state.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2026	GS - III	Defence & Security

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Article 370, Article 35A, integration, J&K Reorganisation Act 2019, security measures, development, elections, Supreme Court 2023, constitutional equality, tourism, investment

Model Answer

Jammu and Kashmir’s integration has involved constitutional, developmental, security and democratic measures. Government initiatives have included counter-terrorism operations, infrastructure development, expansion of welfare schemes, Panchayati Raj institutions, investment promotion and restoration of electoral processes.

Before 2019, Article 370 provided special constitutional arrangements for J&K, while Article 35A enabled the State legislature to define “permanent residents” and confer specified rights and privileges upon them. Following the 2019 constitutional changes, the special-status framework was removed and the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019 created the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

The Supreme Court in its December 2023 judgment upheld the constitutional validity of the abrogation framework and treated Article 370 as a temporary provision.

Potential mainstreaming effects include:

1. Extension of the full range of Indian constitutional and statutory provisions to J&K.
2. Greater uniformity in rights and welfare entitlements.
3. Strengthening of local self-government through Panchayats and Urban Local Bodies.
4. Greater emphasis on infrastructure, tourism and investment.
5. Restoration of electoral politics, with Assembly elections held in 2024.

Government sources have also reported expansion in development activity and infrastructure following the constitutional changes.

However, mainstreaming cannot be measured only through legal integration or economic indicators. Sustained peace requires democratic participation, employment opportunities, social trust, protection of civil liberties and continued engagement with local communities.

Thus, constitutional integration can provide an institutional framework, but durable mainstreaming ultimately depends on combining security with democracy, development and public participation.

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