Polity & Governance · GS - II

Examine the institutional and constitutional relationship between the Lieutenant Governor and the elected government of Jammu and Kashmir. How can recruitment institutions be insulated from political interference to strengthen administrative accountability?

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 23/11/2026	GS - II	Polity & Governance

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Union Territory with Legislature, Lieutenant Governor, Chief Minister, Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act 2019, Services Selection Board, recruitment transparency, institutional autonomy, accountability, merit-based administration

Model Answer

Introduction

Jammu and Kashmir has a Union Territory framework with a legislature under the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019. Its governance involves an elected Council of Ministers headed by the Chief Minister and a Lieutenant Governor representing the Union.

Lieutenant Governor–Chief Minister Relationship

1. **Constitutional framework:** The Lieutenant Governor is appointed by the President and exercises powers under the Reorganisation Act, 2019, and applicable constitutional provisions.

2. **Elected government:** The Chief Minister heads the Council of Ministers, which exercises executive functions within the matters assigned to its jurisdiction.

3. **Reserved domains:** The Lieutenant Governor has specific statutory responsibilities and powers, including matters outside the elected government's assigned domain.

4. **Administrative coordination:** Differences over the allocation and exercise of executive authority can create delays and institutional friction, making clear procedures and consultation essential.

Recruitment Governance and Accountability

1. **Independent functioning:** Recruitment bodies such as the Services Selection Board must operate through transparent procedures and merit-based selection.

2. **Technology-driven processes:** Secure examination systems, encrypted question papers, digital evaluation and audit trails can reduce opportunities for manipulation.

3. **Institutional oversight:** Independent vigilance mechanisms, timely investigations and judicial scrutiny can deter corruption and favouritism.

4. **Public transparency:** Publication of selection criteria, answer keys, merit lists and grievance procedures can strengthen public confidence.

Way Forward

1. Clearly define administrative responsibilities and decision-making procedures.
2. Strengthen the professional autonomy and accountability of recruitment institutions.
3. Establish time-bound mechanisms for investigating examination irregularities.
4. Protect whistleblowers and ensure effective grievance redressal for candidates.

Conclusion

Effective governance in Jammu and Kashmir requires cooperation between constitutional authorities and the elected government. Transparent recruitment and autonomous selection institutions are essential for administrative integrity, public trust and equal opportunity.

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