

Important Vocab For the Editorial

1. **scrap** (verb) – abandon, cancel, abolish/throw out.
2. **muscular** (adjective) – strong, powerful, potent.
3. **militarist** (adjective) – aggressive, belligerent/bellicose, imperialistic/jingoistic.
4. **separatism** (noun) – dissension, nonconformity, dissent/faction.
5. **shun** (verb) – avoid, evade, reject.
6. **abrogate** (verb) – overrule/overturn, revoke, repeal.
7. **downgrade** (verb) – decline, lower in status, reduce in rank.
8. **railroad** (verb) – coerce, force, compel/pressurize.
9. **ideological** (adjective) – dogmatic, doctrinal.
10. **hasty** (adjective) – hurried, reckless, irresponsible/unthinking.
11. **stealthy** (adjective) – secret, hidden, covert.
12. **strain** (verb) – hurt, damage, impair.
13. **fabric** (noun) – the basic/fundamental structure.
14. **portent** (noun) – sign/indication, forecast, prediction.
15. **federalism** (noun) – a system of government in which establishments such as states or provinces share power with a national government.
16. **undermine** (verb) – weaken, spoil, damage.
17. **far-reaching** (adjective) – important, major, significant.
18. **dismember** (verb) – cut off, mutilate, disjoint.
19. **prudent** (adjective) – wise, sensible, careful/ far-sighted.
20. **seek** (verb) – try, attempt, aim.
21. **persuasion** (noun) – coercion, inducement, prompting.
22. **linguistic** (adjective) – relating to language; lingual.
23. **unitary** (adjective) – relating to a system of government in which power is provided to the central government.
24. **provision** (noun) – term, clause, requirement.
25. **suspicion** (noun) – misgiving, doubt/qualm, scepticism.
26. **impediment** (noun) – hindrance, obstacle, restriction.
27. **decree** (verb) – order, command, rule.
28. **with regard to** (phrase) – concerning, with respect to, in connection with.
29. **concurrence** (noun) – agreement, consent, concurrency.
30. **usher in** (phrasal verb) – herald/signal, start/, begin, announce/initiate.

31. **dispensation** (noun) – administration; system, organization.
32. **in sum** (phrase) – in short, briefly, in outline.
33. **purported** (adjective) – alleged, claimed, professed.
34. **bifurcation** (noun) – division of something into two branches or parts.
35. **binding** (adjective) – compulsory, imperative, mandatory/necessary.
36. **precedent** (noun) – previous example/instance, prior instance, exemplar.
37. **scenario** (noun) – course of events, situation.
38. **venture** (verb) – proceed, progress, suggest, put forward/offer.
39. **ratify** (verb) – justify, approve, confirm.
40. **representative government** (noun) – a government where citizens elect people to represent them and make laws on their behalf, instead of always voting directly on laws and other government actions.
41. **gubernatorial** (adjective) – managerial, executive, governmental.
42. **hop-step-and-jump** (phrase) – ancient term for “triple jump”.
43. **hop over** (verb) – jump over (something).
44. **aid and advice** (phrase) – Real authority to take decisions lie in the elected government. This is the meaning of ‘aid and advice.’ Titular head (LG) has to act in accordance to aid and advice. (Courtesy: [The Hindu](#))
45. **dispense with** (verb) – get rid of, throw away, throw out, discard.
46. **envisage** (verb) – foresee, predict, forecast.
47. **moot** (adjective) – arguable, questionable, debatable.
48. **invoke** (verb) – cite, refer to, adduce.
49. **radical** (adjective) – fundamental, basic, essential.
50. **bifurcate** (verb) – split, divide, separate.
51. **inconceivable** (adjective) – beyond belief, unthinkable, unimaginable.
52. **demotion** (noun) – reduction, overthrow, overturning (status/rank).
53. **disenfranchise** (verb) – (of people) deprive/strip of the right to vote.
54. **cynical** (adjective) – sceptical, doubtful, distrustful.
55. **disregard** (noun) – inattention, heedlessness/carelessness, negligence.
56. **uncompromising** (adjective) – stubborn, single-minded, head-strong, determined.
57. **political will** (noun) – political intention/desire (to complete a scheme/project even if it is not admired/welcomed in the beginning).
58. **unintended** (adjective) – careless, neglectful, ill-advised.
59. **metaphorically** (adverb) – figuratively, symbolically, representatively.

60. **secular** (adjective) – non-religious.
61. **reconcile** (verb) – settle, resolve, patch up, accept.
62. **adventurous** (adjective) – bold, audacious, valiant.
63. **backdrop** (noun) – situation, scenario, context.
64. **impending** (adjective) – imminent, at hand, approaching/coming.
65. **unforeseeable** (adjective) – uncertain, unpredictable, in doubt.
66. **churn** (noun) – disorder/disorganization, confusion, disruption/chaos.
67. **grievance** (noun) – complaint, criticism, objection/protest.

Scrapping J&K's special status is the wrong way to an end

The special status of J&K was never meant to be permanent, but it should not have been scrapped without wider consultations

Jammu and Kashmir has been a theatre of muscular Hindutva nationalism, in the early decades in script and since 2014 in performance. Adopting a highly militarist approach to separatism, and shunning political process entirely since 2014, the BJP has now delivered on a promise it has long made, by abrogating the **special status that Jammu and Kashmir** had enjoyed in the Constitution through a combination of executive and parliamentary measures. Additionally, the State is being downgraded and divided into two Union Territories. The mechanism that the government used to railroad its rigid ideological position on Jammu and Kashmir through the Rajya Sabha was both hasty and stealthy. This move will strain India's social fabric not only in its impact on Jammu and Kashmir but also in the portents it holds for federalism, parliamentary democracy and diversity. The BJP-led government has undermined parliamentary authority in multiple ways since 2014, but the passing of legislation as far-reaching as dismembering a State without prior consultations has set a new low. The founding fathers of the Republic favoured a strong Centre, but they were also prudent in seeking the route of persuasion and accommodation towards linguistic and religious minorities in the interest of national integration. The centralising tendencies increased in the following decades, but Hindu nationalists always argued for stronger unitary provisions and viewed all particular aspirations with suspicion. For them, Jammu and Kashmir's special constitutional status was an impediment, not an instrument, for the region's integration with the rest of the country.

The entire exercise of getting [Article 370 of the Constitution](#) effectively abrogated has been marked by executive excess. The first step was to declare by a presidential decree that the ‘Governor’ — without regard to the fact that he has no Council of Ministers now to aid and advise him — can speak for the State government and give his concurrence to any modification in the way the Constitution of India applies to Jammu and Kashmir. Second, on the basis of this ‘concurrence’, the latest Presidential Order scraps the previous one of 1954, abrogating the separate Constitution of Jammu and Kashmir. Third, the fact that the State is under President’s Rule has been used to usher in a new dispensation under which **Jammu and Kashmir becomes a Union Territory with a legislature and Ladakh another such territory** without a legislature. In sum, a purported process to change the constitutional status of a sensitive border State has been achieved without any legislative input or representative contribution from its people. The bifurcation of States in the past cannot be cited as a binding precedent as, under Article 3 of the Constitution, the President seeks the views of the legislature of the States concerned, even if concurrence is not mandatory. In the present scenario, J&K has been represented by an unelected Governor appointed by the Centre, while Parliament has ventured to ratify the conversion of a State into two Union Territories without any recommendation from the State.