



UTs: J&K and Ladakh

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Why in News?

Radha Krishna Mathur has been appointed as the **first** Lieutenant-Governor (L-G) of **Ladakh** and **Girish Chandra Murmu**, that of **Jammu & Kashmir (J&K)**.

Background

This move has come **after the Centre scrapped provisions of Article 370** that had given Jammu and Kashmir special status and split it into two Union territories (UTs) under the J&K Reorganisation Act of 2019.

- This is the **first time** that a state has been divided into UTs.
- Kargil and Leh districts form Ladakh, while the rest of the region constitutes the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir.
- Now, India has **9 UTs and 28 states**.

Current Status

- The two new UTs, Ladakh and J&K, **officially came into existence on the 144th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (31st October 2019)**, who is credited for the merger of over 560 princely states into the Union of India.
 - With this, President's rule imposed in undivided Jammu and Kashmir in June 2018 stands revoked.
 - The flag and constitution of Jammu and Kashmir, as well as the Ranbir Penal Code (RPC), cease to exist, with the Indian Penal Code (IPC) now extending to both UTs.
- The Union Territory of J&K will have a 114-member elected Assembly and a Chief Minister whereas the Union territory of Ladakh will be controlled directly by the L-G (i.e. without an Assembly).

Administration of UTs

- **Articles 239 to 241 in Part VIII** of the Constitution deal with the union territories.
- Every union territory is **administered by the President** acting through an administrator appointed by him.

The President can specify the designation of an administrator; it may be Lieutenant Governor or Chief Commissioner or Administrator.

- The **Parliament can make laws on any subject of the three lists** (i.e. Union, State and Concurrent) for the union territories.

Source: PIB