

## ■ **Parliament Passes Two Bills Impacting Reservation and Political Representation in J&K**

The Jammu and Kashmir Reservation (Amendment) Bill, 2023, and the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2023, have secured the approval of both the houses of Parliament, paving way for their enactment. The bills aim to address critical aspects of job reservations, admissions, and political representation in Jammu and Kashmir. The former bill focuses on amending the Jammu and Kashmir Reservation Act, 2004, specifically substituting "weak and underprivileged" classes with "other backward classes, declared by the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir." The latter bill seeks to increase the total number of seats in the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly from 83 to 90, with provisions for reserved seats and nomination of members from the Kashmiri migrant community. Meanwhile, the Supreme Court has upheld the Centre's decision to abrogate Article 370 of the Constitution of India which granted Special Status to the erstwhile state of J&K.