

* West Bengal government to set up a Legislative Council:

- The West Bengal government will set up a Legislative Council (Vidhan Parishad), as per a decision taken up at the recent Cabinet meeting.
- For setting up the Council, a Bill has to be introduced in the Assembly and then a nod from the Governor is required. The Upper House existed till 1969.
- What are the Legislative Councils, and why are they important?
 - India has a bicameral system i.e., two Houses of Parliament. At the state level, the equivalent of the Lok Sabha is the Vidhan Sabha or Legislative Assembly; that of the Rajya Sabha is the Vidhan Parishad or Legislative Council.
- How is a legislative council created?
 - Under Article 169 of the constitution, Parliament may by law create or abolish the second chamber in a state if the Legislative Assembly of that state passes a resolution to that effect by a special majority.
- Strength of the house:
 - As per article 17A clause (1) of the Indian Constitution, the total number of members in the legislative council of a state shall not exceed one third of the total number of the members in the legislative Assembly of that state and the total number of members in the legislative council of a state shall in no case be less than 40.

— How are members of the Council elected?

- $\frac{1}{3}$ rd of members are elected by members of the Assembly.
- $\frac{1}{3}$ rd by electorates consisting of members of municipalities, district boards and other local authorities in the state.
- $\frac{1}{2}$ th by an electorate consisting of teachers.
- $\frac{1}{2}$ th by registered graduates.
- The remaining members are nominated by the Governor from among those who have distinguished themselves in literature, science, art, the cooperative movement, and social service.

* Bengal passes resolution to set up council

↳ passed resolution with a two-third majority to set up legislative council (LC) under Article 169.

↳ About Article 169.

- Deals with abolition or creation of LC
- clause (1) states that parliament may by law provide for the abolition or creation of LC of a state if Legislative Assembly of the state passes a resolution by majority of total membership of the Assembly and by a majority of not less than two-third of the member present and voting.
- Clause (3) → no such law shall be deemed to be an amendment of this constitution for the purpose of Article 368.