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# Four Years After Removal Of Art 370 How Is The Actual Situation In Kashmir?

## Why In The News?

- Four Years After The Centre Abrogated Special Status Of Jammu And Kashmir Under **Article 370 On August 5, 2019**, Restoration Of Peace And Developmental Activities Taking Place, Compared To The Past, Stands Out As Its Most Significant Achievements.
- It Is After More Than Three Decades, Time That Public And Social Life In The Erstwhile State, In General, And The Valley In Particular, Are **Back To Normal Routine Without Disruption**.



## What Do We Know?

- While **124 Civilians Were Killed** At The Hands Of Police And Security Forces During Protests And Stone-pelting Incidents **From 5-08-2016 To 5-08-2019**, **Not A Single Such Incident Was Reported In The Last Four Years**, Official Figures Reveal.
- The August 5, 2019, Momentous Decision Also Marked **A Drastic Decline In Terror Activities And Nepotism In The Valley**. Considerable Decline In Both

Recruitment Of Locals Into Militancy And Killing Of Terrorists In 2023 Compared To Previous Years Is Another Outcome Of The Abrogation Of Article 370.

- While **35 Militants Were Killed** In Various Operations By The Security Forces From **January 1 To August 5 This Year**, The Number Was Over 120 In The Same Period Last Year. **In 2022, 186 Militants, Including 56 Foreigners, Were Killed By The Security Forces.**
- According To Official Data Several Infiltration Attempts Have Been Foiled This Year And Not More Than **12 Locals Have Joined Militancy Till July End.** It Has Brought Down The Number Of Active Militants To Double Digit.



## Changes Post Article 370 Abrogation

- One Of The Best Things That Happened In Kashmir After The Abrogation Of Article 370 Sections Is The **Restoration Of Administrative Control.**
- Encouraged And Assured By The Safe Environment In J&K, Investment Projects Worth Nearly **Rs 25,000 Crore** Are Under Execution In The UT While Proposals To The Tune Of Over **Rs 80,000 Crore** Are Under Process.
- Since Independence, J & K Had Received Private Investments To The Tune Of Rs **14,000 Crore Only.** However, After The Abrogation Of Article 370 And Introduction Of New Industrial Development Scheme, The UT Has Received **Investment Proposals Worth Rs 81,122 Crore In The Last Two Years.**
- Nearly **2250 Acres Of Land, As Against A Total 4877 Acres** Sought For Setting Up Key Units, Has Already Been Allotted Across Both Jammu And Kashmir Divisions.



- With An **Increasing Footfall Of Domestic And Foreign Visitors**, Tourism In J & K Is Scaling New Heights, Making The Union Territory (UT) One Of Top Destinations In The Country.
- Last Year The UT Received **1.88 Crore Tourists**, A High Enough Number For Any Region, But The Administration Expects That The Arrivals Will Breach The **Two Crore-mark This Year**.
- Before The Abrogation Of Article 370, Not Only **Businesses**, But The **Education Sector** In Kashmir Suffered Immensely **Due To Frequent Strike Calls, Stone Pelting Incidents And Violence In Kashmir**.
- Mainstream Parties, Notably The **National Conference (NC) And The People's Democratic Party (PDP)**, Remain Bereft Of A Viable Political Narrative As Their Old Accession-Centric Narrative Got Washed Out In The Fallout Of Abrogation Of The State's Special Constitutional Status.



## The Other Side Of The Coin

- The **Forum For Human Rights In Jammu And Kashmir**, An Independent Body Of Concerned Citizens, Released Its Fourth Annual Report Titled **“Five Years Without An Elected Administration: Human Rights In Jammu And Kashmir, August 2022 - July 2023”**.
- The Report Has Found That While There Has Been Improvement On Some Parameters, **Human Rights Violations Continue On Most**. While The Number Of Lives Lost Due To Armed Attacks And Counter-Insurgency Operations Was Lower Than In The Previous Year, The Number Of Police Personnel Who Died, Including Central Reserve Police Forces (CRPF), Continues To Be High.

- **71 CRPF Troops Were Killed In The Four Years Between 2019-2022**, Twice As Many As In The Previous Four Years, 2014-2018, When 35 Died. By Comparison, In The Four Years Between 2012-2015, Which Can Be Categorised As An Uneasy Interregnum Between The Post-peace Process Years And The Rise Of Conflict In The BJP-PDP Coalition, 27 CRPF Troops Were Killed.
- The Report Has Also Drawn Attention To The **Resurgence Of Militancy In Jammu After Decades Of Peace**. The 2022 Delimitation Of Fresh Legislative Constituencies, Adding Poonch And Rajouri To Kashmir's Anantnag, May Have Added To The Alienation That These Muslim-majority Areas Face With The Sharpening Of Communal Divides In Jammu.
- The Report Added That There Has Been **No Improvement In Gross Violations Of The Freedom Of Expression And Movement**, Especially The Rights Of The Media, And Pointed To The Arrests Under The **Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) And The Public Safety Act (PSA)**.



- Along With Delhi, Jammu And Kashmir Has The **Highest Rate Of Undertrials** As A Proportion Of Its Prison Population At 91%, Against The National Average Of 76%, It Said. The Region's Prisons Can House A Total Of 3,629 Inmates, But They Lodged 5,300 As Of June 2023, It Added.
- The Report Said That At **23.1% In March 2023, Unemployment** Was Almost Three Times The **National Average Of 7.8%**. It Added That While A Record Year Of Tourism In 2022 Has Boosted The Economy, It Still Lags Behind The National Average On Per Capita Income And Rates Of Growth.
- The Main Demand Of The Report Is To Highlight The **Need For Holding Assembly Elections In Jammu And Kashmir** As Well As A Legislative Assembly In Ladakh. It Has Been **Nine Years Since The Last Legislative Election** In Jammu And Kashmir.

- The Union Administration Accepted The **Delimitation Commission's Report** A Year Ago And It Is **Eight Months Since Fresh Electoral Rolls Were Prepared**. All The Preparations For An Election Have Thus Been Completed, But The Election Commission Has Yet To Announce Dates For It.



- The Report Has Also Recommended The **Release Of All Political Prisoners** Who Were Taken Into Detention **On Or After August 4, 2019**, Repeal Of The PSA And Other Preventive Detention Legislation.
- It Has Also Recommended The Local Communities Be Involved In Facilitating The **Return Of Kashmiri Pandits**, Reinstating All The Former State's Statutory Oversight Bodies, Especially Those Monitoring Human Rights.





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