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## ***ABOUT US***

WHITE BLACK LEGAL is an open access, peer-reviewed and refereed journal provided dedicated to express views on topical legal issues, thereby generating a cross current of ideas on emerging matters. This platform shall also ignite the initiative and desire of young law students to contribute in the field of law. The erudite response of legal luminaries shall be solicited to enable readers to explore challenges that lie before law makers, lawyers and the society at large, in the event of the ever changing social, economic and technological scenario.

With this thought, we hereby present to you

# **ANALYZING GOVERNANCE AND DEVELOPMENT IN JAMMU AND KASHMIR: POST ARTICLE 370 ABOLITION.**

AUTHORED BY- KARTIKAY SHARMA

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

Jammu and Kashmir, often known as “Crown of India”, is a region located in the Northern most part of the country. This region is known for its varied landscapes, including plains, hills, snow covered mountains, etc. This region shares its borders with two nations that is Pakistan and China. Jammu, which is in the Southern part of the region comprises of 10 districts which are known for their ancient temples, historically significant places, snowy mountains with captivating views, adventurous roads and places that are religiously significant. Kashmir division, which also comprises of 10 districts, is known for its picturesque valley, mesmerizing lakes, snowy mountains, religiously significant locations, and breath-taking views. Coming to Ladakh, which was the largest part of erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir and now a separate Union Territory is known for its desert terrains, high altitude locations and ancient monasteries. Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh have distinct demographics. Jammu is characterized by a diverse population encompassing various cultures, including Dogras, Bhandarwahis, Kishtwaris, Kashmiris, Paharis, Punjabis, Gujjars, Bakarwals, etc. Kashmir primarily exhibits Kashmiri culture, with a significant minority of Gujjars, Bakarwals, and Dogras. Ladakh is inhabited by Ladakhi people and shares a similar culture with its neighboring region, Tibet. Before accession to India, this princely state was under the rule of Dogra ruler Maharaja Hari Singh. Maharaja Hari Singh is remembered for various commendable works during his reign some of which include promotion of compulsory education in the region, infrastructural development, land reforms aimed at benefiting the local population, promoting minority communities, fostering harmony and equality, abolishment of child marriage, allowing widow remarriage, military contributions during World War II, support for equal status of India at the First Round Table Conference, etc. As the region had people from diverse culture and religion, it was difficult to come to a single decision while governing the territory.

After India’s independence from British rule, two nations, i.e. India and Pakistan emerged and were



divided solely on the grounds of religion and Jinnah's Two nation theory. J&K's history has conflicting perspectives, shaped by key figures such as Maharaja Hari Singh, Sheikh Abdullah, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, and Lord Mountbatten. Maharajas reasons for acceding are often interpreted differently, with some claiming it to be for security and safety of Jammu and Kashmir while some claiming it to be for political reasons and desire of Maharaja to rule the state independently, some documents assert that request for accession was made months before attack by Pakistan and delay was a conspiracy by Sheikh Abdullah and Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru to release and elevate Abdullah to the position of Prime Minister of the state. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and Lord Mountbatten played significant roles in the events of partition of the two nations. At that time around 560 Princely states were given option to either opt for accession with India or Pakistan. Though J&K was the only state that was treated as a Foreign Country, as Pandit Nehru had delinked it from the State Department (Home ministry) that was handled by Sardar Patel and attached it with his own Foreign Ministry.<sup>1</sup> This article aims to answer several questions regarding the results of Abrogation of Article 370, people's views, job status of people before and after abrogation, development status, terrorism, etc.

## **2. IMPACT OF ABROGATION OF ARTICLE 370**

Abrogation of Article 370 took place in 2019. As we discussed above, article 370 was implemented in 1947 during accession of the state of Jammu and Kashmir to India. Citizens of whole nation had double – facet views about this article. This article enabled the state to have special autonomy, which allowed state to have its own constitution, separate state flag and freedom to make or amend laws.<sup>2</sup> The central government had authority only over defense, foreign affairs, and communications. Some key points:

- **Autonomy Revocation:** The Central government's decision to revoke the Article 370 disabled the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir from enjoying autonomous status that it had for over seven decades.<sup>3</sup>
- **Reorganization:** Division of state into two separate Union Territories.

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<sup>1</sup> [J&K Accession: Blaming Hari Singh for delay would be Murdering History - Indian Defence Review](#) (Last visited on 3rd January, 2024)

<sup>2</sup> [Article 370: Now history, how it was adopted in Indian Constitution under Jawaharlal Nehru government - India Today](#) (Last visited on 15<sup>th</sup> February, 2024)

<sup>3</sup> [Article 370: What happened with Kashmir and why it matters \(bbc.com\)](#) (Last visited on 18<sup>th</sup> February, 2024)



- Political identity and Reactions: Abrogation of Article 370 has led to mix reactions, with one side reviewing it as correction of a historic blunder while the other side sees it as undermining the principles of democracy and federalism.<sup>4</sup>
- Security Related concerns: Abrogation of Article 370 has led to several concerns regarding the security status of Jammu and Kashmir. There have been several concerns regarding human rights violation in Jammu and Kashmir.

The erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir was divided and reorganized into two separate Union territories post Article 370 abrogation.

- Jammu and Kashmir: This region became a union territory with a legislature. It comprises of two divisions that is Jammu division and Kashmir division each comprising of 10 districts.
- Ladakh: This region became a Union Territory without a legislature.

Both UTs are currently administered by a separate Lieutenant Governor.

The post of Chief Minister in Jammu and Kashmir has remained vacant since June of 2018. The state remained under Governor's rule, followed by President's rule, After the reorganization in 2019, the President's rule was replaced by Lieutenant Governor's administration.

Abrogation of the article has significantly changed certain rules in Jammu and Kashmir. It lifts restrictions on women married to non-residents from buying lands and also enables any citizen of the country to buy land in Jammu and Kashmir without a local domicile certificate. We will refer to certain articles/ surveys/ public opinions to address in detail the changes that took place after abrogation of Article 370.

## **2.1 Impact on militancy after Abrogation of Article 370**

Article 370, that granted special autonomy to Jammu and Kashmir had been a subject of contentious issue for decades. Since the abrogation of Article 370, there has been a significant decline in militant activities. The involvement of locals in militant activities or ranks has drastically decreased. The allure of militancy has waned. Security forces' efforts, campaigns, community outreach programs, counselling has played a crucial role in decreasing militancy activities in Jammu and Kashmir. There has been a noticeable decline in the number of attempts of infiltration from across the Line of Control

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<sup>4</sup> [Supreme Court Verdict on Article 370: Impact on Jammu and Kashmir's Socio-Political Landscape | Opinion | PSUWatch](#) ( Last visited on 18<sup>th</sup> February,2024)

(LoC). The border surveillance has tightened, latest technology including AI, drones, Satellite technology, improved intelligence sharing and proper funding has helped in narrowing down militancy at a very noticeable level in Jammu and Kashmir. The frequency of attacks has declined at a significant level. Security forces have proved to be very successful in neutralizing terrorism and have been able to eliminate terrorist before they can carry out large scale attacks. Killing of top militant commanders in recent years has disrupted their operational capabilities. There has been a reduction in local support for militancy in the region. Local public's desire for peace and harmony has contributed to this shift. Several factors have contributed to this change in the region. The Indian security forces have escalated their tasks against aggressors. Careful strikes, designated activities, and knowledge driven activities have disturbed fear organizations. Endeavours to engage with local communities, span holes, and address complaints have assisted form with trusting. Local area policing drives have cultivated collaboration among regular citizens and security powers. The emphasis on monetary turn of events and foundation projects has redirected consideration from hostility. Work creation, expertise advancement, and job open doors have given options in contrast to youngsters. The redesign of J&K into Union Territories has brought regulatory soundness. Decentralization of force and direct central oversight have smoothed out administration. Yet, there are still several challenges that are encouraging militancy in the region. Prevention of Radicalization remains a top priority. Addressing socio-economic disparities and promotion of education and information is very essential. Other external factors like cross border support from neighbouring countries provide support to militants. Efforts to isolate such elements are very crucial. Abrogation of Article 370 undoubtedly altered dynamics of militancy in Jammu and Kashmir. Sustained efforts are still very necessary to ensure lasting peace.<sup>5 6 7</sup>

Stone-Pelting has been a very popular form of protest in Kashmir valley since the 2008 Amarnath-land row agitation that led to riots and statewide Curfew in Jammu and Kashmir. According to a report, there has been a noticeable 87.13% decline in stone-pelting incidents in Jammu and Kashmir in the year 2020 as compared to 2019. Around 255 stone-pelting incidents were reported in 2020 as compared to 1,999 incidents in 2019. Stone Pelting has been in peaks in 2008 during the Amarnath-land row agitation, 2016 when Burhan Wani, a terrorist organization "Hizbul Mujahideen"

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<sup>5</sup> [What changed in Kashmir in four years after abrogation of Article 370? \(deccanherald.com\)](https://www.deccanherald.com) ( Last visited on 18<sup>th</sup> February, 2024)

<sup>6</sup> [Less militancy, more progress: Here's how Jammu & Kashmir changed in one year since Article 370 abrogation \(dnaindia.com\)](https://www.dnaindia.com) ( Last visited on 18<sup>th</sup> February, 2024)

<sup>7</sup> [Article 370: Decoding the Supreme Court Verdict \(drishtias.com\)](https://www.drishtias.com) ( Last visited on 21<sup>st</sup> February, 2024)

Commander was killed. As compared to 2016, the dip in stone pelting incidents was Ninety Percent.<sup>8</sup>

## **2.2 Impact on Jobs in the region of Jammu and Kashmir**

The abrogation of Article 340 in 2019 altered the socio-economic and political landscape of Jammu and Kashmir. Yet, the employment scenario underwent very significant alterations. Before the revocation of Article 370, The state grappled with extreme unemployment rates, especially among its youth. Jammu and Kashmir suffered high unemployment rates due to lack of private sector companies. The public sector has always remained primary employment generator. However, most vacancies have till date remained unfulfilled due to inefficiencies in administration and political uncertainties. After the abrogation of Article 370, about 50,000 jobs were promised within next three months. Unfortunately, these promises have remained unfulfilled till date. The J&K government has not followed up with the commitments. There are certain special initiatives taken up by the Government to facilitate Kashmiri Hindu Migrants under a rehabilitation package, which created around 3000 Government jobs with conditional to return to the valley. The domicile law has impacted Jammu and Kashmir with mixed reactions, locals fear losing jobs to non-residents of Jammu and Kashmir.<sup>9 10 11</sup>

## **2.3 Development Projects in Jammu and Kashmir**

After the abrogation of Article 370 which gave Jammu and Kashmir special status, Government assured that the promises made to people will be fulfilled. In the year 2021 – 2022, Jammu and Kashmir achieved a milestone of completion of 50,726 projects, Five times higher than 2018 – 2019 figure. In the year 2020 – 2021, 21,943 projects were completed. Government besides empowering the common man, focused on developing infrastructure. Lack of even basic infrastructure had put a major hurdle in the growth of the Union Territory. The Government is focusing on revival of different sectors of the economy of Jammu and Kashmir that include handicraft, tourism, industrial investment and boosting of self-confidence. Major projects like Jehangir Chowk flyover in Srinagar city was

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<sup>8</sup> [Stone-pelting incidents in J&K dropped by 87.13% in 2020: DGP - The Economic Times \(indiatimes.com\)](#) ( Last visited on 21<sup>st</sup> February, 2024)

<sup>9</sup> [Where Are the Jobs the Centre Promised J&K After Revoking Article 370? \(thewire.in\)](#) ( Last visited on 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 2024)

<sup>10</sup> [Jammu and Kashmir: What has changed in one-year since abrogation of Article 370 | India News | Zee News](#) ( Last visited on 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 2024)

<sup>11</sup> [Two years since Article 370 abrogation: What has changed in Jammu & Kashmir? | India News - Times of India \(indiatimes.com\)](#) ( Last visited on 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 2024)



completed and opened up for use by people, Qazigund – Banihal tunnel was completed and reduced the distance between cities of Jammu and Srinagar, world’s highest railway bridge is almost complete with train reaching Kashmir by 2024. Health Sector has also seen major boost in Jammu and Kashmir with 16 Medical colleges, 20 District Hospitals and 1578 other healthcare institutions being added to Jammu and Kashmir. Two AIIMS, one each in Jammu division and Kashmir division are being built.<sup>12</sup>

## **2.4 Development in medical sector**

Jammu and Kashmir’s medical sector grappled with several challenges that hindered effectiveness and growth. The Union Territory suffered from a lack of modern healthcare infrastructure, resulting in inadequate healthcare services especially in rural areas.

After the abrogation of Article 370, the situation in Jammu and Kashmir has changed. By September 2022, Jammu and Kashmir got 16 medical colleges, district hospital in each district, 1578 healthcare institutions, Two AIIMS under construction, Two cancer institutes and 14 tertiary care institutions.<sup>13</sup> Government has also approved 22 investment offers of Rs 4400 Cr for development of medical infrastructure. Government also ordered transfer of 468 Kanal of land to build medical cities in both Jammu division and Kashmir division. GB Panth Hospital has also been shifted to a 500 bedded Children Hospital Bemina. Government has also mandated doctors and nurses working in a government institution or private sector to register themselves on Hospital Professional Registry portal of Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission which aims to create two major core building blocks of Health Facility Registry (HFR). Surgeons have been remotely assisted in performing complex surgeries. Multiple workshops are conducted timely to train the staff. <sup>14</sup>

### **Ayushman Bharat Scheme**

The Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY), unveiled by Hon’ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2018 is a programme aimed to cover over 10 Cr poor and vulnerable families of the nation. The scheme offers coverage of upto Rs 5 Lakhs per family per annum for secondary and tertiary care hospitalisation. In Jammu and Kashmir, this scheme was

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<sup>12</sup> [2019 to 2022: J&K's golden-era of development; 50,726 projects completed in one year, ET Infra \(indiatimes.com\)](#) (Last visited on 29<sup>th</sup> February, 2024)

<sup>13</sup> [2019 to 2022: J&K's golden-era of development; 50,726 projects completed in one year \(indiatimes.com\)](#) (Last visited on 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 2024)

<sup>14</sup> [2022 Key developments in health sector - Greater Kashmir](#) (Last visited on 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 2024)

launched on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2018. Some key features of this scheme include, Cover of Rs 5 Lakhs per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization, Cashless health care services for the beneficiaries, No restriction on family size, gender or age, Coverage of up to 3 days of pre hospitalization and 15 days of post-hospitalization expenses.<sup>15</sup>

“Gaon Gaon Ayushman” initiative was launched in July 2021 to register all beneficiaries under the Ayushman Scheme. Targeting the rural population of Jammu and Kashmir, 5-10 VLE’s were deputed across every panchayat of Jammu and Kashmir to facilitate on spot registration of beneficiaries.

### **Achievements:**

- More than Rs 76.30 Lakhs Ayushman Cards have been generated so far.
- 90% of families have at least 1 e - card.
- More than 5.67 Lakh cases have been treated.
- Treatments worth Rs 871.82 Cr done.
- 4.69 Lakh claims have been paid to hospitals.
- Award for highest Ayushman Card Creation received by SHA J&K.
- 291 Public and Private Hospitals Empanelled.<sup>16</sup>

### **2.5 Delimitation Commission of India**

Post abrogation of Article 370, numerous changes took place in the region of Jammu and Kashmir. For the past several years, there has been a pressing need for delimitation. Delimitation is a process for ensuring fair electoral balance and representation. Jammu and Kashmir has a very complex demographic landscape, coupled with historical and political complexities which underscore the urgency of delineating electoral boundaries. The delimitation commission, chaired by Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai, Sh. K.K. Sharma, and Sh. Sushil Chandra finalized the delimitation order for the UT of Jammu and Kashmir with a gazette notification on 5th May 2022.

As per the final delimitation order, Jammu region will have 43 seats and Kashmir region will have 47 seats in the assembly constituency of the region. This order was passed keeping in view the provisions of Section 9(1)(a) of the Delimitation Act, 2002 and Section 60(2)(b) of Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Act, 2019. The commission also held various public sittings and considered

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<sup>15</sup> [Ayushman Bharat Jammu & Kashmir \(jkpmjaysehat.co.in\)](http://jkpmjaysehat.co.in) ( Last visited on 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 2024)

<sup>16</sup> [Ayushman Bharat Jammu & Kashmir \(jkpmjaysehat.co.in\)](http://jkpmjaysehat.co.in) ( Last visited on 6<sup>th</sup> March, 2024)

suggestions from various public representatives and stake holders leading to changes in the constituency of Jammu and Kashmir. 9 Assembly constituencies have been reserved for STs. Delimitation Commission organized public sittings in the Capital cities of the Union Territories i.e. Jammu and Srinagar on 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> April 2022 respectively. These public sittings provided an opportunity to the people, public representatives, stake holders and political leaders to express their views. The public sittings were attended by approximately 1600 people who expressed their views. The commission also received several representations from displaced persons from the region of Pakistan Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (POJK) and Kashmiri migrants. The Delimitation Commission also made some recommendations to the Central Government, which includes provision of at least two members from the Kashmiri Migrant community in the Legislative Assembly, out of which one must be female. The Central Government may provide representation to displaced persons from Pakistan Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (POJK) in Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly.<sup>17</sup>

## **2.6 Smart City Initiatives in Jammu and Kashmir**

Abrogation of Article 370 and reorganization of Jammu and Kashmir into a Union Territory has marked a significant change in the region's administration landscape. There are various development agendas pursued by the Local Government and Central Government Authorities, Smart City Project is one of the prominent avenues for catalysing socio-economic growth and transformation of the Urban areas of Jammu and Kashmir.

### **2.6.1 Smart City Jammu Project**

The Jammu Smart City Project aims to transform the city into a city "Of the people, For the people and By the people". The aim is to make a city where people take pride in calling their own and take responsibility of, with sustainable and healthy environment. <sup>18</sup>

Leadership: Key figures include Sh. Ramesh Kumar (Divisional Commissioner Jammu), Mr. Rahul Yadav (Commissioner JMC), and Sh. Manoj Sinha (Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir).<sup>19</sup>

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<sup>17</sup> [Press Information Bureau \(pib.gov.in\)](http://pib.gov.in) ( Last visited on 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 2024)

<sup>18</sup> [Jammu Smart City - Khand Mithe Loge Dogre](#) ( Last visited on 10<sup>th</sup> March, 2024)

<sup>19</sup> [Jammu Smart City - Khand Mithe Loge Dogre](#) (Last visited on 10<sup>th</sup> March, 2024)



## Completed Projects:

According to the official website of Jammu Smart City, there are several projects that are completed till date.

These projects include:

- Facade lighting Illumination of the Mubarak Mandi Heritage Complex.

The project costed around Rs 3.19 Cr and features lighting of Army headquarters, Gadvai Khana and Gole Ghar of the complex.<sup>20</sup>

- Strengthening of Fire and Emergency Services.

This project costed around Rs 20 Cr. The project features addition of Emergency vehicles to the fleet including Ambulances, fire proximity suits, staff vehicles, quick response vehicles, water boozers with 12000 litres capacity, Recovery vans, Wireless sets, Disaster tools, Advance Rescue tenders with latest disaster equipment, etc. <sup>21</sup>

- Smart Anganwadi Centers

This project costed around Rs 0.15 Cr. <sup>22</sup>

- IT based smart parking management system

This project was built at a cost of Rs 9 Cr. <sup>23</sup>

- Landscaping and beautification of retrieved land adjoining the Bahu Fort.

This project costed around Rs 0.70 Cr.

- Ad Panels and Displays at intersections and Street Lights of Jammu City.

This project was built at a cost of Rs 3.48 Cr.

- Façade Lighting Illumination of the Bahu Fort.

This project was executed by PWD and was built as a cost of Rs 2.25 Cr.<sup>24</sup>

- Vertical Garden Phase 1 in Jammu City.

This project was built at a cost of Rs 3.80 Cr.<sup>25</sup>

- Ram based Multi-Car Parking at Bus Stand Jammu

This project was built at a cost of Rs 201.66 Cr and ensures capacity of 80 buses and 1312 cars.<sup>26</sup>

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<sup>20</sup> [Jammu Smart City - Khand Mithe Loge Dogre](#) (Last visited on 10<sup>th</sup> March, 2024)

<sup>21</sup> [Jammu Smart City - Khand Mithe Loge Dogre](#) (Last visited on 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2024)

<sup>22</sup> [Jammu Smart City - Khand Mithe Loge Dogre](#) ( Last visited on 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2024)

<sup>23</sup> [Jammu Smart City - Khand Mithe Loge Dogre](#) ( Last visited on 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2024)

<sup>24</sup> [Jammu Smart City - Khand Mithe Loge Dogre](#) ( Last visited on 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2024)

<sup>25</sup> [Jammu Smart City - Khand Mithe Loge Dogre](#) ( Last visited on 16<sup>th</sup> March, 2024)

<sup>26</sup> [Jammu Smart City - Khand Mithe Loge Dogre](#) ( Last visited on 16<sup>th</sup> March, 2024)

There are several projects that are being carried out in the City currently:

- IT Interventions
- City Beautification Projects
- Efficient Green Initiatives
- Disaster Management
- Urban Mobility
- Tawi River front<sup>27</sup>

The development journey of Jammu as a smart city has witnessed significant success and process. Through Jammu Smart City's innovative planning and integration of latest technology. Successful Implementation of Smart Buses ensuring sustainable living has boosted up city's morale and eased out transportation around the city.<sup>28</sup> Jammu smart City's efforts for beautification of the city by developing vertical gardens, Façade lighting and Light and Sound Show at Bahu Fort which was inaugurated by Home Minister Amit Shah<sup>29</sup> and lighting on Tawi Bridge<sup>30</sup> which is visible around the city has catalysed luminosity around the city. The collaborative efforts of stake holders, locals and Government bodies have contributed to the beautification and development of the city.

### **2.6.2 Smart City Srinagar Project**

Srinagar Smart City Limited (SSCL) was incorporated under the Companies Act, 2013 on September 8<sup>th</sup> 2017. It is governed by the BOD (Board of Directors) inclusive of a Chairman, Administrative Secretary, High Powered Steering Committee and Housing and Urban Development Department.

Leadership: Key figures include a chairman position i.e. handled by Sh. Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, IAS, Commissioner of SMC Dr. Owais Ahmed, IAS, Joint Secretary and Mission Director Shri Kunal Kumar, IAS, and Housing and Urban Department Secretary Ms. Mandeep Kaur. The Srinagar Smart City Limited aims to upgrade the city to advanced levels using latest technology and appropriate measures. The projects include City beautification projects, greenery projects, urban mobility with

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<sup>27</sup> [Jammu Smart City - Khand Mithe Loge Dogre](#) ( Last visited on 16<sup>th</sup> March, 2024)

<sup>28</sup> [Jammu Smart City established sustainable public transportation system with Tata Motors electric buses - Top Construction and Infrastructure Magazine \(constructiontimes.co.in\)](#) ( Last visited on 18<sup>th</sup> March, 2024)

<sup>29</sup> [Amit Shah Inaugurates Light & Sound Show In Jammu Fort - THE NEW INDIAN](#) ( Last visited on 18<sup>th</sup> March, 2024)

<sup>30</sup> [Jammu Smart City - Khand Mithe Loge Dogre](#) ( Last visited on 18<sup>th</sup> March, 2024)

smart vehicles, tourism catalysing projects and Solid waste management projects. <sup>31</sup>

There are several projects that are completed by SSCL:

- Jhelum Riverfront Development & Water Transport

This project includes development of pathways and cycle tracks along Jhelum Bund and Beautification along Jhelum Bund. The project was completed at a cost of Rs 6.23 Cr. The project ensures enrichment of local tourism and promote well-being of the citizens. Devri Stone pathway has been erected to create a pedestrian walking space free from local traffic.<sup>32</sup>

- Embankments along Riverbanks

Revetment along the Riverbanks have ensured that river has larger capacity and also makes it aesthetically pleasing.<sup>33</sup>

- Upgradation of Ghats along Jhelum River

Upgradation of the Ghats have ensured safe use of river by the public and has also enhanced the beauty, ensuring a boost in local tourism.<sup>34</sup>

- Lighting around Riverbanks

This project ensures that the pathway along riverside is always well lit and safe for public use.<sup>35</sup>

- Cycle Tracks and Boardwalks

This project ensures that more areas are identified and provides a safe place for cyclists to travel.<sup>36</sup>

- Illumination of Bridges

LED Lighting under Bridges have been ensured with an aim to aesthetically make the city more appealing. These lights will also create a sense of security among civilians by ensuring that the path is always well lit.<sup>37</sup>

- Conservation of Existing Shrines

This project ensures upgradation of Shrines of St. Luke's Church, Raghunath Mandir, Khanqahi Maula and Naqashband Sahib. Upgradation of all these shrines will ensure a boost in tourism and will surely catch an eye of famous historians around the Globe.<sup>38</sup>

- Upgradation of Historical Markets around the Srinagar City.

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<sup>31</sup> [SRINAGAR SMART CITY – SSCL](#) ( Last visited on 20<sup>th</sup> March, 2024)

<sup>32</sup> [Completed Projects – SRINAGAR SMART CITY](#) ( Last visited on 20<sup>th</sup> March, 2024)

<sup>33</sup> [Completed Projects – SRINAGAR SMART CITY](#) ( Last visited on 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2024)

<sup>34</sup> [Completed Projects – SRINAGAR SMART CITY](#) ( Last visited on 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2024)

<sup>35</sup> [Completed Projects – SRINAGAR SMART CITY](#) ( Last visited on 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2024)

<sup>36</sup> [Completed Projects – SRINAGAR SMART CITY](#) ( Last visited on 24<sup>th</sup> March, 2024)

<sup>37</sup> [Completed Projects – SRINAGAR SMART CITY](#) ( Last visited on 24<sup>th</sup> March, 2024)

<sup>38</sup> [Completed Projects – SRINAGAR SMART CITY](#) ( Last visited on 24<sup>th</sup> March, 2024)



This project aims for Façade improvement of the market and increase the foot fall of buyers hence boosting the local economy. <sup>39</sup>

There are several ongoing projects on which SSCL is continuously working and pitching efforts in, which include:

- Jhelum Cruise for Tourism and Passenger Transport
- Renewal of Brari Nambal and Nallah-i-Mar
- Rejuvenation of Gilsar Lake
- Façade improvement of Jama Masjid
- Smart water and power metering
- Sport infrastructures
- Public Bicycle sharing stands.
- Drainage Systems
- Installation of Bio-Toilets

A revolutionary transformation is currently underway, aiming to reshape the urban landscape of Jammu and Kashmir through a plethora of innovative ideas and sustainable initiatives. Both Jammu and Srinagar are experiencing a profound shift in their urban lifestyles and developmental paradigms. As of the present date, over 207 projects have been successfully completed, amounting to an estimated cost of Rs 4494.37 Crores, with approximately 55 projects still in progress. The endeavours spearheaded by both Jammu Smart City Limited and Srinagar Smart City Limited have emerged as potent drivers of urban advancement in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. These projects have not only revitalized the cities aesthetically but have also fostered a profound sense of belonging among the populace. Furthermore, both departments have made significant strides in curbing carbon emissions by introducing eco-friendly modes of transportation such as e-Buses, bike-sharing schemes, and electric three-wheelers, all at affordable rates. The overarching objective of the Smart Cities Mission transcends mere infrastructural development; it aspires to construct resilient and inclusive communities. These projects are designed to enhance the quality of life for all residents, including the most marginalized segments of society. The primary aim is to foster social cohesion and equity within urban environments, whether by advocating for gender parity or enhancing

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<sup>39</sup> [Completed Projects – SRINAGAR SMART CITY](#) ( Last visited on 25<sup>th</sup> March, 2024)

accessibility for individuals with disabilities.<sup>40</sup>

## **2.7 Good Governance initiatives in Jammu and Kashmir** <sup>41</sup>

Good Governance is a significant component of economic transformation with aims to ensure complete transparency and accountability. Good governance initiatives allow States/ districts to be ranked. Goal of good governance is to develop a tool that can be used across states to evaluate the impact of various interventions by State and Central Governments. Some of the Good Governance initiatives in Jammu and Kashmir are: Jan Nigrani App, It is an internet based application for the people of Jammu and Kashmir to report or resolve complaints regarding department's different initiatives.

Citizen Information Board, A citizen Information Board is erected at the start of each MGNREGA project site. It provides information at grassroots level and helps in increasing transparency and awareness. Ministry is actively promoting installation of these boards with durable materials.

Jammu and Kashmir Society for Social Audit Accountability and Transparency, JKSSAAT is established to Improve the social audit transparency and gram sabha accountability.

Jammu and Kashmir UT holds regular Gram Sabha meeting ensuring ongoing awareness and interest in overall asset creation process.

## **2.8 Organization of Rozgar Diwas**

A Rozgar Diwas is organized by every Gram Panchayat at least once every month. Applications for work from potential workers are pro-actively invited.

It is mandated in Jammu and Kashmir for concerned officers and staff to supervise development work. Timely payment of wages initiatives, workers are entitled to get unemployment benefits and are to be paid within 15 days of completion of their tasks. According to the report, Jammu and Kashmir is performing quite well with Percentage of timely payments standing at 94.37%.

Aadhar Seeding Initiatives, In order to increase transparency in wages payments, Aadhaar based payments or Aadhaar seeding has been implemented in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. As Aadhaar is linked to bank accounts, Wages are directly transferred to bank accounts. Job cards

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<sup>40</sup> [Pioneering Urban Transformation: Smart Cities Development in Jammu and Kashmir – Rising Kashmir](#) ( Last visited on 25<sup>th</sup> march, 2024)

<sup>41</sup> [D. Secod Draft.cdr \(jk.gov.in\)](#) ( Last visited on 27<sup>th</sup> march, 2024)

have also been linked to Aadhaar for easy tracking of payments. Percentage of Aadhaar connected in Jammu and Kashmir is 85.26%.

Development of useful assets for the community, several villages of Jammu and Kashmir had issues with infrastructure, employment, citizens health, etc. Government through numerous initiatives is working tirelessly to facilitate youth participation in sports by providing necessary commodities. Some examples of such initiatives include Playground at Natnussa area of District Kupwara, Various activities are organized here and several people are earning livelihood from this place. Development of Playfield at Paripora area of district Badgam, which is now being used by youth for different recreational activities. Development of Public Park at Waskura – B, this place now hosts cricket matches and sports events.

### **2.9 Road Connectivity initiatives**

Earlier, there was no road access to village of Padpati. Residents had difficulty travelling to the main market, and students were having trouble getting to the school. The project engaged local youth, providing them employment opportunities and hence resolving problems of connectivity faced by the villagers. Orchardists in Bundgam were facing difficulties in transporting their products and school going children were facing issues while reaching the main road. Construction of road from Gamdaji to Bundgam in Block Narbal of district Budgam has resolved issues of connectivity and reduced costs incurred by orchardists while transporting their products. There are some other location where issues of connectivity are resolved, construction of Steel Grid Bridge in Block Pattan of District Baramulla, Construction of road from Negar in Block SK Pora Razwan, Construction of Road at Block Tangmarg of District Baramulla, Construction of Culvert in Block Reasi Seela of District Reasi, Construction of Road from Shalahar connecting Wakura of district Ganderbal, Upgradation of link road in Block Wakura of District Ganderbal. Access of water has also been improved providing an opportunity to use ground water. Some projects include, Construction of wells in Natnussa-B Panchayat Natsunna B of District Kupwara, Construction of pond at Pathi area of District Udhampur, Renovation of Nogajja pond in Rajinderpura of District Samba, Renovation of pond in the land Satdev Singh in Panchayat Gurha Slathian of District Samba, Construction of pond at Sumbli Panchayat Khara Mandana of District Samba, Construction of roof rain water harvesting asset in Block Panthal of District Reasi, Construction of irrigation canal in Block Surankote of District Poonch, Construction of natural springs in Tulmul area of District Ganderbal. <sup>42</sup>

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<sup>42</sup> [D. Secod Draft.cdr \(jk.gov.in\)](https://www.jk.gov.in) ( Last visited on 27<sup>th</sup> March, 2024)

## **2.10 Corruption status in Jammu and Kashmir**

Corruption has been deep rooted in Jammu and Kashmir since decades. There are still alarming number of incidents of corruption being reported in the Union Territory. A major part of these cases involves cases of Government Employees accepting bribes. About Seventy per cent of cases are being reported from Kashmir division while thirty per cent coming from Jammu division.

Many scandals have surfaced in the last 10 years, severely damaging the careers of countless young people. The JE Recruitment and Sub Inspector Recruitment scandals are the most notable among them. The distribution of four million fraudulent gun licences, the Roshni Scheme scam, the Rs 3,000 crore scandal involving the Jammu and Kashmir Bank, and the recruiting scandals within the Police Sub Inspector and JE Civil departments are also noteworthy among them.

There are notable Scandals that have emerged in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. These scandals were highly politically motivated and have wreaked havoc on the future of youth. Scandals like SI (Sub Inspector) Recruitment Scam, JE Recruitment Scams stand out. Roshni Scam that involves Rs 3,000 Crores involving the Jammu and Kashmir bank and distribution of over Four Lakh fake gun licenses are notable among all these scams. Roshni Scam, which involves significant figures like former Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah, Abdul Ghani Kohli and Former Minister Lal Singh's Wife are amounting to approximately Rs Twenty-Five Thousand Crore Rupees and almost 25 Lakh Kanals of land. The gun license scam involved prominent figure IAS officer Rajiv Ranjan and several other important gun dealers distributing over four Lakh fake gun licenses among people. Jammu and Kashmir Bank involved Son of Former minister Abdul Rahim Rather, Bilal Rather accusing him of misappropriating Rs Seven Hundred Crores from the Jammu and Kashmir Bank. The scam also included a rice exportation fraud amounting to Rs Eleven Hundred Crores. Recruitment scams have also been exposed that involve over Thirteen Hundred Sub Inspectors and Seven Hundred JE civil recruits.

However, A senior ACB official guaranteed that the national investigation agencies like ED and CBI are looking into the matter very strictly.<sup>43</sup>

## **2.11 Ending of Darbar Move in Jammu and Kashmir**

Darbar Move in Jammu and Kashmir was introduced by Dogra ruler Maharaja Ranbir Singh in the year 1872. It is believed that this practice was implemented in response to extreme climate variations between the cities of Jammu and Kashmir at different times of the year. Jammu city has always been

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<sup>43</sup> [Kashmir Outpaces Jammu In Corruption – Kashmir Observer](#) ( Last visited on 27<sup>th</sup> March, 2024)



known for its hot summer months while Srinagar is known for its chilly winters. <sup>44</sup>

Darbar move involved a practice of shifting of offices between two cities i.e. City of Jammu and Srinagar. The secretariat will be based in Jammu from November to April and then in Srinagar from May to October. This meant that around 10,000 workers were rotated among the Civil Secretariats, and thousands of files had to be transferred twice a year along the treacherous 300-kilometer Jammu-Srinagar route. This enormous endeavour required annual expenditures in the form of enormous sums for hotel, travel expenses, and file transportation. Because of the growing criticism the practice has received over the years, former Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah moved several government agencies permanently from Kashmir to Jammu in 1987. Nevertheless, Abdullah was compelled to change his mind in the face of a wave of demonstrations in Jammu. In addition to being seen as a way to unite the linguistically and culturally disparate areas of Srinagar and Jammu, the ritual was also expected to contribute to the annual uptick in economic activity in each area. Though opinions on the practice remained split, the Jammu & Kashmir High Court declared in 2020 that the Darbar Move lacked both constitutional validity and legal basis. Jammu & Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha addressed his detractors, standing firmly behind the decision earlier this year to halt the 149-year-old practice known as the "Darbar Move." He stated, "It's being said that stopping Darbar Move will affect J&K's economy." A sizable racket supported its continuation since certain individuals were profiting well from it. This year, Lieutenant Governor Sinha decided to halt the practice due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, after nearly 3 lakh physical files were digitalized earlier this year, a notice was published on June 30 to completely discontinue the practice. <sup>45</sup>

## **2.12 Never ending discrimination against Jammu region**

Jammu division, a region comprising of Ten districts with largest geographical area in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir has faced several challenges in terms of equitable development and representation. Since the accession of Jammu and Kashmir, Kashmir centric political parties have remained in power till date. The question is whether scams and discrimination against people of Jammu region declined or not. In 2021, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said that "time of injustice to residents of Jammu is over now". The home minister said that centre wishes to wipe out terrorism from Jammu and Kashmir. Shah also without directly naming any political party said that "Dadagiri

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<sup>44</sup> [Explained: All you need to know about Darbar Move – the 149-year-old bi-annual shifting of J&K capitals that is now halted \(moneycontrol.com\)](#) ( Last visited on 28<sup>th</sup> March, 2024)

<sup>45</sup> [Jammu & Kashmir: Darbar move: Tracing the roots of the 149-year old tradition and how it came to an end | India News \(timesnownews.com\)](#) ( Last visited on 28<sup>th</sup> March, 2024)

of three ruling dynasties will no longer work in Jammu and Kashmir “and the discriminatory approach towards Jammu region will end. There are several steps taken by the central government to eliminate discrimination against the region. On September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020, The Union Cabinet that was headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved a bill for inclusion of Dogri, Hindi, Kashmiri and English as the official languages of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir alongside the existing Urdu language. <sup>46</sup> Inclusion of these languages as official languages fulfils a long pending public demand and enriches a spirit of equality ushered after Abrogation of Article 370. There are still many issues that need to be addressed by the Central Government to minimize the discrimination against Jammu region. There have been many scams and discrimination incidents in Jammu and Kashmir even after abrogation of Article 370. On January 2022, there was a massive protest in Jammu city against Jammu and Kashmir Service Selection Board (JKSSB) for discrimination against Jammu. It was pointed out that 76 posts of works supervisors were advertised for Kashmir division while none was advertised for Jammu region.<sup>47</sup> Another discriminating incident took place during the COVID 19 Lockdown. A relief package was distributed for tourism industry workers in Jammu and Kashmir. The share among both regions was distributed unfairly, With Jammu region receiving only Rs 1.68 Lakh out of total relief package of Rs 2.94 Crores. Kashmir region received a share of total Rs 2,92,54,000. It was assumed that the move of scrapping Article 370 would end decades long injustice that is happening against Jammu region.<sup>48 49 50</sup>

### **3. CONCLUSION**

In Conclusion, this dissertation research paper has embraced a careful assessment of the Governance, Identity and Development in the region of Jammu and Kashmir. The research paper carefully discussed the historical events that took place and shaped the now known Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. The involvement of personalities like Sheikh Abdullah, Hari Singh, Jawaharlal Nehru and Narendra Modi have also been discussed thoroughly. Through the perusal of various online

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<sup>46</sup> [Dogri, Hindi, Kashmiri, Eng approved as 4 more official languages in J&K - Daily Excelsior \(last visited on 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2024\)](#) ( Last visited on 5<sup>th</sup> April, 2024)

<sup>47</sup> [Protest held against JKSSB for discrimination with Jammu - Daily Excelsior \(last visited on 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2024\)](#) ( Last visited on 8<sup>th</sup> April, 2024)

<sup>48</sup> [Jammu Receives Another Dividend of Abrogation of Article 370: Out Of Rs 2.94 cr Tourism Relief, Jammu Gets Only Rs 1.68 Lakh - TheTypewriter \(last visited on 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2024\)](#) ( Last visited on 8<sup>th</sup> April, 2024)

<sup>49</sup> [NC, PDP responsible for discriminating against Jammu region: Jitendra Singh- Republic World](#) ( Last visited on 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 2024)

<sup>50</sup> [Jammu: Time of injustice to residents of Jammu region is over: Shah | India News - Times of India \(indiatimes.com\)](#) ( Last visited on 5<sup>th</sup> April, 2024)

available documents, reports, data, etc, several key insights have emerged.

The addition of Article 370 in 1947 had significantly altered the demography, administration, and identity of Jammu and Kashmir. Post instrument of accession, Kashmir centric parties came into power and were mostly restrictive while dealing with the rest of the nation. Development was subjected to several hurdles due to Article 370's restrictive nature, restricting foreign investments and national investments in the erstwhile state. Article 370 restricted non – locals of Jammu and Kashmir from, buying any land or setting up businesses directly in the Erstwhile State. The Kashmir centric parties also exploited minorities of Jammu and Kashmir by formulating laws in favour of themselves only. There are several instances reported where the regions of Jammu and Ladakh were not provided with adequate funds in various sectors. The medical sector has itself taken a hit in the whole region. Military was restricted before abrogation of Article 370, there were numerous amounts of stone pelting instances reported daily in the Kashmir valley. Till 2019, minorities of Jammu and Kashmir were harshly subjected to discrimination and terror. As per the reports, the scenario now stands changed. Article 370 also restricted women of Jammu and Kashmir from enjoying land rights. Such laws have now been abrogated. Jammu and Kashmir now functions fully just like any other region of the nation. All national laws apply now in Jammu and Kashmir.

Post abrogation of Article 370, the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir is being governed by Lieutenant Governor Sh. Manoj Sinha. The Union Territory has seen numerous projects being started that were long pending and several new projects being inaugurated in the Union Territory. Reports from ECONOMIC SURVEYS report that Union Territory is performing and responding quite well to the new projects and initiatives taken by the Government. Several projects to catalyse and support youth in seeking jobs are running. Training centres across the Union Territory are now opened to support meritorious students in pursuing their dreams. MGNREGA has successfully supported the backward classes of the union territories. With instalment-based assistance programs, Back to Village Programs, and transparency in all sectors, The Union Territory is witnessing a positive outcome. People are getting support from the Government to initiate self-sustaining businesses. Entrepreneurship has witnessed a rise in the Union Territory. A lot of villages are now connected in the whole Union Territory via Roads. 4G Internet, Electricity, Regular Water supply is available almost across whole Union Territory. Yet these initiatives in Jammu and Kashmir stand very mixed. While a lot of progress is made in certain sectors, a lot of sectors are still badly neglected and require proper attention from the Government. Thousands of Jobs were promised post abrogation, yet they are no where to be heard of. Dynamic and Demographic invasion of Jammu and Kashmir has also

witnessed a decline. Earlier, encroachment of land was taking place in the whole Union Territory with aims to change the demography of certain regions. Strictness in the administration and abolishment of certain laws and Acts like ROSHNI Act has resulted into slowing down of such activities across the Union Territory.

After the abrogation of Article 370, many backward classes and people who were deprived of basic services have got necessary assistance and reservations. Pahadi speaking people of Rajouri and Poonch Sector can secure reservation in several sectors. Kashmiri Hindus are getting jobs back in Kashmir valley with proper accommodation. Also, Kashmiri Hindus are now enabled to list their lost land through web portals of Jammu and Kashmir Government. Gojri speaking (Gurjars, Paharis, Bakarwals) also have reserved seats in various sectors. Earlier only Urdu was registered as the official language of the Union Territory and Erstwhile State. Now English, Hindi, Dogri, Kashmiri and Urdu are used as official languages of the Union Territory. This move has created a sense of reduced discrimination among various cultures of Jammu and Kashmir.

The medical sector has also witnessed a major boost. All districts of Jammu and Kashmir have a GMC (Government Medical College) and Hospital. Schemes like AYUSHMAN BHARAT Scheme is aiding of up to Rs 5 Lakhs to the people of Jammu and Kashmir. AIIMS (All India Institute of Medical Sciences) is set to be fully operation by 2025, which will enable people of Jammu and Kashmir to get top of the line medical assistance and facilities. Boost in number of functional hospitals has also created several jobs in Jammu and Kashmir.

Education Sector has also witnessed incline in the quality of education being provided in Government schools and colleges of Jammu and Kashmir. Anganwadi are being developed to meet new standards, inclusion of smart classes in schools, and biometric systems have improved education till higher secondary standards in Jammu and Kashmir. Many new institutes and campuses have been inaugurated in Jammu and Kashmir that include IIT (Indian Institute of Technology) and IIM (Indian Institute of Management).

Considering these findings, we can say that Abrogation of Article 370 has had a great impact on almost all sectors of Jammu and Kashmir. Jammu and Kashmir is witnessing steady growth in several sectors which were very dated, yet still findings suggest that local population has mixed reactions towards the Government and its move towards removing the Article. While many arguing that hardly any jobs have been provided and Government is still busy in catering to a particular group of people from the Union Territory. The discriminative activities between Jammu division and Kashmir division have surely witnessed a decline but hasn't stopped. People still feel subjected to



discrimination in various sectors. Many scams are still going on across the Union Territory favouring either class of people or families of some prominent people of Jammu and Kashmir. The Government needs to adopt a comprehensive approach that addresses the complex interplay between governance, identity, and development in Jammu and Kashmir.

Ultimately the path forward lies in promotion of a transparent, holistic and sustainable development technique that prioritizes listening to the locals first and negotiating terms and agendas forming a win-win situation for everyone. The Government also needs to work harder on promotion of all the classes of people and regions equally, eliminating any hatred created because of outcomes of any wrongdoings in the past. By embracing administrative tactics, community dialogue and meetings advanced socio-economic techniques, the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir can chart a course towards lasting peace, prosperity and stability.

