

Revocation of Article 370; Restoration of Peace & Sharp Decline of Terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir

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ABSTRACT

The focus of this research work is on the transformative impacts of the abrogation of article 370 and 35A of the Indian constitution and how for the peace has been restored by introducing political reforms and how far the sharp decline in militancy related incidents has witnessed after August 5, 2019. The political truth actualized by the Modi led central government, by abrogating the ingredients like article 370 and 35A and the way government architected the state into two union territories-Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh for bringing stability based on four components-modernity, rule of law, accountability and peace. With changing political scenario, new social and political thoughts are emerging under the umbrella of liberal democracy and the people's positive political participation is showing huge improvement.

Keywords: Peace, accountability, reorganization act, referendum, Pahari community, abrogation, decline, positive political participation, main stream.

Introduction

A new political order is a way of rethinking of the political cerebrals of the nation for bringing socio-politico-economic changes in the existing system that can possibly claim to promote prosperity and opportunity and connect that programme to a vision of the good life that appeals to voters. There are three basic categories of institutions that constitute a political order- the state, rule of law, and accountability. The state is a hierarchical, centralized organization that holds a monopoly on legitimate force over a defined territory. The rule of law is a set of rules of behavior, reflecting a broad consensus within the society that is binding on even the most powerful political actors in the society. Accountability means that the government is responsive to the interests of the whole society— what Aristotle called the common good—rather than to just its own narrow self-interest. When we use the word “accountability,” we are mostly speaking of modern democracy defined in terms of procedures that make the governments responsive to their citizens. Further, accountability reflects the benefit of society as a whole-what Rousseau called the “General Will” means the will, by which all individuals are equally benefited.

A series of political developments has been witnessed in Jammu and Kashmir after the revocation of Article 370 and 35A on August 5, 2019. The Kashmir centric main stream political parties —known for their advocacy on Kashmir's special status and identity, faced deep existential crisis. These parties are

in political trouble, not deciding whether to go with same old agenda or to change the gear for better future of the state people. It is indispensable to know whether the Jammu and Kashmir is heading towards normalcy after the abrogation of article 370 & 35 A and what kind of new political developments are going on. As we know, the development agenda and the sharp decline of terrorism is the tall claim of the Modi led NDA (National democratic alliance) government, so we need to ascertain the truth of harsh political realities at grass-root level. The target of our research work is to ascertain the reasons behind the bifurcation of state Jammu & Kashmir into two Union territories under the command of central government and how far this strong decision of the central government is being accepted by the people of the geographically distinct regions of the Jammu and Ladakh. The emergence of new political parties after bringing political reforms by the central government is the question mark in itself for those who are showing intolerance towards India.

The growing political participation after 5/8 in the DDC and local self-government (Panchayati Raj) Bi-elections is something to think about. As per official reports of the election commission of India more than 51% voter turnout was seen in the DDC elections of 2020, 74 % in Panchayat elections (Rural local self-government) and in recent parliamentary elections above 70 % electoral participation was witnessed in first two phases. This active political participation reflects the beginning of new political awakening in Jammu and Kashmir.

Research questions:

1. Whether the Jammu and Kashmir is heading towards normalcy?
2. Whether the bifurcation of the state into two union territories was inevitable?
3. Whether the positive political participation has been increased?
4. Is there any decline in militancy related incidents since 2019?
5. Why Gujjar and Bakarwal tribes are showing resentment against the Schedule Tribe status for Pahari speaking people?

Review of literature

1. Kashmir, a triangularly contested region between India, Pakistan and China, is administratively divided between India and Pakistan and the abrogation of Article 370 of the Indian Constitution has altered the geopolitical and social dynamics of the region and Kashmir valley has witnessed political instability, human rights violation and alteration of indigenous identity by forced migration and revision of exclusive land rights (Kumar Aryal, S., & Muneer, S. (2023). To be fair, Jammu and Kashmir is the internal problem of the India and the Pakistan and China are the illegal occupants of the region. India has a legal claim over Jammu and Kashmir by virtue of its instrument of accession 1947 signed between the Maharaja Hari Singh and government of India in consultation with the popular leaders of the Jammu and Kashmir and sharp decline in administrative abuses and human right violation has been witnessed after the abrogation of article 370.
2. There is sharp decline in terror activities, nepotism and local recruitment in militant outfits in the Kashmir valley after the abrogation of article 370. 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. Peace and developmental activities has been restored. In an event was organized by the “South Asia Center for Peace and People’s Empowerment’ in collaboration with GDC Shopian, hundreds of students, academicians, journalists and people from other walks of life spoke about peace, nation building and institution building besides positive developments happening

- after Article 370 abrogation. (Zulfikar Majid, 2023). But there is a dire need for the thorough study of other useful sectors which will depict the true picture of the UT after the abrogation of 370 and 35 A. What changed in Kashmir in four years after abrogation of Article 370? The August 5, 2019 momentous decision also marked a drastic decline in terror activities and nepotism in the Valley.
3. Abrogation of article 370 has deteriorated the Indo-Pak relations and instability in the South Asia and the peace process of several decades has been derailed. The harmonious relations between the people of Jammu and Kashmir and the rest of India have been shattered down (Tariq Ahmad Rather et, al). Moreover, the dismemberment of Jammu and Kashmir State into two Union Territories – Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh not only eroded the ethnic identity of the people but is an attempt for the demographic change in the region. It will further alienate the people of the erstwhile state, which in the long run could pave way for more aggravation, turmoil and insurgency in J and K. But, the indo-Pak relations are unsound since 1947 when Pak armies along with tribal, attacked the state with the intention to capture it forcefully. Although the government of India took several initiatives of peace building but Pakistan has always deceived the India, likewise, 1999 Kargil war, violation of Shimla Agreement, Tashkant declaration etc. As for as, the reorganization of the Jammu and Kashmir is concerned, UT was the long pending demand of Ladakhi people to end the political domination of Kashmir. False narrative has been created by the authors without realizing the basic truth. No doubt short term economic losses were being witnessed during transitional phase of few months but the same economy has bounced back with more benefits and the insurgency has shown sharp decline.
 4. After the abrogation of the article 370, plenty of development, progress, security and stability has been seen in the disturbed areas of Jammu and Kashmir. Maximum Terrorist networks has been dismantled and incidents of stone pelting and street violence have now become a thing of the past, organized Bandhs / Hartals are negligible and sharp decline in local recruitments of terrorist from 199 in the year 2018 to 12 in the year 2023 has been seen ([Utkarsh Anand, 2023](#)).The reports reveals that the cause of alienation of the Jammu and Kashmir people was the non-application of the central Constitution and non-applicability of several beneficial central legislations, but after the abrogation of article 370 all rights enjoyed by the people of the India are being equally enjoyed by the people of Jammu and Kashmir. The entire spectrum of socio-economic life of people of the region has been changed, irrespective of any artificial differences. The article is more or less reflecting the view point of the Union government rather than an independent research at grass-root level. I think, views of common men are much more important than the government view point for the realization of truth.
 5. In his report author has explained how the Kashmir conflict evolved to a point that contributed to India's extraordinary political gambit, and lays out both New Delhi's strategy and the challenges the government faces in future. Since 2013, mass resistance and armed insurgency have returned and grown in Kashmir valley partly in response to the government's failed strategy and by the government's dramatic revocation of autonomy provisions for Jammu and Kashmir, the government has to face a resurgence of violent and quasi-violent resistance([Sameer P. Lalwani et al ,2020](#)) but after abrogation of article 370 the things in Jammu and Kashmir are all together different, there is a sharp decline in both violent and quasi-violent protests in the Jammu and Kashmir. The reporting is partial in the sense that it has touched only a particular area of the erstwhile state i.e. valley and has not shown any concern of Jammu and Ladakh regions which are the major stakeholders of the Jammu and Kashmir.

Methodology

This research paper is based on extensive research, new data collection, and field interviews across the UT. Since the abrogation of article 370 and 35A the author have maintained a constant link with the

different stakeholders of Jammu and Kashmir for the purpose of observing general reaction of the political, social, religious and ethnic groups of Jammu and Kashmir after 5 August 2019.

The methodology adopted was interviews and group discussions with the participants from the political parties, religious groups, and ethnic groups, social classes, from both rural and urban areas across the state for accessing the general public opinion. A detailed survey through questionnaires was also conducted from four major regions of the UT - Kashmir, Jammu, Peer-Panchal and Chinab valley. A sample of 100 people was taken from each region for accessing the actual view point and the response of the people. Secondary sources like- E-newspapers, Journals, Books, Articles etc. have also applied in the work.

1. Steps taken to reshape and restructure the Jammu and Kashmir to pull out it from the jaws of terrorism:

The Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Act, 2019 was passed by the parliament of India containing provisions to reconstitute the state of Jammu and Kashmir into two Union Territories (UTs) called Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, and became effective from 31 October 2019. A bill for the act was introduced by the Minister of Home Affairs, Mr. Amit Shah, in the Rajya Sabha on 5 August 2019 and was passed on the same day. It was then passed by the Lok Sabha on 6 August 2019 and received the president's assent on 9 August 2019.

The act consists of 103 clauses, extends 106 central laws to the UTs, repeals 153 state laws, and abolishes the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Council among other things. The introduction of the bill was preceded by a presidential order which indirectly amended Article 370 of the Indian constitution and revoked Jammu and Kashmir's special status. The act authorized the central government to pass a number of executive orders in relation to both the Union Territories. These orders have resulted in the modification or repeal of over 400 state and central laws with respect to the Union Territory. The act was challenged in Supreme Court of India by all those who were dissatisfied by this constitutional change and on 11 December 2023, a five-judge bench of the Supreme Court of India comprising (CJI) D.Y. Chandrachud, Justices B.R. Gavai, Justice Surya Kant, Justices Sanjay Kaul and Sanjiv Khanna unanimously upheld the Indian Government's decision to abrogate Article 370¹. The bench said that article 370 of the Constitution was a 'temporary provision' and the president had the power to revoke it and pointed out that J&K had divested itself of "any element of sovereignty" after the execution of the Instrument of Accession to the Union in October 1947. Concurring in their separate opinions, the special privileges of J&K as well as a separate Constitution were held to be a mere feature of 'asymmetric federalism' and not sovereignty.

This constitutional surgery was conducted by the union government with a sole purpose of eradicating the terrorism and bringing peace in Jammu and Kashmir.

2. Indian government response:

Replying to the debate, Mr Amit Shah (Minister for Home, GOI) stated, "I want to say that J&K is an inalienable part of India. There are no wavers about that". Parliament is the highest and fully competent body to make laws and bring resolutions regarding any state of India including Jammu & Kashmir. There can be no question to this power of the Parliament.

How the Centre can take this step unilaterally when Kashmir is a bilateral issue between India and Pakistan and when the matter is pending in the UN? Mr. Shah retaliated and challenged the opposition that they must clarify their stand on the floor of the House whether they support UN mediation in Kashmir. In India, things do not function on whims and fancies but on laws. Speaking on the

applicability of United Nations charter on India and Pakistan to J&K, Mr. Shah said that under this charter, neither armed force would violate the territorial integrity of other country. The day in 1965 Pakistan violated this provision; the charter was violated. The question of a referendum ended with the Pakistani aggression. Hence, the Government of India has full rights to take any decision regarding its territorial integrity.

Mr. Shah argued that because of article 370, the laws of Union of India did not apply to J&K and corruption and terrorism flourished there, in the past 70 years over 41500 people have been killed. Should we continue on the same path and let people die. Who is responsible for this state of affairs? Are not the youth of J & K requiring development? For how long would we deprive them only for vote bank politics? Those who favour article 370 are in opposition to the Prevention of Child Marriage Act, Right to Education, Land Accusation Act, Multiple Disability Act, Senior Citizens act, Delimitation act, Whistle Blower Protection Act, laws enacted for empowerment of tribal, National Commission for Minorities, National Council for Teacher Education, among others.

Moreover, the misuse of article 370 has sown the seeds of separatism and terrorism in J&K and has impeded the speedy process of development. Only by repealing this provision, we can bring the people of Jammu and Kashmir into comfortable zone.

3. Reaction of main stream regional political parties of Jammu and Kashmir against abrogation of special status:

The People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) is a political alliance between the several valley dominated political parties in Jammu and Kashmir campaigning for autonomy for the region by restoring special status along with Article 35A of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir. The First declaration was signed on 4 August 2019, in which 17 brass level political leaders met at Gupkar Residence of Dr Farooq Abdulla (former CM). The first Gupkar Declaration was unanimously passed by all participants as a baseline and it was unanimously resolved.

That all the parties would be united in their resolve to protect and defend the identity, autonomy and special status of J&K against all attacks and onslaughts whatsoever.

That modification, abrogation of Articles 35A, 370, unconstitutional delimitation or trifurcation of the State would be an aggression against the people of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh.

Second Declaration:

The second Gupkar Declaration was signed on 22 August 2020 by seven political parties, included-National Conference, People's Democratic Party, Communist Party of India (Marxist), Jammu and Kashmir People's Conference, Awami National Conference, Indian National Congress and Jammu & Kashmir People's Movement. The signatories once again asserted that they were bound by the statusquo of August 4, 2019. The Gupkar declaration and parties would strive for the restoration of Article 370 and Article 35A. But, by the mid of 2022 three political parties Congress, JKPC and JKPM pull out themselves from the PAGD and it rises finger on their previous stand for the special status of the state.

4. Political Reforms:

1. Restoring Grassroots Democracy:

The government conducted the first-ever district development council (DDC) elections in J&K in December 2020, which saw a high voter turnout of 51.42%. The District Development Councils are the form of elected local governments in Jammu and Kashmir facilitated by the Jammu and Kashmir Panchayati Raj Act, 1989 and created under Jammu and Kashmir Panchayati Raj Rule, 1996 of the constitution of India. Its primary aim is to elect the members from the rural and urban areas for the

District Planning Committee and the councils themselves with fourteen members from each district for speedy development and economic upliftment. District Development Councils were first introduced by the Ministry of Home Affairs on 16 October, 2020, fourteen months after the special status of Jammu and Kashmir was revoked by the parliament of India on 5 August 2019, leading the government of India to limit the powers of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly and to run the union territory under the union government's rule administered by a Lieutenant Governor. DDCs supervises, implement, sponsor and prepare for five main fields such as welfare, health, education, finance, public works and development intended to ensure the community development of a representing district.

These elections attracted significant attention across the nation. As it was the first ever political exercise after the revocation of article 370 and the reorganization of the state, the whole electoral process evoked much interest among political watchers. Though the elections were held for the limited purpose of forming the district-level councils, there were larger issues that lingered in the background. Some important ones surrounded the issue of legitimacy versus contestation of the August 2019 changes, the political deadlock, the opening up of democratic space in Kashmir, the role and relevance of various political parties in the context of the changed political environment; the ‘old’ versus ‘new’ political trends and agendas. The election, in the end, did serve the purpose of ending the political dead lock in Kashmir and opening the flood gates for democracy.

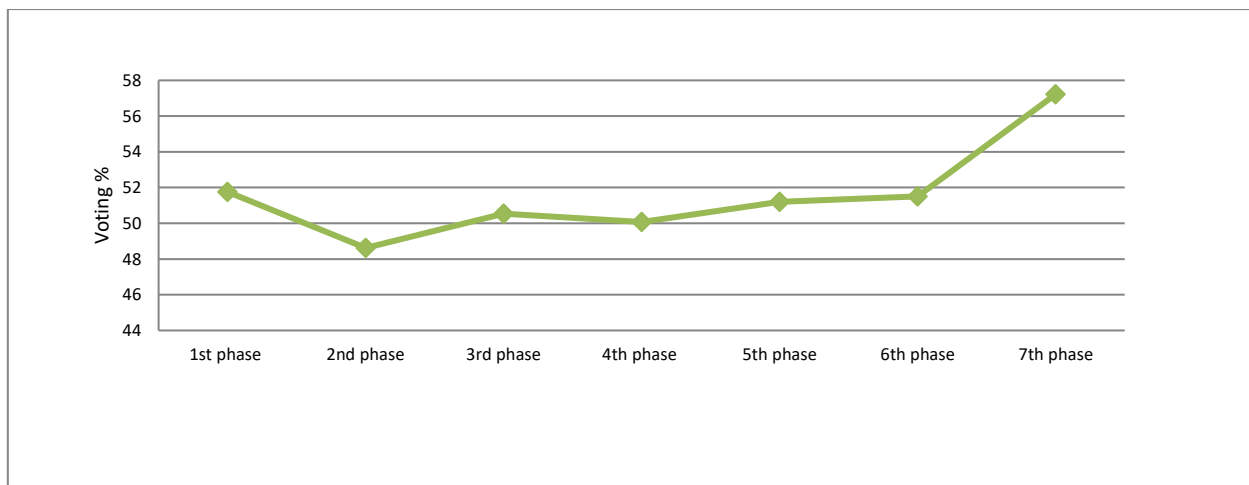


Fig.1. Voter turnout of DDC Elections in Jammu & Kashmir (2020)

Unlike Panchayati elections the leaders of mainstream old political parties decided to participate in the DDCs election because they did not want to provide political space for the newly emerged political parties in the state. Under such circumstances, the DDC elections brought them back on track. They were between deep sea and devil; either they have to participate or to eschew the active politics. Boycotting the elections would only have been counterproductive as it would have allowed new players such as the Jammu and Kashmir Apni Party (JKAP) and even the BJP to occupy political space in Jammu and Kashmir by side-lining the older parties.

The decision of the PAGD to participate in the election and fight jointly resulted in a high-stakes, high-profile election for both the BJP and the PAGD. It was the litmus test for both BJP and PAGD. On the one hand it was important for the BJP to win, in order to convince the world that the drastic changes it had brought in the erstwhile state had garnered public support. Anything less than a ‘reasonable victory’, at least in its core constituencies in the Jammu region, would be considered a setback for the BJP. For the PAGD, a victory would entail a vindication of their opposition to the changes and a boost for the

party's morale and their very existence. It was a battle of political existence for both BJP and PAGD.

2. Political reservation to women, SC, ST and OBCs:

In order to bring equitable social order, the government amended the Jammu and Kashmir Panchayati Raj Act, 1989 to provide reservation of seats for women, scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, and backward classes in panchayats. The Administrative Council (AC) approved carrying out amendments in Jammu and Kashmir Panchayati Raj Act, 1989 to incorporate definition of OBCs in the Act for ensuring their reservation. The Amendment bill proposes incorporation of definition of OBCs for providing reservation for the Other Backward Classes, explaining method of disqualification from membership of Halqa Panchayat, suspension and removal of Sarpanch, Naib-Sarpanch and Panch by the Government. It also defines process for removal and conditions of service of State Election Commissioner.

The amendments aim to make J&K Panchayati Raj Act, 1989 more effective by ensuring transparency in functioning of PRIs, constitutional alignment & consistency with practices in other states where reservation has been provided to the OBCs apart from the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes.

3. Delimitation of Jammu & Kashmir UT:

The government also initiated the delimitation process for J&K to redraw the boundaries of assembly and parliamentary constituencies based on the latest census data (2011). After multiple objections and extensions, the J&K Delimitation Commission submitted its final report on May 5, 2022, two years after it was appointed to redraw the electoral boundaries in Jammu and Kashmir as per the mandate set by the Jammu & Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019. In its order, a notification of which was published in the Gazette of India, the three-member panel carved out additional six Assembly seats for the Jammu region and one for the Kashmir valley.

The commission held deliberations with 242 delegations, received hundreds of representations and met approximately 1,600 stake-holders over more than two years. The commission issued its final order on May 5, 2022, earmarking 43 seats to the Jammu region and 47 to Kashmir—making up a total of 90 seats for the Union territory's assembly, up from the current strength of 83. For the first time, the panel reserved nine seats for scheduled tribes (ST). It also recommended that members be nominated among Kashmiri migrant communities, which primarily comprise the Kashmiri Pandits. Earlier, Jammu had 37 seats, and Kashmir had 46 which gave 55.2% representation to Kashmir and 44.6% to Jammu region. But the latest orders bring the Kashmir representation down to 52.2% from 55.4% of the total seats, and Jammu representation up from 44.6% to 47.8.

4. Scheduled Tribe status for Pahari Community in J&K:

Paharis are mostly based in twin border districts of Rajouri and Poonch in Jammu division and Baramulla and Kupwara in Kashmir division. The J&K Commission on Socially and Educationally Backward Classes recommended the reservation for the Pahari-speaking people, Paddaris, Gada Brahman and grave digger communities. Besides, the commission also recommended reservation for the residents of Teetwal—the last village in Kupwara along Line of Control (LoC).

The central government clarified that the rights of Gujjar and Bakarwals will not be diluted with Pahari reservation. Because, in no way, the party in power wants any go down in its political support base among this community. Earlier, in delimitation commission report 9 assembly seats has been reserved for ST people of the UT, so having resentments with Gujjar and Bakarwal community means losing grip of 9 assembly seats. Five seats are reserved for STs in Jammu division and four in Kashmir. The

STs enjoyed reservation in jobs, education etc, but they were denied political reservations in Jammu and Kashmir since long, although, such reservation existed in Lok Sabha and Assemblies across the country. This was, however, after abrogation of special status of Jammu and Kashmir in August 5, 2019 that the Government extended political reservations to STs in Jammu & Kashmir.

5. Emergence of new political parties:

Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Movement: In March 2019, Shah Faesal, launched this political party with the slogan “Hawa badlegi” (The wind will change). Launched with much fan fare, the party got a shot in the arm in the beginning itself with former minister and three-time MLA Javid Mustafa Mir joining it. It entered into a pre-poll pact with former legislator Er. Rashid, who is now lodged in the Tihar jail in a terror funding case. The party is currently headed by Dr. Mustafa Khan after the resignation of Javed Mustafa Mir. In 2020 DDC elections party managed 3 seats in Kashmir valley.

It invites young and energetic youth to provide an alternative political platform for the people of all the regions of Jammu and Kashmir for electoral alliance to keep dynasty rulers away from the power. But Faesal’s exit from politics proved death knell for the party with his successors failing to keep the party afloat, few leaders joined different parties including Arvind Kejriwal’s Aam Aadmi Party and Altaf Bukhari’s Apni Party, despite that party is actively participating at the grass-root level political activities.

The Jammu and Kashmir Apni Party:

This party was formed on 8 March 2020 by thirty one former members of the Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Democratic Party, and Indian National Congress under the leadership of Altaf Bukhari. Dubbed as the “king’s party” by its opponents, the Bukhari-led party, promised to fight on for restoration of J&K’s state-hood and to protect the rights of natives when it came the question of land and jobs. In its first electoral test in November-December 2020, the J&K Apni Party fared badly, winning only 12 seats out of 172 seats it contested in the DDC polls. The party describes itself as being “of the commoners, by the commoners and for the commoners”. The party also believes that government jobs in Jammu and Kashmir should be reserved for long standing residents of the region. It wants members of the displaced Kashmiri Hindu community to be able to safely return to their homes in the Kashmir valley. The party is against the dynastic politics espoused by the PDP & NC.

The Democratic Progressive Azad Party:

The year 2022 saw the formation of a new political party by Ghulam Nabi Azad, who had earned goodwill across the board for his three-year term as Chief Minister from 2005 to 2008. With the resignation of Azad, J&K’s top Congress leaders also resigned from the Indian National Congress and joined DPAP. The main focus of the party is the restoration of statehood and over all development of the state above the line of regionalism, communalism and casteism.

Ikk Jutt Jammu Party:

This party was founded in November 2020 and is currently led by Ankur Sharma. It is based in the Jammu region of Jammu and Kashmir and it advocates for the creation of a separate Jammu state out of the Dogri speaking districts of Jammu Division and for the reorganization of Kashmir Division into two union territories, one being Panun Kashmir for exiled Kashmiri Hindus and another for Kashmiri Muslims.

Originally it worked as a social organization but later on transformed into a political party on 14 November 2020. Ikk Jutt Jammu campaigned against the Roshni Act, which was declared unconstitutional by the Jammu and Kashmir High Court in 2020. In addition to advocating statehood

for the Jammu Division, the party seeks a return of Kashmiri Hindu , the complete administrative integration of Jammu and Kashmir with the rest of India and to promote and restore Dogra heritage and pride in the region. It wants to stop what it described as "Muslim separatism" and the "Jihadi war" in the region. The party believes that " Pan-Islamic forces" are carrying out war against the Indian nation and believes that these forces have" cleansed Kashmir of Hindus" and turned the region into a" Muslim monolith" by the process of" demographic invasion".

6. Decline in militancy related incidents:

As per the Indian government data, around 44,729 people —consisting of 14,930 civilians, 6413 security personnel and 23386 militants—have been died because of the insurgency as of March 2019 in Jammu and Kashmir. There has been a steady decline in violence and sharp drop in the number of deaths since 2014. Jammu and Kashmir Coalition of Civil Society posit a figure of 70,000 deaths, most of them civilians. The pro-Pakistan Huriyat group has claimed a higher death toll of 80,000 including civilians, security forces and militants. The districts with the most incidents of killings happened in Kupwara, Baramulla, Poonch, Doda, Anantnag and Pulwama districts.

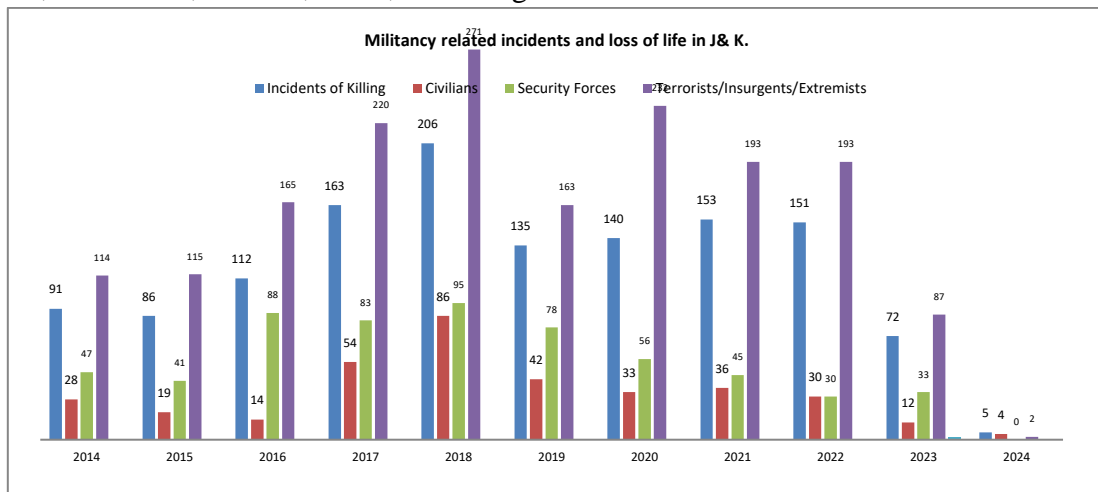
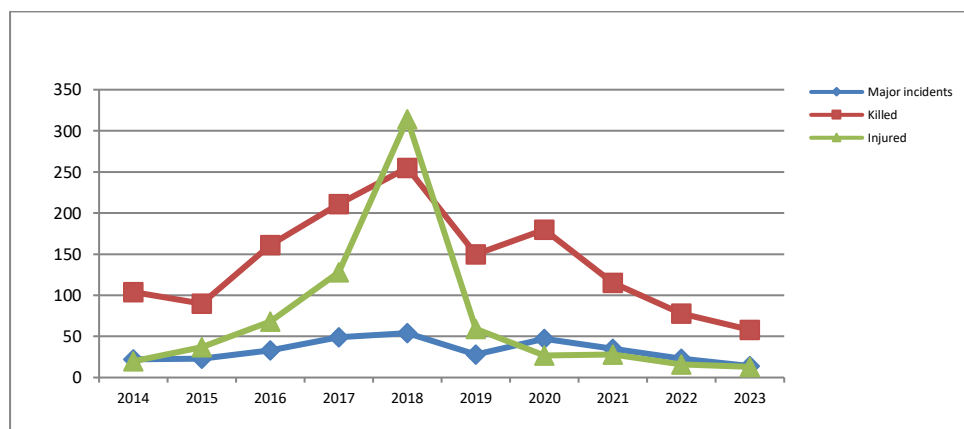


Fig .2. Source: South Asia Terrorism Portal, Datasheet Jammu and Kashmir.



(Major incidents of militancy)
Fig.3. Source: South Asia Terrorism Portal, Data Sheet, Jammu and Kashmir.

From 1988 to 1919, 44729 human beings lost their life in Jammu and Kashmir, 14930 among them were civilians having no concern with violence but they were victimized by the violence, 6413 were

the security forces who were engaged for the counter terrorism activities and 23386 were the terrorist engaged for creating violence in Jammu and Kashmir in name of jihad(holy war), but all of them were human beings only the way of their indulgence in violence was different, only the name were the different but the men were the same. My means to say, civilian, terrorist and soldier all are basically the humans and violence cannot be justified in any form. So the abrogation of article 370 was inevitable for saving the humans in Jammu and Kashmir, because it was serving as a root cause of militancy in the region. It leads to the alienation of Kashmiris from the rest of India and their alienation leads to their frustration and that frustration leads to the terrorism.

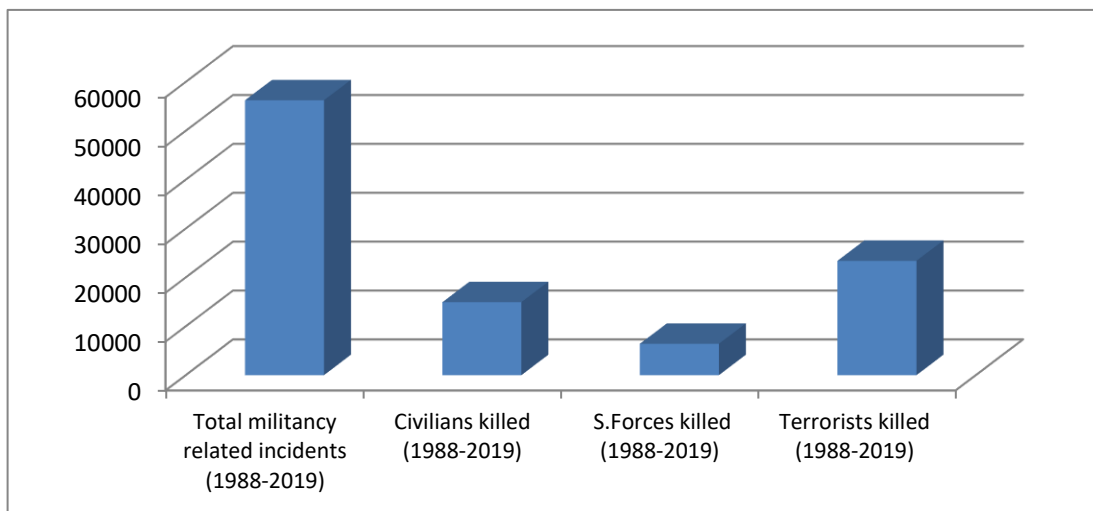


Fig.4. Source: Union Ministry of Home Affairs GOI (UMHA).*Data till March 31, 2019

After analyzing the data received from four different regions of the jammu and Kashmir, it is revealed that maximum number of people belonging to different walks of life from jammu (Jammu, Udhampur,Kathua,Samba), chinab valley (Kishtwar, Doda, Ramban, Reasi) Pir-panjal region(Poonch, Rajouri,) favour the abrogation of article 370 and the maximum number of respondents from Kashmir valley argued that the abrogation of article 370 was not inevitable because by virtue of that constitutional provision they were enjoying special status.

As for as, the question of militancy related incidents are concerned above 87 % respondents across the state agreed that, the sharp decline in militancy related incidents is obvious after 2019 and the political participation has been increased many folds after the reorganization of the state, the interest of the common men has been developed in mainstream politics of the country and people in general have bid farewell to the negative politics and political participation. There is a paradigm shift of society from the separatist stratum to the nationalist stratum, because people in general have realized the value of peace and the downside of militancy.

Geographical regions	No.	Whether the Of art 370 was Is there any decline in militancy related				Whether you favour unification, bifurcation, trifurcation or tetrafurcation of the jammu & Kashmir?				Do you agree that social changes has		Do you agree that political participation has	
		Ye s	N o	Ye s	N o	Unificati on,	Bifurcati on	Trifurcati on	Tetrafurcat ion	Ye s	N o	Ye s	N o
Kashmir	10	20	8	80	2	90	5	5	0	50	5	50	5

valley	0		0		0						0		0
Jammu plains/kandi belt	100	95	5	95	5	50	10	35	5	55	45	90	10
Chinab valley region	100	70	30	90	10	60	15	25	0	60	40	90	10
Pir panjal region	100	80	20	85	15	50	25	25	0	65	35	80	20

(Tab:1.1)

Source: questionnaire based survey

Research analysis revealed that people across the Jammu and Kashmir are eager to retain the complete statehood status and only the marginal section of the society is satisfied with the Union territory status of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir. As far as the question of elections is concerned majority people are fully satisfied with the election procedure but they are desirous for the announcement of the assembly elections. The question of ST status to the Pahari speaking people of Poonch, Rajouri, Baramulla and Kupwara, received a mix response. People belonging to general castes, Gujjar and Bakarwal tribes are showing resentments towards the reservation policy of the government, because, to them, Pahari speaking people are already in well heeled.

Rehabilitation policy for the exiled pandit (Hindu) community of the Kashmir also shown mixed response of people, 50% of our respondents show dissatisfactions towards the rehabilitation policy of the central government. The way government of India is working will take another 50 years to rehabilitate the exiled pundits. The 90% respondents of our Jammu region opinioned that Panun Kashmir (Home land) is the only solution for the peaceful and dignified life of Kashmiri Hindus whereas the 95% respondents from Kashmir region didn't favour for the home rule formula for the rehabilitation of Pundits, they argued that home land for pundits will lead to the disintegration of the Kashmir and the heritage of composite culture will vanish.

Geographical Regions	No. of respondents	Would you like State hood again.		Is there any decline in stone pelting and		government claim of free fair and		satisfied with the ST status for Pahari		positive sign for the rehabilitation of		Whether the panun Kashmir is final solution of the Kashmiri Hindus	
		Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Kashmir valley	100	100	0	95	5	70	30	20	80	50	50	05	95
Jammu plains/kandi belt	100	70	30	100	0	90	10	50	50	30	70	90	10
Chinab valley region	100	80	20	100	0	90	10	60	40	50	50	50	50

				0										
Pir region	Panjal	100	85	15	1 0 0	0	9 5	5	50	5 0	50	50	50	50

Table(1.2) Source: questionnaire based survey

Conclusion & Suggestions:

Doubtless to say, the abrogation of article 370 have created new kind of political atmosphere in the troubled Jammu and Kashmir, unexpected positive political participation has been started, new political parties has been emerged with a new ideological setup and master plans for the development of the state under the broader vision of liberal democracy. The twin evil factors of fundamentalism and separatism have been replaced by the secularism and nationalism; violence and heartedness has been replaced by the peace and amity.

The increase in voter turnout indicated the new kind of mind setup of the people and love for the democracy. In some pockets, even the surrendered militants contested the elections under the umbrella of Indian constitution and have shown full faith in the democratic norms of the country. The local self government (Panchayati Raj) elections have opened new democratic space in Kashmir and lost faith on democracy has been restored. Nose of the terrorist and their well wishers has been tightened with iron hands by the government and people have taken a hue of sigh after three decades. The issue rehabilitation of Kashmeri displaced Hindus is on priority yet no concrete action has been taken.

There is a dire need of full-fledged central command for eradicating the last remains of terrorism in the Jammu and Kashmir, no doubt terrorism on ground is on ebb but its roots are beneath the earth and needs to be stick out with iron hands for the broader interest of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. We know democracy is the best but without peace it is meaningless. So, sustainable peace should be established first than state-hood should be restored.

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