

**SRI SRI ACADEMY, KOLKATA**  
**MODEL UNITED NATIONS 2021**



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**All India Political Parties Meet:** Discussing the ongoing situation in the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh with special emphasis on the electoral processes, maintenance of National Security and envisioned Developmental projects in the UTs.

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# SSMUN'21 STUDY GUIDE

## ALL INDIA POLITICAL PARTIES MEET

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## Letter from the Chairperson

**JAI HIND Delegates,**

The Chairperson of All India Political Parties Meet (AIPPM) welcomes you to the Sri Sri MUN 2021. I sincerely hope you have familiarized yourself with the agenda and have started the basic research. Please keep in mind that it is important to familiarize yourself with the Mandate of the Committee. The study guide aims at providing you with a basic understanding of the agenda and helps you to take your research down the correct avenue. This is supposed to be neither the beginning nor the end of your research on the agendas at hand; it's merely supposed to direct and complement it. The guide provides you with a basic understanding of the agenda. The Executive Board expects this committee to have substantive discussion and in-depth analysis. This will only be possible if your research is adequate, so please do not rely on the study guide completely. Also note that we expect you to think for yourself. The committee success depends a lot on the innovative skills and out of the box thinking of the delegates; and hence we want everyone to come up with a proper analysis and interpretation of your research and the facts so that we are able to set up a well-directed committee and no delegate is forced to read the research out. It is imperative for the delegates to ensure that since this is an AIPPM, everyone is expected to be crystal clear with their party stand and policies on the agenda on the floor as well as related sub-agendas. The purpose of this simulation is to ensure the Government as well as the opposition is able to put up their ideas and approaches clearly and we are able to expect some sort of advancement on the issue(s) at hand. A positive and healthy debate is encouraged in the committee over mudslinging and cross-allegations. This study guide covering a wide

spectrum of substantive issues and aspects is the bare minimum amount of material all the delegates are suggested and expected to cover before they enter into the committee and there should be no exception to that. This is the only way this simulation can be converted into a meaningful one, hence we suggest everyone to abide by it. One more important instruction to be kept in mind is that we want the committee to be guided by facts and arguments, rather than mere rhetoric. Apart from that, the substance provided this material merely is a reflection of the situational and factual aspects and everyone needs to balance out their arguments based on respective party stands and in-depth research. We also strongly recommend a thorough logical analysis and representation of the factual research covered out during the course of preparation. Lastly, we urge all the delegates to understand that this is a fruitful learning experience and that despite the tremendous pressure committee is a fun place to learn and grow. A sound knowledge on the agenda at hand and being well-versed with your party policy are the qualities in a delegate the Executive board will be looking for. Finally, don't hesitate to contact us at any point of time whenever you come across any difficulty while researching. We are always open to clarifying your doubts if you are unable to proceed with research due to any reason(s). We look forward to a very successful committee with a proper learning experience for the delegates as well as the Executive Board. We would try our best to convert this into an outstanding committee, especially for the ones with lesser experience.

Wishing you all a good luck!

At the Nation's Service, we shall always remain.

**Regards,**

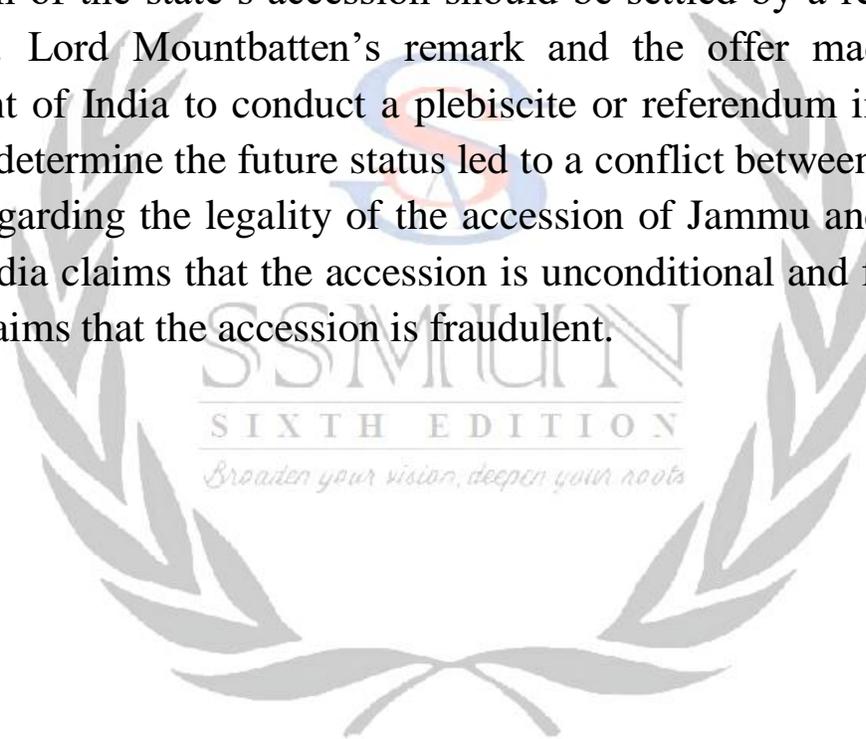
**Sapnil Biswas – Chairperson**

# **HISTORY OF THE KASHMIR**

## **PROBLEM**

During India's partition in 1947 when Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel was integrating the princely states into the Indian Union, there was major conflict over the three states Junagarh, Hyderabad and Kashmir, that whether they should be included in India or Pakistan, finally all these states were compelled to join the Indian Union. Soon after this, India and Pakistan entered into an agreement that none of the two countries would ever attack the region of Jammu & Kashmir. However, Pakistan attacked J&K on October 6, 1947 through the Azad Kashmir Forces. Two months after independence, on October 20, 1947 Kashmir was attacked by a large number of tribesmen forcing Raja Hari Singh (The ruler of Kashmir) to write to Lord Mountbatten (Governor General of India) asking him to provide military aid to Kashmir. Attached to this letter was the instrument of accession to India signed by Raja Hari Singh. Lord Mountbatten signed the instrument on October 27, 1947. As per the document, only defence, external affairs and communications would be handed over to the Government of India, while the control of the other sectors would remain under the control of Kashmir's ruler. These conditions were peculiar to Kashmir's accession to India unlike the other 565 princely states that had chosen to integrate fully within the India Union. Article 370 was therefore in the Constitution of India to preserve the specific terms and conditions under which Kashmir had accede to India. Hari Singh sought special privileges for his people on the basis of a 1927 law that denied outsiders the right to own property in the state. This law stated that property can be owned in Kashmir on the basis of inheritance. This had been brought apparently to keep the Britishers away from the salubrious valley of Kashmir. The Jawaharlal

Nehru government agreed to Hari Singh's condition subject to future final settlement. The matter was placed before the Constituent Assembly of India. After a lot of deliberation, Article 370 was inserted in the 21st Part of the Constitution that proclaimed to be a "Temporary, Transitional and Special Provision". In a letter sent to Maharaja Hari Singh on October 27, 1947 Lord Mountbatten accepted the accession with a remark, "It is my government's wish that as soon as law and order have been restored in Jammu and Kashmir and her soil cleared of the invader the question of the state's accession should be settled by a reference to the people. Lord Mountbatten's remark and the offer made by the Government of India to conduct a plebiscite or referendum in Kashmir in order to determine the future status led to a conflict between India and Pakistan regarding the legality of the accession of Jammu and Kashmir to India. India claims that the accession is unconditional and final while Pakistan claims that the accession is fraudulent.



# **IMPORTANT EVENTS THAT OCCURRED IN KASHMIR (1947-2019)**

## **October 26, 1947**

The ruler of Kashmir, Maharaja Hari Singh signs the Instrument of Accession with the Prime Minister of India, Jawaharlal Nehru whereby Kashmir decides to join India. The first India-Pakistan War breaks out.

## **April 1948**

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) calls for a plebiscite in Kashmir. Since Pakistan refuses to withdraw troops, Kashmir is effectively partitioned. Pakistan retains 'Azad Kashmir' as well as 'Gilgit-Baltistan'.

## **October 17, 1949**

Directed by Jawaharlal Nehru, Cabinet Minister in charge of Kashmir, Sir Gopalswami Ayyangar drafts Article 370 since Dr. B.R. Ambedkar refuses to do so. India adopts Article 370, conferring special status on J&K. The centre's jurisdiction is restricted to key areas, such as foreign affairs, defence and communications.

## **September-October, 1951**

First election held in J&K. The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (earlier known as Muslim Conference) wins all 75 seats. UNSC declares that elections cannot be a substitute for plebiscite.

## **May, 1953**

Syama Prasad Mukherjee, the leader of Bhartiya Jana Sangh (now BJP) arrested by the Jammu and Kashmir police while protesting against the state's special status.

His death takes place in police custody on 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 1953.

## **1953-1954**

Sheikh Abdullah arrested in the Kashmir Conspiracy Case.

## **February, 1954**

Bakshi Ghulam Mohammed led regime in Srinagar ratifies the Instrument of Accession after Sheikh Abdullah develops cold feet and is incarcerated.

## **November 17, 1956**

The states adopt a constitution defining J&K as a part of India. It comes into effect on January 26, 1957. The UN says this cannot be the final disposition of Kashmir, Govind Ballabh Pant, then Union Home Minister, declares in Srinagar, the capital city, "Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India".

## **1965**

Pakistan militants begin insurgency in the Kashmir Valley, Maqbool That and Amanullah Khan launch a plebiscite front – The Jammu and Kashmir National Liberation Front (JKLF).

## **1966**

Operation codenamed Gibraltar by Pakistan terrorists leads to full-scale hostilities between India and Pakistan. In January 1966, a historic agreement is signed in Tashkent where both the sides agree to revert to the pre-1965 position.

## **1971**

The Bangladesh Liberation War between India and Pakistan leads to the liberation and creation of Bangladesh (Erstwhile East Pakistan). Around 92,000 Pakistani soldiers are made POWs (Prisoners of War).

## **July 2, 1972**

Pakistan Premier Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi sign the Shimla Agreement, whereby the Kashmir issue is to be settled only bilaterally. The ceasefire line is henceforth to be treated as the Line of Control (LOC).

## **February, 1978**

Sheikh Abdullah returns as the Chief Minister and remains the Chief Minister till his death in 1982.

## **1987**

Massive rigging of State Assembly polls help the National Conference leader Farooq Abdullah come to power. It instigates an armed insurgency, led by the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front backed by Pakistan-based terrorists.

## **1989-1990**

Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan frees up a huge cache of weapons and mercenaries, who find their way into Kashmir. A long cycle of bloodshed begins, leading to militants take aim at anyone close to the establishment. Kashmiri Pandits bear the brunt, over 100 killed in 1990 alone. The next decade witnesses the exodus of 150,000 Kashmiri Pandits.

## **January,1990**

Farooq Abdullah resigns as the Chief Minister to protest against the killing of Kashmiri demonstrators by the CRPF troops at Gawkadal. President's rule comes into force. The Centre imposes Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) under Governor Jagmohan.

## **July, 1999**

The launch of a bus service between Delhi and Lahore rekindles hopes for India- Pakistan peace. Infiltration by Pakistani militants and soldiers into Kargil puts paid to that hope. Kargil war erupts.

## **October 1, 2001**

Suicide attack by Jaish-e-Mohammed militants on the legislative assembly in Srinagar, followed by the attack on Parliament on Dec.13

## **2008**

Protests erupt in the Valley over transfer of 99 acres of land to the Amarnath Shrine Board. Violent counter-protests in Jammu when revoked.

## **2010**

Unrest in Valley after it is learned that three terrorists killed in a foiled infiltration bid were actually civilians murdered by armed forces personnel.

## **February 10, 2013**

The hanging of Afzal Guru in Delhi for his alleged role in the 2001 Parliament attack sparks protest in the Valley.

## **May 2014**

PM Narendra Modi invites his Pakistani counterpart Nawaz Sharif to his swearing-in. Later, India scraps talks with Pakistan after its high commissioner invites Hurriyat separatists for consultations. Assembly poll sees 65 % voters' turnout.

## **2014-2015**

PDP and BJP come together in an antithetical alliance and Mufti Mohammad Sayeed becomes CM. Narendra Modi and his Pakistani counterpart Nawaz Sharif try to build bridges but NSA-level talks between India and Pakistan fall through again.

## **April 4, 2016**

Mehbooba Mufti becomes the state's first woman chief minister following a delay of three months of indecision after her father's death.

## **July 8, 2016**

Hizbul commander Burhan Wani is gunned down in an encounter with the J&K police, leading to violent protests and the imposition of indefinite curfews.

## **June 19, 2018**

BJP withdraws support to PDP. Mehbooba Mufti resigns as CM, Governor's rule imposed.

## **August 5, 2019**

The Modi government scraps J&K's special status granted under Article 370 and bifurcates the state into two union territories: Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.



# RECENT IMPORTANT LEGISLATIONS PERTAINING TO JAMMU AND KASHMIR AND LADAKH

## **Article 370**

Contrary to popular notion and media reports, the much spoken about Article 370 of the Indian constitution has neither been abrogated nor repealed, but rather has just been amended. To understand this, we will have to look at another historical decision taken in 1954.

The Article 370 of the constitution begins with the words “*Temporary provisions with respect to the State of Jammu and Kashmir.*” The reason for this was that J&K was promised its own constitution (except the issues of Defence, External affairs and Communications) which came into force in 1956. But the Indian constitution came into force in 1950. Therefore, a link between the State of Bharat and State of J&K was required in order to fill this gap till the constitution of J&K was constituted.

Article 370(1)(d) provides for any presidential order which can be passed in relation to the state of J&K provided it doesn't contradict the provisions of the Instrument of Accession. Thus, a Presidential order was passed on the 14<sup>th</sup> of May 1954 called “The Constitution (Application to Jammu & Kashmir) Order, 1954.” This Presidential order essentially dictated the manner in which the Indian constitution would behave with the state of Jammu and Kashmir that day onwards (Article 2). Some examples of the same are:

- i. The order provides for no alteration possible with the state of J&K stating - *“no Bill providing for increasing or diminishing the area of the State of Jammu and Kashmir or altering the name or boundary of that State shall be introduced in Parliament without the consent of the Legislature of that State”*.
- ii. It provides for exclusion of STs from article 15(4) stating - *In clause (4) of article 15, the reference to Scheduled Tribes shall be omitted.*

Article 15(4) says: *“Nothing in this article or in clause ( 2 ) of Article 29 shall prevent the State from making any special provision for the advancement of any socially and educationally backward classes of citizens or for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes”*

- i. It also states how would an emergency be imposed on the state of J&K - *“To article 352, “the following new clause shall be added, namely- “(4) No Proclamation of Emergency made on grounds only of internal disturbance or imminent danger thereof shall have effect in relation to the State of Jammu and Kashmir (except as respects article 354) unless it is made at the request or with the concurrence of the Government of that State.””*
- ii. The order also brought into place the article 35(a) of the constitution stating broadly: *“35A. Saving of laws with respect to permanent residents and their rights —Notwithstanding anything contained in this Constitution, no existing law in force in the State of Jammu and Kashmir, and no law hereafter enacted by the Legislature of the State, — (a) defining the classes of persons who are, or shall be, permanent residents of the State of Jammu and Kashmir...”*

In simple terms what happened on the 5<sup>th</sup> of August 2019 was that a new Presidential Order was passed (The Constitution (Application to Jammu & Kashmir) Order, 2019) which overruled the earlier Presidential Order of 1954. The Presidential order of 2019 specifically states that *“It shall*

*come into force at once, and shall thereupon supersede the Constitution (Application to Jammu and Kashmir) Order, 1954 as amended from time to time*". The Order of 2019 also states that all the provisions of the constitution that are applicable to the rest of the State of Bharat, shall be applicable to the state of J&K now.

## **J&K Reorganisation Act, 2019**

Under normal circumstances, if a state is to be divided into 2 or more states or two or more states are to be merged, there has to be a bill passed in both the parliament as well as the legislative assembly of the state(s) concerned. This was specifically debarred in J&K via the Presidential order of 1954. But after it was overruled by the new order, the parliament passed the J&K Reorganisation Act, 2019 which essentially divided the state of J&K into the Union Territories of J&K and Ladakh.

The act provided for Ladakh to be a Union Territory with a legislature (Like Delhi) and J&K to be a Union Territory without a legislature (Like Puducherry). Two very important sections of this act are:

- i. Section 13: *“On and from the appointed day, the provisions contained in article 239A, which are applicable to “Union territory of Puducherry”, shall also apply to the “Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir”.”*
- ii. Section 88 which deals with the appointment of the Civil servants in the Union Territory of J&K

One major question that arises in all this is whether the central govt was morally or even legally justified in assuming the role of the state assembly as the assembly was dissolved and passing the act.

# DDC ELECTIONS J&K 2020

J&K saw its first election post the amendment and abridging with respect to article 2020. The District Council (DDC) in the UT of J&K of the same were

Sr No	Party Name	Total Seats Won
1	BJP	75
2	J&K NC	67
3	Independent	49
4	J&K PDP	27
5	INC	26
6	JKAP	12
7	JKPC	8
8	CPI (M)	5
9	JKPM	3
10	JKNPP	2
11	PDF	2
12	BSP	1

370 in December Development elections were held and the outcomes as follows:

While BJP emerged as the largest single party with 75 seats, the Gupkar Alliance (consisting of NC, PDP, JKPC, CPI(M) and oths) bagged 110 seats.

The Voter turnout in the Jammu region was approximately 70% while in the Valley was approximately 30-35%. Comparing the demography vs vote percentage for all parties reveals one thing crystal clear about Kashmir – people there are still preferring BJP in Hindu Majority areas while the NC, PDP, etc are preferred in Muslim dominant areas.

# **DELIMITATION**

The Union government's **invitation to 14 key political leaders** from Jammu and Kashmir for a meeting with the Prime Minister in the national capital has led to speculation about possible scheduling of the Assembly elections. On Independence Day last year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had said elections would be held in J&K after the delimitation process in the Union Territory was over. Delimitation is crucial for kick-starting the political process in J&K.

## **What is delimitation and why is it needed?**

Delimitation is the act of redrawing boundaries of an Assembly or Lok Sabha seat to represent changes in population over time. This exercise is carried out by a Delimitation Commission, whose orders have the force of law and cannot be questioned before any court. The objective is to redraw boundaries (based on the data of the last Census) in a way so that the population of all seats, as far as practicable, be the same throughout the State. Aside from changing the limits of a constituency, the process may result in change in the number of seats in a state.

## **How often has delimitation been carried out in J&K?**

Delimitation exercises in J&K in the past have been slightly different from those in the rest of the country because of the region's special status — which was scrapped by the Centre in August 2019. Until then, delimitation of Lok Sabha seats in J&K was governed by the Constitution of India, but the delimitation of the state's Assembly seats

was governed by the Jammu and Kashmir Constitution and Jammu and Kashmir Representation of the People Act, 1957.

Assembly seats in J&K were delimited in 1963, 1973 and 1995. The last exercise was conducted by the Justice (retired) K K Gupta Commission when the state was under President's Rule and was based on the 1981 census, which formed the basis of the state elections in 1996. There was no census in the state in 1991 and no Delimitation Commission was set up by the state government after the 2001 census as the J&K Assembly passed a law putting a freeze on the fresh delimitation of seats until 2026. This freeze was upheld by the Supreme Court. The J&K Assembly, at that time, had 87 seats — 46 in Kashmir, 37 in Jammu and 4 in Ladakh. Twenty-four more seats are reserved for Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. The freeze, some political parties argue, has created inequity for Jammu region.

### **Why is it in the news again?**

After the abrogation of J&K's special status in 2019, delimitation of Lok Sabha and Assembly seats in the newly-created Union Territory would be as per the provisions of the Indian Constitution. On March 6, 2020, the government set up the Delimitation Commission, headed by retired Supreme Court judge Ranjana Prakash Desai, which was tasked with winding up delimitation in J&K in a year. As per the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Bill, the number of Assembly seats in J&K would increase from 107 to 114, which is expected to benefit the Jammu region.

Apart from Desai, Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra and J&K State Election Commissioner K K Sharma are the ex-officio members of the delimitation panel. That apart, the panel has five associate members

— National Conference MPs Farooq Abdullah, Mohammad Akbar Lone and Hasnain Masoodi, Union Minister of State in the Prime Minister’s Office Dr Jitendra Singh, and Jugal Kishore Sharma of the BJP.

## **What is the status of the Delimitation Commission set up in 2020?**

Although the Commission was tasked to finish delimitation in a year, on March 4 this year, it was granted a year’s extension. This was done on the request of the panel members since it couldn’t make much progress due to the Covid-19-induced shutdown across the country. Moreover, J&K State Election Commissioner Sharma was appointed only on October 30 last year, following which he was busy with the District Development Council (DDC) polls in J&K that concluded last December. So, in effect, the Commission could start functioning properly, with all members in place, only this year. In February, it called a meeting of its five associate members, of who just two attended.

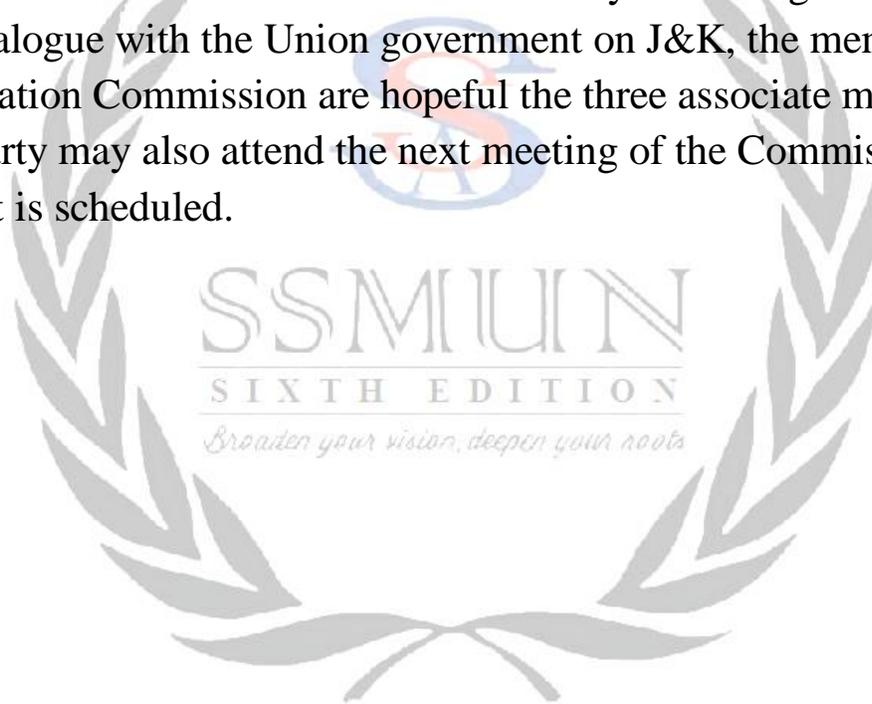
Early this month, the Election Commission wrote to Deputy Commissioners of all 20 districts in J&K seeking fresh information on several aspects including population density and topography in all the districts and Assembly constituencies. All districts have shared information. “This was done to study the geographical spread of the Assembly seats, to see whether a seat is within one district or spread over several districts,” said a source.

## **What has been the political response been so far?**

The Commission’s work got off a rocky start when its meeting in February with the five associate members (who are meant to be elected

representatives from the UT) was attended by just two. And these two members were Dr Jitendra Singh and Jugal Kishore Sharma of the BJP. National Conference MPs Farooq Abdullah, Mohammad Akbar Lone and Hasnain Masoodi refused to participate, stating that the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act of 2019 was “palpably unconstitutional” and that till the time the Supreme Court decides the constitutional validity of this law, no decisions (read delimitation) emanating from the Act should be implemented.

However, with the National Conference recently indicating that it is open for dialogue with the Union government on J&K, the members of the Delimitation Commission are hopeful the three associate members from the party may also attend the next meeting of the Commission whenever it is scheduled.



# **NATIONAL SECURITY ISSUES**

## **The Threat of Drone Attacks:**

Drones will be an integral part of the future of warfare and India must be ready to face its threats and utilize its opportunities. India can take assistance from Israel, which has world-leading technologies when it comes to drones. India has already ordered “Smash 200 plus” from Israel which is an anti-drone sight system which helps to lock the targeted drone.

The threat to India just increases when it gets to know that China will be selling 50 armed drones (Wing Loong II) to Pakistan. These are expected to be delivered to Pakistan in 1-2 years. The need of the hour is to purchase advanced radar systems which can track drones, which generally, due to its small size, escapes the normal radars.

## **The attack on June 27th**

With every passing day, the threat on Indian security is increasing, thanks to our friendly neighbour. On the intermediate night of 26- 27th June, drones were used to attack a technical area of Jammu Air Force Station, it was the first drone attack on any defence establishment in India. Two drones were used to drop improvised explosive devices (IED). However, to our relief, there was not any major damage caused by this incident, as one of them exploded in a relatively open area and the other caused minor damages. No casualties occurred and there was no damage to any equipment but two IAF personnel were injured. The area is obviously a high security zone, which makes such an attack even

more of a concern for the Indian Government and national security experts.

Just a few days before this attack, Indian National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, had spoken about the need to ensure that new technologies, including drones, must be kept out of reach of terrorist groups while meeting with his counterparts at Shanghai.

India is waking up to this reality and purchasing attack drones, for example, Heron Drones from Israel.

### **Militancy:**

Even after two years of revocation of Article 370, which was supposed to bring down the militancy level, it is still a major challenge in the region. As per official data, 163 local youths had joined the militant ranks in the year 2020 while the first seven months of 2021 have seen over 80 such cases. During the period between January till July, Indian military forces had killed a total of 90 militants, which are a part of terrorist groups based in Pakistan including the Jaishe Mohammad (JeM) and Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT). According to the official report published, it can be observed that the number of citizens killed in such incidents have reduced between the 2017-2019 period. Also, there has been a decrease in killing of civilians in the region. In the period between August of 2017 till July of 2019, a total of 135 civilians died during different militancy-related incidents as compared to the period between August of 2019 to July of 2021, only 72 such deaths were reported.

India still has a long way to go to neutralize the threat of militancy but it is on the path to do so. What is needed is the will to act. We hope this committee members are able to unite to fight this threat, together.

## **Stand-off between India-China**

### **Recent Buffer Zone:**

After the 12th round of commander level talks between India and China, they agreed to disengage from Petrol Point 17A (Gogra). Both the nations ended forward deployment there and moved their troops to their respective permanent bases. This was carried out on the 4&5th of August. Also, the temporary structures built by both the parties were all dismantled and verified, restoring the pre-standoff status quo of the area.

India must keep in mind that China has not moved out from other strategically important locations such as PP15 and the Hot Springs area. These give China an advantageous position and bargaining capacity.

### **Presence of cave-routes**

The Border Security Force in January, 2021 discovered a 150-metre-long underground tunnel in Jammu and Kashmir that had been used by Pakistani intelligence to infiltrate terrorists into India. This was the second tunnel to be spotted in less than two weeks by the border guarding force that last year went on campaign mode to detect and destroy a plethora of tunnels built by Pakistan's deep state.

The tunnel which is 30 feet deep was found between the Border Post number fourteen and fifteen situated near the Border Security Forces's outpost located at Pansar and Kathua district. The other part of the fence is located in Pakistani border outposts of Abhiyal Dogra and Kingre-de-Kothe in Shakargarh district.

Pakistan's Shakargarh, the area across the fence, is also home to a terror training facility managed by Kasim Jan, who is also one of JeM's operational commander. According to Indian Intelligence agencies, he was also involved in the Nagrota encounter of November 19th in Jammu and the principal accused in the 2016 for the airbase attack located in Pathankoth.

## **DEVELOPMENT PACKAGE FOR J&K**

Government approves Central Sector Scheme for Industrial Development of Jammu & Kashmir. For the first time, any industrial incentive scheme is taking the industrial development to the block level. Scheme is upto the year 2037 at a total cost of Rs. 28,400 crore.

Scheme while encouraging new investment, also nurtures the existing industries in J&K by providing them working capital support at the rate of 5% for 5 years.

Main purpose of the scheme is to generate employment which directly leads to the socio economic development of the region.

Aims at development of Manufacturing as well as Service Sector Units in J&K.

Scheme visualises larger role of UT of J&K.

PIB Release: [click here](#)

## **Development Projects in Ladakh:**

Developmental projects undertaken are as follows:

- In January 2020, the NITI Aayog and administration of Ladakh have collectively decided to develop a strategic plan and provide support to specific projects with regards to tourism, solar energy and others infrastructural development projects.
- In June 2020, the Central Government had announced its goal to achieve complete telecom connectivity in each and every part of Ladakh. The project will be undertaken by BSNL using the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF).
- In January 2021, the Government had approved plans for eight hydropower projects in the Ladakh region.
- In February 2021, an agreement was made between ONGC and the administration of Ladakh for developing a geothermal power project (200 MW).
- In April 2021, a centre of excellence and wellness was established by the Indian Army in collaboration with HPCL in order guide the youth of Ladakh and prepare them for medical as well engineering examinations in order to pursue these careers further.
- In May 2021, the government had approved an intra-state transmission project of Rs. 1,309.71 crore to provide grid connectivity especially in the remote villages of Ladakh.
- In June 2021, Convergence Energy Services Limited (CESL) made an agreement with the administration of Ladakh in order to implement various energy-efficient programmes including solar power projects with the primary objective being clean & efficient energy and making the Union Territory carbon neutral.

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

Developmental projects undertaken are as follows:

### **Higher Education-**

- Construction of 22 Degree Colleges
- Establishment of 2 Culture Universities
- IIM, Jammu
- IIMC, Jammu

### **Health and Medical Education-**

- Medical College, Rajouri
- Medical College Baramulla
- Medical College Anantnag
- 200 Bedded Maternity Hospital, Jammu
- 200 Bedded Maternity Hospital, Srinagar

### **Public works-**

- National Highway-44, Jammu-Srinagar
- Semi Ring Road Jammu/Srinagar
- Construction of Drung Tosamaidan Road viz Sitaharan
- Upgradation of Magan Beeru Budgam Road

### **Power development-**

- Integrated Power Development Scheme (IPDS) 86 towns
- Hydroelectric projects by J&K SPDC/CVPPL
- Deendayal Upadhyay Gram Jyoti Yojna

## **WHAT NEXT?**

The next step is likely to be delimitation of the J&K legislative assembly, where the seats are heavily skewed in favour of the valley than Jammu who has a greater population and size. With the passage of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Bill, the central government will go for a massive crackdown on separatist elements, who will no longer have the cover of the state laws. BJP party line adopted to explain how Article 370 had stifled Kashmir 's development, kept people backward and only made certain political families prosper. It's worth noting here that while economic growth in the state has been fitful and per capita income below national average, the poverty rate in J&K was half the national average and the state 's human development index was above the national average.

The valley has been numbed by the move and the presence of security forces in such huge numbers. Security forces on the ground fear a volcano of violence is waiting to erupt. Some Kashmiris also sense this move as a loss of identity.

Kashmir 's economy has been hit hard with every sector downsizing and suffering huge losses. Former J&K Finance Minister feels that though businesses cite bar on purchase of land by outsiders and the security threat as major deterrents, the problem has been Kashmir 's disputed tag by the UN. Also, since years, there has also been a near of the Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) in the state. Of the 339 CPSEs in India, only 3 are in J&K.

The Government is endeavouring to attract FDIs and private investments in the state, and a talk of holding a business summit in November have also been initiated.

But Business houses are likely to hold back big-ticket investments until there is a definite sense of political stability in Kashmir. Empirical evidence also suggests very little correlation between what is announced and what finally gets implemented on the ground. Employment remains key, and an announcement has been made those 50,000 vacancies for government posts will be filled up soon. More than Article 370, the bigger concern for people is whether the Apple plucking season will proceed unhindered. Despite the dilution of Article 370, security officials feel it to be extremely difficult to resettle Kashmiri Pandit refugees immediately in the valley, given the hostility and terrorists in the loss. August 5's decision might polarize the state even further along regional and religious lines.

Amit Shah directly reached out to the people of Kashmir and said —Give us five years, and we will make Jammu and Kashmir the most developed state in the country..... I want to tell the youth of Kashmir valley: have faith in the Narendra Modi government. Nothing negative will happen. But convincing the people of Kashmir to trust the Home minister 's words will be no easy task. For now, given the massive incarceration of Kashmiri leaders, the silence of the valley is deafening. But this silence of the valley cannot be taken as given or eternal. Hence, we all are here, in this august council of states, to analyse the past and what lies on the ground in the erstwhile state, thus discussing prudential points and arguments, and making the present better with a Naya Kashmir, ensuring the best for the future.

**Let's see what this committee decides  
about the fate of these two UTs.**