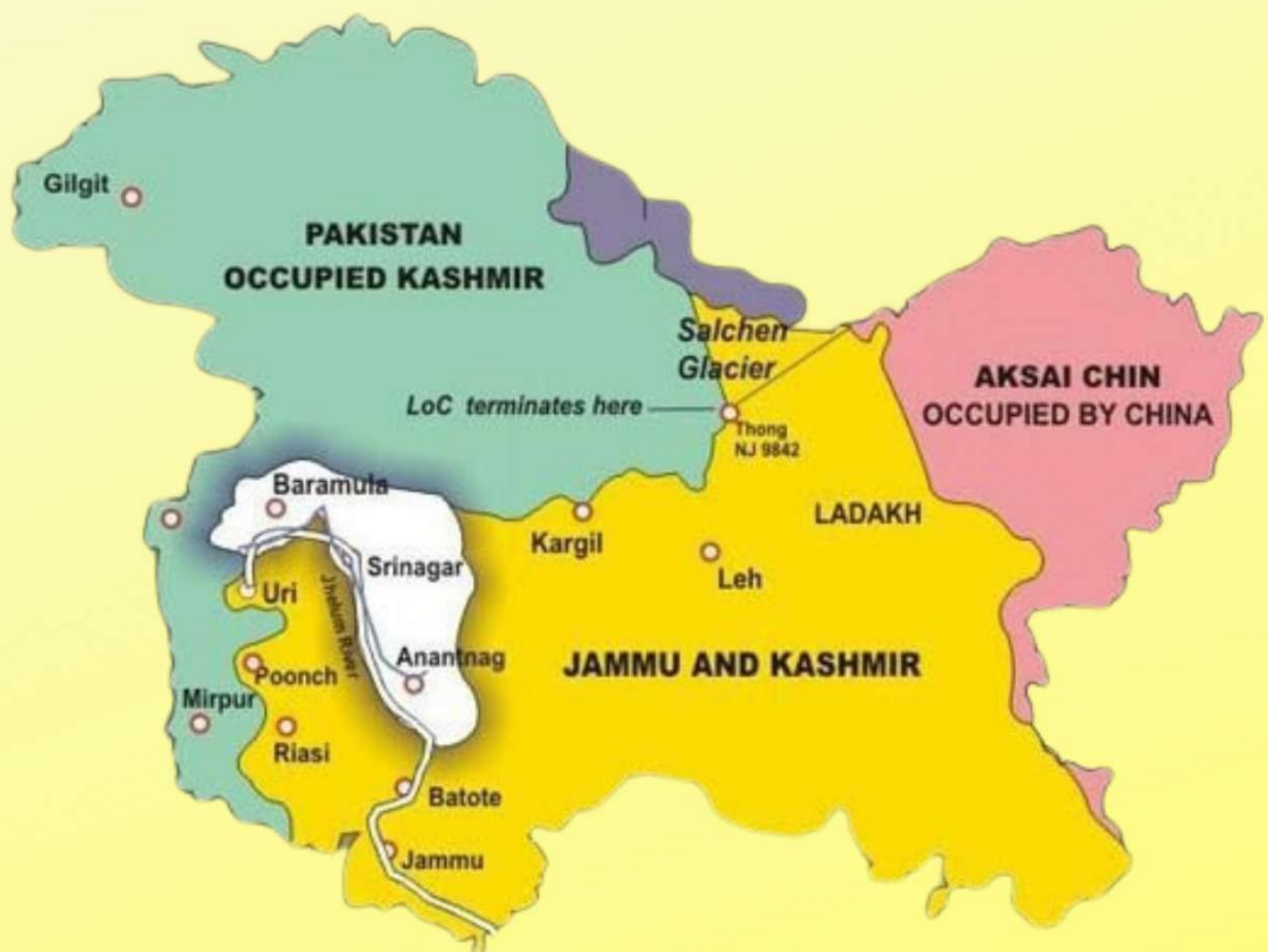


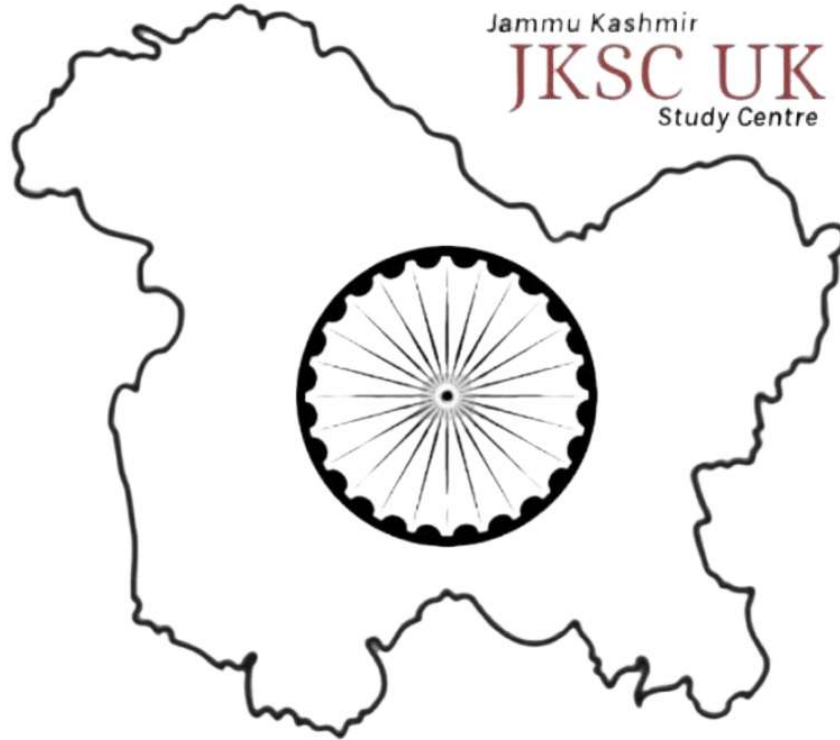
Jammu & Kashmir

Sankalp Diwas (Resolution Day)



Jammu Kashmir Study Center, UK

ABOUT JKSC



Jammu and Kashmir Study Centre (JKSC) is a think-tank committed to in-depth research and study of Jammu and Kashmir.

The primary objective of JKSC in the United Kingdom (UK) is to serve as a credible source for comprehensive information about the region, contributing to effective communication and understanding.

PREAMBLE

The Parliament of the Republic of India
Unanimously resolved on **22nd February 1994** that

- (a) The State of Jammu & Kashmir has been, is and shall be an integral part of India and any attempts to separate it from the rest of the country will be resisted by all necessary means.
- (b) India has the will and capacity to firmly counter all designs against its unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

and demands that

- (c) Pakistan must vacate the areas of the Indian State of Jammu and Kashmir, which they have occupied through aggression; and resolves that –
- (d) All attempts to interfere in the internal affairs of India will be met resolutely.

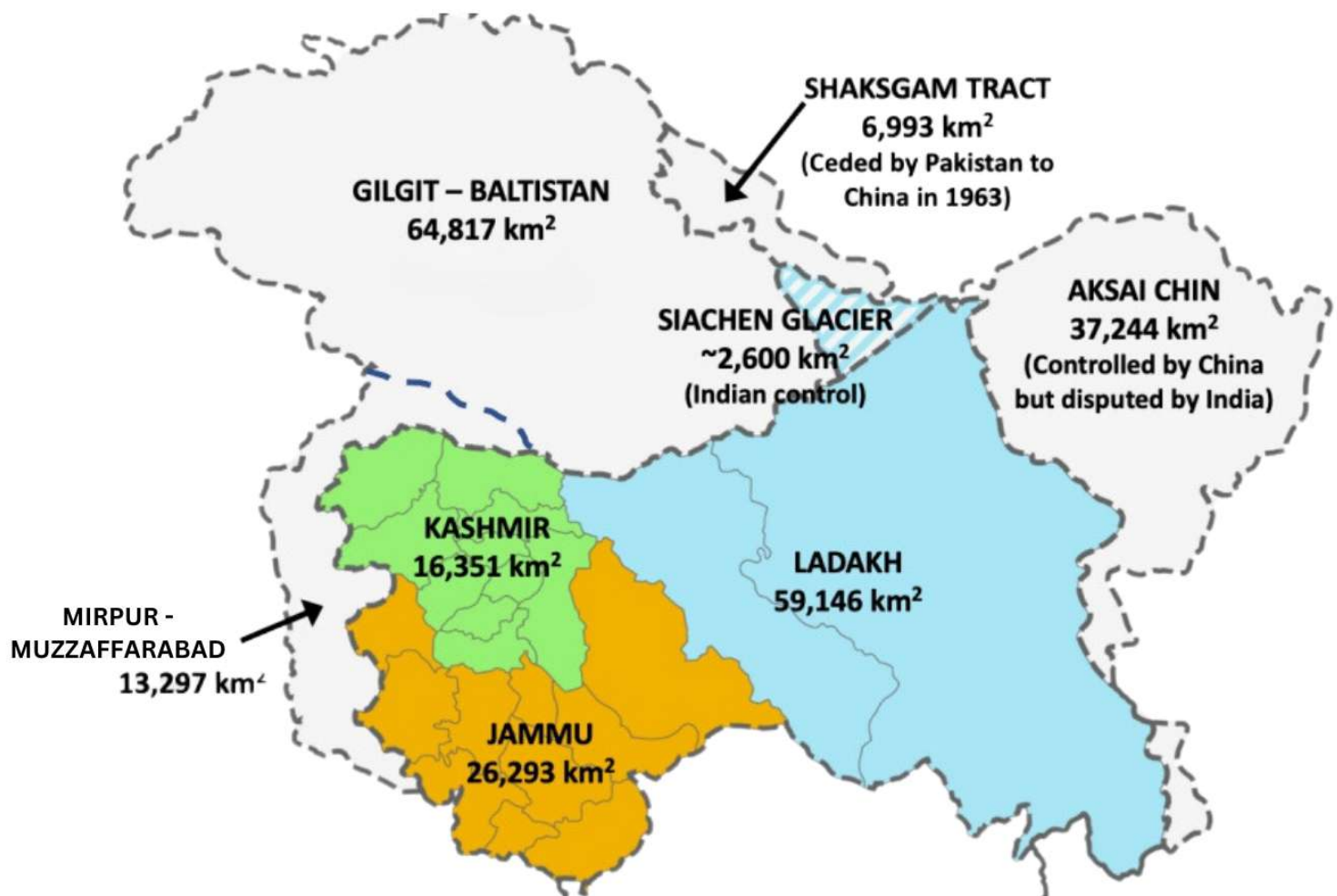
-- Govt of India
22--February-1994



AREAS UNDER OCCUPATION

The occupied territories of the (erstwhile) State of Jammu and Kashmir consist of **Mirpur-Muzaffarabad** areas (c.14,000 sq km), identified as PoJK (Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir) and falsely termed 'Azad Jammu Kashmir' by Pakistan. This area is part of the present day **Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir**. Additionally, c. 73,000 sq km territory of **Gilgit and Baltistan** is occupied by Pakistan, which is part of the present day **Union Territory of Ladakh**. It is identified as POTL. (Pakistan-occupied Territory of Ladakh)

Challenges in Mirpur-Muzzaffarabad and Gilgit Baltistan



A Facade of Democracy



JKPNA Protest Rally at Muzaffarabad on 26 August 2019. The protestors marched from the Press Club to camp office of UN Military Observers, demanding Independence and merger of GB

There exists a facade of democracy in the **Pakistan occupied territories of Jammu, Kashmir & Ladakh**. India has reserved 24 seats in the Legislative assembly for residents of the occupied regions. Unfortunately, these seats **remain vacant due to continuous occupation**.

The people of POJK & POTL feel disempowered, unable to govern their areas for a better life.

Mirpur-Muzaffarabad is governed through the 1974 Interim Constitution Act through executive bodies that are presided over by the Prime Minister of Pakistan. The **'Azad' Kashmir Council, led by the Prime Minister of Pakistan**, has the highest authority over the regions legislative body. Its decisions are immune to review by the courts. The 1974 Act places strict control, barring participation from those not supporting Jammu & Kashmir's accession to Pakistan. Leaders in Mirpur-Muzaffarabad, like the President, Prime Minister, and Speaker, pledge loyalty to Pakistan and its cause. Under Section 56 of the Act, imposed by the Azad Kashmir Council, Pakistan can remove any elected government in Mirpur-Muzaffarabad, regardless of public support. This power has been frequently used, especially in 1975 and during political changes in Pakistan.

The 13th Amendment in 2018 further amplified Islamabad's control allowing Pakistani officials to hold power over legislation, appointments, policies, budget, and security.

The Pakistan Army and ISI wield significant influence over administrative affairs, undermining the democratic rights of the populace. Actions undertaken by defense and security forces, responsible for maintaining public order, are not bound by fundamental rights. Furthermore, freedom of speech is curtailed under the pretext of maintaining amicable relations with Pakistan.

For decades, **Gilgit-Baltistan lacked effective governance** until the introduction of the **Gilgit Baltistan Empowerment and Self-Governance Order in 2009**, later supplanted by the 2018 Gilgit-Baltistan Order.



"No person or political party shall be allowed to take part in activities prejudicial or detrimental to the ideology of state's accession to Pakistan."

- Interim Constitution Act of 1974.

However, elected representatives hold minimal powers, with ultimate authority vested in the Governor, appointed by the President of Pakistan. The Gilgit-Baltistan Council, under the leadership of the Prime Minister of Pakistan, exert substantial influence, with the power to appoint most members and make critical decisions. **Notably, the Chief Minister lacks the authority to form a cabinet**, which falls under the purview of the Governor. Additionally, the Council, rather than the Assembly, holds sway over vital issues such as natural resources and education. Similar to Mirpur and Muzaffarabad, any legislation contrary to Pakistan's ideology is prohibited in Gilgit-Baltistan.



Loss of Indigenous Identity

People in **Gilgit-Baltistan**, protest against Pakistan's manipulation of their history, culture, and language. The Balti language and script face neglect in government schools, risking irreversible damage. Pakistani government insists on using Urdu script, considering it more aligned with Islamic identity. Authorities discourage the promotion of Balti culture, affecting social bonding and identity. Traditional artists and performers face declining demand, leading to **livelihood loss**. Villages' names are changed to **sever historical ties with Ladakh and Tibet**.

Calls for reopening the Skardu-Kargil road and **re-establishing links with Ladakh and Tibet** persist. Until 2009, Gilgit-Baltistan was called 'Northern Areas,' disregarding its historical ties with Jammu and Kashmir, aiming to erase pre-1947 political realities and indigenous identities. These ties are closer to Ladakh, Kashmir and Tibet than to other parts of modern-day Pakistan. Until recently, thousands of residents from Gilgit-Baltistan carried out **symbolic marches towards the Line of Control (LoC)** to reaffirm their historical and cultural connection.



Appalling Socio Economic Conditions and Human Rights Violations

In Mirpur-Muzaffarabad and Gilgit-Baltistan, **limited development investment, restricted educational opportunities, inadequate medical infrastructure, widespread unemployment and poverty**, and no avenue for appealing judgments by judges appointed by Pakistan are prevalent. The region faces restrictions on political pluralism, freedom of expression and association, with **a suppressed press, banned books, and arbitrary arrests**, as highlighted by the European Parliament resolution (May 24, 2007), Human Rights Watch report (2006), and Human Rights Commission of Pakistan findings (2004).

Recent protests arise due to **heavy taxation** on daily items. Locals face **challenges accessing necessities** like clean water and reliable electricity, enduring 18-22 hour power cuts, notably in cold Gilgit-Baltistan winters. Residents argue Pakistan exploits resources, causing suffering through illegal land grabbing and leasing to China for mining. The administration **lacks understanding of the non-Sunni majority**, constituting 75% of the population.



Local Opposition to Strong Chinese presence

China's significant investments in POTL include a **Rs. 442 billion** contract for the **Diamer-Bhasha dam** and the opening of the **Karakoram Highway**, connecting Xinjiang with Gilgit-Baltistan. Pakistan ceded Shaksgam to China in 1963 as compensation for the highway. Reports suggest that China is digging more than 22 tunnels in Gilgit Baltistan for the deployment of missiles, while other areas in Gilgit Baltistan are being explored for natural mineral deposits, especially gold resources. Notably, China has also built as many as 16 airstrips on the road to facilitate the jet planes, a development which is quite alarming for **peace and stability in the entire South Asian region**.

Locals in Gilgit Baltistan **oppose the China Pakistan Economic Corridor**, anticipating negative environmental impacts. The region, rich in copper, coal, iron, silver, and gold, faces concerns as factories established during corridor construction may exploit its minerals without providing royalties to the local population. Pakistan is allowing Chinese companies to bring in workers from China while tens of thousands of local college graduates remain jobless. When locals complain, they face treason and terrorism charges by the Pakistan army.

Terrorist Infrastructure

Terrorist organisations, approximately 104 in number, including designated groups like Lashkar-e-Toiba, Jaish-e-Muhammad, Hizbul Mujahideen, have established training camps in POJK in towns such as Muzaffarabad, Kotli, and Balakot. These camps have reportedly hosted recruits from different parts of the world, including the United Kingdom. Incidents of abductions, forced labour, and human rights violations have been reported, particularly in border areas and the Neelam Valley. Due to the absence of local media, many such incidents go unnoticed. A Human Rights Watch report highlights Pakistan's complicity in using POJK as a safe haven for terrorist organizations. The Mumbai terrorist attackers in 2008 were known to have been trained in POJK. A BBC report in February 2008 revealed a meeting of banned terror outfits in the region, including Lashkar-e-Toiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed. The long-term implication of allowing terrorist networks to retain their training and recruitment bases in PoJK is concerning, posing potential threats to regional and global security.



JKNSF Rally on 11 February 2019 at Muzaffarabad to condemn the Pakistan Army's brutal acts, including enforced disappearances and torture of political activists and students. 'yeh jo deshatgardi hai, uske piche vardi hai'

Long-awaited Growth, Progress and Empowerment initiatives in Jammu & Kashmir



Improved Security Dynamics

DESCRIPTION	2018	DEC - 2023
Terrorist Initiated Incidents	228	44
Encounters	189	48
Civilians killed	55	13
Security personnel killed in action	91	26
Organized stone pelting incidents (related to terrorism and separatism)	1221	0
Organized hartals (impact of hartals observed on grounds)	52	0

Law and order in Kashmir has markedly improved, witnessing an end to bandhs and street violence. Reinforced security measures in J&K have led to a **70% decline in terrorism**, an **81% decrease in civilian deaths**, and a **48% drop in security force personnel** deaths since **the abrogation of Article 370**. The government's crackdown on **terror financing, outlawing of terrorist organisations, a robust security and intelligence grid, proactive operations against terrorists, intensified night patrolling and a high level of alertness** maintained by the security forces have contributed to these positive trends. Local recruitment in Kashmir has notably decreased, with around a dozen local youth joining terrorist organisations in 2023, compared to 160 in 2020, 125 in 2021, and 100 in 2022.

Despite these improvements, concerns persist, particularly regarding civilian killings, notably of Kashmiri Hindus and non-Kashmiri residents. The government is actively implementing a "zero terror plan" to address these challenges.

Significant Socio-Economic Development

- **Increased GDP:** J&K's GDP has doubled to over Rs 2.25 lakh crore, which was Rs 1 lakh crore before the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019
- **Exponentially High Budgetary Allocations:** The proposed Interim Budget of 2024 for Jammu and Kashmir amounts to Rs 1.18 lakh crore, approx \$14.16 billion - shows govt's commitment for J&K's rapid growth
- **Transformative Employment Generation Projects:** More than 770,000 young Kashmiris have reportedly benefited from the UT administration's self-employment and entrepreneurial training schemes. In fiscal 2022-23, nearly 252 projects and development works were completed per day.
- **Scale and Speed of Infrastructure Development:** The number of infrastructural projects completed during a financial year rose from 9,229 in 2018 to over 92,560 in 2022-23, with approximately the same capital expenditure. Data reveals that over Rs.1.50 lakh crores was allotted to the building of new roads across J&K.
- **Robust implementation of Central Welfare Schemes:** 100% electrification under SAUBHAGYA scheme, ensuring "last mile connectivity" and universal household electrification. Under the Ujjwala scheme, 12.41 lakh rural women have been provided LPG connections
- **Opening the Region to Investments:** A New Central Sector Scheme for the Industrial Development of Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, with an outlay of Rs. 28,400 crores and has received 5,372 investment proposals worth Rs 70,000 crore, Proposals worth Rs 24,000 crore from more than 1,800 companies have been approved.



Polo View High Street, Srinagar



Chenab Railway Bridge



Seeding Growth for
ANNADATAS
of Jammu & Kashmir



Ravi Canal Project
worth Rs. 62 crore
completed

**Tassar Chalan Teen
Tal Project** worth
Rs 45 crore completed

**Phase-III of flood
management of
Jhelum & tributaries**
worth Rs 399 crore
completed

**Shahpur Kandi Dam
project** completed

**Desilting completed
for Jammu's major
canals** after 70 years

**Rs. 5,013 crore scheme
for comprehensive
agricultural**



**Unleashing Ease of Living
in J&K with Abrogation of
Article 370**



THEN

NOW

Connecting Villages - Ensuring Prosperity

158 Km/Year
(PMGSY roads)

8,068
Km/Year



Ensuring a Roof over Every Family

24,000 homes
since independence

1.45 lakh
homes in 5 years!



Realising the Dream of Har Ghar Nal se Jal

7.82
lakh homes
with Tap Water connection

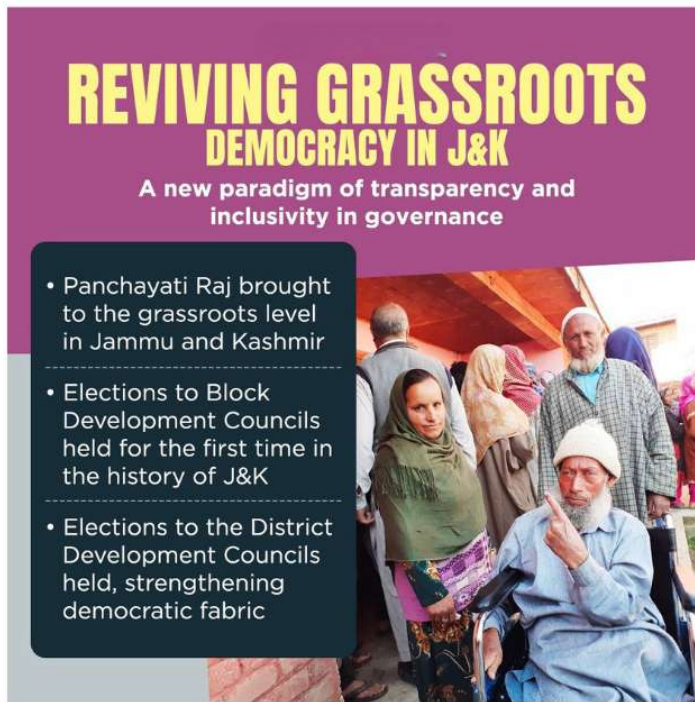
13
lakh homes
with Tap Water connection



66% Increase in Pension Beneficiaries

6 lakh

10 lakh



Strengthening Grassroots Democracy

The Union Territory of J&K has successfully implemented a **3-tier Panchayati Raj System**, bringing about transformative changes in local governance. Both Panchayats and Urban Local Bodies have been strengthened through the transfer of Funds, Functions, and Functionaries.

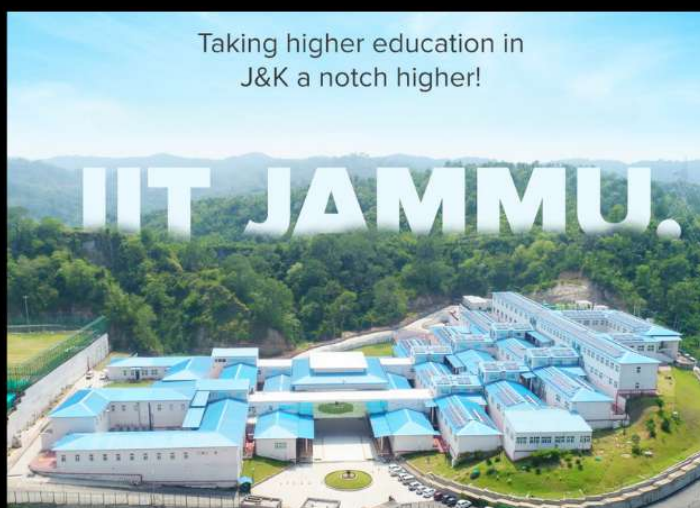
- In October 2019 **elections for Block Development Councils** were held for the very **first time** in the history of J&K, with a historic turnout of 98.3%
- The amendment to the J&K Panchayati Raj Act in October 2020 facilitated the establishment of **District Development Councils**, representing the final tier of the system.
- Prompt elections were conducted for these Councils resulting in the **election of 35,000 representatives**. These grassroots leaders now wield the authority to shape the future of their villages, tehsils, and districts.

Investment in Youth Development

Expansion in education opportunities : Plan is underway for the establishment of **All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS)** in both the Jammu and Kashmir regions. The **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Jammu** and the **Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu** have already commenced operations. The number of government degree colleges and engineering colleges has witnessed a **significant rise** from **96 to 147** in the region.

With a specific emphasis on medical education, **seven new medical colleges, two State Cancer Institutes, and 15 nursing colleges** have been successfully operationalized. This concerted effort reflects a commitment to enhancing educational infrastructure and healthcare facilities in the area.

Enhanced sports investment : Initiation of the annual **Khelo India Winter Games** in Kashmir since 2020 is drawing numerous participants. Each panchayat in Jammu and Kashmir now boasts sports facilities, surpassing the target of **engaging 50 lakh youths** in sports activities.



Restoring Cultural Heritage and Unprecedented Tourist Footfall

With an impressive **12.7 m tourists till June 2023**, the region anticipates **exceeding the 18.8 m tourist count in 2022**. Hotel construction, paying-guest accommodations, and tourist infrastructure are on the rise. Film shootings, adventure, and religious tourism are growing, with over 400 permissions granted for productions since the Film Policy's implementation in 2021.

For the first time in **75 years**, the **Mātā Śārda Devi Temple** in Kupwara District, Jammu and Kashmir, was illuminated during Diwali, aiming to revive the pilgrimage to **Śārda Peeth Temple** in PoJK. This temple holds significance not only for Kashmiris but the entire nation. Simultaneously, the **8th Muharram procession**, returning after **34 years**, witnessed **over 25,000 Shia Muslims**, highlighting Kashmir's rich cultural diversity, where **Shias constitute 20-25%** of the Muslim population.



Championing Social Justice & Human Rights

Building a More Equitable Society

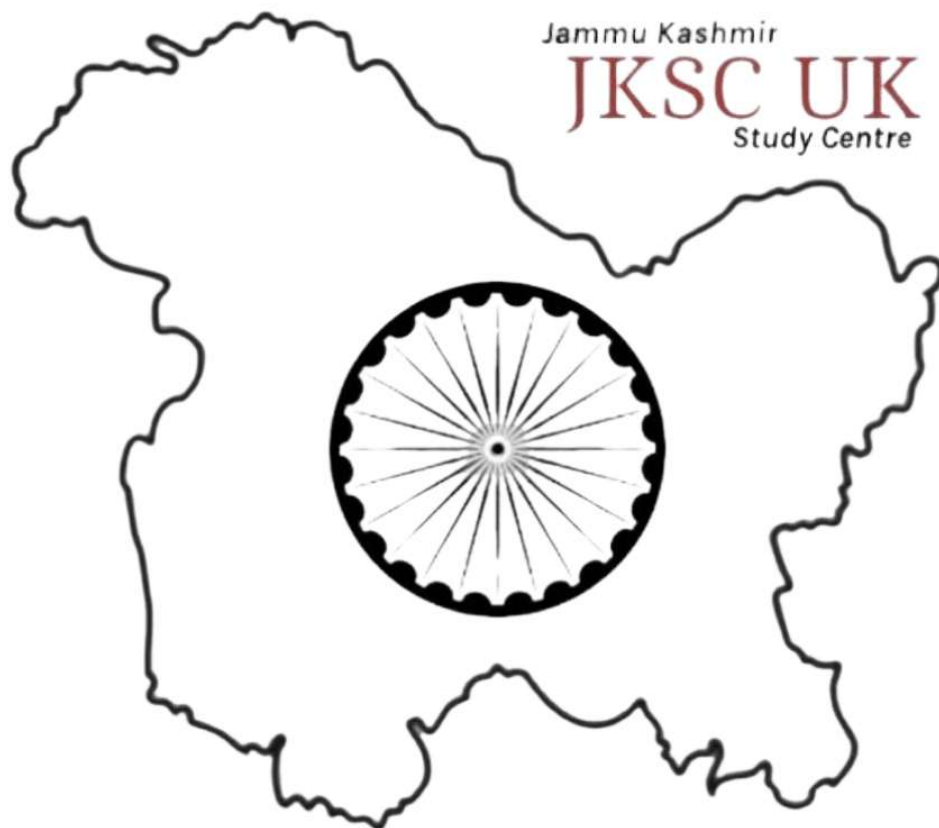
- For the first time since the Constitution's adoption, **marginalised native communities** have gained constitutional rights, addressing historical discrimination. Long-term residents have now received domicile status
- **Over 100,000 people** who **migrated from West Pakistan** to Jammu in 1947 are being granted **full citizenship and domicile rights**. This includes ownership rights for property, the right to vote, and eligibility for government jobs, bringing extensive benefits to marginalised communities.
- The **socio-economically disadvantaged tribal community**, (Gujjars, Bakarwals etc. - c.12% of the population), lacked political reservation. Now, they will have representation through reserved seats in the Regional Parliament, similar to the rest of the country.

Women's rights established

Women marrying outside the state of J&K can inherit property and ensure the same for their children

890 Progressive national laws now applicable to J&K

Laws impacting women and their rights like the Dowry Prohibition Act, Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act etc. are now applicable. The Right to Education, Maintenance & Welfare of Parents & Senior Citizens Act, National Commission for Minority Act, and other acts **benefiting the vulnerable in the society** are now also applicable in the region.



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