



Review paper

Abrogation of Article 370: constitutional transformation, political and strategic implications, and the security realities of Jammu & Kashmir within India's international relations framework

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Abstract

The constitutional position of Jammu and Kashmir has always been among the most controversial issues of Indian politics and international relations. Over decades, the region had been granted a special constitutional status as per Article 370 of the Constitution of India which allowed it a unique legal and administrative status in India. On 5 August 2019, one of the major constitutional and political rulings of the Government of India repealed Article 370 and reorganised the state into two Union Territories; Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. This was a historic change in governance, federal structure and political dynamics in the region. The key research question that was answered in this paper is to comprehend the way the abrogation of Article 370 has changed the constitutional, political, administrative and socio-economic environment of Jammu and Kashmir. This study aims at assessing the wider impacts of this ruling, especially regarding governance reforms, political redrawing, and security implications, foreign responses and prospects of development. The research design is a qualitative study that is grounded on the secondary sources of data. The academic books, scholarly journal articles, government reports, policy documents, and reliable news sources have been used to gather information. The study uses analysis and interpretative approaches to assess changes that have taken place in the region following the constitutional transformation of 2019. The most important findings of the study show that abrogation of Article 370 has influenced important constitutional and administrative processes, such as the introduction of Jammu and Kashmir as national legal systems and governance institutions. Although the move has presented new economic growth and development opportunities, infrastructure development, and investment possibilities, it has also brought forth political undertones, diplomatic response and regional stability issues associated with democratic representation and stability. Altogether, this research paper emphasizes that the success of the long-term effects of this constitutional change will be determined by the success of the governance, inclusion of the political processes, and socio-economic sustainable development in the region.

Keywords: Article 370 Abrogation; Jammu and Kashmir; Constitutional Transformation; Indian Federalism; Governance Reforms; Security Dynamics; International Relations; Socio-Economic Development; Federalism; Geopolitics.

Introduction

The Jammu and Kashmir problem has been one of the political issues that have been sensitive and complex in India since India became an independent state in 1947¹. The location makes the region of South Asia, Central Asia and China very geographically, politically, and strategically crucial. The Jammu and Kashmir princely state found itself in a complicated political situation after the partition of the British India in 1947 and this also helped the state in joining India. With this accession a special constitutional relationship was established between the region and the Indian Union². As shown in Figure 1³, the geographical position of Jammu and Kashmir puts it in a strategically sensitive position as it borders both Pakistan and China and this has rendered the region to have great significance in terms of security and international relations⁴. Article 370 to

the Constitution of India was added to regulate the special political situation that was involved in the accession. This clause accorded Jammu and Kashmir special status in the Indian Union in the constitution. Article 370 permitted the state to possess its own constitution, its own state flag and some degree of legislative autonomy. The authority of the Indian parliament was mostly restricted to the issues concerning defence, foreign affairs, communications and finance unless limits were further extended with the approval of the state government. The provisions had put Jammu and Kashmir in a unique status within the federal system of India over decades.

Article 370 was a hot political debate in India over time. The advocates claimed that the clause was needed to maintain Jammu and Kashmir identity and autonomy in the region. They felt that it preserved the constitutional relationship that existed

in the accession period and safeguarded the cultural and political distinctiveness of the region. Instead, critics argued that Article 370 created administrative challenges as well as political fragmentation thereby making total integration of the state with the rest of India hard and limiting economic and governance reforms⁵. One of the key changes in the constitution took place on 5 August 2019 when the Government of India voted to repeal Article 370 using a Presidential Order and the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019. Following this judgment, the former state was remodeled in such a way that it came up with two Union Territories- Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh⁶. This action greatly changed the constitution, leadership and political landscape of the area.

This research will attempt to examine the constitutional, political, and strategic consequences of the abrogation of Article 370. The paper will be concerned with the insight into how the decision has altered the governance, security policies and socio-economic development in Jammu and Kashmir. It also explores the reaction of the neighbours and key powers in the world in the diplomatic sphere. The paper attempts to answer the following major research questions: the historical context of the construction of Article 370, the constitutional procedure of its admission in 2019, the political and administrative consequences of such a decision, the impact of the decision on security in the region, and the reaction of international countries to the decision. The research mentioned is primarily limited to the events that have taken place after 2019 although the historical context may also be mentioned. By relying on secondary sources, including academic literature, governmental documents, and policy reports, the research seeks to present a clear picture of the transformation of Jammu and Kashmir and its broader impact on politics and international relations in India.



Figure-1: Map of Jammu & Kashmir Region.

The historical background of article 370 and Jammu & Kashmir

Jammu and Kashmir has a strong historical relation with the political events that took place in the partition of the British India in 1947⁷. During the independence, the princely states had a choice of either uniting with India or Pakistan depending on their geographical location and the choice of their leaders. Jammu and Kashmir was a princely state and the Maharaja, Hari

Singh, first tried to remain independent and did not join either of the newly established nations immediately. This however all that changed in October 1947 when tribal forces of the Pakistan North-West Frontier region ventured into Kashmir. Maharaja Hari Singh was in need of military support from India because of a severe security problem. He in turn signed the Instrument of Accession on 26 October 1947 formally acceding the state of Jammu and Kashmir to India. According to this accord, India was given powers on defence, foreign and communication issues but internal administrative issues were exercised by the state. This accession became the constitutional union between Jammu and Kashmir and India. The key milestones of this relationship are summed in Table-1⁸ that provides a starting point of key political and constitutional events since 1947 up to recent times. Since the period of the accession, the Government of India recognized the special political conditions of Jammu and Kashmir. To suit these conditions a special constitutional framework was created by the introduction of Article 370 of the Constitution of India that became effective in 1950⁹. The special status of Jammu and Kashmir given under this provision saw to it that the state had its own constitution and a reasonable level of autonomy in terms of legislations. Through this system, the Indian Parliament was only allowed to legislate on the state in limited spheres unless the state government agreed to the extension of the law.

Article 370 had its origin directly linked to negotiations between the leaders of the Indian government and leaders of Jammu and Kashmir, especially Sheikh Abdullah. This was initially a temporary measure before the political situation became more stable and the future of governance in the region was more apparent. With time, Jammu and Kashmir was allowed to have a special constitutional position which gave the state a few unique characteristics not given to other Indian states. In 1957 the region adopted its own constitution and had a separate state flag. The Indian Parliament had limited legislative powers except in specific areas unless further extensions were made through Presidential Orders with the approval of the state government. Various Presidential Orders over the years gradually increased the application of the Indian Constitution to the state.

Jammu and Kashmir went through a number of political developments before 2019, which led to debates on Article 370. It experienced political instability, governance issues and security challenges, especially during the insurgency and militancy period in the mid-1980s and 1990s. There was a mixed opinion among political parties and leaders in India concerning the continuation of Article 370. While some supported its retention as a symbol of regional autonomy and federal flexibility, others argued that it hindered full integration and governance reforms. These developments eventually led to a major constitutional change when the Government of India abrogated Article 370 in August 2019 and reorganised the state into two Union Territories: Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. This illustrates its historical progression, as shown in Figure-2¹⁰.

Table-1: Timeframe of Important Political Events in Jammu & Kashmir (1947–2024)⁸.

1947	Instrument of Accession signed by Maharaja Hari Singh
1950	Article 370 implemented in the Constitution of India
1954	Presidential Order extending constitutional provisions
1957	Constitution of Jammu & Kashmir adopted
1989	Beginning of insurgency and militancy
2019	Abrogation of Article 370 and reorganisation of the state
2020	Introduction of new domicile law
2022	Delimitation Commission reorganises legislative constituencies
2023	Supreme Court upholds the abrogation of Article 370
2024	Parliamentary elections conducted in Jammu & Kashmir

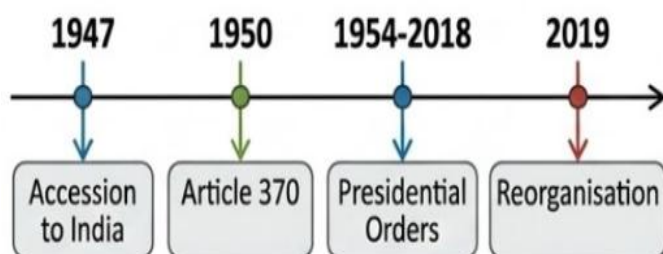


Figure-2: History of Constitutional status of Jammu and Kashmir¹⁰.

Methodology

The research takes the qualitative research method to discuss the constitutional, political and strategic impacts of abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution of India in Jammu and Kashmir. A qualitative design is appropriate since the research aims at evaluating the provisions in the constitution, political events, governance transformation and political responses of other countries instead of using numerical data alone. This strategy aids in the detailed interpretation of the policies, institutional changes and legal developments.

Primary sources of data are used to carry out the research. Such sources as academic books on constitutional law and Indian politics, peer-reviewed journal articles related to political science and international relations, government reports and official documents, and reliable news publications are included. The application of more than a single source assists in offering a wider and more balanced perspective of the matter. Table-2¹¹ provides the key data sources to be used in this study.

To analyze it, the paper adheres to a descriptive and analytical approach. The gathered data has been analyzed in order to establish the major themes of constitutional change, reform of governance, political consequences and security issues. Through this approach, one can come up with a comprehensive understanding of the abrogation of Article 370 on the administration and governance of Jammu and Kashmir.

Table-2: Secondary Data Sources to be used in the study¹¹.

Source Type	Examples
Books	Constitutional Law Books
Journals	Political Science Journals
Government Reports	Ministry Reports
News Sources	National Newspapers

Literature review: Scholars, legal experts and political analysts have been debating the problem of Article 370 of the Constitution of India and the constitutional status of Jammu and Kashmir over several decades¹².

Among various studies, Article 370 has been researched in terms of its historical context, constitutionality and political implications in the broader framework of Indian federalism and regional autonomy¹³.

The early works were primarily concerned with the interpretation of the special constitutional relationship between Jammu and Kashmir and the Union of India. Numerous researchers have provided detailed interpretations of Article 370 and examined how it regulated the application of the Indian Constitution in the region.

The political and historical aspects of the Kashmir conflict have also been extensively studied, with emphasis on regional identity, national integration, and political tensions in South Asia¹⁴.

Table-3¹⁵ provides a summary of some notable scholarly works discussed in this section. Nevertheless, a significant portion of earlier studies focused mainly on the constitutional understanding of Article 370 and the political conflict surrounding Kashmir. Very few studies have explored the broader implications of its abrogation in 2019, particularly in the areas of governance, security and foreign policy. This research attempts to address these gaps by providing a comprehensive analysis of the constitutional, political and strategic implications of the abrogation of Article 370 in a more detailed manner.

Table-3: Overview of the Major Scholarly Academic Literature on Article 370¹⁵.

Author	Year	Main Argument
A.G. Noorani	2011	Legal Analysis of Article 370 and its constitutional value.
Sumantra Bose	2003	Political and historical analysis of the Kashmir conflict
Balraj Puri	2015	Regional identity, federalism and autonomy in Jammu and Kashmir.
Alastair Lamb	1991	Historical perspectives on the Kashmir dispute

Constitutional change after the abrogation of article 370

A constitutional amendment in political history of Jammu & Kashmir happened in the form of the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution of India¹⁶. Article 370 was the special constitutional relationship between the region and the Union of India and it was used in several decades. But in 2019 the Government of India embarked on a set of constitutional and legislative changes that eliminated this special status and changed the location of the region in the Indian federal structure significantly¹⁷. Constitutional process on 5 August 2019, Ram Nath Kovind, who is the then President of India issued the Constitution (Application to Jammu and Kashmir) Order, 2019 commonly referred to as Presidential Order C.O. 272. This was an order that succeeded the previous Presidential Order of 1954 and gave the entire provisions of the Constitution of India to Jammu and Kashmir. An important aspect of this order was the change in the interpretation of Article 367 of the Constitution of India in allowing the term Constituent Assembly in Article 370 to be understood as the Legislative Assembly of Jammu and Kashmir. Because the region was under the President Rule then, the authority of the Legislative Assembly was vested in the Parliament of India. According to this interpretation of the constitution, the Government of India advised the effective repeal of Article 370. This was followed by a Presidential Order that most of the provisions of Article 370 would stop functioning. Consequently, the special constitutional position that Jammu and Kashmir had hitherto received was officially eliminated and the Constitution of India started to be applied to the territory fully without the consent of state government.

Besides these changes in the constitution, a Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act was passed by the Indian Parliament, as a result of which administration was reorganised on a massive scale. Under this law, the Jammu and Kashmir state that was hitherto a part of India was reorganised as two autonomous Union Territories: Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh¹⁸. The Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory was presented a legislature and the Ladakh was given no legislature Union Territory under a Lieutenant Governor. This reorganization was of great concern to the federal relation in the region and the central government. Before 2019, Jammu and Kashmir was a full state

with its constitution, its own body of law and some legislative powers which were safeguarded by Article 370. It was governed by Article 35A of constitution of India that permitted the state legislature to specify permanent residents and control rights in regards to ownership of property, employment and settlement. Thereafter, after the abrogation, these special provisions were scrapped and the constitutional system of Jammu and Kashmir was reconciled to the rest of the Union Territories in India. The independent state constitution was no longer in effect and the legislation enacted by the Indian Parliament gained direct applicability in the area. This movement was a radical transformation of the constitution and added more power to the administrative branch of the central government. The further progressions also influenced the political system in the area. Jammu and Kashmir In 2022, an electoral restructuring of legislative constituencies was performed to plan upcoming elections through a delimitation exercise. Moreover, in 2023 the constitutional validity of the abrogation of Article 370 was proven correct by the Supreme Court of India, proving the legality of the conducted decision by the central government. These measures have also strengthened the process of including the region into the Indian Constitutional system.

Table-4¹⁹ presents a summary of the important constitutional changes prior and subsequent to the abrogation of Article 370, and indicates the constitutional status change, legislative authority and administrative structure. The change in the system of government of the region can also be demonstrated using Figure-3²⁰ that shows the alteration of the system of special autonomous states to the Union Territory system with the enhanced central control. Advocates of the ruling highlight that the repeal of Article 370 enhanced national integration, good governance and allowed equal application of the constitutional laws in the entire nation. Meanwhile, its effects on federalism, regional autonomy, and the aspects of democratic representation were also criticized by some. Generally, Articles 370 abrogation and the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act application were the fundamental alterations to the constitutional and administrative system of the region. These changes still affect the governance, political-debates, and policy discourses on the future political-structure and institutional-structure of Jammu and Kashmir in the Indian Union.

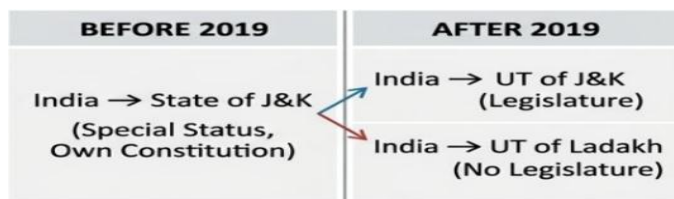


Figure-3: Constitutional Structure Pre- and Post-Abrogation of Article 370²⁰. Before 2019: India → State of Jammu & Kashmir (Own Constitution, Limited Central Laws & Special Status). After 2019: India → Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir (Legislature). India → Union Territory of Ladakh (No Legislature).

Table-4: Significant Constitutional reforms Since the Abrogation of Article 370¹⁹.

Aspect	Before 2019	After 2019
Special Status	Special autonomous status under Article 370	Special status removed
Separate Constitution	Constitution of Jammu & Kashmir existed	Separate constitution abolished
Legislative Authority	Limited application of Indian laws	Full application of the Constitution of India
Administrative Status	State of India	Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh
Property & Residency Rights	Defined under Article 35A	Governed by central laws and domicile rules

Political implications of abrogation

In August 2019, with the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution of India, significant political shifts in the system of governance and the political environment in Jammu and Kashmir happened²¹. The political institutions of the region had been functioning in a special constitutional arrangement which provided some level of autonomy in the Indian Union during several decades. However, the politics of Jammu and Kashmir has changed significantly after the fall of Article 370 and reorganizing the state into Union Territories²². These changes affected the political institutions, regional political parties, democratic representation and liaison between the central government and the region. The restructuring of the institutional system of governance was one of the most acute political consequences.

Before the year 2019, Jammu and Kashmir was a full-fledged state wherein it had its own constitution, legislative house, and elected government. Article 370 safeguarded some legislative and administrative powers that the state government had. After the constitutional amendments, however, the area was reorganised as per the Jammu and Kashmir reorganisation act 2019 to form two Union Territories, Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. Consequently, the previous system of political autonomy at the state level was substituted by a Union Territory system of governance. In the new structure, the legislative assembly of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir has persisted. Nevertheless, the Lieutenant Governor, the representative of the central government now has great administrative power. This re-organization has made the central government more involved in the government and the implementation of policies in the region. The current system bears a higher degree of centralisation of political power as compared to the previous state-based set-up.

The other political effect of the abrogation that has had a significant effect is on political parties that exist in the region. In the past few decades, organizations like the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference and the Jammu and Kashmir People Democratic Party had a pre-eminent position in influencing the political environment in the territory. These parties were historically supporting the preservation of special constitutional status of the region and the focus on regional autonomy in the system of Indian federalism. Article 370 was lifted, which changed their political agendas greatly, and put their long-established political positions to a test. After the amendments in the constitution, some regional political leaders got temporarily detained in the first years of the abrogation. This state of affairs had an impact on political mobilisation and party activities in the region over a period of time. Regional parties slowly restructured their political policies and altered their discourses in response to the new constitutional fact over the next several months and years. Certain parties established coalitions and joint platforms to insist on the revival of statehood and enhanced democratization in the process of government.

The abrogation also brought some significant concerns regarding the democratic representation and political participation in Jammu and Kashmir. Prior to 2019, the state used to have an elected government that would represent the interests of the local population. With the change of status to the Union Territory, the administration changed with the central government becoming more powerful. This transformation created controversies about the level to which the local political participation and democratic representation could be influenced. Another political advancement after the abrogation was the process of delimitation which was conducted in Jammu and Kashmir. The object of the delimitation exercise was to draw up electoral constituencies on the basis of demographic and administrative factors. This was to provide equitable political representation and to enhance decentralization of legislative seats in various regions. Nonetheless, the delimitation process also produced a political debate with differing political actors giving the opinion that these changes would affect the electoral representation and political power differently.

Political consequences of the abrogation can also be related to the larger interaction of the central government with the region. Previously, Article 370 was a kind of asymmetry in federalism of the Indian political system, the constitutional status of which Jammu and Kashmir had. Following the repeal of this provision, the relations between the region and the Union government have taken a more homogenous constitutional form. Proponents of the abrogation state that the move enhances unity of the nation and allows even constitutional laws to be adhered to uniformly in India. Under this thinking, Article 370 being eliminated contributes to eliminating constitutional differences and the national governance policies and development programs may be implemented better in the region. Conversely, opponents have expressed fears concerning the decisions of the decision on the aspect of federalism and regional autonomy.

Other researchers say that the process of turning a state into Union Territories and centralization of administrative power can affect power distribution in the federal system in India. They also stress the need to reinstate full statehood and the empowerment of democratic institutions so as to guarantee greater political participation in the region. All in all, the abrogation of Article 370 has had extensive political implications to Jammu and Kashmir. It has transformed the institutional structure of rule, changed the policies of regional political parties, impacted on the representation shows in Table-5²³ in the democracies and redefined the relations of the centre-region. These are the political developments which remain in the changing political environment in the region.

Table-5: Representation of Electorates and Political Parties in Jammu & Kashmir²³.

Party	Influence Before 2019	Influence After 2019
National Conference (NC)	Prominent Territorial party promoting autonomy	Still insists on reinstatement of statehood.
People's Democratic Party (PDP)	Renowned local power, privileged position.	Concentrate on constitutional rebuilding and the right to politics.
Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)	Weak local power in the past.	Greater political role following constitutional amendment.
Indian National Congress	Moderate presence in coalition politics	Continues participation in regional alliances

Administrative and governance changes

In 2019, the abolition of Article 370 and a new Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Act brought a lot of changes to the governance and administration of the region²⁴. Several decades later Jammu and Kashmir used to be a full-fledged state that had its own constitution and rather autonomous administrative system. Nevertheless, following the constitutional adjustments that were implemented in August 2019, the region experienced an intense shift in the system of governance. The organizational structure of administrative institutions was changed, new policies of management were developed, and the central government became more active, and all this transformed the administrative landscape of Jammu and Kashmir. One of the most prominent changes was the transformation of Jammu and Kashmir to a Union Territory. The Jammu and Kashmir reorganization act divided the former state into two union territories Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. A legislative assembly was given to the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh was made to have no legislature and is governed directly by the central government through a Lieutenant Governor.

This restructuring was a significant change in the administrative power and the system of governance in the region. Prior to the reorganization, the state government of Jammu and Kashmir had a lot of influence over the administration matters such as local governance, implementation of policies and also the management of this bureaucracy. The Jammu and Kashmir Constitution was used as the administrative system. With the abrogation of Article 370, however, the separate constitution was no longer in existence and the region started to operate as a whole under the Constitution of India. As a result, many main legislations and administrative policies that were never applicable to the area were transferred to Jammu and Kashmir. There was also an administrative structure that it brought with the introduction of the Union Territory model of governance. The central government is represented by the Lieutenant Governor who serves as the administrative head in this system.

The elected legislature of Jammu and Kashmir also collaborates with the Lieutenant Governor but some of the major areas of administration are directly controlled by the central government. Such an arrangement represents an impediment of governance where administrative authority is more linked with the central government than in the old system of the state. Beside the changes in the structure, Article 370 was also abrogated, and the administrative reform was wide-ranged to enhance the governance and administration by people. The main objectives of these reforms included the integration of administrative system of Jammu and Kashmir with the rest of the mechanisms of governance across the country. Different central government initiatives and development programmes were expanded to the region to enhance infrastructure, government services, and efficiency of institutions. The other significant element of the administrative reform was institutional restructuring of the bureaucratic system. A number of departments and administrative units were restructured to fit within the administrative structure that was being used in other Union Territories and Indian states. These reforms were aimed at establishing more efficient system of governance to be able to formulate policies more effectively. Changes in administration have also been influenced by introduction of new governance policies. Since the reorganization, there were policy initiatives to facilitate development, investment and social welfare in the region. There has been an effort to build better infrastructure, increase digital governance, empower healthcare services and better the educational institutions. The goals of such initiatives are to enhance administrative transparency and enhancing the delivery of the services to the people.

The most significant changes of administrative structures prior to and after the reorganization of Jammu and Kashmir are summarized in Table-6²⁵ which shows the transition of a state-based administrative system to a Union Territory system of administration with a higher central authority. Figure-4²⁶ shows the overall administrative structure of the Union Territory indicating the hierarchical administration of the central government to the Lieutenant Governor, legislative institutions

and local administrative bodies. Generally, the repeal of Article 370 and restructuring of Jammu and Kashmir has greatly changed the governance and administration of the region. Although these changes are supposed to enhance the integration of administration, efficiency and effectiveness in governance as well as implementation of development, they have simultaneously brought out controversies on regional autonomy and democratic governance. Since the process of the administrative system is still changing, the success of these reforms will still play a significant role in determining governing outcomes and development opportunities in Jammu and Kashmir.

Table-6: Administrative Structure Before and After 2019 ²⁵.

Administrative Aspect	Before 2019 (State)	After 2019 (Union Territory)
Constitutional Status	State with special provisions	Union Territory under Indian Constitution
Administrative Head	Chief Minister	Lieutenant Governor
Constitution	Separate J&K Constitution	Constitution of India
Legislative Authority	State Legislative Assembly	UT Legislative Assembly (limited powers)
Central Government Role	Limited in certain areas	Greater administrative control

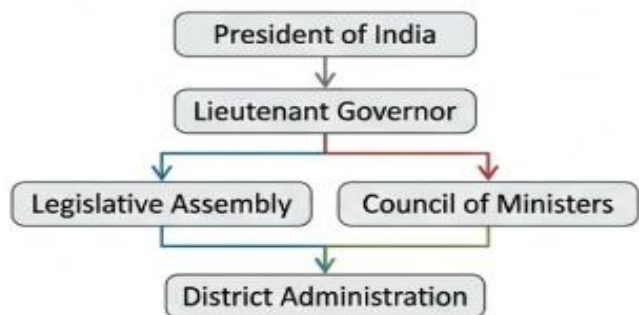


Figure-4: Jammu & Kashmir as a Union Territory - Administrative Structure²⁴.

Strategic and security implications

In August 2019 the abrogation of Article 370 was a significant event in the security and strategic situation in Jammu and Kashmir²⁷. Over the past few decades, the area has experienced various security issues such as militancy, cross border terrorism as well as geopolitical conflicts between the Indians and Pakistan. The constitutional changes which were proposed in 2019 were therefore inextricably linked with the wider national security goals of enhancing stability, governance and integration in the Indian Union. Militancy and armed insurgency have historically been considered as one of the greatest security issues in Jammu and Kashmir.

The region has suffered a number of militant actions carried by armed groups since the late 1980s to dispute the power of the Indian state. Such operations have incorporated the assault of security personnel, political leaders, and civilians and this has brought about extended security difficulties on the part of government and the law-enforcement agents.

After the abrogation of Article 370 the Government of India increased the counter-terrorism efforts in the region. The concerted efforts of security forces such as the Indian Army, the paramilitary organizations, and local police forces have been working towards breaking down the militant networks and halting any terrorism activity. These activities are based on intelligence-guided measures, surveillance and organized patrols, which aim at keeping law and order and improving the safety of the people. The other important aspect of the security scenario is the border environment especially the Line of Control (LoC) between the Indian-controlled Jammu and Kashmir and the Pakistan-controlled territory. LoC has been one of the most sensitive and militarized boundaries in the past with ceasefire violation and infiltration attempts being periodically made. Therefore, stability along this border has been one of the core elements of the national security of India. During the years of the changes in the constitution, security agencies enhanced their border management systems to minimize infiltration of militant groups. It has designed advanced surveillance systems, border fencing, electronic surveillance and joint military patrols to enhance the security along the LoC.

The activities are intended to minimize cross-border terrorism and limit the ability of the militant organizations in the area to conduct their activities. There are wider geopolitical factors too that determine the security environment in Jammu and Kashmir. The geographical location of the region before Pakistan and China makes it a strategic point in South Asia. Jammu and Kashmir, therefore, are prone to developments that can be monitored by the international community and the security processes in the region. The need to stabilize the region is thus considered as a vital element of the overall Indian defence and foreign policy. Another issue that is part of internal security management in the region is the issue of radicalization, social unrest and political unrest.

Law-enforcement and intelligence activities have been made stronger by the authorities to enhance intelligence coordination, better law-enforcement, and community engagement programs which help to mitigate instability contributing factors. The government has also focused on socio-economic development as a worthy aspect of long-term security policy besides military and policing strategies. The basis of this assumption is that structural conditions leading to unrest can be solved through better infrastructure, job creation and governance reforms. The integration of security operations and development will focus on sustainable peace and integration in the region by the policymakers.

In general, the ending of Article 370 has marked a new era in the security management to avoid Security-Related and trends of Militancy Incidents of Jammu and Kashmir shows in Table-7²⁸ & Figure-5²⁹. Although counter-terrorist operations and border security would be vital, long-term stability will be based on good governance, ongoing development projects and ongoing efforts at resolving the politically and security challenges that are complex to the region.

Table-7: Security-Related Incidents in Jammu & Kashmir (2010–2024)²⁸.

Year	Terror Incidents	Security Forces Casualties
2010	488	69
2011	340	33
2012	220	15
2013	170	53
2014	222	47
2015	208	39
2016	322	82
2017	342	80
2018	614	91
2019	286	80
2020	126	63
2021	129	42
2022	125	32
2023	125	30
2024	60	26

Foreign policy dimensions and international reactions

The repeal of Article 370 of the Constitution of India of 5 August 2019 was a significant constitutional and political development in the politics of Jammu and Kashmir³⁰. The decision was introduced by the Government of India as an internal constitutional amendment to empower national integration, governance and development in the region. Nonetheless, the relocation gained many international commendations and provoked mixed diplomatic reactions of the neighbors, leading worldwide powers, and international agencies. The greatest opposition was expressed by Pakistan in regards to the abrogation. It claimed that the ruling was against international accords and contested Kashmir. In its turn, Pakistan declined diplomatic relations with India, halted bilateral trade and tried to bring the issue to the attention of other international bodies, such as the United Nations. International mediation was also sought by Pakistan which alleged that the constitutional changes might jeopardize the regional stability in South Asia. Even with these attempts, majority of countries did not intervene directly and handled the matter cautiously.

China also responded to the events especially after the restructuring of Jammu and Kashmir to form two Union Territories, Jammu and Kashmir, as well as Ladakh. China had raised concerns about the situation of Ladakh, more so in those regions connected to the disputed border along the Line of Actual Control. According to Chinese officials, the changes in the administration would have an impact on the territorial claims and border control. However, the reaction of China was rather diplomatic and did not cause serious escalation in international institutions.

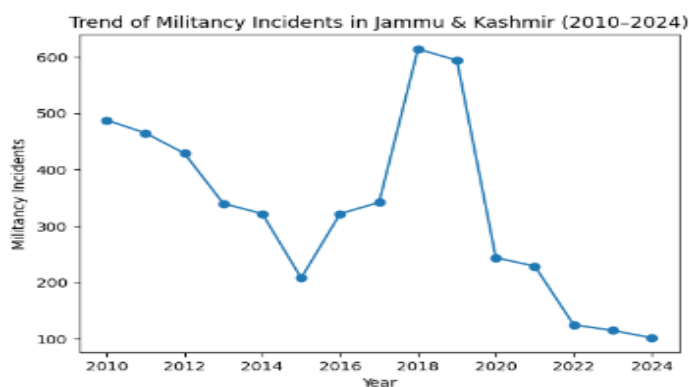


Figure-5: Trend of Militancy Incidents in Jammu & Kashmir²⁹.

Table-8³¹ shows the such giant world powers as the United States, the European Union, and Russia took rather moderate stands. The United States first expressed the apprehensions against limitation and security status in the region but later referred to the constitutional amendment as much an internal issue of India as it urged peaceful discussions between India and Pakistan. The European Union also advised against aggression and stressed on the essence of peace and stability in the region. In a open message, Russia helped India to take its position, saying the constitutional changes were made in the context of the Indian Constitution and ought to be regarded as the internal issue of India. A discussion also took place in the United Nations Security Council, when Pakistan demanded the meeting to discuss the situation. Such talks were however informal and never came up with official resolution or statement that blamed India. This was the consequence of the wider international strategy of considering the Kashmir problem basically as a bilateral one between India and Pakistan within the context of the existing diplomatic arrangements.

On the foreign policy front, India stressed on the concept of sovereignty and non-intervention in its internal matters. Indian diplomats insisted that it was a constitutional amendment meant to ensure governance, development, and stability in the region in the long run. On the whole, the international reaction can be defined as a combination of diplomatic anxiety and strategic waryness. Most of the world powers took a neutral or proactive stance as Pakistan and China opposed or showed concern. The scenario brought into limelight the interplay between the domestic constitutional rulings and foreign politics in the modern international politics.

Table-8: International Reactions to Article 370 Abrogation³¹.

Country / Organization	Position
Pakistan	Strong opposition, raised issue internationally
China	Concern regarding Ladakh and border issues
United States	Invited to peace and negotiation, and mostly considered internal.
Russia	Supported India’s constitutional decision
European Union	Sweet moderation and nonviolent solution.
United Nations	Discussed informally without official action

Effects of socio-economic status on Jammu & Kashmir

In August 2019, the socio-economic situation in Jammu and Kashmir changed dramatically as the Article 370 of the Constitution of India was abrogated³². The Government of India wanted to bring the region nearer to the national economic and administrative system and by abolishing the special constitutional status of the region and reorganizing it as a Union Territory, the Government of India sought to involve the region in the national system. The policy aim was to facilitate the growth of infrastructure, the growth of tourism, attract investments, create job opportunities and empower the social sectors including the education and medical sectors. Nonetheless, the change has brought a number of developmental issues and policy arguments. The most noticeable changes that have occurred since the abrogation have been the increase in infrastructure projects. The central government has also actively promoted infrastructure development projects in the region. The major highways, tunnels, railway work have been given priority in order to increase the connectivity between Kashmir and the rest of India. The enhanced infrastructure will also help boost economic activity, lower costs of transportation and regional development. The digital infrastructure has also enlarged through enhancement in internet connectivity and telecommunications that are giving improved access to internet-mediated services, governance, and educational materials. Another sector of significance that has exhibited growth after 2019 is tourism as shows in Table-9³³. Jammu and Kashmir was always regarded as the land of natural beauty and previously its security was a matter of concern with a negative impact on the tourist inflows. Over the last few years, the tourism arrivals have increased due to better security situation and tourism promotion programs. Places like Srinagar, Gulmarg and Pahalgam, which are normally popular, have experienced rising inflows of tourists. It has initiated tourism festivals, development of infrastructure, promotion campaigns to attract people to visit the region. Tourism has led to the development of jobs within the hospitality sector, transportation sector, handicraft, and other services.

Economic reforms have been aimed at promotion of investment and entrepreneurship. The privatization of areas of the economy such as land ownership and the investment of the business has been made possible by the eradication of some legal barriers to the activity. They have also brought about industrial development plans and policy incentives which aim at luring investment to areas like tourism, agriculture, handicraft, and small scale manufacturing. Through those efforts, there will be a diversification of the economy of the area and loss of reliance on the employment of the government. The creation of employment is still one of the primary goals of socio-economic reforms. Recruitment drives in the government, skill training programs, and entrepreneur educational programs have been launched to deal with youth unemployment. Simultaneously, construction and service sectors have been provided with indirect workplaces as a result of development infrastructure and tourism. Nonetheless, there are still a number of challenges that affect past socio-economic transition of the region. There have been periods of political insecurities, restructuring of administration and security issues that have brought the economic activities to a halt. There are also the imbalanced development in the districts and the environmental issues surrounding the high rate of growth in tourism and infrastructure development that is of concern. This will then require sustainable planning and good governance in order to have balanced development. In general, the socio-economic consequences of the abrogation of Article 370 is a dynamic process. Although infrastructure development, tourism, and investment efforts show a good development which was also show in Table-10³⁴, the future developments will be based on the inclusion development policies, viable governance, and in addition to, the sustenance of the peace in the region.

Table-9: Post 2019 Tourism Growth in Jammu & Kashmir³³.

Year	Tourist Numbers
2019	12.9 million
2020	3.4 million
2021	11.3 million
2022	18.8 million
2023	20+ million

Table-10: Projects Infrastructure Development in J&K³⁴.

Project	Description
Jammu–Srinagar Highway Development	Expansion and modernization of highway connectivity
Chenab Railway Bridge	One of the world’s highest railway bridges improving rail connectivity
Zojila Tunnel Project	All-weather connectivity between Kashmir and Ladakh
Smart City Projects	Urban modernization in Srinagar and Jammu
Rural Road Schemes	Improved connectivity to remote villages

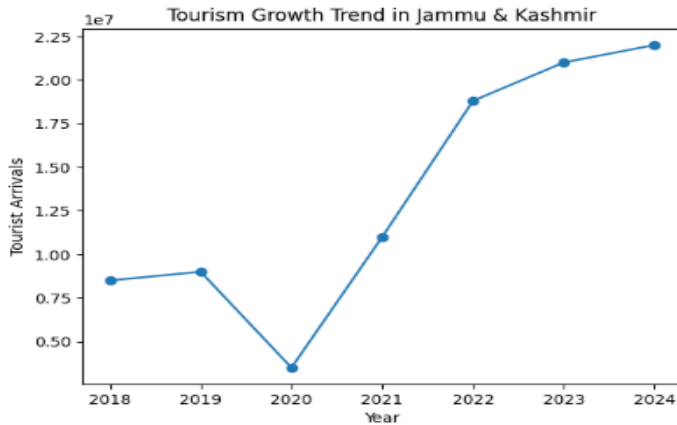


Figure-6: Tourism Growth Trend in Jammu & Kashmir³⁵.

Figure-6³⁵ shows that Jammu and Kashmir have been experiencing a consistent rise in the inflow of tourists since 2020. The graph identifies the recovery of tourism following the pandemic period, and the visitor numbers have increased substantially in 2022 and 2023. This tendency demonstrates the increased significance of tourism as one of the key sources of the economic development of the region.

Way forward

Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed a new political and administrative set up which was brought about by the constitutional change that took place after the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution of India. Yet, a sustainable development condition and a long-term stability demand a moderate policy disposition incorporating democratic regime, economic prosperity, and security control measures. There is a need to have a comprehensive policy strategy thus to cater to the political and socio-economic aspirations of the people and enhance integration with India. Restoration, and strengthening of democratic institutions is one of the most important priorities. Regular and open elections, the strengthening of the local governmental organization, and political involvement of the local parties can contribute to the increase in the confidence of the population in the democratic processes. An increased number in the legislative and administrative bodies will aid in taking care of local issues and inclusive governance. The policy makers must also be focused on economic development. The infrastructure, tourism, agricultural, and small-scale industries investments have the potential of creating employment opportunities and boosting the economy of the region. Youth employment and economic inequalities in the region should be encouraged through special economic incentives, skills development programs, and entrepreneurship programs.

The other essential policy course is the empowerment of social sectors education, healthcare, and internet access. The growth of educational facilities, the advancement of medical facilities, and enhancement of technological access will help to make people human and socially developed in the long run.

Lastly, the only way to have sustainable peace and stability is the dialogue, community mobilization and proper management of security. The key to a long-term peace is to establish a relationship between the citizens and institutions, foster social concord, and foster economic engagement. A combination of democratic governance, economic development and social inclusion on a balanced basis can lead to a productive, stable, and bright future of Jammu and Kashmir in the long run.

Conclusion

In August 2019, historic constitutional and political connections between Jammu and Kashmir and the Indian Union occurred, and Article 370 of the Constitution of India was abrogated³⁶. The paper reviewed in this research paper has analyzed the constitutional, political, administrative, security, international, and socio-economic consequences of this historic policy decision. The study tried to comprehend the overall effects of this constitutional change on governance, regional stability, and development in Jammu and Kashmir by examining secondary sources of information on the topic of academic literature, government reports, and policy documents and scholarly debates. The research results show that the abrogation of Article 370 largely changed the constitutional order that had characterized the relation between Jammu and Kashmir and the Indian Union over a number of decades. Until the year 2019, the region had a special autonomous status and was allowed to have its own constitution and some legislative powers within the framework of Article 370 and Article 35A. After the abrogation and the introduction of Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, the previous state was restructured in two Union Territories the Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. This change saw the region being opened up to a new constitutional and administrative system which made the region closer to the bigger legal and institutional outfit of India. The reorganization pursued these objectives: to enhance consistency in administration, to enhance the integration of the nation, and the establishment of central laws and welfare policies in the region.

Politically, the abrogation has had a lot of implications to the organization of governance and democratic representation in Jammu and Kashmir. A new type of governance was formed as the political institutions were reorganised to establish a new order of governance under the Union Territory status. Although all these changes were meant to enhance efficiency in governance as well as policy execution, they had created controversies in terms of political autonomy, federal principles and regional representation. The study notes that the political stability of the region in the long run will be pegged on the reinforcement of democratic institutions, such as transparent elections, proper functioning of legislations, and involvement of locals in governance. The full-fledged state was transformed, administratively, into a Union Territory, where the new institutional arrangements were introduced on the control of the central government.

These reforms were geared towards simplifying the administrative processes, improving transparency, and boosting development efforts in other areas like infrastructure, education, healthcare and public services. Nevertheless, successful reforms require the proper implementation of policies and coordination of the institutions.

The issue of security and strategic factors have also played a major role in determining the policies of Article 370. In the past, Jammu and Kashmir has been in security issues such as militancy, cross border tensions and geopolitical conflicts across the Line of Control. The government claimed that the changes in the constitution would make the security control and counter-terrorism processes stronger. Despite the change of security indicators in the last several years, the long-term peace and stability have been a persistent challenge. The global aspect of the problem also reveals the importance of the constitutional change at the international level. Although Pakistan and China registered diplomatic issues, most of the nations viewed the move as a constitutional issue of India. The geopolitical sensitivity of the region was evident by talks at international forums such as the United Nations. A socio-economic development is one of the most significant long-term goals of the post-abrogation policy framework. Greater emphasis on the construction of infrastructure, the promotion of tourism, investment opportunities, and the creation of jobs can change the economic situation in the region. But sustainable growth will involve all inclusive policies, governance and constant investment on development projects.

To sum up, Article 370 abrogation is a significant event in both constitutional and political history of Jammu and Kashmir. The policy has brought about structural reforms that have strengthened the governance, fostered development and improved national integration. Meanwhile, it has created controversies over federalism and political representation. The ultimate effect of this change will rely on whether the governance reforms, security management and inclusive development policies will yield stability and prosperity in the region.

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