



## **Jammu and Kashmir: The Way Forward**

The abrogation of Article 370 means that the next two years are likely to see a worsened security situation in Jammu and Kashmir, abetted by Pakistan. This situation will be exacerbated by three domestic factors: the absence of legitimate political channels, weak economic infrastructure, and inadequate administrative capacity.

India's challenge will be to manage the security situation in Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh, while rebooting the economic and political mechanisms.



## **Major Risks**

### **Political Repercussions**

Over the next two years, Kashmir-based political parties are likely to refuse to cooperate with Delhi.

Separatists will exploit grievances like the abrogation of Article 370, AFSPA, and human rights violations, and fan fears of a demographic invasion.

### **Pakistan Will Exploit the Situation**

By next summer, Pakistan is likely to orchestrate a renewed insurgency in the valley, aiding infiltration across the LoC. It will also launch a diplomatic offensive against India in fora like the UN and the Organisation of Islamic Countries (OIC).





*(Image credit: Kashmir Global; Flickr)*

## **Violence Will Rise**

The valley is likely to see a rise in militancy and stone pelting, perhaps with civil disobedience. Expect a resurgence in militancy in the summer of 2020. Over the next six months, the separation of Ladakh from J&K will provide restive elements opportunities for ethnic violence. Terrorists might attempt to strike across Indian cities.



## **Policy Measures**

### **End the Clampdown**

The J&K Police needs to be strengthened. Communications and peaceful demonstrations should be progressively allowed. They will provide New Delhi the leverage to reboot politics. A “smart” AFSPA that is limited to specific areas and time periods should be adopted.

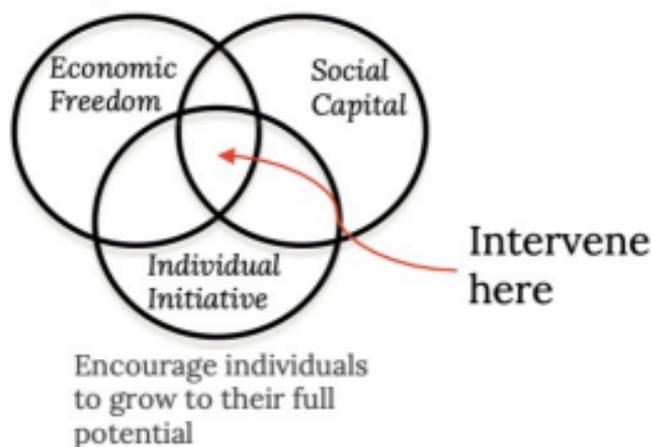
### **Improve Administration**

India must depute a special task force of mid-level civil servants for three years to restore administrative normalcy. J&K must be promised full statehood. A well-regarded Lt Governor should be appointed until then. Panchayati and municipal institutions also need to be empowered.



Remove obstacles to  
livelihood &  
entrepreneurship

Invest in  
relationships and  
build social networks



*(Image credit: Takshashila Discussion Document: J&K)*

## **Sow the Seeds of an Economic Flowering**

India must focus on turning the youth towards entrepreneurship and opportunities for economic development. Priority development areas that function like mini-SEZs could speed up the creation of businesses. India should encourage tourism, enable contract farming, and bring in private colleges.

*The Very Brief is dispatched by The Takshashila Institution once a week. Read and Share.*

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