

YOJANA SUMMARY

J&K AND LADAKH

SEPTEMBER 2022

The 5th of August 2022, marked three years since the Government of India revoked the special status of the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir and created two new UTs of J&K and Ladakh.

Militancy in J&K: Changing Nature

- The region has been afflicted by the problem of cross-border terrorism, separatist violence and armed militancy for the last three decades.
- However, since the heydays of terrorist violence in the early 1990s, **this militancy has transformed radically**.
- Various internal and external dynamics have impacted it, like the driving role of Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), evolution of Kashmir's separatist politics, influence of pan-Islamic terrorist groups, and the emergence of social media.
- Consequently, the militancy in J&K today represents a qualitatively different challenge to the security establishment than in 1989.
 - In 1990s, scores of Kashmiri youths crossed the Line of Control (LoC) to train in Pakistan-occupied J&K (POJK) and joined the ranks of terrorist outfits or organisations.
- Recent events like **targeted killings of religious minorities, migrants, security forces personnel and civilians**, have drawn attention to the evolving security situation in J&K.

Current Terrorism Outlook for the Region

- A vital indicator of the improved security situation in Kashmir Valley is the **residual strength of the terrorists operating in the region**.
- This number stretched to thousands at the peak of militancy in the early 1990s. Current terrorist strength in Kashmir stands at approximately 163, the lowest in decades.
- They primarily belong to the three terrorist groups Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) and Hizbul Mujahideen (HM).
- South Kashmir remains the hotbed of militancy, with around 86 terrorists operating in the region.

Tackling Cross-Border Militant Infiltration

- Pakistan-based terrorist groups have used the mountainous terrain in north Kashmir to sneak into the Kashmir Valley. Pakistani security establishment actively supports them.
- Militants also enter from the south of Pir Panjal range, sometimes through tunnels, like the one discovered in Samba district in 2012, which measured 400 metres.
- To counter this infiltration, security forces have raised a **highly-effective three-tiered counter-infiltration grid**.
- In this, the **Indian Army forms the first tier** on the LoC, followed by the second tier of paramilitaries such as the CRPF, and the third one of the J&K Police (JKP).
- In addition, the security forces have deployed **Anti Infiltration Obstacle System fencing** and strengthened surveillance through reconnaissance drones, night-vision equipment, and hand-held thermal imaging devices.

Crackdown on Terrorist Groups and Their Ecosystem

- Meanwhile, security forces have kept up the pressure on the terrorist groups in the hinterland through several Counter-Insurgency (CI) operations.
- Thus, barring the February 2019 suicide attack on the CRPF convoy in Pulwama district, militants have been reduced to carrying out an intermittent campaign of targeted killings against soft targets.

- A crucial part of the security crackdown is the **punitive action against the subversive elements** of the ecosystem that support the terrorists. It includes not just the network of the Over Ground Workers (OGWS) and terrorist sympathisers but also the cadres of Jamaat-e-Islami (Jel).
 - In February 2019, the Union Ministry of Home Affairs banned the Jel.
- Simultaneously, the government began removing those employees who abetted secessionist and militant activities.
- **Countering terrorist finances** has been another focus area for the security establishment, for this, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) has launched several investigations into the cases of terrorist financing.
- Besides, the MHA has set up a **Terror Monitoring Group**, to closely monitor terrorist financing cases.
- This crackdown has dramatically reduced the stone-pelting incidents which had once become a striking feature of unrest in Kashmir Valley.
- **Soft measures were also taken.** These include exercising maximum restraint, avoiding pellet guns and minimising collateral damage. Besides, top security officials have made an outreach to the families of active militants to request their kids to surrender.

Evolving and Emerging Counter Terrorism Challenges

- **Radicalisation and Terrorist Recruitment:**
 - Major concern is the uptick in local terrorist recruitment, primarily from the four police districts of south Kashmir- Pulwama, Shopian, Kulgam, and Awantipora. A significant contributor to this local recruitment is the radicalisation of the local youth.
 - **Several factors aid the radicalisation process**, including peer pressure, victimhood feelings and self-radicalisation enabled by the Salafi and Wahhabi propaganda.
 - Furthermore, cyberspace, including the dark web and social media platforms, amplifies this religious propaganda, accelerating radicalisation.
 - **Indian Army's 'Sahi Raasta' initiative** aims to bring the youth on the right track through national integration tours, sports training programmes and festivals, and skill development workshops.
- **Hybrid Terrorists And Virtual Terrorist Outfits:**
 - Terrorist masterminds have now changed their strategy to obfuscate their activities. To commit violence, they are now **using terrorist sympathisers**. Most of them have no criminal records and are therefore likely to escape police scrutiny.
 - These 'hybrid terrorists' are the ones who are primarily responsible for the recent acts of targeted killings in and around Srinagar.
 - In addition, security forces have noted the **proliferation of virtual terrorist groups** like the Jammu Kashmir Ghaznavi Force and The Resistance Front, etc.
 - In response, the JKP is strengthening its human and technical intelligence capabilities.
- **Pakistan's Information Warfare**
 - Since August 2019, ISI's disinformation machinery has gone into overdrive on social media platforms with anti-India propaganda.
 - **The ISI has sought to project kashmir's militancy as indigenous resistance.** In addition, it has sought to label India as a major human rights violator.

- This information warfare campaign exploits any minor incident to create a narrative of falsehood against India and the security forces.

USHERING INVESTMENTS

Background

- J&K government expenditure in 2018-19 was 57 per cent of the total gross state domestic product, largely financed by the Central Government. This demonstrated an overwhelming dependence on the government and a weak private sector.
- Its road density was less than a fifth of Himachal's and unlike Himachal Pradesh, it was unable to leverage its huge hydropower potential.

Framing Economic Policies

- Given its location and the Union Territory suffers cost disadvantages **primarily on account of transportation costs**.
- An appropriate strategy for such high-cost economies is to promote the production of goods and services of niche areas/ segments where customers are willing to pay a premium amount.
 - This compensates for the disadvantages of high transportation costs.
- The handicrafts produced in this region are of international renown. J&K also produces the bulk of the country's apple and is known for high-quality low volume products like walnut and saffron, etc.
- It is a favorite destination for millions of tourists. It has abundant hydropower resources, high-quality manpower, and some rare minerals too.

Delimitation Order for JAMMU & KASHMIR

- Of the 90 Assembly Constituencies, 43 will be part of Jammu and 47 for Kashmir
- 9 seats reserved for STS
- All 5 Parliamentary Constituencies to have equal number of Assembly Constituencies
- All Assembly Constituencies shall remain within the boundary of concerned district
- Recommendation of additional seats in Assembly for Kashmiri migrants & displaced persons from POJK

Attracting Investment

- **The Jammu and Kashmir Industrial Policy 2021-30** is the flagship policy with respect to investment and industrial growth in the UT. Its promise of a higher incentive for investment in remote areas will help balanced development.
- Considering the centrality of the objective of employment generation, the objectives of the Policy and the choice of industries focused upon are heavily labour-intensive in nature.
- These include both the UTs' traditional strengths e.g., tourism, handicrafts and horticulture as well as new sectors like IT, ITES, healthcare, etc.
- **Tourism**
 - J&K has surprisingly never figured among the top ten States/UTs when it came to tourist arrivals either in absolute numbers or as a proportion of its population.
 - The current UT Budget by providing support and resources for the development of 75 new destinations, seeks to expand the region's tourism economy while bringing in more equity in this highly employment-elastic sector.
 - Targeted public investment in roads and urban infrastructure is aimed at making the new locations more accessible

- **Horticulture**
 - The Budget's accent on horticulture addresses both the productivity and the income issues of the sector. When taken along with the GI-certification initiative for saffron and other crops which is already underway, the sector holds great promise.
- **Foreign Trade and Investment**
 - An additional (and unique) strand of its strategy has been to seek leveraging of India's recent trade agreement- Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) with the UAE to seek markets, investments and tourists.
 - Given the proximity and familiarity of UAE with J&K, the Gulf Investment strategy seeks to build on these links and potentialities.
- **Impact on J&K Bound Investment**
 - The UT Government reported that it had received investment proposals worth around Rs 51,000 crores whose employment potential is approximately 2.37 lakhs.

TRYST WITH CINEMATIC PARADISE

The Government of J&K has taken up **Film Sector as a priority industry** and has unveiled, in August of 2021, **the Jammu and Kashmir Film Policy 2021**. With this Policy, J&K is now witnessing a surge in big-budget movies.

Nonpareil Offerings Under The Policy

- It comes with a financial outlay of Rs 100 crores every Financial Year for 5 years, until 2026. It provides unmatched subsidy packages for films shot in the UT.
- Some other offerings include the **development of a Single Window Cell** to offer information on locations, available talent, and equipment and an integrated portal for administrative efficiency and assistance for easing out procedures for filmmaking in the J&K and in granting permission for film shoots within defined timelines.
- The Policy also mandates the setting up of a **dedicated Jammu and Kashmir Film Development Council** at the apex level of J&K Government.
- As of today, over 125+ applications for shooting films were received since the launch of the Policy on 5 August 2021.

Way Forward

- **A Film City in the Making:**
 - setting up of an all-round Film City with offerings such as music studios, skilling institutes.
- **Annual Film Festival:**
 - The Film Policy aspires to establish the J&K Film Festival as an annual calendar event every year.
- **J&K Film Awards:**
 - The Government of J&K intends to bring in a system of awarding films and filmmakers.
- **Restoration & Preservation of J&K Films**
 - Work to set up Jammu & Kashmir Film Archives in the Directorate of Information and Public Relations is already ongoing.

- This will enable the Government to not only maintain a record of the acclaimed work but also create a database of the film industry going forward.

Conclusion

- A unique flagship programme, '*Redefining the Paradise*' has also been jointly conceptualized by the Mission Youth Initiative of J&K and the J&K Film Development Council for promoting local talent, film friendly shooting locations, and harnessing the potential of tourist villages in J&K.
- Jammu and Kashmir Film Policy 2021 not only sets the vision for the creation of a vibrant world-class Film Ecosystem in the UT but also epitomises the legendary tryst that existed between Jammu and Kashmir and films.

TOWARDS EASE OF LIVING

Since the introduction of constitutional reforms with regards to J&K in August 2019, the government has been focused to substantially improve governance and enhance ease of living for the people of the region.

Various Projects/Programs Aimed At Improving The Ease Of Living

- **Banihal Qazigund Road Tunnel:** would help establish an all-weather connection between Jammu & Kashmir.
- A 500 KW solar power plant at Palli will make it the country's first Panchayat to become carbon neutral.
- Under the Central Sector Scheme '**PRASHAD**', the construction of the tourist interpretation centre at Dargah Hazratbal has been completed.
- J&K has been declared Open Defecation Free (ODF) under Swachh Bharat Mission.
- A 100 per cent saturation has been achieved in 17 individual beneficiary centric schemes, including Saubhagya, Ujala, Ujjwala, and Indradhanush schemes.
- An international flight from Srinagar to Sharjah has been started. In addition, night flights from Jammu and Srinagar have also been started.
- The scope of the **High-Density Plantation Scheme** for apple has been expanded to include mango, litchi cherry, walnut, etc. Kashmiri saffron has been given the Geographical-Indication (GI) tag.
- A total of 1,41,815 new works/projects have been taken up under various sectors/schemes in the UT of J&K since 2019.
- Besides connectivity and power infrastructure projects, status of progress in other sectors is as under:
 - **PMDP-2015:** The progress of projects being implemented in the UT of J&K under the **Prime Minister's Development Package-2015** has been accelerated.
 - **Health:** Two new AIIMS, 7 new Medical Colleges, two Cancer Institutes and 15 Nursing Colleges have been taken up/operationalised recently.
 - **Jal Jeevan Mission:** Household tap water connections have increased from 5.75 lakh households (31%) to 10.55 lakh households (57%). Two Districts (Srinagar and Ganderbal) have been made Har Ghar Jal Districts.
 - **Education:** Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Jammu and Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu have been made functional.

- The Central Government is working towards making Ladakh a tourist destination with a focus on aspects of adventure, culture, and responsible tourism.
- There are seven projects sanctioned for J&K and Ladakh under **Swadesh Darshan and PRASHAD Schemes** of the Ministry of Tourism.
- This will make Ladakh a high-value, low-impact tourism destination that fosters sustainable and inclusive growth for the local community.
- Through the promotion of tourism in Ladakh, the aim is to create employment for the locals and promote Ladakh's culture and products to tourists from India and the rest of the world.

Addressing The Issue Of Over-tourism

- Kashmir is frequently referred to as paradise on earth and has long been a major tourist destination. Because of its abundance of natural beauty, it is also known as the Switzerland of the East.
- However, the **unprecedented increase in tourism has led to over-tourism in this location**, which has an immediate negative impact on natural resources, cultural legacy, and quality of life.
- In a sustainable framework, there should be a balance between the economic, environmental, and socio-cultural consequences of tourism.
- Focusing only on attracting more visitors cannot be the basis for sustainable tourism development.
- J&K and Ladakh must strive hard to develop **into an Eco Tourism hotspot** because uncontrolled tourism contributes to the ecological imbalance brought on by climate change.
 - **Eco Tourism** is ethical travel to unspoiled areas that protects the environment, promotes community development, and educates both locals and visitors.
- The UT may take inspiration from Bhutan, which has pledged to absorb more carbon than it releases and to be a net sink for global greenhouse gases, as well as other tourist hotspots.

Sustainable Tourism

According to UNWTO sustainable tourism should:

- **Make the best use of environmental resources**, while maintaining crucial ecological processes and aiding in the preservation of natural heritage and biodiversity.
- **Respect the socio-cultural authenticity** of host communities.
- Ensure long-term economic viability, distributing socio economic advantages to all stakeholders in a balanced way, including chances for permanent employment and income generation, social services for host communities, and aiding in the reduction of poverty.

EDUCATION & SKILLING

With Ladakh becoming a Union Territory in 2019, abundant opportunities opened up for this region blessed with unique natural resources, pristine environment and amiable population.

Quality Education and Enabling Infrastructure

- The first focus has been on offering quality higher education in Ladakh. The University of Ladakh was established in 2019 as a cluster University comprising 6 constituent colleges.
- Under the Special Development Package announced by the Government of India for the new UT of Ladakh, infrastructure projects of around Rs 200 crore has been sanctioned for the colleges in the year 2021-22 which includes hostels, libraries, multi-purpose Hall etc.

- The year 2022-23 has been declared by the administration as the Year for Persons with Disabilities.
- **Sindhu Central University** was announced by the Prime Minister in Lok Sabha in 2021. The University aims to cater to students from across the country and abroad and shall nurture peer learning for the youth of Ladakh.

Scholarships

- Ladakh administration launched the **Rewa (Ladakhi word meaning expectation) Scheme** in 2021 to give financial assistance of upto Rs 1 lakh to meritorious students of Class X and XII, irrespective of their family income.
- Under the Rewa Scheme, all those qualifying preliminary examinations of exams like Civil Services, Engineering Services and Forest Services are also given financial assistance upto Rs 1.54 lakh for taking up coaching for the Mains of these competitive examinations.
- Besides scholarships under the Post matric Scholarship Scheme of the Ministry of Minority Affairs (MoMA) and the Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MOTA) are also given.
- Many students from Ladakh availed of scholarship under the Prime Minister Special Scholarship Scheme, which is specifically for students of Ladakh and J&K studying in recognised institutes outside the two UTS.

Skilling Ladakh

- Skilling and vocational education are integral parts of the National Education Policy 2020.
- Ladakh has two Industrial Training Institutes (ITIS) besides the two Polytechnic Colleges, one in each district. Two new trades in Horticulture and Floriculture have been introduced.
- **Ladakh Skill Development Mission (LSDM)** was set up in 2021 to formulate and steer the skill development programmes under the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana.
- **First ever Kaushal Mela** was organised in March-April 2021 to expose youth to opportunities in skilling and subsequent employment opportunities.

Apprenticeship

- Under the Apprenticeship Act, all establishments having a workforce of 30 or more are mandated to undertake Apprenticeship Programmes and engage apprentices. The effective implementation of the Act in Ladakh has been taken up from June this year with the issue of an order.
- Apprenticeship acts as a bridge course for fresh graduates and puts the responsibility on the industry to extend on-the-job training to fresh pass-outs of colleges and ITIs.

Entrepreneurial Education

- Entrepreneurial education needs to be built into the education which is also emphasised in the National Education Policy 2020.
- A comprehensive project is being planned to introduce entrepreneurship as a credit-based subject in Higher Educational Institutions and also in ITIS.

BRIDGING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

- For ensuring that children continue their education during the pandemic, a project named "**Directorate of School Education Jammu Home Classes**" was started.
- To expedite the process of teaching and learning, the department started a dedicated YouTube channel "**DSE Jammu Home Classes**".

- The video lectures were recorded and telecast through local cable networks and radio stations.

Other Steps Taken

- **SARAL Android App:**
 - SARAL (Students Accessible Resource and Learning Application) is an App.
 - It connects students to e-content, which is available on various educational portals like DIKSHA, e-Pathshala, Swayam, e-VidyaDaan, and Swayam Prabha.
 - It also provides students access to locally developed e-content, live classes, activities, and online assessments.
- **School Tracking & Monitoring System "Aadharshila":** Aadharshila is a web-based system to digitise all the government schools in the Jammu division. The web-based system monitors and keeps track of infrastructure, teachers, and their expertise in teaching.
- **Samadhan:** Samadhan is an online grievance redressal system that aims at increasing transparency and improving the delivery mechanism.
- **J&K Education Hub:** J&K Education Hub is a web-based system that is used to host the academic digital content developed by teachers of government schools. The excellent content is chosen to be sent to National level portals like DIKSHA. This web-based system is a single platform for all digital initiatives of the School Education Department, Jammu Division.
- **System for Management of Private Schools:** It is a web-based system that is being used in the management of private schools. The system has a provision to grant online registration and upgradation permission to private schools.

FOSTERING MSMEs AND ARTISANS

Kashmir is known for its handicrafts throughout the world. Its carpets, silks, shawls, basketry, pottery, copper and silverware, and walnut wood are most sought after.

Current Status of MSMEs

- Currently, 1,26,387 MSMEs have registered themselves on **Udyam registration portal**. The major industrial estates of the valley have been developed with the use of **Micro & Small Enterprises-Cluster Development Programme (MSE-CDP)** Scheme of Ministry of MSME.
- **SFURTI** (Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries) clusters are also working in J&K.
- MSME Ministry also supports innovation and has established one business **incubation centre at NIT Srinagar through MSME Innovative Scheme**.
- **J&K Khadi and Village Industries Board (KVIB)** is establishing and nurturing an entrepreneurial ecosystem under micro and village industries sector across the UT.
- **The Prime Minister Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP)**, a central sector scheme, is implemented in the region by Khadi and Village Industries Commission.
- **National SC-ST Hub in Leh (Ladakh):**
 - National Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Hub (NSSH) Scheme, an initiative of the Ministry of MSME. It was launched in 2016.

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- The Scheme aims at capacity enhancement of SC/ST entrepreneurs and promoting "entrepreneurship culture" amongst the SC/ST population.
- The Scheme is empowering the SC/ST population to participate in public procurement process and fulfill the mandated target of 4% procurement from SC/ST enterprises under Public Procurement Policy by the Ministries, Departments and CPSES.
- This Scheme is being implemented by National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC).

MSME Schemes

- **MSE-Cluster Development Programme:** The objective of the Scheme is to improve the technology skills, quality and market access, etc. through infrastructural facilities in the new/existing clusters of MSES besides sustainable technology for the clusters.
- **ESDP-Entrepreneurship Skill Development Programme:** To motivate youths representing different sections of the society.
- **BPMS Procurement and Marketing Support Scheme:** To enhance the marketability of products and services.
- **MSME Sustainable (ZED) Certification Scheme:** The Scheme envisages promotion of Zero Defect and Zero Effect (ZED) manufacturing amongst MSME and ZED assessment for their certification.
- **Udyam Registration:** The government has organised a system to facilitate the registration of MSMES. A permanent registration number will be given after registration.

HANLE SPACE OBSERVATORY

- The **Indian Astronomical Observatory (IAO) located at Hanle** near Leh in Ladakh is becoming one of the most promising observatory sites globally.
- This is due to its advantages of more clear nights, minimal light pollution, background aerosol concentration, extremely dry atmospheric condition, uninterrupted by rains.
- Digpa-ratsa Ri, Hanle, was chosen as the prospective site for a National Observatory after a study of meteorological conditions over the Indian subcontinent.
 - The highest peak in Digpa-ratsa Ri is at an altitude of 4517 metres, and has been named Mount Saraswati.
 - The location of the 2-metre Himalayan Chandra Telescope (HCT) is to the east of the peak at an altitude of 4500 metres above mean sea level.
 - IIA installed the 2-metre aperture Himalayan Chandra Telescope (HCT) at IAO, Hanle, in 2000.

KASHMIR: POETRY AND MYSTICISM

- Kashmir holds a remarkable place as being the birthplace or residence of several prominent literary critics, theoreticians, philosophers and commentators.
- In this list are included names such as Panini, Chandracharya, Bharata, Kshemendra, Abhinavagupta, Vasugupta, Somananda, Somadeva, Bilhana, Kalhana, Patanjali, Anandavardhana and many others.
- **Panini's Astadhyayi** is the basis of Sanskrit grammar while **Bharata's Natyashastra** is the foundational text for theorising on dramaturgy.

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- The **fourth Buddhist Council** was held in Kashmir and Asvaghosa and other Buddhist scholars were present at this historic council.
- The great philosopher **Abhinavagupta** lived in Kashmir in the eleventh century and his name has become inseparable from the philosophy of Kashmir Shaivism.
 - This system of philosophy espouses the concepts of abhas-vad (intuition) and pratyabhijna (recognition).
 - Abhinavagupta added the ninth rasa, shanta rasa to the typology of eight rasas enumerated by Bharata in Natyashastra.
 - His compositions include **Tantraloka**, **Abhinavabharati** and commentary on the Bhagavad Gita titled **Gitartha Samgraha**.
 - His Parmarthasara consists of 105 verses on the teachings of Kashmir Shaivism.

DOGRI LITERATURE

- Dogras are well known as warriors and for their miniature pahari paintings all over the world.
- Historical references show that the word 'Duggar' is derived from 'Durgar' and the most primitive mention of it is found in Chamba copperplates of 11th century A.D. It refers to the community inhabiting the region between the Ravi and Chenab rivers.
- It is believed that by the 19th century when British came to these parts, the entire mountainous and sub-mountainous region between Sutlej and Chenab rivers was called 'Duggar' and its inhabitants 'Dogras.
- The earliest mention of the mother tongue of Dogras, Dogri is found in 1317 A.D. in an enumeration of Indian languages made by Amir Khusro. In this list, 'Duggar Bhasha' has been mentioned right after a reference to the language spoken in Delhi.
- We find references to written literature during 16th and 17th-century historical sagas and Khandkavyas.
- Maharaja Ranbir Singh also got translations of Sanskrit books done to develop Dogri prose for common use.
- The early specimens of Dogri writing are to be found in rock and temple inscriptions, copper-plate inscriptions. They were mostly found in **Takri script in Duggar** till the beginning of the 20th century.
- With the passage of time, this old script has almost vanished and **Devanagri script was adopted by Dogri writers** that gave a boost to the language to flourish.
- *Professor Ram Nath Shastri* is widely known as '**Pitamaha of Dogri**' and some remember him as 'Bharatendu Harishchandra of Dogri' also.
- After the abrogation of Article 370, Dogri became one of the five official languages along with English, Hindi, Urdu, and Kashmiri.