

Indian Constitutional Aid Association



ANALYSIS

Jammu and Kashmir Supplementary Demands for Grants

Authors: Ayush Jha, Zarif Hosain
Indian Constitutional Aid Association

Why were Article 370 and 35A abrogated?

The Union government defended the amendments and said they were made to:

1. Ensure better administration
2. Good governance
3. Faster economic development in the region.

Repercussions of Abrogation of Article 370 and 35A

1. Reports indicate that as of November 27, 2020, there were only **58 IAS** officers serving in J&K out of the stipulated **cadre strength of 137**, with similar significant shortages in the IPS and Indian Forest Service cadres as well
2. Various Central schemes have been under performing in the UT eg – PM Awas Yojana targeted houses completion - 1,65,766 completed 36,650
3. The 550-day 4G blackout cost the economy of Kashmir \$4.2 billion
4. Lockdown and internet shutdown has rendered 5lakh people jobless.
5. Pending infrastructure needs like upgradation of the Srinagar-Jammu national highway have not been addressed.
6. The Unemployment rate stood at 21.9 percent in January 2021- the highest in the country
7. Loss to Kashmir due to internet shutdown on tourism – 16000cr : stimulus package for revival of tourism – 5.6 cr
8. According to Standing committee on Home Affairs - School Education, Health, ICDS and Social Welfare have been placed under the **Panchayati Raj Institutions**, they lack adequate devolution of funds to effectively carry out their duties.

ECONOMIC COLLAPSE POST ABROGATION OF ARTICLE 370

1. Instability in political exercise of powers by government post abrogation of article 370. Minimal requirements of employments cannot be met because skills development programmes and holistic educational workshops for fresh graduates haven't been conducted since the upliftment of lockdown in J&K.
2. Economic stability due to civil unrest, frequent changes in government and insurgency is highly unlikely. J&K faces a high political risk for domestic and foreign investments in industries, development projects and expansion of MNCs to generate employment for the locals.
3. The inflated budget will be rendered inefficient if high volatility of the separatist movement ridden areas and activities by non-state actors in the region continues since development projects of tourism, roads, education, dam construction would always face obstacles of outrage by local population on the pretext of their homes and livelihoods being taken away from them.
4. Local markets and business need to thrive on basic stimulus that the budget doesn't point out. Money supply in the local markets need to be upscaled in order to boost economic recovery in insurgency ridden areas of Kashmir and underdeveloped regions of Jammu and Ladakh. Basic income stimulus has to be provided to the local population to regenerate supply and demand of local goods
5. Economic recovery at the local level is essential to generate confidence in investors that J&K is capable of handling economic setbacks with minimal boost from the administration and inflated budget will help the region building projects in a safe and sound manner.

· **TOURISM**

1. Public Private Partnership (PPP) in investment w.r.t tourism- how much control will government retain over revenue receipts from tourism in J&K?
2. Preservation and Conservation of Heritage sites- In accordance with ICCPR, what will be the security measures taken by the government to protect heritage sites from insurgents destroying them?
3. How will the increase in J&K budget help security forces to combat insurgents that pose threat to tourists in high to low volatile regions?

JAL SHAKTI

1. All the uncovered schools and anganwadis of UT of J&K to be provided water connections- How many projects have been underway since 2020? If there is increase in the budget of water connections and pipelines than last year's budget, what were the shortfalls?
2. People are going to face displacement due to dam construction on river Jhelum, how will the budget address the rehabilitation of the displaced persons when construction gets underway?

POLLUTION ABATEMENT

1. Rs. 200 cr earmarked for 2021-22 for rejuvenation of 9 identified polluted river stretches by CPCB on directions of NGT- How is Rs. 200 cr going to be dispersed among 9 river stretches since under Jal Shakti, The Comprehensive Flood Management scheme aims at improving the quality of river and discharge capacity. Why are two separate funds being allocated for a single utility project?

EDUCATION

1. 2020-21 budget had an estimate of 12% to be spent on education out of the total budget allocated by the centre to J&K, however, the goal of completion of ICT labs, girls' hostels and Balika Vidyalayas seems to be short of target. How much share of the budget does the government tend to direct towards education to meet the shortfalls?
2. The dropout re-enrolment goal of the government was to reduce it to 15%, however, the dropout of students in J&K as been recorded at all time high. Official figures reveal that at the primary level, the drop rate is 14.3 percent followed by 13.1 percent at upper primary level, 23.7 percent at secondary level and 26 percent higher secondary level.

ROADS AND BRIDGES

1. The government planned to roll out a Quality Control Lab for every district and a '3rd party inspection' for newly constructed and existing roads and bridges in J&K. It fails common rationale to understand as to why is there a requirement of 2 sui generis bodies for the same purpose. The Budget can be allocated to the Quality Control Lab itself for a thorough inspection since it is a body meant solely for Quality checks and reform suggestions and the reconstruction has to be carried out by the contractors government wishes to partner with.
2. Rs. 100 cr (in 2020) and additional Rs. 150 cr (in 2021) is planned to be allocated for pothole free roads in J&K. If the budget is allocated to Quality Control Labs and inspections find out potholes and other discrepancies in road construction, the budget allocated for reforms would be used in any case, then why is unnecessary fund for pothole management added in the budget since it can be cumulatively released under the same reform and reconstruction programme

INTERNET SHUTDOWN

1. Post upliftment of internet shutdown, the UT receives 2G internet which makes it difficult to send and receive texts and images as well. This has caused a massive loss to business and industries operating out of J&K.
2. The 550-day 4G blackout cost the economy of Kashmir \$4.2 billion (Rs30,600 crore), according to estimates by Top10VPN, a publication focused on internet privacy. Kashmir is a hub of tourism, textiles, and agriculture. In recent years, the state also witnessed a rise in budding tech startups spanning online retail, digital marketing, and home services.
3. 2019 working paper titled ‘Of Blackouts and Bandhs: The Strategy and Structure of Disconnected Protest in India’ by Jan Ryzdzak, currently a research analyst at US-based organisation Ranking Digital Rights, said: “State authorities invariably claim that these deliberate blackouts, which occur more frequently in India than in any other country in the world, are useful in pacifying or preventing protest. However, empirical evidence is never presented.”
4. 2018 ICRIER report on the economic impact of internet shutdowns found that between 2012 and 2017, the economic cost of internet shutdowns in India was \$3.04 billion, with the cost to the J&K economy alone being worth over Rs 4,000 crore.

HEALTH SECTOR

1. With an estimated population of 1.25 cr, J&K has 180 ventilators despite allocation of vast budget for healthcare which shows extreme scarcity of healthcare infrastructure
2. Early goal of AIIMS in J&K was 2022 with allocation of funds as well, now it has been extended to 2025 amidst a pandemic where healthcare infrastructure of the country has been exposed. Why is there so much delay in construction of government hospitals despite urgent funds being released and not being content with deadlines?
3. Inadequate number of health clinics in districts causing increased levels of diseases with less doctors to treat. The budget plans to construct more clinics and health dispensaries but the cost allocated and the construction planning have to sit in tandem with the amount available with the administration to allow such large-scale construction
4. Insurance claim under AB-PMJAY 'SEHAT' of Rs. 5 lakh gets lapsed after a minimal cover of treatment under Rs. 5 lakhs leaving families with no claim of insurance anymore. The plan of terms to maturity should be structured in a way that after claiming a minimal sum of money from the insurance claim, the entire amount shouldn't be lapsed and entire benefit of the insurance cover should be enjoyed by the beneficiaries of the scheme (over 21 lakh families of UT of J&K).

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