

IMPACT OF ABROGATION OF ARTICLE 370 ON TOURISM AND DEVELOPMENT:A STUDY OF KASHMIR VALLEY

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Introduction

The Government of India (GoI) terminated Jammu and Kashmir's (J&K) semi-autonomous status on August 5, 2019, in a historic action. Along with it, the decision was made to divide the state into J&K and Ladakh, two union territories (UT) that are under federal administration. In addition, the government made the decision to revoke Article 35A of the Constitution, which established the state's permanent inhabitants. It should be remembered that a Presidential Order from 1954 added this clause to the Constitution (Pandya, A. 2019). In Jammu and Kashmir, the number of ongoing tragedies and concerns is rising continuously. Despite unrest and unpredictable circumstances, travelers to the state have not completely ceased. Unfortunately, though, their unwillingness and fear have brought about an entire halt of tourism in Jammu and Kashmir. The tourism sector in the Kashmir valley and the Ladakh region suffered greatly in the 1990s. The Jammu region was not as badly hit. The Kashmir Valley lost roughly 10 million tourists since the repeal of Article 370 and turned into a destination of slayers (Kumar, A. A., 2018).

Since India's independence, the tourism industry has been the backbone of the country, but the frequent terrorist attacks from Pakistan have had a devastating impact on this industry; for instance, the houseboat industry has almost completely vanished. The people of Jammu and Kashmir and the rest of India were separated by this rule. The study highlights the benefits of removing Article 370 from Indian Constitution on a view point of the perspective of tourism in Jammu and Kashmir. Therefore, the government's choice to repeal Article 370 would affect a number of factors, including stability, market access, and state legislation, all of which might benefit it in the long run in important industries like tourism (Verma, P. 2019). The Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy's (CMIE) monthly jobs statistics show that for the previous four years at least, Jammu & Kashmir's unemployment rate has been higher than the country as a whole. As 16.3 per cent, it was one of the top four states with a high unemployment rate in July, 2019. The unemployment rate increased to 22.4 per

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cent the next month after Article 370 and 35-A were removed and a curfew was enforced. It intermittently fell to 15.5% by March 2020 and surprisingly dropped to 5.2% in May and almost 18 percentage points below the national average, as the labour market struggled with a nationwide lockdown brought on by the pandemic (Ahmad, I. and Parihar, S. 2021).

Furthermore, there is some research demonstrating that the removal of Article 370 had a good effect on terrorism in Kashmir. It gestured the beginning of a new chapter in Kashmir's history and offered the people of the state hope for prosperity and peace in the future, according to a study by Pandya, A. (2019). This action will help eradicate terrorism from the state and genuinely bring the Kashmiri people and Indian Union together (Ahmad, I. 2021). Jammu and Kashmir is India's most respectable and attractive tourist destination, with enormous tourism potential. Due to its beautiful natural surroundings and temperate climate, it draws travelers from all over the world. Its share in the former state economy is 6.98 per cent (Adeloye, D., & Brown, L. 2018). The British parliament is still split on the matter; some want the Govt's decision to be put on hold, while others support it since they think it will help J&K's economy (India Today, August 8, 2019). It happened at the same time as the US reevaluated its stance about India's efforts to abolish Article 370 and more fully incorporate Jammu and Kashmir into the nation by splitting it up into two union territories (Live Mint, 2019). Another study using primary data found no significant correlation between the type of respondents and their opinions on the criteria of Kashmir tourism marketing, with the exception that abrogating Article 370 has a positive impact on Kashmir tourism (Bhat, J. A. & Kumar, S. 2023). The respondents' opinions on the selected criteria of Kashmir tourism marketing and their gender are also statistically independent. Even in the face of the strongest local opposition to his choice, Narendra Modi's government continued to believe that India would unite. "We, as a nation and as a family, have taken a historic decision," Modi said in his speech. a system that severely hampered the growth of the brothers and sisters of Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh and deprived them of numerous rights. The only things that Article 370 and Article 35A allowed were vast corruption, terrorism, secession, and nepotism. Pakistan used these articles as a tool to stir up resentment. This is the reason 42,000 individuals have died over the previous three decades, which is heartbreaking for anyone to hear (India Today, 2019). Breaking his silence over the government's move, P.M. Modi called on the people of Jammu-Kashmir and Ladakh and the entire nation to support the development of the region and put an end to the threat posed by terrorists. On its official websites, the government provides information about the decline in terrorism and the amount of money invested in the travel and tourism industry between 2019 and 2023. The following information were provided in below tables:

Table 1. Table shows the impact of repealed Article 370 on terrorism.

Description	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023 (up to 15th November)
Terrorist Initiated Incidents	228	153	126	129	125	41
Encounters	189	102	118	100	117	44
Civilians killed	55	44	38	41	31	13
Security personnel killed in action	91	80	63	42	32	20

Source:Ministry of Home Affairs: Press Release, Dated: 06 Dec. 2023.

Table 1 provided data captures significant factors related to terrorist activities and counterterrorism actions throughout a six-year period. It shows a decline in terrorist-instigated events and engagements as well as a decline in civilian and security force casualties. This demonstrates that, throughout time, attempts to mitigate the effects of terrorism have improved. Similar findings were reported in a study by Gupta et al. (2022), which indicated that the removal of the 370 article significantly reduced the number of terror-related incidents in the current union region.

On February 19, 2021, the Indian government announced the launch of the New Central Sector Scheme for the Industrial Growth of the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, which will invest Rs. 28,400 Cr to further industrial growth. Further notifications have been sent out by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir regarding the J&K Industrial Policy 2021-30, the J&K Industrial Land Allotment Policy 2021-30, the J&K Private Industrial Estate Development Policy 2021-30, the J&K Wool Processing, Handicrafts, and Handloom Policy 2020, and other initiatives aimed at making the UT an attractive destination for investors. The investment data broken down by year is as follows:

Table2. The total investment made over a five-year period in crores of rupees in Jammu and Kashmir.

Year	Amount of investment (Rs In Crores)
2019-20	296.64
2020-21	412.74
2021-22	376.76
2022-23	2153.00
2023-24 (upto 31 st October, 2023)	2079.76
Total	5319.35

Source:Ministry of Home Affairs: Press Release, Dated: 06 Dec. 2023

The above data from Table 2 provides the total investment made over a five-year period in crores of rupees. According to the data, investments reached 296.64 crore in 2019-20 and 412.74 crore in 2020-21. Following that, according to the data, investment significantly decreased to 376.76 crores in 2021-2022. In 2022-2023, investments increased to a total of 2153.00 crores. The investment up to October 31, 2023-2024 was 2079.76 crores, a slight decrease.

Physical Financial progress

Table 3. Outlay and Expenditure during FY 2022-23 (Rs. In crore)

S.No	Scheme	Outlay	Funds Released/availability	Expenditure (31st Jan, 2023)	%age of Expenditure
1	Capex Budget	278.95	131.49	74.00	56.28
2	Centrally Sector Schemes (Swadesh Darshan)	43.00	56.60	38.19	67.47
	Total	321.95	188.09	112.19	59.65

Source: Tourism Department, J&K

The table 3, which is presented in crore rupees, shows the expenditure, availability of funds, and outlay for several projects during the fiscal year 2022-2023. By January 31, 2023, 131.49 crores of the 278.95 crores allocated for capital expenditures had been released, and 74.00 crores had been spent, or 56.28 per cent of the total budget. Schemes in the Central Sector (Swadesh Darshan): The overall budget was 43.00 crores; by January 31, 2023, 56.60 crores had been released; of them, 38.19 crores had been spent, or 67.47 per cent of the total amount.

Table 4. Physical Achievements during FY 2022-23 ending 31st January, 2023

S.No	Particulars	Unit	Targets	Targets Achieved (as on 31st Jan. 2023)
1	2	2	4	5
1	Tourism Department	No. of works	681	380

Source: Tourism Department, J&K

The Tourism Department's tangible accomplishments during the financial year 2022-2023, which ends on January 31, 2023, are compiled in the table 4. It demonstrates that by January 31, 2023, the Tourism Department had completed 380 of the 681 scheduled works, demonstrating advancement in their operations during that time.

Statement of the Problem

The purpose of the study is to look into the various effects of tourism in Kashmir after Article 370 of the Indian Constitution was repealed. The majority of the research was done using secondary data, and it was done about two years after Article 370 was repealed. Thus, the goal is to use primary data to examine the effects of tourism in Kashmir following the completion of more than a four-year Article 370 withdrawal period. Consequently, both quantitative and qualitative data will be analysed to comprehend the true state of tourism following the repeal of Article 370.

Significance of the Study

This research aims to provide empirical evidence and critical insights into the complex interplay between political transitions, tourism dynamics, and socio-economic transformations in conflict-affected regions like Jammu and Kashmir. By understanding the multifaceted impacts of tourism post-Article 370 revocation, policymakers, local communities, and industry stakeholders can devise more informed and inclusive strategies for sustainable development, peace-building, and cultural preservation in the region.

Research Methodology

The population of interest for this study is tourists who have visited Kashmir in 2024 after the completion of more than a four-year Article 370 withdrawal period. Both qualitative and quantitative methodologies were applied, and a simple random sampling technique was used to collect data from a sample size of 148 respondents at Gulmarg and Phalgam tourist places during the February and March, 2024. For data collection, open-ended and closed-ended questions were asked to respondents. Simple frequency and K-Mean Cluster analysis were used to understand the impact on tourism after abrogation of Article 370 in Kashmir Valley.

Table 5: Impact on Tourism in Kashmir Valley after abrogation of Article 370 from Indian Constitution.

S. No	Questionnaire					
01	How positively do you believe the removal of Article 370 has impacted the tourism industry in Kashmir?					
	No positive impact	Minimal positive impact	Moderate positive impact	Significant positive impact	Extremely positive impact	Total
	25 (11.49%)	28 (18.91%)	49 (33.11%)	28 (18.92%)	18 (12.16%)	148(100%)
	How would you describe moderate positive impact of tourism in Kashmir following the abrogation of Article 370 from Indian Constitution?					
02	How would you rate the increase in tourist arrivals in Kashmir post the abrogation of Article 370?					

	Significantly decreased	Slightly decreased	Remained the same	Slightly increased	Significantly increased	Total
	0 (0%)	18 (12.16%)	36 (24.32%)	67 (45.25%)	27 (18.24%)	148 (100%)
	How would you explain slightly increased tourist arrivals in Kashmir post the abrogation of Article 370?					
03	How would you rate the improvement in tourism infrastructure in Kashmir since the constitutional change?					
	No improvement	Minimal improvement	Moderate improvement	Significant improvement	Outstanding improvement	Total
	18 (12.16%)	27 (18.24%)	39 (26.35%)	36 (24.32%)	28 (18.91%)	148 (100%)
	How would you describe moderate improvement in tourism infrastructure in Kashmir since the constitutional change?					
04	How much safer do tourists feel visiting Kashmir post the abrogation of Article 370?					
	Much less safe	Slightly less safe	No change in safety perception	Slightly safer	Much safer	Total
	09 (6.08%)	18 (12.16%)	25 (16.89%)	47 (31.76%)	49 (33.11%)	148 (100%)
	How you can ask tourists feel slightly safer while visiting Kashmir post the abrogation of Article 370?					
05	How much of a boost in revenue from tourism activities do you think local businesses in Kashmir are experiencing after Article 370 was revoked?					
	No boost in revenue	Minimal boost in revenue	Moderate boost in revenue	Significant boost in revenue	Exceptional boost in revenue	Total
	17 (11.49%)	32 (21.62%)	32 (21.62%)	57 (38.51%)	10 (6.76%)	148 (100%)
	How you can explain that local businesses in Kashmir is experiencing significant boost in revenue through tourism activities after Article 370 was revoked?					

Source: Primary data

The data from Table 5 revealed that most of the participants (33.11%) think that the removal of Article 370 has a moderate positive effect on the tourism industry in Kashmir. During the interview when told them how? They highlighted improvements in security, infrastructure development, and economic opportunities as key factors contributing to this positivity. However, there's recognition of ongoing challenges such as political tensions and environmental concerns that need to be addressed for sustained progress in the region's tourism sector. Additionally, 18.92 percent indicated a significant positive impact, while an equal number (18.925%) mentioned a minimal positive impact. About 11.49 percent believed there was no positive impact, and the remaining 12.16 percent believed that the removal of Article 370 had an extremely positive impact on the tourism sector in Kashmir.

In terms of the increase in tourist visits to Kashmir after the repeal of Article 370, the majority (45.25%) of the respondents mentioned that there was a slight increase. They discussed that these factors include improved security conditions, promotional efforts by the government to attract tourists, and heightened media attention following the abrogation. However, there is also an acknowledgment of lingering concerns and uncertainties, suggesting that sustained efforts are necessary to fully capitalize on the potential of increased tourism in the region. Besides, 24.32 percent stated that the arrival rate remained the same as before the repeal of Article 370. Additionally, 18.24 percent reported a significant increase, while 12.16 percent noted a slight decrease. Interestingly, none of the respondents indicated that tourist arrivals in Kashmir had significantly decreased after the abrogation of Article 370.

With respect to improvement in tourism infrastructure in Kashmir following the constitutional change, majority of the respondents (26.35%) indicated that the improvement was moderate, because, such as upgraded transportation networks, better accommodation options, and enhanced amenities catering to tourists. However, there are also indications of remaining gaps and areas needing further improvement, underscoring the importance of continued investment and strategic planning to optimize tourism infrastructure in the region. While 24.32 percent stated it was significantly improved. Furthermore, 18.91 percent mentioned outstanding improvement, 18.24 percent noted minimal improvement, and the remaining 12.16 percent reported no improvement in tourism infrastructure since the constitutional change on August 5 in Kashmir.

The data indicated that majority of the respondents (33.11%) felt safer in Kashmir after the repeal of Article 370, while 31.76 percent felt slightly safer. While asked them how? they cited increased security measures, visible law enforcement presence, and improved perception of stability as factors contributing to this sense of safety. However, there are also indications of lingering apprehensions and the need for sustained efforts to further enhance safety perceptions and reassure tourists about their well-being in the region. Moreover, 16.89 percent perceived no change in safety, 12.16 percent felt slightly less safe, and the remaining 6.08 percent of respondents felt much less safe in Kashmir after the repeal of Article 370.

Finally, the data revealed that the majority of respondents (38.51%) believe that local businesses in Kashmir experienced a significant boost in revenue in the study area. They attributed this increase to several factors, including heightened security measures, improved infrastructure, effective promotional campaigns, and a more favorable perception of the region among tourists. Additionally, the influx of visitors has led to increased spending on

various goods and services, contributing to the overall economic prosperity of local businesses. However, respondents also highlighted the importance of sustainable development practices and ongoing support from the government to ensure the long-term viability and success of tourism-related enterprises in Kashmir. A recent study conducted by Bhat, J. A. & Kumar, S. (2023) found that, following the repeal of Article 370, tourism marketing significantly contributed to the development of tourism in Kashmir, as evidenced by an increase in visitor numbers. Meanwhile, 21.62 percent noted a moderate boost, and an equal number of respondents (21.62%) perceived a minimal boost in revenue. Additionally, 11.49 percent of respondents believed there was no boost in revenue, while the remaining 6.76 percent thought that local businesses in Kashmir experienced an exceptional boost in revenue after the repeal of Article 370.

Table 6. Distribution of the respondents by the impact of abrogating Article 370 on tourism in Kashmir.

Variable		Frequency	Percent
Impact on Tourism	Low	118	39.5
	Moderate	152	48.8
	High	35	11.7
	Total	305	100.0

Source: Primary data

The impact of repealing Article 370 on tourism was categorized into three categories using K-mean cluster analysis: low, moderate, and high. According to Table 6, the majority of respondents (48.8%) indicated a moderate degree of impact, while 39.5 per cent identified a lower level and 11.7 per cent cited a higher level of impact on Kashmiri tourism as a result of Article 370's revocation. It is possible to draw the conclusion that, following the repeal of Article 370 on tourism, the majority of respondents (49.8%) observed a moderate level of influence on tourism in Kashmir. Verma, P. (2019) and Ali, M. (2022) while discussed on implication of abrogation Article 370, felt that this certainly will ensure benefits for the region in the near future. The government is working to encourage tourism, which is desperately needed, by taking the necessary steps and efforts.

Several studies that were carried out in the year after Article 370 was removed, expressed opposition to the repeal of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir, citing limitations on people's freedom of movement and communication that were put in place by the government to maintain law and order. However, as time passes, scholars are progressively

demonstrating and positive perceptions about future of Jammu and Kashmir's development, particularly in the travel and tourist industry.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the tourism scene in Kashmir has undergone tremendous upheaval since Article 370 was lifted. The region's tourism industry suffered several difficulties due to its turbulent and unstable past. But it was expected that the removal of Article 370 would bring about improvements in the form of more stability, enhanced market accessibility, and better laws that would support the expansion of the tourism industry. The findings of the present study support the notion that the repeal of Article 370 has indeed had a generally positive impact on tourism in Kashmir. Significant advancements in economic prospects, infrastructure growth, and security protocols have all been noted, and they have all helped to create a more welcoming atmosphere for travelers and tourism-related enterprises. Even with these encouraging advancements, problems like persistent political unrest and environmental issues still exist. These elements highlight the necessity of persistent efforts to resolve underlying problems and fulfil the potential of more tourists in the area. Essentially, even though the lifting of Article 370 has been a major step forward for Kashmiri tourism, more work and calculated actions are needed to address lingering issues and guarantee the industry's long-term viability and growth.

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