



PERIODIC SUMMARY OF CRITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN IAK January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023

In 2023, the already dire humanitarian and human rights situation in Indian-administered Kashmir (IAK) continued to deteriorate.¹ Please find below an enumeration of select incidents illustrating longstanding, systematic violations in the region. Please find further below an enumeration of select incidents illustrating the following emerging trends in the human rights crisis in IAK:

- Denial of the rights to freedom of expression, opinion and belief and the right to work through the termination of employment.
- Denial of the rights to freedom of expression, opinion and belief and collective punishment through the expropriation of homes and property.
- Denial of the rights to freedom of expression, opinion and belief through the criminalization of online speech.
- Denial of the rights to freedom of expression and assembly and the right to privacy through enhanced physical and electronic surveillance.
- Denial of the right to free expression and free movement through the cancelation of travel documents.
- Denial of social and political rights through the manipulation of nominally representative structures.
- Denial of economic rights, including through the systematic expropriation of land and related private investments.
- The acceleration of settler colonialism and forced demographic change.
- Denial of cultural rights, including through the Indianization of local names and systematic promotion of Hindi.

The following longstanding, systematic violations remained ongoing in 2023:

Denial of the right to life, including through extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances:

- The January 28, 2023, [enforced disappearance of Mufti Nazir Ahmed Dar](#), a Muslim scholar.

¹ That situation has been extremely grave for many decades. Please see our [periodic summary of critical developments in the human rights situation in IAK from August 4, 2019 to January 31, 2023](#) for background on the immediately antecedent period.

- The March 2023 discovery of the [mutilated corpse](#) of Abdul Rashid Dar, [involuntarily disappeared](#) by the Indian Army's Rashtriya Rifles (41st Battalion) in December 2022.
- On or around April 27, 2023, Indian forces [assaulted a pregnant woman](#), killing her child, and killed [Mukhtar Hussain Shah](#) in custody in a related incident.
- On May 15, 2023, Indian forces [killed Parveena Fatima](#), a 55-year old woman, while she was collecting firewood near the Line of Control (LOC).
- On June 24, 2023, Indian forces [killed two shepherds](#) (and [critically injured one](#)) near the LOC.
- On May 7, 2023, Danish Khazir Bhat was killed by electrocution after [Indian soldiers forced him to climb an electric pole to fix a surveillance camera](#).
- On October 21, 2023, Indian forces killed [five villagers foraging for food near the LOC](#).
- On November 4, 2023, an Indian Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) vehicle [hit and killed](#) Manzoor Ahmad Wani in Srinagar.
- On December 23, 2023, a [mortar shell explosion](#) in Samba district killed 19-year-old Pawan Singh and injured 29-year-old Roshan Singh.
- On December 22, 2023, the Indian Army's Rashtriya Rifles (48th Battalion) arbitrarily detained and tortured [at least 13 civilians](#) and killed at least [three](#) in Poonch and Rajouri districts.

Collective punishment and the crime of persecution:

- On April 20, 2023, Indian forces conducted a cordon-and-search operation in Poonch district and arbitrarily [detained over 40 people](#), [arrested at least six](#) and tortured many, while restricting the freedom of movement of thousands.
- On May 17, 2023, [Indian forces raided the home of arbitrarily detained pro-self-determination political activist Shabir Shah](#) and destroyed or damaged property.
- On November 17, 2023, Indian forces used [chemical substances delivered via drone](#) to [destroy and damage homes](#) while killing at least 5 young men.

Denial of the right to liberty and torture or inhuman treatment, including through arbitrary detention:

- The ongoing arbitrary [detention of Mirwaiz Umar Farooq](#), a Kashmiri Muslim religious leader.
- On May 19, 2023, a special [counter-terror court charged Bashir Ahmad Mir](#), an arbitrarily detained leader of the Hurriyat Conference, with terrorism-related offenses for pro-self-determination political activity.
- India's National Investigation Agency (NIA) [sought the death penalty](#) for Yasin Malik, an arbitrarily detained pro-self-determination political activist.
- On August 1, 2023, the NIA [raided multiple locations](#) in Srinagar, Budgam, Pulwama and Shopian districts, including the homes of several lawyers who have defended victims of human rights violations (including the brother of [Jalil Andrabi](#), a Kashmiri lawyer and human rights defender who Indian forces involuntarily disappeared and executed in March 1996).

- On August 9, the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh [upheld the preventive detention of Abdul Hameed Ganie](#) without evidence of any illegal conduct.
- On August 29, 2023, the State Investigation Agency (SIA) [arrested Sarjan Barkati](#), a Kashmiri Muslim religious leader.
- On August 31, 2023, the SIA and India's Criminal Investigation Department (CID) [arrested Adil Farooq Faridi, Mohd Iqbal, Mujahid Hussain, Tariq Hussain, Ishtiaq Ahmed, Ajaz Ahmed, Jameel Ahmed, and Ishfaq Ahmed](#) for alleged pro-self-determination activity three decades ago.
- On September 2, 2023, the SIA [arrested 10 individuals](#) from the Doda district for alleged pro-self-determination activity in the 1990s.
- On October 20, 2023, Indian authorities [arbitrarily detained](#) Kashmiri Muslim religious leader Aga Syed Mohammad Hadi and forcibly closed an associated Muslim religious space.
- On November 24, 2023, the SIA [arrested](#) Shabroza Bano, the spouse of Sarjan Barkati.
- In early November, Indian authorities arbitrarily detained hundreds of [individuals](#) across Kashmir who they alleged were "over-ground workers."

Denial of the rights to free expression and free assembly:

- On July 6, 2023, fourteen people were [arrested and imprisoned](#) for not standing during the Indian national anthem at an event in Srinagar.
- On July 13, 2023, [Martyrs' Day](#) commemorations (a historic holiday honoring those killed in the pro-democracy struggle in Jammu and Kashmir) were again banned.
- The Jammu and Kashmir administration made [participation in Indian Independence Day celebrations mandatory](#) and instructed employees to fly Indian flags at their homes.
- On August 5, 2023, [demonstrations protesting the "abrogation" of Article 370 were not allowed in Srinagar](#) while BJP cadres were permitted to publicly rally in support of the government
- The Jammu and Kashmir administration [suspended Zahoor Ahmad Bhat](#) for testifying in a case challenging the government's decision to "abrogate" Article 370 of India's constitution and then subjected him to an administrative review.
- On September 25, 2023, a court [denied bail to Mohammad Yaseen Bhat, Mohammad Rafiq Pahloo, Shams u Din Rehmani, Jahangeer Ahmad Bhat, Khurshid Bhat, Shabir Dar, Sajad Hussain Gul, Firdous Ahmad Shah, Parray Hassan Firdous, Sohail Ahmad Mir](#) who were arbitrarily [detained on July 9, 2023](#) for allegedly discussing Kashmiris' right to self-determination.
- On October 5, 2023, the Indian government [banned](#) the pro-self-determination Jammu and Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party.
- On October 10, 2023, Indian authorities [approved the prosecution](#) of Indian novelist Arundhati Roy and Kashmiri professor of international law Sheikh Showkat Hussain for discussing IAK in a manner consistent with international law at a 2010 conference.
- On November 3, 2023, the Jammu and Kashmir administration [prohibited employees from striking](#).
- On November 8, 2023, Indian authorities [prohibited assembly in support of Palestinians](#).

- On November 20, 2023, Jammu & Kashmir Police [arrested seven Kashmiri students](#) for allegedly supporting the Australian team in the 2023 Men's Cricket World Cup final against India.
- On December 2, 2023, the Jammu and Kashmir administration [required all employees to contribute towards the Armed Forces Flag Day](#) (celebrated on December 7).
- In December 2023, India's Home Ministry banned [Muslim League Jammu Kashmir](#) and [Tehreek-e-Hurriyat Jammu and Kashmir](#), both pro-self-determination political parties.
- [Surfshark](#) reported there were more [internet disruptions](#) in Jammu & Kashmir in 2022 than in any country in the world (31% of all cases globally).
- Access Now reported that Indian authorities [shutdown the internet](#) 49 times in IAK (26.2% of shutdowns globally).
- On March 15, 2023, [Delhi police forced the cancellation of a Gandhi Peace Foundation event](#) on state repression in IAK.
- On March 24, 2023, the Indian [Supreme Court held](#) that mere membership in an association deemed unlawful by Indian authorities constituted a criminal offense.

Denial of the right to a free press and information:

- [On March 16, 2023](#), a special counter-terror court framed sedition charges against Kashmiri journalist Fahad Shah and Kashmiri scholar Abdul Aala Fazili in connection with a 2011 op-ed.
- On August 19, 2023, India's Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology [blocked](#) the website and social media of The Kashmir Walla, an independent media organization.
- On August 21, 2023, Indian authorities forced The Kashmir Walla's staff [to close down their office](#) in Srinagar and [shut down](#).
- On September 15, 2023, Jammu and Kashmir Police [arrested journalist Majid Hyderi](#).
- On October 14, 2023, the Indian chief executive in IAK [accused journalist Jahangir Ali of being part of the "separatist ecosystem"](#) after publishing a story about government corruption.
- The Jammu and Kashmir Police [threatened legal action against the BBC](#) for publishing [an analysis of Indian authorities' systematic targeting of independent media in IAK](#). They also used similar tactics to target press freedom organizations like [Reporters Without Borders](#).
- Foreign correspondents [reported](#) being repeatedly summoned by Indian authorities and interrogated for their coverage of IAK, as well as being followed and facing physical threats, threats of denying visa extensions, and threats of deportation, specifically to suppress coverage of IAK.
- Journalists continue to report that there remains [no space for criticism in IAK](#); reporting is censored and, due to fear of reprisals, self-censored.
- In a case emblematic of the repression targeting Kashmiri journalists, as of the date of this publication, [Aasif Sultan](#) has been arbitrarily detained for 1,982 days.

Denial of freedom of religion and belief:

- On April 14, 2023, the [Jammu and Kashmir administration banned](#) congregational Jummat-ul-Wida prayers at Jamia Masjid, Srinagar.
- On June 8, 2023, [a coalition of over 40 Muslim social and religious in IAK, protested](#) the forcible takeover of local Muslim institutions by the state-controlled, BJP-run Waqf Board. The Jammu and Kashmir High Court later [dismissed a legal challenge to that takeover](#).
- On June 29, 2023, the Jammu and Kashmir administration prohibited Eid-al-Adha prayers at [Jamia Masjid, Srinagar](#) as well as [Eidgah](#), Srinagar.
- On the night of June 24-25, 2023, the Indian Army's [Rashtriya Rifles \(50th Battalion\) raided Zadoora, Pulwama at approximately 1:30am](#), arbitrarily detained and physically assaulted residents, interrupted the Muslim call to Fajr prayer in the Raja Sahib mosque, vandalized the mosque and [forced the muezzin and detainees to chant "Jai Shree Ram" through the mosque's loudspeakers](#).
- Indian authorities forcibly shut down [two Islamic seminaries, Madrasa Taleem ul Quran and Madrasa Asrafal Aloom](#) by [pretextually invoking the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act](#).
- On October 9, 2023, Indian authorities [demolished a Muslim religious seminary](#) in Chewa Kalan, Pulwama district.
- Indian forces [refused to return the remains](#) of at least 580 individuals they have killed since April 2020 (they instead forcibly buried the their victims in unmarked graves).
- Indian authorities continued to regularly [prohibit Friday prayers](#) at Jamia Masjid, Srinagar.

Denial of due process and access to justice:

- The Indian government [implemented a new law](#) in IAK that requires the consent of the Indian government to arrest any personnel of India's armed forces or police for "anything done or purported to be done" as part of their "official duties."
- On July 21, 2023, India's [Supreme Court denied](#) Yasin Malik, an arbitrarily detained pro-self-determination political activist, the right to defend himself in court.
- In *Mohammad Younis Mir Vs Union Territory of J&K & Anr.*, [the Jammu and Kashmir High Court affirmed the pretextual deprivation of Kashmiris' liberty without legal scrutiny](#).
- In *Ghulam Rasool Sofi Vs State Of J&K.*, [the Jammu and Kashmir High Court held that State Human Rights Commission recommendations were legally unenforceable](#).
- India's President [awarded four Indian](#) officers, who killed at least 64 people in IAK, India's third-highest peacetime gallantry award.
- On September 26, 2023, the Jammu and Kashmir High Court [ruled that it cannot order the Indian government to "sanction" prosecutions](#) under the Armed Forces Special Powers Act.
- On November 9, 2023, an Indian military tribunal [suspended the sentence](#) of and granted bail to an Indian Army captain who abducted and executed three men in a July 18, 2020 "fake encounter."

Denial of the right to defend human rights:

- On [March 20, 2023, the NIA arrested Irfan Mehraj](#), a Kashmiri human rights defender and journalist.
- On April 26, 2023, the [NIA raided the Kashmir Peace House](#), a dedicated civil society space, and seized archival material collected over decades.
- On July 15, 2023, the Jammu and Kashmir administration [prevented elections for the Jammu & Kashmir High Court Bar Association \(JKHCBA\) from taking place](#).
- On August 1, 2023, the NIA [raided the home](#) of Parvez Imroz, a [prominent lawyer](#) and [leading Kashmiri human rights defender](#), seizing property and harassing his family.
- On September 17, 2023, the NIA produced a [charge sheet against Khurram Parvez and Irfan Mehraj](#) in a case which criminalizes human rights work and support for human rights work.
- In a case emblematic of repression targeting Kashmiri human rights defenders, as of the date of this publication, [Khurram Parvez](#) has been detained for 799 days.

The following discernible trends emerged or escalated during 2023:

Denial of the rights to freedom of expression, opinion and belief and the right to work through the termination of employment:

- On Feb. 26, 2023, the Jammu and Kashmir administration [dismissed three employees, Manzoor Ahmad Itoo, Syed Saleem Andrabi, and Aurif Sheikh](#), for purported “anti-national activities.”
- On June 23, 2023, [Indian authorities terminated Drs. Nighat Shaheen Chiloo and Bilal Ahmad Dalal](#) for their post-mortem report in the 2009 murder-rape of Asiya and Neelofar Jan.
- On July 16, 2023, the administration [terminated Faheem Aslam, Murawath Hussain Mir and Arshid Ahmed Thoker](#). Aslam was the Public Relations Officer of the University of Kashmir, Mir was a revenue officer and Thoker was a police constable.
- On November 22, 2023, the Jammu & Kashmir administration [terminated](#) Dr. Nisar ul Hassan, an Assistant Professor of Medicine, Abdul Majid Bhat, a police constable, Farooq Ahmad Mir, a teacher, and Abdul Salam Rather, a laboratory bearer, for alleged “ties to militancy.”

Denial of the rights to freedom of expression, opinion and belief and collective punishment through the expropriation of homes and property:

- The targeting of Jamaat-e-Islami Jammu & Kashmir (Jel), a leading Islamic socio-religious movement founded in Jammu & Kashmir in 1953 and [banned](#) by Indian authorities in February 2019, including through [the expropriation of several properties](#) on January 7, 2023 and the [expropriation of property worth an estimated ₹90 crore](#) (almost \$11 million) on March 12, 2023.

- On May 29, 2023, SIA [barred entry and exit from a shopping complex and the related land in Kupwara district claiming it was Jel property](#) worth INR 3 crores (approximately USD \$363,000).
- On April 5, 2023, the NIA [filed terrorism charges](#) against Mohammad Ameer Shamshi, chairperson of the Al-Huda Educational Trust, a civil society organization which used to run schools for underprivileged kids in IAK that have been forcibly closed, and was allegedly affiliated with Jel.
- On June 7, 2023, the SIA announced that they had [expropriated 124 properties](#) across 86 locations, with 77 properties associated by authorities with Jel, for alleged involvement in “terror funding”.
- On January 28, 2023, a Delhi [court ordered the](#) expropriation of the building housing the pro-self-determination Hurriyat Conference in Srinagar.
- On March 2, 2023, the NIA expropriated the familial home of exiled self-determination activist [Mushtaq Ahmad Zargar](#) (aka Latram) in Srinagar.
- On March 4, 2023, the NIA expropriated [properties that they claim were linked to Kashmiri exile Bashir Ahmad Peer](#) who was assassinated on February 20, 2023 in Rawalpindi, Pakistan.
- On April 24, 2023, the [NIA expropriated the properties of Syed Ahmed Shakeel and Shahid Yusuf](#) (the sons of Syed Salahudeen, head of Hizbul Mujahideen) who are being held in Tihar Jail.
- On June 12, 2023, the NIA [expropriated 17 properties](#) belonging to Zahoor Ahmed Shah Watali, an arbitrarily detained Kashmiri businessman, for allegedly supporting pro-self-determination political activity in IAK. The NIA [expropriated Watali’s residence in Srinagar](#) in May 2023.
- On June 13, 2023, the NIA [expropriated the properties of Mohammad Akbar Khanday](#), the arbitrarily detained former spokesperson for the pro-self-determination Hurriyat Conference.
- On August 1, 2023, the Jammu and Kashmir Police [expropriated land](#) allegedly belonging to Farooq Qureshi, who has allegedly been living outside of IAK since the early 1990s.
- On August 24, 2023, Jammu and Kashmir Police [expropriated land](#) belonging to Salam Shah, the grandfather of a man that police allege is a “militant.”
- On September 7, 2023, the [Jammu & Kashmir administration announced](#) that 4,200 people allegedly involved in “militancy” will have their property in IAK expropriated.
- [Since 2019](#), Indian authorities have expropriated at least 200 properties in IAK, mostly based on allegations of “terrorism.”

Denial of the rights to freedom of expression, opinion and belief through the criminalization of online speech:

- On February 17, 2023, the Jammu and Kashmir administration [instructed](#) high-level officials to monitor employees’ social media and identify negativity toward or criticism of government policy.
- On February 24, 2023, [Joginder Singh](#), a schoolteacher in Ramban district, was suspended for Facebook comments criticizing government policies.

- On April 14, 2023, the [Bombay High Court rejected](#) a petition from Professor Javed Ahmed Hajam seeking dismissal of a criminal case over a WhatsApp status that described the abrogation of Article 370 of India's constitution as a "black day" for Jammu & Kashmir.
- In March 2023, Indian authorities blocked 14 [mobile communications applications](#).
- On September 18, 2023, the Jammu and Kashmir Police [arbitrarily detained Irfan Malik](#) for Instagram posts and tweets.
- On September 26, 2023, the Directorate of Family Welfare [issued new social media guidelines](#) prohibiting public sector employees from criticizing government policies or actions.
- On October 19, 2023, Indian authorities conducted raids on five locations in the Kupwara, Srinagar, Anantnag, and Pulwama districts of IAK for [content on social media](#) platforms.
- On December 1, 2023, Jammu and Kashmir Police criminally charged six individuals for allegedly [posting "anti-social" content](#) on social media.
- On December 9, 2023, Jammu and Kashmir Police criminally [charged at least nine people](#) for "misusing" social media.
- [Poets, artists, satirists and youtubers reported](#) continued targeting by Indian authorities for disfavored speech, with self-censorship an [ongoing trend](#).
- Police continued to [actively monitor Kashmiris online and have obtained the cooperation of social media companies like Meta](#) in targeting Kashmiri dissent.
- On September 26, 2023, the Washington Post published an [expose](#) of Meta's cooperation with the Indian government to spread state propaganda, including to obscure human rights violations in IAK, while suppressing speech by Kashmiri dissenters.

Denial of the rights to freedom of expression and assembly and the right to privacy through enhanced physical and electronic surveillance:

- The imposition of a [new digital identification system](#) for every household.
- The CRPF [conducted a new house-to-house data collection campaign](#).
- For the first time, Jammu and Kashmir Police installed a [GPS ankle tracker](#) on a prisoner – a lawyer arrested for his allegedly engaging in pro-self-determination political activity.
- On December 12, 2023, Jammu and Kashmir Police began using [AI-based Facial Recognition Technology](#) in IAK.

Denial of the right to free expression and free movement through the cancelation of travel documents:

- [Indian authorities suspended the passports of up to 200 Kashmiris, including students, lawyers and journalists](#), allegedly because they were deemed a "national security threat."

- The ongoing systematic [denial of passports](#) (as well as government services and employment opportunities) on the basis of an “adverse” police report has resulted in at least hundreds of Kashmiris being [denied passports and employment opportunities](#).

Denial of social and political rights through the manipulation of nominally representative structures:

- The Indian government introduced several new [quota bills](#) to structurally advantage pro-BJP interests in Jammu and Kashmir and further disempower Muslims.
- [One bill gave preferential Scheduled Caste status to the Valmiki community](#), a pro-BJP constituency in Jammu and Kashmir.
- [Another bill gave preferential Schedule Tribe status to Gadda Brahmins, Kolis, Paddaris and Paharis](#), pro-BJP constituencies in Jammu and Kashmir.
- A [third bill reserved seats for pro-BJP Hindu groups](#) – two specifically for ethnic Kashmiri Brahmins (or Pandits) and one for Hindus who historically resided in Pakistan-administered Kashmir – in the Jammu and Kashmir legislature.
- Since August 5, 2019, Indian authorities have enacted [various policies and restrictions](#) that have escalated the disempowerment of IAK’s Muslims. [Deutsche Welle](#) and [Rabble](#) published analyses of this escalating domination and disempowerment.

Denial of economic rights, including through the systematic expropriation of land and related private investments:

- On January 18, 2023, [there was an expropriation of 300 kanals](#) of purported “state” land, followed by the expropriation of [over 2,300 more kanals](#) of purported “state” land on January 19, 2023.
- The “anti-encroachment” drive, which began in January 2023, resulted in the expropriation of over 215,000 kanals of land and [thousands](#) being displaced or evicted.
- On Feb. 21, 2023, the Jammu and Kashmir administration announced [new, controversial property taxes](#) on both residential and non-residential properties.
- The Jammu and Kashmir administration systematically [evicted](#) local businesses from their commercial enterprises and investments through the implementation of new Land Grant Rules.
- The Jammu and Kashmir administration [finalized](#) a new [policy](#) to [expand systematic evictions](#).
- On May 23, 2023, the Jammu and Kashmir [High Court ruled that residents of Jammu and Kashmir had no rights to water that flows through their land](#).
- The Indian government [announced](#) that it will auction off lithium deposits in the Reasi district.
- On October 2, 2023, the Jammu and Kashmir administration [transferred land](#) totaling 135 kanals and two Marlas in Budgam and 23 Kanals and 13 Marlas in Baramulla to India’s Defense Ministry.
- The Jammu and Kashmir administration [continued to dispossess and evict indigenous communities from forest dwellings in IAK](#).

The acceleration of settler colonialism and forced demographic change:

- On April 26, 2023, the Indian-appointed chief executive of Jammu and Kashmir [inaugurated 576 residential accommodations](#) in colonial settlements. The Indian government is constructing [6,000 such “transit” accommodations](#). [Various “slumdweller” settlements](#) for groups aligned with the BJP have also been erected.
- In June 2023, reports emerged that [“domicile certificates” had been issued to 61,47,482 people](#).
- On July 5, 2023, the Indian-appointed chief executive of Jammu and Kashmir [announced a policy](#) to give away land in IAK to 199,000 beneficiaries by 2024.
- Over a million people, 96% of whom are Hindu, [gained](#) the right to vote in Jammu and Kashmir for the first time. 698,800 of them received “domicile certificates,” including 7,346 Indian bureaucrats and military personnel.
- Since 2019, at least [185 people](#) from outside IAK have bought land and at least [1,559 Indian companies](#) have made investments in IAK.

Denial of cultural rights, including through the Indianization of local names and systematic promotion of Hindi:

- The Jammu and Kashmir State Council of Educational Research and Training proposed [making Hindi language classes mandatory in schools](#).
- Indian authorities [removed the literature of poet Agha Shahid Ali and novelist Basharat Peer](#) from the Master of Arts in English curriculum in IAK.
- The Jammu and Kashmir administration [renamed 31 schools and one road](#) to commemorate Indian armed forces. A primary school was [renamed to commemorate Zahoor Ahmed Parray](#), a state-sponsored militiaman notorious for grave [human rights violations](#).
- On December 9, 2023, the Jammu and Kashmir Cultural Academy hosted a [Hindi-language cultural program](#) to promote Hindi in the region.
- On December 9, 2023, the Jammu and Kashmir administration [renamed Jhelum Stadium](#) to General Bipin Rawat Stadium. Bipin Rawat was India’s former chief of defense staff who was widely known in IAK for his [demonization of Kashmiris](#) and [celebration of Indian war criminals](#).

In addition, the following related developments in 2023 are especially noteworthy:

- The revised National Council for Educational Research and Training Class XI political science textbook [removed the following statement](#): “For example, the accession of Jammu and Kashmir to the Indian union was based on a commitment to safeguard its autonomy under Article 370 of the Constitution.”
- The G20 Tourism Working Group meeting was held in Srinagar from May 22-25, 2023. Leading up to the meeting, the Indian government heightened the [denial of locals’ rights to free movement](#), [increased](#) raids and arbitrary arrests, and [closed schools](#) and [stores](#).

Indian forces also escalated extrajudicial killings in the build-up to the meetings, [killing at least 12](#).

- The completed [Chenab Rail Bridge will further facilitate India's military occupation](#) of IAK. A former commander of the Indian army called it "a real game changer for...military capability."
- Indian authorities raised and armed new [Hindu militias](#) in IAK.

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