

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN INDIAN-ADMINISTERED KASHMIR

February 1, 2026 – February 28, 2026

### SUMMARY

In February 2026, Indian authorities continued to commit grave human rights violations in Indian-administered Kashmir (IAK). Indian forces killed at least six people. Indian authorities continued their ongoing systematic campaigns of mass detention and collective punishment through raids and cordon-and-search operations (CASOs). Indian authorities continued to deny free expression, including through prosecutions for social media posts, and escalated their ongoing expropriation of land and related violations, including through a military base in a nature preserve, 43 new high-altitude military bases and four new railway lines.

Numerous Kashmiri journalists, human rights defenders, activists, and dissenters continue to be arbitrarily detained. Emblematic cases include those of human rights defender Khurram Parvez—illegally imprisoned for over four years (1,578 days), journalist Irfan Mehraj—illegally imprisoned for almost three years (1,094 days), human rights lawyer Mian Abdul Qayoom—illegally imprisoned for almost two years (632 days) and scholar Shafat Wani—illegally imprisoned for almost one year (343 days). On February 24, 2026, India’s Supreme Court denied bail to Mian Abdul Qayoom.

*Note: Due to ongoing repression by Indian authorities, key developments in the human rights situation in IAK have gone unreported. Indian authorities have criminalized independent journalism and human rights work; all reporting from IAK is state-controlled. Indian authorities label pro-human rights and pro-self-determination activity “terrorism” and systematically legitimate violations against people in IAK through unsubstantiated, demonizing labels, including: “terrorist,” “militant,” “secessionist,” “militant,” “overground worker”, “hybrid militant,” “hybrid terrorist,” “terrorist associate,” “militant associate,” “intruder,” and “infiltrator.”*

### KILLINGS AND EXCESSIVE USE OF FORCE

On February 4, 2026, Indian forces [killed](#) three people in Basantgarh, Udhampur district and in Kishtwar, and labelled them “terrorists.”

On February 12, 2026, a minor, Bilal Ahmad of Banpath, Poonch district, was [maimed](#) in a landmine explosion in Battar Nallah, Poonch.

On February 22, 2026, Indian forces [killed](#) three people in Passerkut, Kishtwar district and labelled them “terrorists.”

### VIOLATIONS OF THE RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

On February 17, 2026, the State Investigation Agency filed terrorism [charges](#) against Altaf Hussain Wagay of Shopian and Shabir Ahmad Sheikh of Kulgam for alleged “anti-national” content on social media.

On February 22, 2026, Delhi Police [arrested](#) eight people for “terrorism” for allegedly putting up “Free Kashmir” posters at a Delhi metro station.

On February 23, 2026, the Indian authorities unveiled a new [counter-terrorism policy](#) anchored in the violative Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) and Prevention of Money Laundering Act that emphasizes preemptive measures focused on digital activity, including financing and digital expression, and preventative “deradicalization”.

### **ARBITRARY DETENTIONS AND RAIDS**

On February 2, 2026, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) [raided](#) six locations across Kashmir.

On February 3, 2026, the NIA [raided](#) a home in Hazari Bazar, Rainawari, Srinagar.

On February 6, 2026, the NIA [raided](#) Government Medical College, Anantnag.

On February 8, 2026, Indian authorities [arrested](#) a person in Ramgarh, Samba district, and labelled him an “intruder.”

On February 10, 2026, Indian authorities [arrested](#) Farooq Ahmed of Nagri, Doda district for allegedly disrespecting India’s flag.

On February 13, 2026, a special NIA Court in Delhi [sentenced](#) Zahoor Ahmed Peer and Nazeer Ahmad Peer of Handwara, Kupwara district to fifteen years under the UAPA for allegedly being “overground workers.”

On February 17, 2026, the NIA [raided](#) the home of Nazir Ahmad Bhat of Mahjoor Nagar, Srinagar.

On February 24, 2026, India’s Supreme Court [denied](#) bail to human rights lawyer Mian Abdul Qayoom.

On February 25, 2026, the NIA [arrested](#) Zameer Ahmad Ahangar of Ganderbal and Tufail Ahmad Bhat of Srinagar and labelled them “overground workers.”

On February 27, 2026, the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir [quashed](#) the Public Safety Act detention of Shabir Ahmad Dar of Kokernag, Anantnag district (detained since April 2024) as “illegal from inception.”

### **TAKING AND DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY; ECONOMIC DISEMPOWERMENT**

On February 12, 2026, official Indian data [disclosed](#) that 86% of reservations certificates (for preferential access to resources and opportunities) in Jammu & Kashmir were issued in Jammu, evidencing the escalating disempowerment of Kashmiris.

On February 13, 2026, official Indian data [disclosed](#) that Indian authorities had rejected 87% of claims in Jammu & Kashmir (39,898 claims) made under India’s Forest Rights Act (imposed in 2019), evidencing the large-scale denial of land and related economic, social and cultural rights to communities in Jammu & Kashmir.

### **COLLECTIVE PUNISHMENT**

On February 1, 2026, Indian forces [imposed](#) a CASO in Dolgam, Kishtwar district.

On February 3, 2026, Indian forces [imposed](#) a CASO in Majalta, Udhampur district.

On February 9, 2026, Indian forces [imposed](#) a CASO in Chatroo, Kishtwar district.

On February 27, 2026, Indian forces [imposed](#) a CASO in Gulpur, Poonch district.

### **DENIAL OF ACCESS TO JUSTICE; LEGALIZED IMPUNITY**

On February 13, 2026, India's National Human Rights Commission [registered](#) its first case involving Indian forces in IAK since 2019 – over the Indian Army's February 2025 killing of Waseem Ahmad Mir, a truck driver from Sopore who was shot and killed while transporting apples on the Srinagar–Baramulla highway.

### **VIOLATIONS OF RELIGIOUS AND CULTURAL RIGHTS**

On February 3, 2026, Indian authorities again forcibly [closed](#) Jamia Masjid (Srinagar) and imposed house arrest on Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, preventing Shab-e-Barat prayers.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS**

On February 8, 2026, the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) [announced](#) plans to construct a base on 1,668 kanals (around 165 acres) of land within Dachigam National Park (a major wildlife refuge and a “greenbelt” no construction zone).

On February 18, 2026, the CRPF announced that it had [established](#) 43 additional bases across IAK at altitudes between 3,000 and 6,000 feet.

On February 19, 2026, the Indian government [announced](#) final surveys for four new railway lines which will result in the mass expropriation of land, including prime agricultural land.

Indian authorities [continued](#) to facilitate large-scale environmental destruction through illegal riverbed mining and extraction of soil from government land across Kashmir resulting in losses of land, crops and livelihoods.

### **TARGETING OF KASHMIRIS; DISCRIMINATION**

On February 1, 2026, Surjeet Rajput Guleria, a Hindu supremacist, [assaulted](#) Mohammad Ramzan (a Kashmiri) in Kangra district, Himachal Pradesh after previously assaulting three other Kashmiris. Al Jazeera [documented](#) the growing pattern of violence against Kashmiris across India.

### **PUBLIC STATEMENTS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND REPORTS**

On February 5, 2026, the International Federation of Journalists [published](#) “India: Kashmiri Journalists Pressured by Police for Their Reporting.”

On February 6, 2026, The Contrapuntal [published](#) “A Feminist Reckoning with Kashmir's Militarization,” an analysis of Dr. Niharika Pandit's forthcoming book *Occupying the Everyday*.

On February 10, 2026, the World Muslim Congress [submitted](#) a written statement on IAK to the 61<sup>st</sup> session of the United Nations Human Rights Council.

On February 17, 2026, Article 14 and the Social Life of Law project at SOAS University of London [published](#) the final installment of a three-year investigative series on the abuse of the UAPA.

On February 24, 2026, Al Jazeera [published](#) “Kashmir, Spying, Demolitions: How Modi’s India Embraced the ‘Israel Model’.”

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