


DATAPROJECT / Markdown.md

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History

1 contributor

194 lines (114 sloc) | 19.6 KB

Peaceful Protests in Jammu and Kashmir Peaked in 2021

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Dataset at: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1xkkj_kNYFCDJ2xlho91ygNIUp186rOAyhxiNq_sr6AY/edit?usp=sharing

DATA FROM: Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED)

Jammu and Kashmir, which contains Kashmir, a contested territory, witnessed increased peaceful protests as well as insurgency and violence since 2016. This trend peaked in 2021. The entire region was under a harsh lockdown for 2 years from 2019 when the central government revoked Article 370.

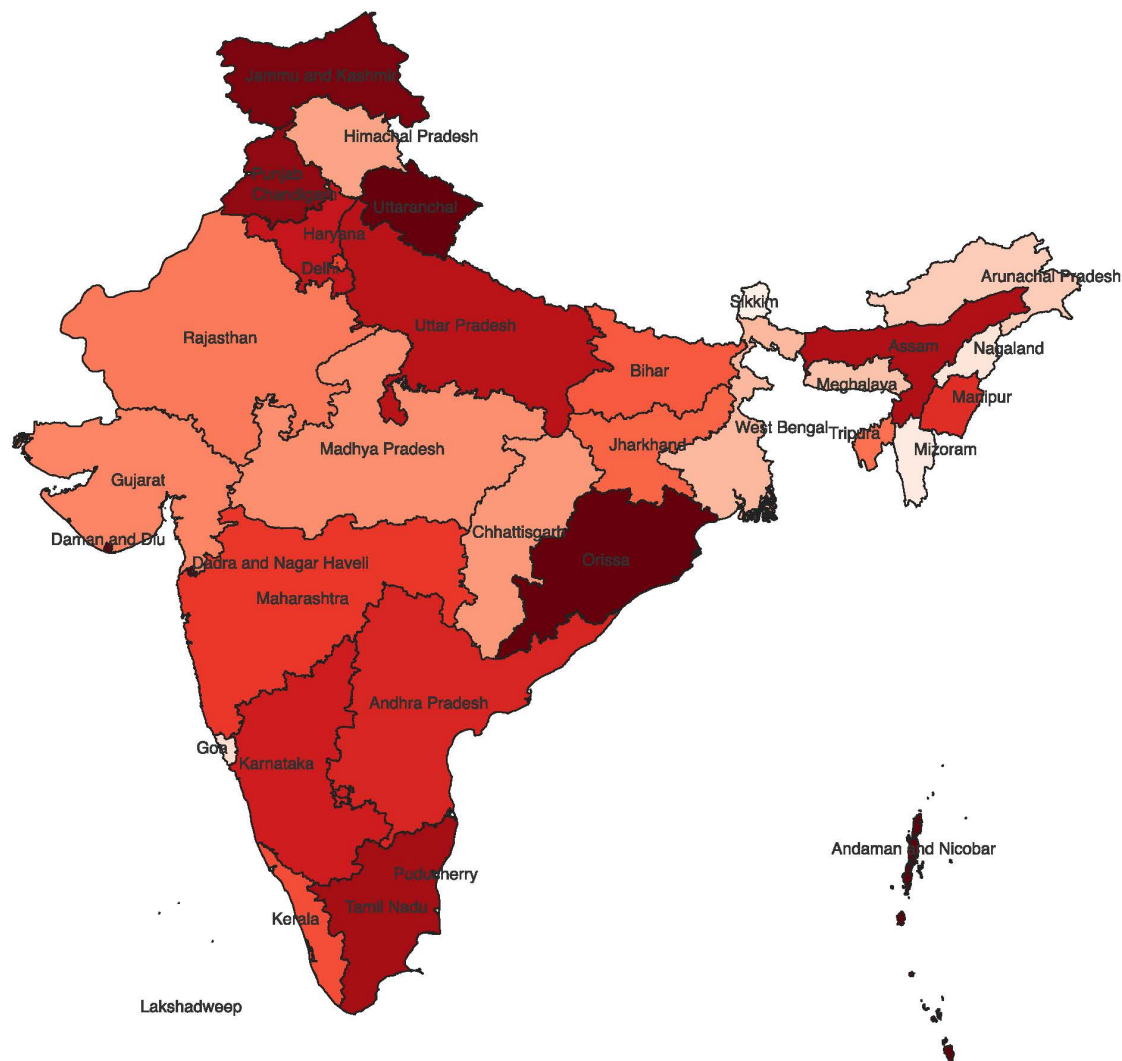
History

After the Partition of the British-ruled subcontinent in 1947, Kashmir, which was and continues to be Muslim-dominated, was taken over by the new Indian government and military rule ensued. Article 370 of the Indian constitution gave the state (comprising also of the regions of Jammu, which is Hindu-dominated, and Ladakh, which is sparsely populated with Hindus, Muslims and Buddhists) a special status. This gave the region the right to have a separate flag, state constitution, and internal governance constituting Kashmiri and Jammu locals in the government. Despite this, Kashmir was conflict-ridden and ruled by the military.



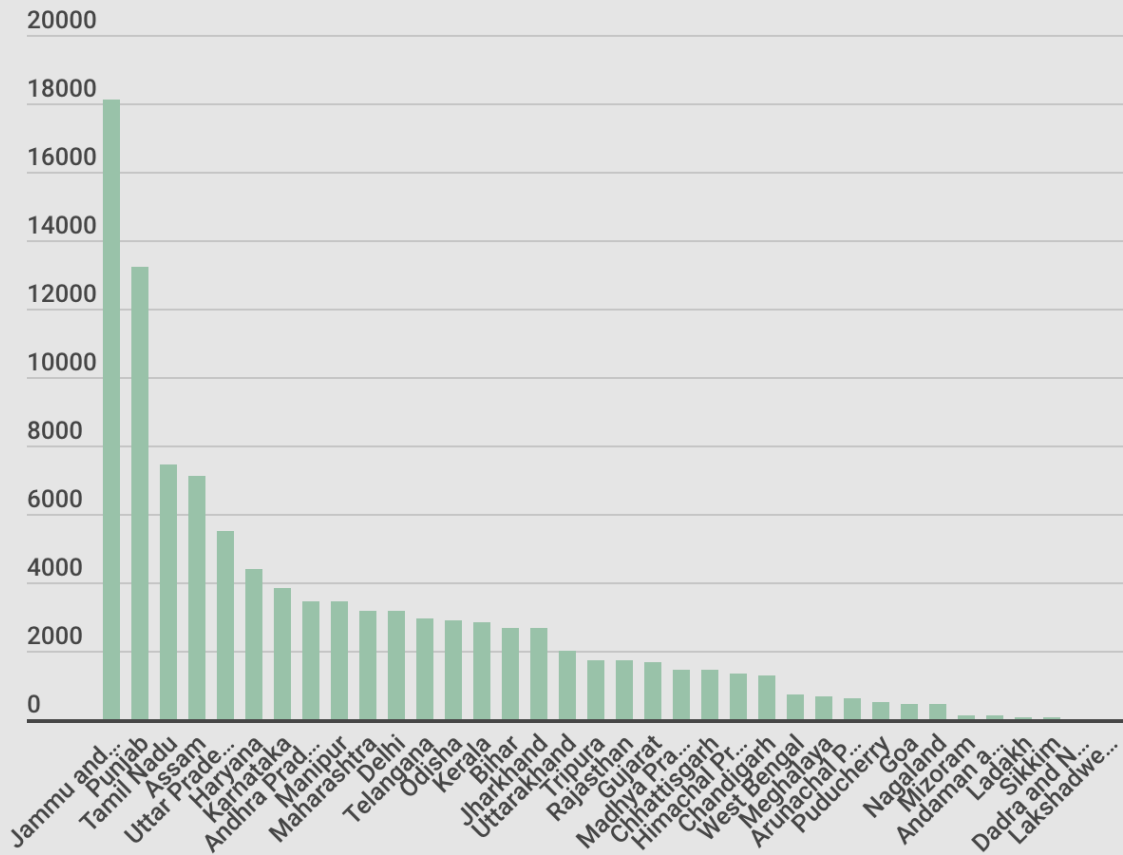
Citing that Article 370 had fed the flames of separatism, the BJP-ruled central government revoked it and separated the regions into two Union Territories (administered directly by the central government only, without an option of elections) of Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh respectively. This revocation of August 2019 was followed by a stringent state-wide lockdown which lasted till September 2021. Curfews, disconnection of the internet, and communication blockades were justified as a means to control anticipated violence and unrest following this revocation.

Data shows increased protest activity in J&K since 2016



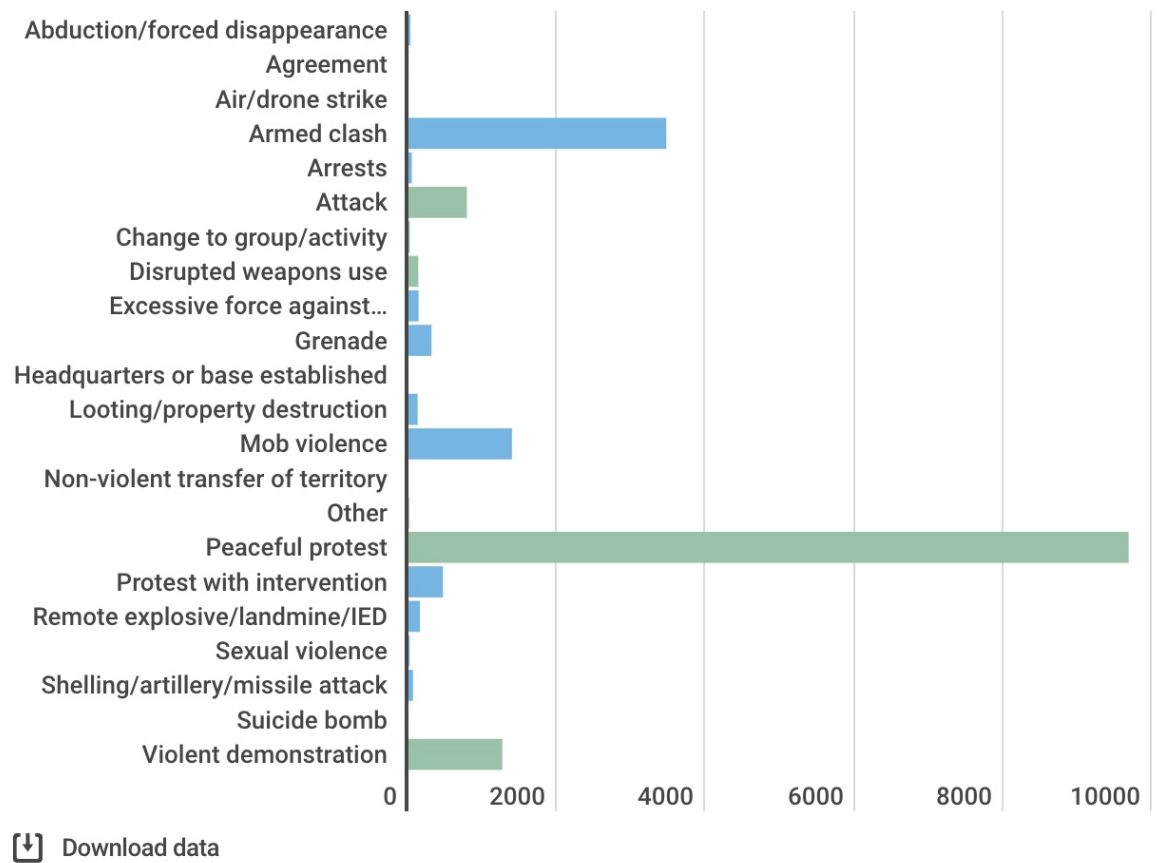
(Darker areas saw more incidents, period 2016-22)

The J&K region saw over 18,000 incidents - ranging from riots, police encounters, protests, abductions, etc - from 2016 overall, the highest of all states. Most incidents reported were peaceful protests. Only Punjab - which rebelled against the 3 farm laws from July 2020 - witnessed more protests than the region during the course of this period. These protests - both in the region and in Punjab - peaked in 2021.



Incidents across the country from 2016-22

Peaceful protests in J&K occurred far more than the violent clashes.



Incidents in Jammu and Kashmir from 2016-22

As per the data, most protests occurred in the Jammu region as a whole from 2016-22, followed by the capital city of Kashmir - Srinagar.

Jammu	4130
Srinagar	2833
New Delhi	2632
Ludhiana	2127
Bathinda	2087

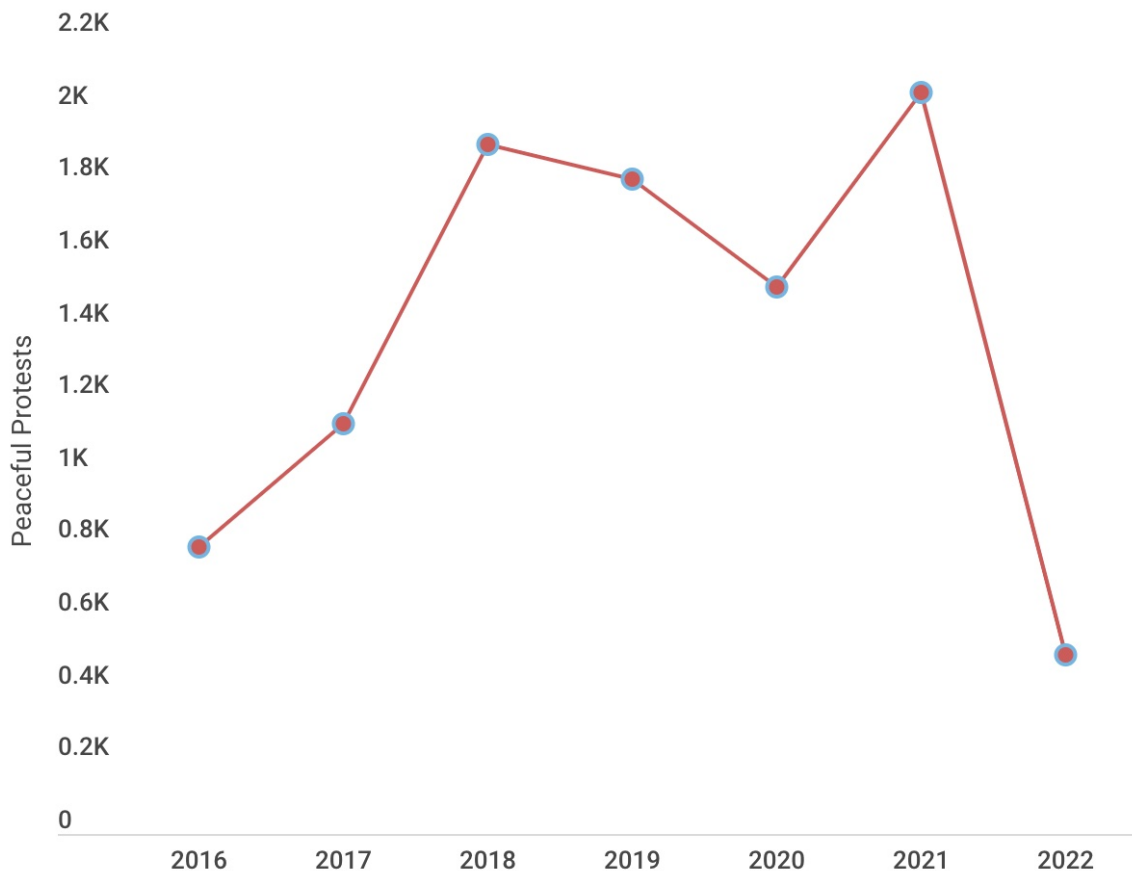
These protests in the Srinagar city for example, range from student, labor and community protests over a wide-range of issues. These issues include protests against encounter killings, pro-separationist protests, labor protests, protests against police forces, women-rights marches, protests calling attention to developmental issues, stone-pelting incidents by the people against patrolling police and/or military, politically inclined protests, protests on human rights issues, among others.

When the lockdown was imposed in the J&K region in August 2019 following the abrogation of Article 370, it led to a communication blockade. Internet was suspended, and, for the first time, a 24-hour curfew was imposed. Internet shutdowns have occurred before in Kashmir, but the 24-hour lockdown and curfew was a new move, said Safwat Zargar, a Srinagar-based journalist writing for Indian media. He said that even before the abrogation, the forces had been clamping down on any form of separatist opposition for weeks. "Months before the lockdown was imposed, they had been clamping down in the Jamaat Islamia, Hurriyat, the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front..." Moreover, the Public Safety Act - widely used as a pretext to arrest separatist activity in Kashmir - was amended and now Kashmiris arrested could be sent to any jail across the country, which was another novel thing, he said.

Qazi Shibli was one such journalist there who was arrested before this lockdown was imposed. He remained in prison for 9-months. "I had broken a story for the Kashmiri (local) press 12-days before the abrogation that the government was going to do it. Before, nobody - not even the Kashmiri local officials and politicians, thought that they (Indian government) would do it," Shibli said. When he was released in April 2020, mid-COVID-19 lockdown, he resumed work, but a few months later he was arrested again for 18-days for raising questions about an encounter killing by the forces. "I had raised doubts about this and later it turned out to be a fake encounter," he said.

Now, with the J&K region losing its special status and with no representation and elections, the people are immensely vulnerable and disempowered.

This is reflected in the data on peaceful protests coming from the region, which is seeing a major suppression of its local media. (Shibli is so worried that he has fled Kashmir.) Since 2016 protests increased in number, and saw a decline in 2020 when the lockdown was in place. In September 2021 the lockdown officially ended, but the protests peaked. But in 2022, the protests have lessened in number - both due to the fact that only a few months have passed and due to increased fear of suppression in a state lacking means of local representation in the administration.



Peaceful protests in J&K from 2016-22

Both journalists say that despite Kashmir's culture of both peaceful and violent rebellion against the Indian state, since the revocation of Article 370 massive fear permeates in its people. "After the abrogation it was very difficult to protest - yet people did it such as in Srinagar, which saw many protests. Even though initially it was a 24-hour lockdown, it was phased out over the months," said Zargar. Zargar said that many such protests also occurred in Jammu, where the business owners were against the newly given right of "outsiders" (non J&K people) of settling in the region and conducting business there. Previously, Article 370 had made it impossible for non J&K residents to own land in the region - now this is no longer a reality and has stoked immense unease in residents of both Jammu and Kashmir.

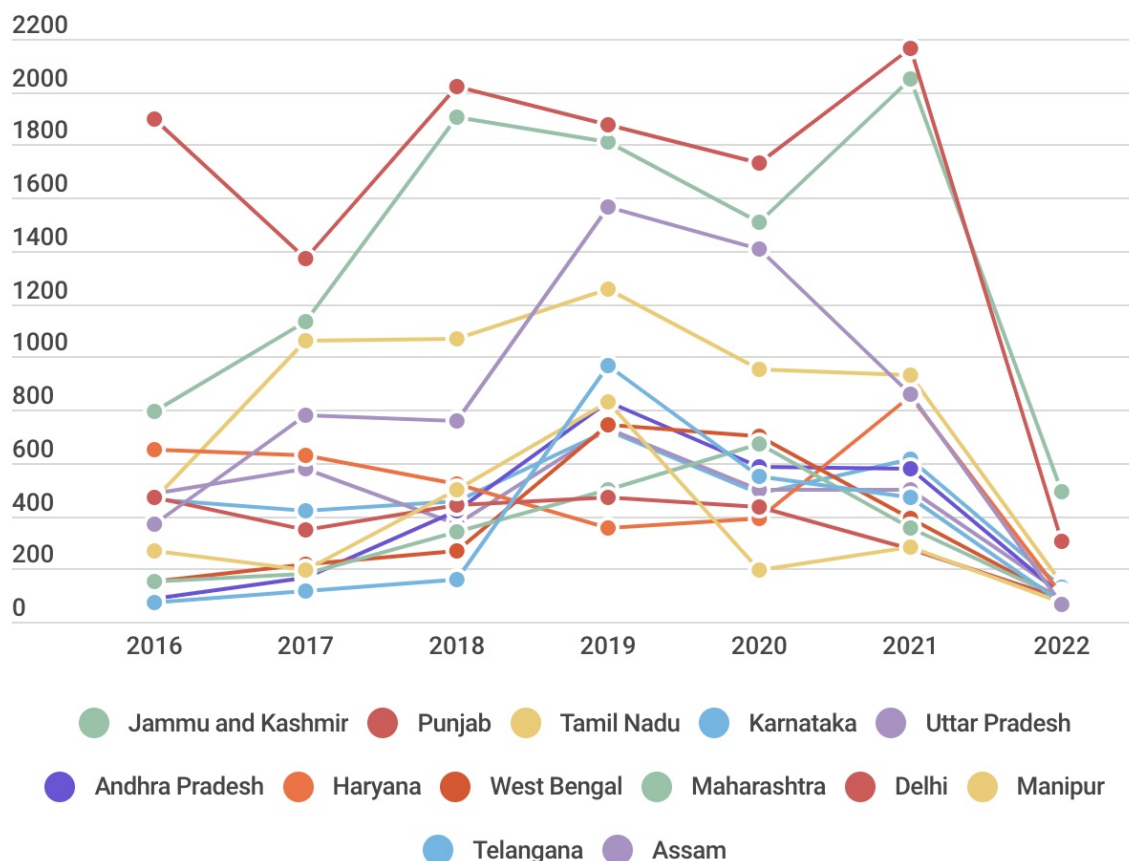
People of Kashmir are paralyzed with fear. "The situation is quite disturbing and tough. Earlier, protests happened and the police let it go. Now, the police arrests and files FIRs against the protesters," said Shibli, citing how recently people were protesting against the closure of a mosque in Srinagar known for political activities, only to find that more than 15 of the protesters were arrested the next day. People are disempowered and it is quite tragic, he added.

Protests are rising in India

Peaceful protests have been rising steadily over the years in India in many states, though the causes are multiple, and participants are diverse groups including those of opposing political parties, unions and student groups. Over 74,000 overall peaceful protests were recorded from 2016 onwards.

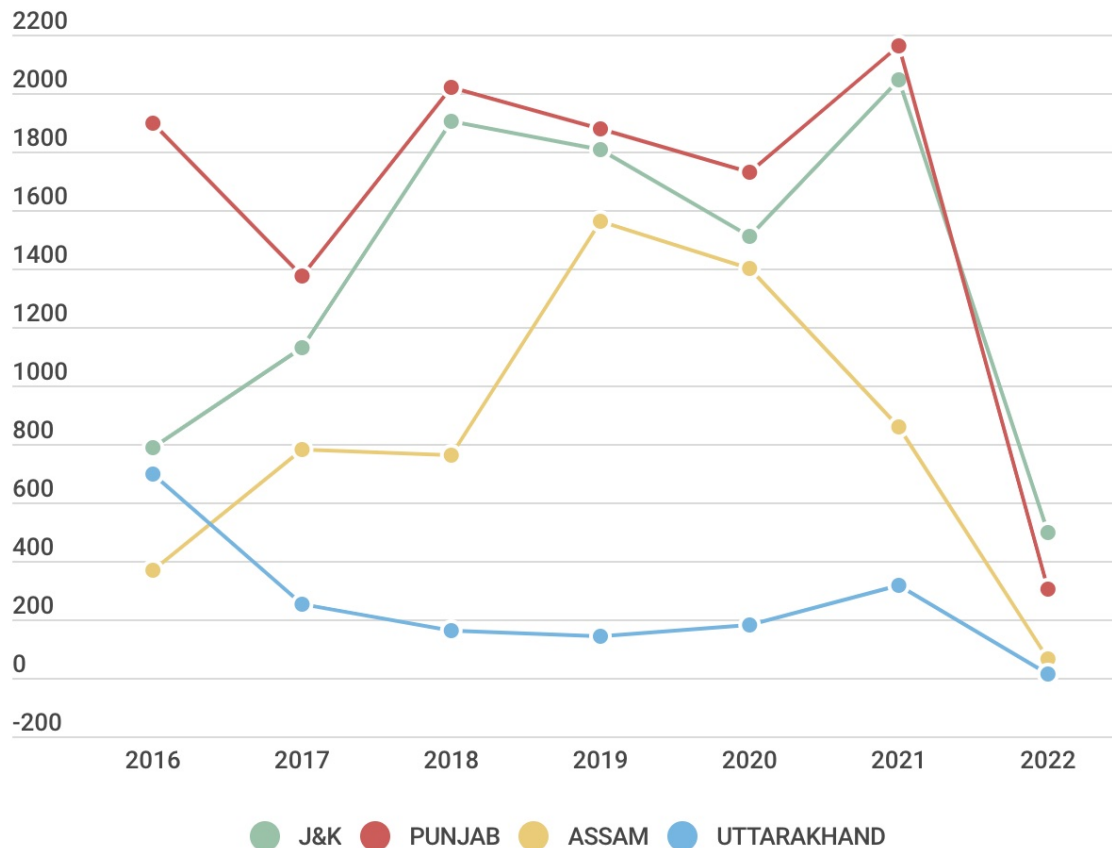
The ACLED's data shows that in states such as J&K, Punjab, and Odisha, there have been increasing riots, violence, and peaceful protests since 2016. The data tracks incidents of arrests, armed clashes, mob violence, peaceful protests, violent demonstrations, excessive force against protesters, and many others.

This is especially true for those states with the most incidents, such as Punjab and Assam. Their trends are similar to what is seen in Jammu and Kashmir.



Peaceful protests in states with most such events, 2016-22

States such as J&K, Punjab, Assam, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, and others (except for Delhi and Haryana) witnessed increasing protest activity, often peaking in 2019. They reduced in number in 2020 due to COVID-19 and in many states declined thereafter. Either the media is suddenly more vigilant and recording/reporting protest activity - or the people are truly showcasing their democratic right to protests more fiercely than they did in 2016.



Reports

- 87 civilians, 99 security personnel killed in J&K since Article 370 scrapped:
<https://www.theweek.in/news/india/2022/04/06/87-civilians-99-security-personnel-killed-in-jandk-since-article-370-scrapped.html>
- 1,999 stone-pelting incidents in 2019 in J-K, 1,193 post abrogation of Article 370:
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/1999-stone-pelting-incidents-in-2019-in-j-k-1193-post-abrogation-of-article-370/articleshow/73129411.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cppst

- A New Phase of Militancy in Kashmir: Challenges for India: <https://www.mei.edu/publications/new-phase-militancy-kashmir-challenges-india>
- India's Kashmir Conundrum: Before and After the Abrogation of Article 370: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1LIEJbbakb8mhkXZSM18D78hzdNnJMK3d/view?usp=sharing>
Lalwani, Sameer P., and Gillian Gayner. India's Kashmir Conundrum: Before and After the Abrogation of Article 370. US Institute of Peace, 2020, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/resrep25405>. Accessed 28 Apr. 2022.
- Communication blackout and media gag: State-sponsored restrictions in the conflict-hit region of Jammu and Kashmir: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1W-amFIJgXwqW-GjXkChhBNDKtdwTQOFC/view?usp=sharing>
Pandow, Bilal Ahmad. "Communication Blackout and Media Gag: State-Sponsored Restrictions in Conflict-Hit Region of Jammu and Kashmir." Identities (Yverdon, Switzerland) ahead-of-print. ahead-of-print 1–20. Web.

Future story ideas from this dataset

There are many stories that can be further pursued using this dataset:

- The future trajectory of peaceful protests and other incidents in a region without Article 370.
- Rise in protest activity across states such as Assam, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra - all these states except for Assam are ruled by non-BJP (which rules the Center) parties.
- Analyzing union-led and student-led protests across the country: what are the major issues and how does this trend compare with previous decades.
- Analyzing riot-activity across the states and comparing it to previous decades.
- What is happening in Uttar Pradesh? This is India's most populous state, led by an ultra-right Hindu nationalist government. Why are protests and other activities increasing over the course of the years? What are the major issues?

Sourcing

As journalists reporting on Kashmir and also belonging to the region, both Shibli and Zargar were perfect for understanding the ground reality as it occurred during these past few years. Thus, they are important to the story.

Caveats

It is possible that the peaceful protests recorded are more than the violent incidents due to police/military suppression.

About the ACLED Dataset

This dataset contains riots that took place in India along with the actors and geolocations. This record ranges from 1997-to 2022 and has 50,000+ records. This data is collected from ACLED. The Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED) is a non-governmental organization specializing in disaggregated conflict data collection, analysis, and crisis mapping. ACLED codes the dates, actors, locations, fatalities, and types of all reported political violence and demonstration events around the world in real-time. As of 2022, ACLED has recorded more than 1.3 million individual events around the world. The ACLED team conducts analysis to describe, explore, and test conflict scenarios, making both data and analysis open for use by the public.

MARKDOWN

In this dataset collected by the ACLED, events in India from 2016-2022 - such as peaceful protests, riots, insurgency, police violence, mob violence - has been recorded. They are collected via news reports. My goal in this analysis was to figure out any obvious trends.

1. Even though the data set looked clean, I opened it via OpenRefine.
2. I could individually use the cluster/facet functions to explore each column.

For example, when I used the text facet on the Sub_event_type (which states what form of event occurred such as mob violence, peaceful protests, etc), I could see for myself the various kinds of activity that have been recorded.

3. I immediately noticed that "Peaceful protest" was recorded 74544 times, way higher than any other activity. Image below shows this:

OpenRefine 2016 2022 csv [Permalink](#) Open... Export Help

Facet / Filter Undo / Redo 0 / 0 **107690 rows** Extensions: Wikidata

Refresh Reset All Remove All Show as: rows records Show: 5 10 25 50 100 500 1000 rows « first < previous 1 of 10769 pages next > last »

sub_event_type change 23 choices Sort by: name count Cluster

Non-violent transfer of territory 1
Other 44
Peaceful protest 74544 **Highest**
Protest with intervention 5226
Remote explosive/landmine/IED 811
Sexual violence 119
Shelling/artillery/missile attack 62
Suicide bomb 4
Violent demonstration 5484
Facet by choice counts

		data_id	iso	event_id_cnty	event_id_no_cnty	event_date	year	time_precision	event_type	sub_event_type	actor1	assoc_actor_1	inter1
1.	8912977	356	IND107923	107923	18 March 2022	2022	1		Riots	Mob violence	Rioters (India)	Singraur Caste Group (India); Rajput Caste Group (India)	5
2.	8912990	356	IND107846	107846	18 March 2022	2022	1		Protests	Peaceful protest	Protesters (India)	Labour Group (India)	6

4. Similarly, the text facet for the “year” column revealed the most occurrences that happened in 2019.

5. The occurrences peaked in 2019, and then dropped.

6. I opened the file on Google sheets.

7. I froze the rows displaying the headers.

8. I opened a PIVOT TABLE.

9. Checking the states, Jammu & Kashmir and Punjab saw most activities occur during all the years. However, Punjab saw the most peaceful protests (over 11,000 versus over 9,000 in J&K), even though overall, most activities occurred in J&K. This can be explained as since 2020 farmers across Punjab were ferociously and relentlessly agitating against the 3 farm laws passed in July 2020.

10. With these facets, I could already see that the trends for all states are the following:

- *Most of these activities are peaceful protests.
- *These activities peaked in 2019.
- *They have dropped significantly since, especially from 2020 onwards.

Since I did not need to clean up anything, I did not download this OpenRefine file and opened up this CSV on Google sheets for further analysis.

11. After opening up Google Sheets, I froze the top row and opened a PIVOT TABLE.

12. I opened a pivot table for the main sheet and in ROWS - admin1, event_type | VALUES - event_type.

13. For J&K, it showed that though riots occurred a lot, peaceful protests were by far the most common occurrence. I copied this data to a new sheet and created a chart for it. This Google sheet can be found here: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/16rP6RiHiuwyyh--3JHhkxnTAidpbkBL-4h227kYi8cPl/edit#gid=0>

14. In 2019 the Indian government repealed Article 370 which granted a special status to J&K. This abrogation was followed by an intense statewide lockdown for months, including cutting off the internet. This was lifted, very slowly, only in 2021. Yet, protests peaked in 2021, showing that there seems to be a lot of activity in the state despite the history of a harsh lockdown. Even during the lockdown data shows that peaceful events, as well as violence, continued.

15. To show this trend of events, I opened up another pivot table.

16. PIVOT TABLE: ROWS: sub_event_type, admin1 and year (in that order) and Values: Sub_event_type shows the "J&K Trends over the years" for Peaceful Protests. I again pasted this data onto a new Google sheet to create a chart out of it. This can be found here: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1buQk5UO_7WbkQaRb2v_QXUYcJ2m4b94Q3oQcgcK6-3ws/edit#gid=0

D1469	-	fx	2048		
	B	C	D	E	F
1462			2022	33	
1463	Himachal Pradesh Total			1171	
1464	Jammu and Kashmir		2016	790	
1465			2017	1132	
1466			2018	1905	
1467			2019	1808	
1468			2020	1511	
1469			2021	2048	
1470			2022	494	
1471	Jammu and Kashmir Total			9688	
1472	Jharkhand		2016	188	
1473			2017	186	
1474			2018	186	
1475			2019	258	
1476			2020	373	
1477			2021	399	
1478			2022	47	
1479	Jharkhand Total			1637	
1480	Karnataka		2016	460	
1481			2017	416	
1482			2018	454	
1483			2019	721	
1484			2020	483	
1485			2021	614	
1486			2022	129	
1487	Karnataka Total			3277	
1488	Kerala		2016	157	

sub_event_type

Order: Ascending Sort by: sub_event_ty...

☒ Show totals

☐ Repeat row labels

admin1

Order: Ascending Sort by: admin1

☒ Show totals

☐ Repeat row labels

year

Order: Ascending Sort by: year

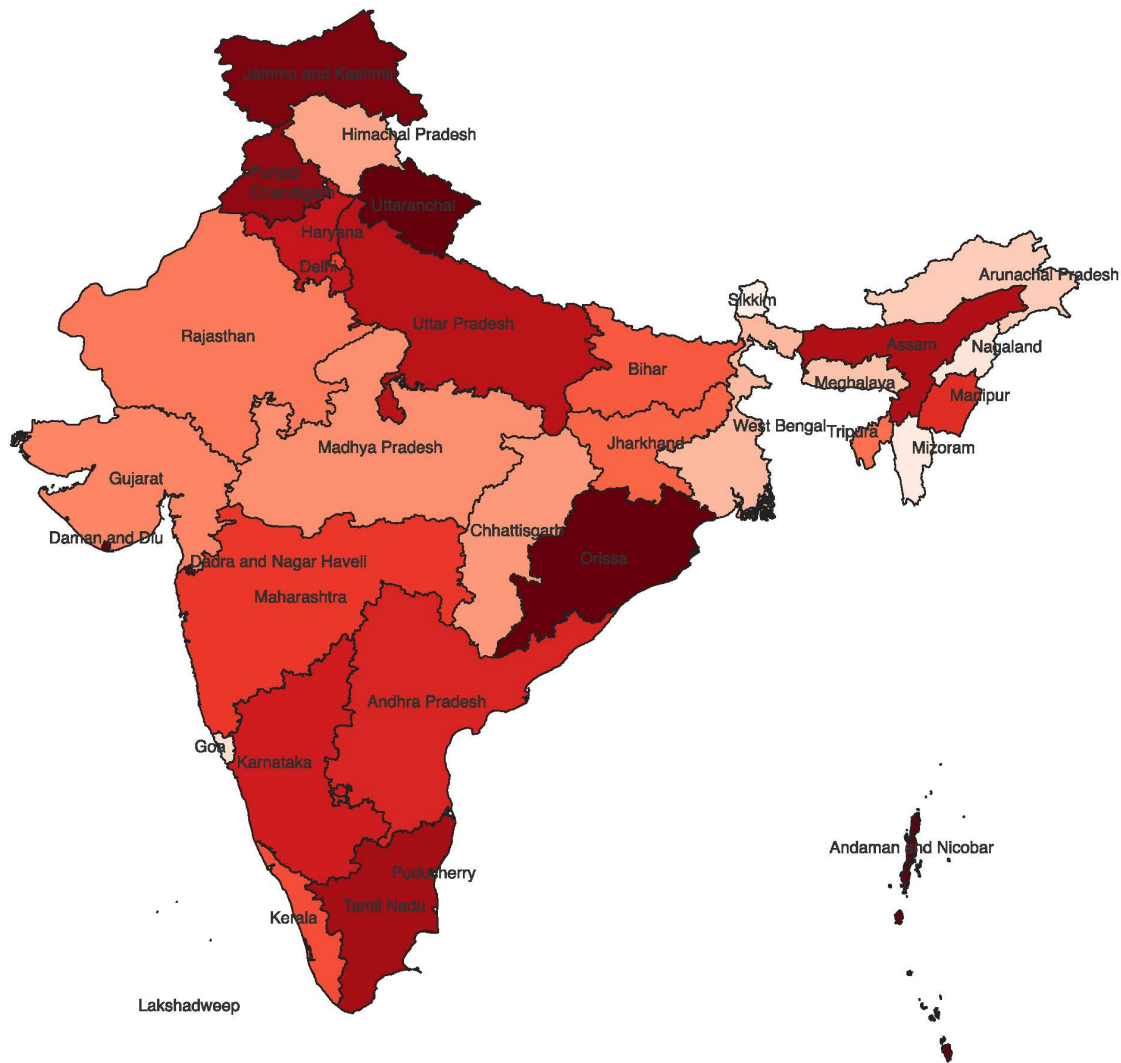
☒ Show totals

Columns: Ac

Values: Ac

sub_event_type

17. Peaceful protests peaked in 2021.
18. Creating a **QGIS map** illustration to show the intensity of peaceful protests in J&K and other states of India since 2016.
19. I copied "STATES EVENTS" onto a separate Google sheet, and downloaded it to the computer. I named this file "QGIS". It can be found here:
<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1e6hUkkGKETsvNupdqudCt46fSAldtfG-2rsTz6zJNsc/edit?usp=sharing>
20. I downloaded an Indian state shapefile from the web.
21. In QGIS, I added it as a new vector layer.
22. I then added the CSV file (QGIS) by adding a delimited text file layer, and in Geometry chose no geometry as no coordinates are mentioned.
23. I right-clicked the map layer and selected Join, and added the CSV file to it.
I matched the STATES with the NAME_1 (I checked the attribute table for the shapefile and saw that the state names were given as this).
24. I right-clicked the map layer again and went to its Properties, wherein Symbology I selected the Categorize option for EVENTS. I chose the graduated range.
25. In the Layer section, I chose to label the states too.



26. The PDF version of this map is:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1mKUfn8rIUNSR83WPK3h0HeCFHIIQI3Pd/view?usp=sharing>

27. Now, I wished to show how peaceful protests are progressing over the years since 2016. For this, I chose to create a line chart. For this I chose *Infogram*.

28. I copy-pasted the data on "J&K peaceful protest trends" to another google sheet and named it under the same name.

29. I wished to compare the trend of J&K with a few other states. Thus, in this new sheet, I copy-pasted the trend values (from the PIVOT TABLE) to adjacent columns. This Sheet can be found here:

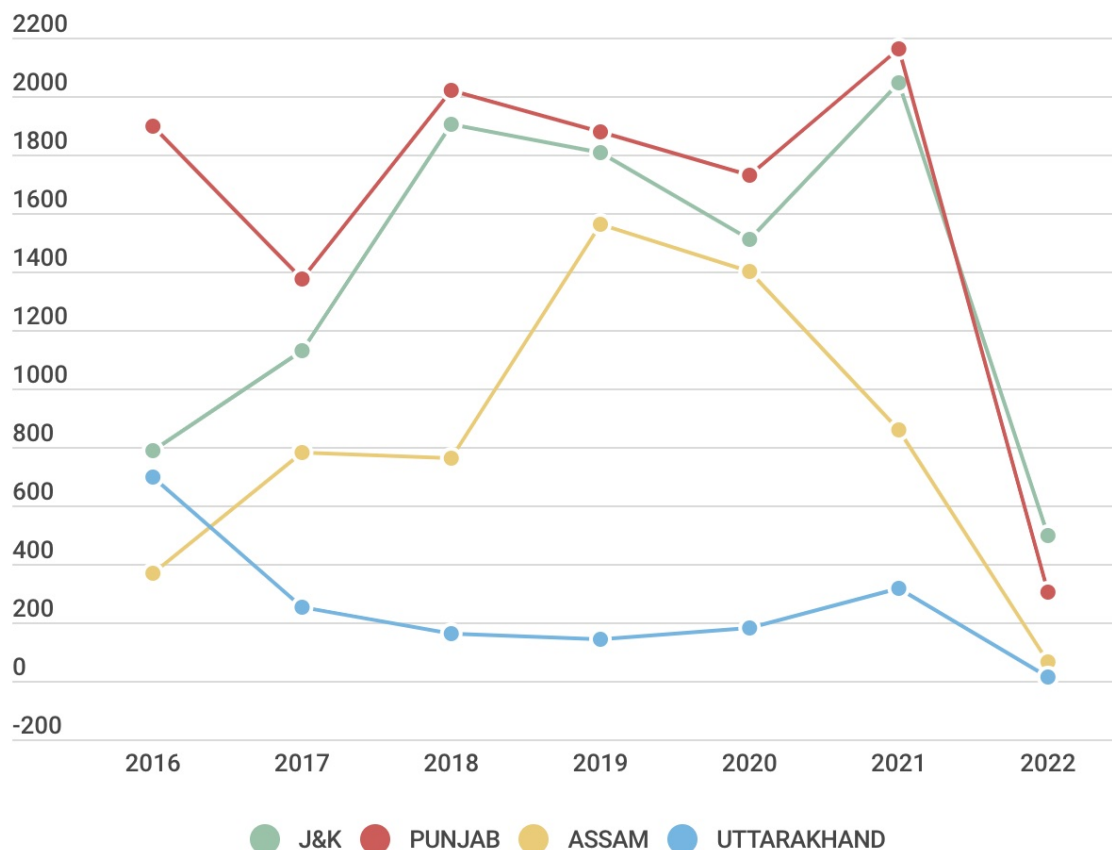
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1SO9e2vtwBisjzgawprUcDgCkWye_J3tUzIgnBzqgSfU/edit?usp=sharing

30. I chose the states which were darker (or with more peaceful protest events occurring). These are Punjab, Uttaranchal (or Uttarakhand). I also chose to include Assam.

31. I downloaded this CSV file to the computer under the same name.

32. In a new Infogram for a line chart, I imported this CSV.

33. The result is as follows:



- The following chart shows that for all these states except Uttarakhand peaceful protests have been increasing over the years.
- In 2020 however, even as the pandemic was ongoing and a lockdown was imposed in J&K, protest movements continued in J&K, Punjab.
- In Punjab, since 2020, farmers have been fighting and agitating against the 3 farm laws that were passed. In J&K, people have been protesting against the abrogation of Article 370, among other issues.

- The farmer movement was also present in Uttarakhand and thus the protests occurred there too.

Conclusion

Protests peaked in the conflict region of J&K in 2021.

34. This infographic can be found at: <https://infogram.com/chart-project-ananya-tiwari-1hxr4zxl737gq6y>

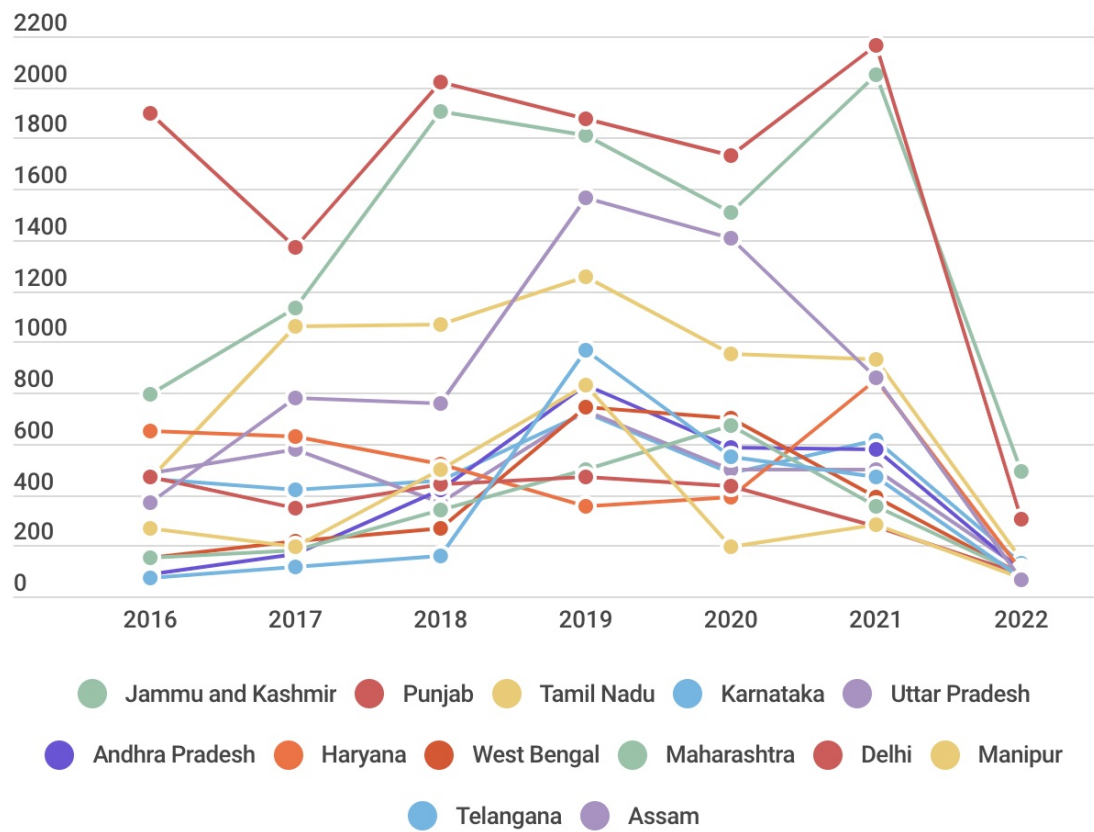
Writing the story

While writing the story, I realized that I needed more charts.

35. For each of the charts mentioned in the story, I copied and pasted the data from the main file to a separate sheet after working on it with a pivot table. I used Infogram to do this.

36. For example, for the last chart showing how peaceful protests have increased in general across various states, I opened a new pivot table, took that data to a separate Google sheet, and created a chart for it on Infogram. The Google sheet can be found here:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/16R9_rre0ELC4T79nKPvLoSLI9xSxUrffz7I7Hfru4K4/edit#gid=0



Peaceful protests in states with most such events, 2016-22

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