

Weekly POK News Digest

(A weekly news digest on Pakistan Occupied Kashmir)

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POK hydropower
tourism **Gilgit-Baltistan**
Kashmir infrastructure
Air Diamer Basha



MANOHAR PARRIKAR INSTITUTE FOR
DEFENCE STUDIES AND ANALYSES
मनोहर पर्रिकर रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान

No. 1, Development Enclave, Rao Tula Ram Marg
New Delhi-110 010

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Political Developments

Accession of the entire Jammu and Kashmir to Pakistan is the only solution to the Kashmir issue: 'AJK' acting President

Daily Parliament Times, 24 October 2022

The acting president of 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK), Chaudhry Anwar-ul-Haq has said that the main objective of the government of the 'liberated territory' (AJK) was to provide all-out political, moral, and diplomatic support to Kashmiri brethren who have been fighting against India's 'illegal occupation.' While addressing a ceremony hosted to mark the diamond jubilee of the foundation day of the government of 'AJK', he said that 'accession' of the entire state of Jammu and Kashmir to Pakistan was the only feasible solution to the Kashmir issue. He claimed that the partition of Kashmir was not acceptable to the people of Kashmir, and asked that whether we are fulfilling our responsibilities vis-à-vis the ongoing 'freedom struggle' in Kashmir. While recalling the struggle and sacrifices of the ancestors, he said that our forefathers made unprecedented sacrifices and it is due to their sacrifices that we all are enjoying a free and dignified life in the 'liberated territory' today. He said that the struggle would continue until the entire state of Jammu and Kashmir achieves 'freedom' and becomes a part of Pakistan. He also paid tributes to the armed forces of Pakistan for laying down their lives to protect borders along the Line of Control (LoC).

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2022/10/24/accession-of-entire-sjammu-kashmir-state-to->

[pakistan-is-only-solution-of-kashmir-issue-ajk-acting-president/](https://www.pakistan-today.com/pk/2022/10/25/kashmir-freedom-primary-aim-of-pakistan-at-un-envoy-says/)

Kashmir freedom 'primary aim' of Pakistan at UN, envoy says

Pakistan today, 25 October 2022

Pakistan's envoy to United Nations (UN) said that the 'primary aim' of Pakistan's mission at the United Nations (UN) is to secure the long-recognized right to self-determination of the people of disputed Jammu and Kashmir. He said that Pakistan had welcomed the secretary-general's statement that the dispute should be resolved based on the UN Charter and the Security Council resolutions which prescribe that the 'final disposition' of the state will be determined through a free and fair plebiscite under UN auspices. Pakistan, he said, will continue to press for the implementation of the Security Council resolutions on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute.

<https://www.pakistan-today.com/pk/2022/10/25/kashmir-freedom-primary-aim-of-pakistan-at-un-envoy-says/>

'Hindutva fascism' calls into question India's assertion to be a secular democracy: 'AJK' President

Pakistan Observer, 25 October 2022

The president of 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK), Sultan Mahmood Choudhary, while addressing a public gathering organized by 'Kashmir House' in Washington, DC, said that the Kashmiri diaspora has played an important role in mobilizing the global public opinion in favor of the situation in Indian 'occupied Kashmir.' He claimed that the 'rise of fascism' is a

clear threat to the minorities in India and that the rise of 'Hindutva fascism' calls into question India's assertion to be a secular democracy. He said that Kashmiri Americans are best suited to educate Biden Administration to have its understanding to intervene in Kashmir and persuade both India and Pakistan to go back to the point of departure and allow the people of Jammu and Kashmir to exercise their right to self-determination as guaranteed under 18 substantive United Nations Security Council resolutions. The event was attended and addressed by many Kashmiri and people of Pakistan origin including, Dr. Ghulam Nabi Fai, Chairman, of World Forum for Peace and Justice, Irfan Yaqoob, Sardar Zubair Khan, Professor Saeed Khan and Aftab Shah (New Jersey), Razauddin Siddiqui of Makki Masjid, New York among others.

<https://pakobserver.net/hindutva-fascism-calls-in-question-indias-assertion-to-be-a-secular-democracy-barrister-sultan/>

'AJK' PM warns India to avoid misadventure of attacking 'liberated territory'

Pakistan Observer, 26 October 2022

The Prime Minister of 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK), Tanveer Ilyas Khan has 'warned' India that if it dared to attack 'liberated territory' it would face stiff resistance from the freedom-loving people of 'Azad Kashmir.' He said that we are followers of Hazrat Abu Ubayda ibn al-Jarrah, Khalid Bin Waleed, and Muhammad Ibn al Qasim and we will not only defend every inch of our motherland but will also protect the honor and sanctity of our Muslim

mothers, sisters, and daughters in India. He was addressing a seminar jointly organized by the University of 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (UAJK) and the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Commission in connection with the 75th Foundation Day of the 'AJK' government. The event was also addressed by former 'AJK' Prime Minister and leader of the PML-N-'AJK' chapter, Raja Farooq Haider Khan, ex. Chief Justice 'AJK', Justice (R) Syed Manzoor ul Hassan Gillani, Ex. Chief Justice 'AJK' High Court, Justice (R) Ghulam Mustafa Mughal, Executive Director of Centre for International Strategic Studies, 'AJK' Dr. Asma Shakir Khawaja among others.

He recalled that we had lost East Pakistan because India had filled the minds of young Pakistani students in erstwhile East Pakistan with the poison of hatred against then-West Pakistan under a conspiracy. He said that despite all the worst Indian 'atrocities', Kashmiris are continuing their freedom movement with full courage and perseverance, claiming that even today, Kashmiri mothers named sons Burhan Wani and Syed Ali Geelani to show their association and commitment to the 'liberation struggle.'

<https://pakobserver.net/ajk-pm-warns-india-to-avoid-misadventure-of-attacking-liberated-territory/>

'AJK' President will lead a black-day rally in front of the Indian Embassy in Washington

Daily Parliament Times, 26 October 2022

The president of 'Azad Kashmir', Sultan Mahmood Chaudhary will lead

a black-day rally in front of the Indian Embassy in Washington to register a protest against India's 'illegal occupation' of Kashmir. The protest demonstration would be attended by overseas Pakistani and Kashmiri communities living in America. He also had led similar protests on the occasion of Black Day in London, New York, Brussels, and Dublin, Ireland to sensitize the world community about the early resolutions of the Kashmir dispute and the devastating impacts of India's prolonged 'military occupation' on Kashmir.

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2022/10/26/barrister-sultan-to-lead-anti-india-protest-in-washington/>

Kashmiris observe Black Day today

The Nation, 27 October 2022

Kashmiris on both sides of the Line of Control (LoC) and the world over will observe Black Day on 27 October to convey a strong message to the world that they reject the 'illegal occupation' of Jammu and Kashmir by India. The day will be marked by a complete shutdown and civil curfew by the people in 'Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir' (IIOJK). The protest marches, rallies, and seminars will be held in 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK), Pakistan, and all over the world to condemn the 'invasion' of the territory by the Indian Army on 27th October 1947 as well as revocation of the special status of 'occupied Kashmir' by PM Narendra Modi-led 'fascist' Indian government on 5 August 2019.

The call for the observance of the shutdown and Black Day has been

given by the All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) in a statement in Srinagar and it urged the Kashmiris to demonstrate to the world, that they would not rest till Jammu and Kashmir were 'liberated' from 'Indian slavery.' It urged the global community to give up its criminal silence on the 'Indian brutalities' in 'IIOJK' and take practical steps to force New Delhi to give the Kashmiris their right to self-determination as per the UN Security Council resolutions.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/27-Oct-2022/kashmiris-observe-black-day-today>

Indian minister speaks of annexing Gilgit-Baltistan

Dawn, 28 October 2022

The Indian Defence Minister, Rajnath Singh said that he hoped to have Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) as part of India to complete the mission the Modi government began by 'annexing held Kashmir' in Aug 2019. Mr. Singh is visiting the 'occupied region' to celebrate the landing of Indian forces in the state a day after New Delhi 'allegedly' signed the Instrument of Accession with its Hindu ruler on 26 Oct 1947. Pakistan disputes the narrative. Mr. Singh's claims are linked to a 1994 resolution on Gilgit and Baltistan passed by the Indian parliament when Narasimha Rao was the prime minister, but it also follows two events that ruffled feathers in New Delhi. The first was the unusual visit by Donald Blome, the US ambassador in Islamabad, to 'Azad Kashmir' recently.

The move was followed the same day by German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock expressing her country's

concern over the Kashmir dispute. India promptly and sharply criticized the US and Germany for the back-to-back moves. Rajnath Singh, who was advising Russian President Vladimir Putin on the risks of nuclear war the other day, appeared less bothered about the South Asian nuclear rivalry as he said that 'Kashmir and Ladakh are set on a new path of development and prosperity (post- 5 Aug 2019). This is just the beginning. The mission will complete only when Gilgit-Baltistan and areas of Kashmir (under Pakistan's control) reunite with India.'

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1717261/indian-minister-speaks-of-annexing-gilgit-baltistan>

On Kashmir Black Day, OIC reaffirms 'full solidarity' with Kashmiri people

The Nation, 28 October 2022

The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) reiterated its 'full solidarity' with the people of Jammu and Kashmir in their quest for the right to self-determination, as they observed Black Day to mark the completion of 75 years of the 'Indian occupation' of the 'IIOJK.' The OIC general secretariat in its statement said that according to the decisions and resolutions of the Islamic Summit and OIC Council of Foreign Ministers, and urged India to halt and reverse the 'illegal' and unilateral actions taken on 5 August 2019. The Muslim world body also called for the reversal of the subsequent Indian steps to change the internationally recognized disputed status of the territory and to alter the demographic structure of the occupied territory.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/27-Oct-2022/on-kashmir-black-day-oic-reaffirms-full-solidarity-with-kashmiri-people>

China for resolving Kashmir dispute as per UNSC resolutions

Pakistan Observer, 28 October 2022

China has called for resolving the Kashmir dispute following the United Nations (UN) charter, relevant Security Council resolutions, and relevant bilateral agreements between Pakistan and India. This was stated by Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson, Mao Ning, who was replying to a question on the Kashmir dispute during a media briefing in Beijing. She said that China's position on the dispute over Kashmir has been consistent and clear, and added that this is an issue left over from history between India and Pakistan and should be properly managed peacefully following the UN charter, relevant Security Council resolutions, and relevant bilateral agreements. Mao Ning maintained that the relevant parties should avoid taking unilateral actions that could further complicate the situation but rather engage in dialogue and consultations to resolve the dispute and maintain peace and stability in the region.

<https://pakobserver.net/china-for-resolving-kashmir-dispute-as-per-uns-resolutions/>

Economic Developments

Saudi Arabia to fund 30 billion 'AJK' uplift schemes

The Express Tribune, 23 October 2022

The Prime Minister of 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK), Tanveer Ilyas thanked the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) for funding projects worth 30 billion for the people of 'AJK.' The projects were given under the Saudi Fund for Development (SFD) for

hydropower and road infrastructure. While addressing a group of senior journalists, PM Ilyas said that the SFD would fund 85% of the cost of both the 11.274 billion 48 MW Shounthar hydropower project and the 6.614 billion 22 MW Jagran-IV hydropower projects in Neelum Valley. He said that the remaining 15% of the cost of each project would be met by the federal government's Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP). He said the loan agreements between the Economics Affairs Division and SFD Board of Directors had also been inked, adding that the 'AJK' people are highly indebted to both the federal government and KSA as well, adding that the government of 'AJK' is committed to making the region a model for business and tourism.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2383144/saudi-arabia-to-fund-rs30b-ajk-uplift-schemes>

Kashmir Air launched to boost tourism in 'AJK'

The Express Tribune, 25 October 2022

The president of Pakistan, Dr. Arif Alvi has launched commercial helicopter flight operations, Kashmir Air in 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK) as part of efforts to promote tourism in the region. While addressing the launching ceremony of Kashmir Air in Bagh, Alvi said that 'AJK' is blessed with immense natural beauty and tourism potential, and the private sector should come forward to develop 'AJK's tourism sector to realize its full potential. Kashmir Air is a private company that will start commercial helicopter flights to 'AJK' and northern areas of Pakistan for the transportation of tourists. During his visit to 'AJK', the president

also visited a newly-established high-end private school, and the flagship campus of a healthcare Information Technology company in Bagh, and was briefed on the establishment of a hospital at Abbaspur. Alvi also urged the 'AJK' government to promote sustainable and environment-friendly tourism, besides evolving tourism-friendly policies for facilitating private-sector investment.

While speaking about the Kashmir dispute, the president said that the United Nations (UN) has failed to resolve the Jammu and Kashmir dispute as per the wishes of the Kashmiri people, claiming that the struggle of the people of 'Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir' (IIOJK) is based on the UN resolutions. He claimed that the genocide watch has warned that Muslims and other minorities in India are 'insecure' and are under constant threat. During the event, 'AJK' Prime Minister Sardar Tanveer Ilyas said that starting a private airline will not only boost tourism in the region but will also provide maximum employment in the private sector to the educated youth of the region. The owner of Kashmir Air, Mahmoodul Haq, said that Kashmir Air is the first private airline of 'AJK' that has obtained a license from the Civil Aviation Authority, added that initially, the airline will fly between Rawalkot to Muzaffarabad, Mirpur to Muzaffarabad and Bhimbar to Muzaffarabad. In the second stage, the airline will start its domestic and international flights between Islamabad to Lahore and Karachi.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2383433/kashmir-air-launched-to-boost-tourism-in-ajk>

Diamer Basha Dam is a significant project for the national economy

The Nation, 27 October 2022

Pakistan Federal Minister for Water Resources Syed Khursheed Ahmed Shah has said that Diamer Basha Dam is a significant project for the national economy, as this will store water for irrigated agriculture, help mitigate floods and generate environment-friendly and low-cost hydel electricity. He expressed these views while visiting Diamer Basha Dam, and reviewed excavation at the right abutment of the dam and construction work on the diversion system and permanent bridge. While assuring the full support of the Ministry, directed the project management to expedite their efforts for the completion of the project as early as possible. The CEO of Diamer Basha Dam Company briefed the federal minister about the progress and construction work that is being carried out on 10 different sites. The project is scheduled for completion in 2029 and will have a gross water storage capacity of 8.1 MAF to irrigate 1.23 million acres of additional land. It will have an installed power generation capacity of 4,500 MW, and provide 18 billion units of green and clean hydel electricity to the National Grid per annum.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/26-Oct-2022/diamer-basha-dam-a-significant-project-for-national-economy>

Germany grants €7.5 million assistance for GB, KP

Business Recorder, 27 October 2022

The government of Germany extended grant assistance worth Euro 1.785

million for Gilgit Baltistan (GB) and Euro 5.72 million for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), a total of Euro 7.5 million to the government of Pakistan through 'Social Health Protection, Phase-III project. The financial agreement was signed by Secretary Economic Affairs Division (EAD) Dr Kazim Niazand and the country director German Development Bank (KfW) Sebastian Jacobi. The overall goal of this financial cooperation program is to improve the health status of the population, especially the poor by providing a safety net and reducing poverty through the reduction of out-of-pocket payments for health expenditures.

<https://www.brecorder.com/news/40205458/germany-grants-75m-assistance-for-g-b-kp>

From Vernacular Urdu Media

Pakistan has persistently upheld its position on Kashmir and won't budge an Inch: Qamar Zaman Kaira

UrduPoint, 25 October 2022

Qamar Zaman Kaira, advisor to the prime ministers of Pakistan on Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan (GB), declared that Pakistan would continue to back the 'legitimate fight' of the Kashmiri people for their right to self-determination. He was addressing an Institute of Regional Studies (IRS) event titled 'A Retrospective Analysis of Kashmir's Accession to India.' He asserted that regardless of their political leanings, all governments and political parties had shown concern over the situation of Kashmiris both domestically and internationally, and they would continue to do so without budging an inch. According to him, there is at least a semblance of

sympathy from Muslim nations on the Kashmir issue, and it is important to unite all nations in denouncing the 'fascist' Indian government's misuse of power in the 'occupied valley.' He claimed that there was no doubt that the blood of the Kashmiris played a major part in keeping the struggle alive as the 'Hindutva' driven state had left behind all the extremes of 'barbarism.'

Kaira urged to keep the youth informed about the government's initiatives for Kashmir and the significance of Kashmir as the unfinished business of the partition to keep them inspired and prevent them from losing hope. Kaira described Kashmir as a human rights issue and asserted that no people could be enslaved in the twenty-first century by using physical force. He continued by saying that Pakistan's major point of contention with India was Kashmir and that Pakistan would continue to back the Kashmiris in their 'legitimate struggle' on a moral and diplomatic level. According to him, Pakistan has never chosen to be the aggressor and will never do so in the future, however, he stressed, Kashmir is one problem for which Pakistan must show its complete commitment and resolution.

<https://www.urdupoint.com/pakistan/news/islamabad/important-news/live-news-3328766.html>

On October 27, Kashmiris will mark Black Day in protest against Indian 'occupying forces:' Former JI leader

Jasarat, 25 October 2022

Muhammad Farooq Rehmani, a former convener of the 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK) chapter of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC),

while speaking at a national conference held by the Kashmir Journalist Forum in Islamabad stated that Kashmiris have never and will never accept the 'military occupation' of India, added that the alleged democratic and secular face of India has been revealed. He claimed that 27 October 1947, was a tragic day because it saw the Indian 'army invaded' Jammu and Kashmir in flagrant violation of the Partition Plan and defiance of the region's sovereignty while posing as a 'fake accession' document. In response to the uprising against India's termination of Kashmir's special status on 5 August 2019, he said, on 27 October Black Day will be observed throughout Jammu and Kashmir. He claimed that India's refusal to withdraw its forces from the 'occupied region' has made it more difficult to carry out the UN's plan for a vote, and added that the 'Hindutva' led BJP government has extended significant Indian laws to Kashmir over the past three years to transform the character of the region's Muslim majority.

<https://www.jasarat.com/2022/10/25/doctor-khalid-mahmood-2/>

The Kashmiri people are persistently resisting 'Indian violence' and writing a new chapter of bravery: Speakers at a seminar

Urdupoint, 25 October 2022

The people of Kashmir have been writing a 'new history of resistance' that will continue to inspire those who believe in freedom, justice, and equality, according to speakers at a seminar hosted by the Kashmir

Institute of International Relations (KIIR), who also paid tribute to Kashmiris for their decades-long struggle and sacrifices. Altaf Hussain Wani, chairman of the KIIR, and Sardar Atique Ahmed Khan, a former prime minister of 'AJK', among other Kashmiri leaders from both sides of the line of control, spoke at the seminar commemorating Kashmiris' tenacity against 75 years of India's 'illegitimate occupation.' The speakers stressed that leaving the helpless Kashmiris at the mercy of India's 'cruel occupation' would be a farce of justice on the side of the international community, claiming that the 'belligerent occupation' had now essentially switched from Wolfe's first to the second model of colonialism. They claimed that the political and human rights situation in the area had gotten worse since India's 'authoritarian regime' unilaterally decided to annex the territory into the Indian union on August 5, 2019. Since 2019, speakers claimed that the marginalization of the majority population in Kashmir and the 'imperialist policies' such as 'landgrab', 'extermination' of the locals, 'forced evictions', exploitation of natural resources, rampant aggression, 'killings', arbitrary arrests, 'extrajudicial killings', 'forced disappearances', and systematic 'genocide' of the Kashmiri youth by the 'Indian forces' have been normalized.

<https://www.urdupoint.com/pakistan/news/nankan-a-sahib/national-news/live-news-3328639.html>

India should be aware that the people of Kashmir would never submit to its forceful occupation: 'AJK' President

Jammu and Kashmir Times, 28 October 2022

The president of 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK), Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry said that India had 'illegally occupied' Jammu and Kashmir by stationing troops in Srinagar shortly after the foundation of the 'Azad Kashmir' government was laid on 24 October 1947, under the leadership of Sardar Muhammad Ibrahim Khan. While speaking at a seminar organized by the Pakistan Embassy in Washington, DC, he referred to the Indian 'invasion of Kashmir' as 'unlawful' and claimed that the local population had never recognized Indian rule over the region. He emphasized the importance of finding a solution to the continuing conflict in Kashmir, which had grown to dangerous dimensions, and warned that the region's peace and stability were at risk if it was not resolved quickly.

<http://jammukashmirtimes.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Resize-of-FRONT-PAGE-28.jpg>

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Compiled by
Mohd. Usman Bhatti

Edited By
Dr. Smruti S Pattanaik

Disclaimer

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MANOHAR PARRIKAR INSTITUTE FOR DEFENCE STUDIES AND ANALYSES

No. 1, Development Enclave, Rao Tula Ram Marg
New Delhi-110 010

Telephone: 91-11-26717983; Fax: 91-11-26154191

Website: www.idsa.in; Email: pokdigest@gmail.com