

# Weekly POK News Digest

*(A weekly news digest on Pakistan Occupied Kashmir)*

Volume 2 | Issue 4

24-30 January 2022

**POK** Gilgit-Shandur  
Diamer **electricity** Qaumi  
Bhasha **Sehat**  
**Dam** **card**  
**water** **CPEC**  
development **projects**

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## Political Developments

### **'Indian Republic Day will be our Black Day:' Chairman of Pasban-e-Hurriyat**

*Daily Parliament Times, January 24, 2022*

The chairman of Pasban-e-Hurriyat, Uzair Ahmad Ghazali has said that 26th January (Indian Republic Day) will be observed as a black day throughout the state. He stressed that under the "guise of democracy, India has been following the abominable tricks to vanish the Kashmiri nation and their identity." While expressing anguish over the "deteriorating human rights situation in occupied Kashmir", he said that India has "imposed war on the unarmed Kashmiri" people.

Ghazali said that the world today is a global village but no one noticed "Indian terrorism and massacre of Kashmiri people" in the region of Jammu and Kashmir. He noted that the "religious and social traditions" are being trampled, and the Kashmiri people are currently suffering the worst terrorism in history." He reiterated that the people of "Azad Kashmir" should also raise their voice against "Indian terrorism" and play their role in an effective resistance movement. Uzair appealed to the people of "Azad Jammu and Kashmir" (AJK) to come out of their houses and protest on the Republic Day of India. Ghazali called on the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) and international human rights bodies to work for a just solution to the Kashmir issue.

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2022/01/24/indian-republic-day-will-be-our-black-day-uzair-ghazali/>

### **Pakistan Foreign Minister 'thanked Tunisia for supporting IIOJK freedom'**

*The Express Tribune, January 26, 2022*

The Foreign Minister (FM) of Pakistan, Shah Mahmood Qureshi said that Pakistan attached high significance to its brotherly and historic ties with Tunisia. While speaking to the Tunisian ambassador to Pakistan Borhene El Kamel, the FM lauded the president of Tunisia for his leadership role over the regional peace and stability and Tunisia's role as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) during the last two years. He also thanked the Tunisian government for its "principled stance and support" as a non-permanent member of the UNSC over the issue of "Illegally Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir" (IIOJK).

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2340520/tunisia-thanked-for-supporting-iiojk-freedom>

### **'Fraud democratic state denies due rights to Kashmiris:' Speakers to Joint Rallies**

*Daily Parliament Times, January 26, 2022*

The speakers while addressing protest rallies marking the Republic Day of India as a black day in Lahore, Gujranwala, and Shakargarh under the auspices of Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Cell (JKLC) research wing Lahore said that the "Indian democracy is the biggest fraud" in the world. They said that in the "guise of so-called democracy" India is misleading the world. They further said that there are nearly 20 million Kashmiri people who have been fighting for their "right to self-determination" for seventy-five years but India is not ready to provide

them their democratic rights. The protest rallies were led by Sardar Sajid Mehmood in charge research wing, Pakistan Muslim League (PML-N) president “Azad Kashmir” Lahore division. Raja Shehzad Ahmed, general secretary Tehreek-e-Islam Jammu and Kashmir. Allama Mushtaq Ahmed Qadri, leader of all Kashmir forums, Khushal Shaheen Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Lahore, former secretary-general Jamiat Ulema-e-Pakistan Rabb Nawaz Durrani. The rallies were attended by a large number of political leaders, representatives of the Kashmiri community, teachers and students of Mujaddidiyah institute of education, and youths who wore black arm bands and carried black flags. There were slogans against “coercion and human rights violations” in “occupied Kashmir.”

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2022/01/26/fraud-democratic-state-denies-to-provide-due-rights-to-kashmiris-speakers/>

### **‘Pakistan reaffirms solidarity with Kashmiris on 'Black Day'’**

*The Express Tribune, January 26, 2022*

The Pakistan foreign office spokesperson said that Kashmiris are protesting against the “siege of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir” (IIOJK) for the past seven decades. While reaffirming solidarity with the people of ‘IIOJK,’ who around the world are marking 26 January as a black day “against India's oppression”, the government and people of Pakistan reaffirm their “unshakable resolve” to continue to raise their voice and extend all “possible support for their right to self-determination.” He made these remarks while responding to media queries regarding “Kashmiris

observing India's republic day as 'Black Day'.”

The spokesperson further said that in recent times, “Indian forces had intensified the military siege in the occupied territory” in more than seven decades-long conflicts. He said that “coercing innocent Kashmiris to hoist Indian flags” on Republic Day was “typical of India's high-handedness to project a false sense of normalcy and a hopeless attempt at masking its systematic and widespread oppression.”

He further noted that the Indian government's decision to “award so-called gallantry awards” to the personnel of its “occupation forces” is yet another insult to the dignity of the “countless victims of India's state-terrorism characterized by gross human rights violations, extrajudicial killings, arbitrary arrests, suspension of fundamental freedoms, rape, and the use of draconian laws such as Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA), Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and Public Safety Act with complete impunity.” the statement read. The spokesperson highlighted that Pakistan had on numerous occasions presented “evidence of crimes against humanity being perpetrated by the Indian forces in IIOJK” to the United Nations (UN) and the international community.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2340555/pakistan-reaffirms-solidarity-with-kashmiris-on-black-day>

### **'Indian democracy is a biggest fraud:’ AJK PM**

*Daily Times, January 26, 2022*

With reference to the Republic Day of India, the Prime Minister (PM) of “Azad Jammu Kashmir” (AJK) Sardar

Abdul Qayyum Niazi said that “India’s democracy is the biggest fraud to throw dust in the eyes of the world.” He said that Republic Day of India is a “black day for the Jammu and Kashmir people”, and stressed that the existing black laws in “occupied Kashmir” were clearly against democratic values. He said that the “occupied Kashmir” had turned into a “military cantonment” after August 5, 2019, which was a serious violation of the United Nations (UN) resolutions.

Abdul Qayyum Niazi also paid tributes to the Hurriyat leadership and to the “millions of martyrs” who had offered tremendous sacrifices for the “liberation of occupied Kashmir” and kept the candle of the “liberation movement” burning bright for the future despite difficult circumstances. He said that the Kashmiri people had sacrificed their third generation for the “liberation of occupied Kashmir” and would continue their struggle till the achievement of their “fundamental right to self-determination” under the United Nations (UN) resolutions.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/874969/indian-so-called-democracy-biggest-fraud-ajk-pml/>

### **‘Kashmiris reject India’s Republic Day:’ APHC Convener**

*Pakistan Observer, January 27, 2022*

The convener of All Party Hurriyat Conference (APHC), “Azad Jammu and Kashmir” (AJK) chapter, Muhammad Farooq Rehmani, has said that “India’s marginalized communities, Muslims, Dalits, Sikhs, Christians and the tribal nations and civilizations” genuinely feel and believe that there is no point of “rejoicing on India’s Republic Day

because India has ceased to be a secular democracy”. Rehmani further said that a “complete farce is played with the minorities” of India in the name of the constitution and noted that “Indian Muslims who are over 25 crore citizens of India are treated as sub-humans in practice and they have been stripped of their religious, social, economic and political rights and there are no civil liberties for non-Hindu communities of the country.” He stressed that “all types of deprivations and lynching on streets has become a usual practice against them”, therefore India as a secular democracy has ceased to exist.

The APHC-AJK convener observed that the “people of Kashmir have rejected the Indian Republic Day” and have declared 26th January as a “black day” all across Jammu and Kashmir to “demand the right to self-determination and freedom.” He said “Kashmir was never a part of India” but it had always its separate history, geography, and culture and challenges “New Delhi to testify its claim of Kashmir by holding a free, fair, and impartial plebiscite under the United Nations (UN) auspices in Jammu and Kashmir.”

<https://pakobserver.net/kashmiris-reject-indias-republic-day-rehmani/>

### **‘APC on Kashmir announces to launch diplomatic, political drive against India to draw world’s attention towards the Kashmir issue’**

*Daily Parliament Times, January 30, 2022*

The All Parties Kashmir Conference (APKC), chaired by the president of “Azad Jammu and Kashmir” (AJK) Sultan Mehmood Chaudhry, has decided to launch a diplomatic and

political campaign to inform the world about the "situation in occupied Jammu and Kashmir" and stressed that there will be conferences in London, Brussels, and historic demonstrations in New York. The conference was held at Jammu and Kashmir House Islamabad and the participants paid homage to the "historic struggle for independence and unparalleled sacrifices of the people of occupied Jammu and Kashmir." Leaders of various parties highlighted the current situation in "occupied Kashmir" and offered various suggestions. After the APK conference, the 'AJK' president, while addressing a press conference said that it was decided to attract the world towards Kashmir, demonstrations will also be held in major cities of Pakistan, Muzaffarabad to highlight the "Indian government human rights violations".

The declaration of the parties' Kashmir conference reiterated the principled position of the Kashmiri people that the "future of the state of Jammu and Kashmir would be decided through a free and fair referendum" in the light of United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions. The joint statement endorsed by all the parties urged the UN secretary-general to address "human rights violations in occupied Jammu and Kashmir" in light of the recommendations of the 2018 and 2019 reports of the UN Human Rights Council (HRC) and establish an independent international inquiry commission to ascertain the "extrajudicial killings of civilians in occupied Kashmir, relentless use of state power, arrests of political leaders and activists, enforced disappearances and crimes against journalists, and sexual violence."

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2022/01/30/apc-on-kashmir-announces-to-launch-aggressive-diplomatic-political-drive-against-india-to-draw-worlds-attention-towards-solution-of-k-issue-2/>

## Economic Developments

### **'Diامر Bhasha Dam to be completed by 2029'**

*The Nation, January 24, 2022*

The officials related to the Diامر Bhasha Dam (DBD) projects said that DBD having a storage capacity of 8.1 Million Acre Feet (MAF) will generate power of 18,100 Giga Watt Hours (GWh) annually after completion by April 2029. The dam being constructed 40 kilometers downstream of Chilas town on River Indus, the installed capacity of DBD will be 4,500 MW and live storage capacity of 6.4 MAF. The project is of "paramount importance for water, food and energy security of the country." The total estimated cost of the DBD project is 1406,122 million which includes Planning Commission (PC-I) Acquisition of Land and Resettlement (ALR) of 175,436 million, PC-I (Dam part 479,686 million) while the cost for PC-I (Power Generation Facilities yet to be approved) is 751,000 million. The amount spent by previous governments on the Dam was 86,685 million under ALR since 2009-10 while the present government has spent 30273 million under ALR and 51555 million under dam part. The total amount of 116,158 million has been spent under ALR and 51,555 million under Dam part. The officials further said that the present government is giving priority to the completion of Mega Power Projects (MPP) and had earmarked 15,500 million for the Dam part and 7,000 million for ALR during

the fiscal year 2020-21. The government has so far acquired 32,073 acres of land for the DBD project which will address the growing water and power needs of the country.

<https://nation.com.pk/24-Jan-2022/diamer-bhasha-dam-to-be-completed-by-2029>

### **'PM Imran Khan to launch Sehat Card program for AJK, GB'**

*The Nation, January 26, 2022*

The Prime Minister (PM) of Pakistan, Imran Khan will launch the Naya Pakistan Qaumi Sehat card facility for all the families of "Azad Jammu and Kashmir" (AJK) as well as Gilgit Baltistan (GB) who would get free of charge medical treatment of up to one million rupees every year. This facility will be available both at government hospitals as well as in private hospitals.

<https://nation.com.pk/26-Jan-2022/pm-to-launch-sehat-card-program-for-islamabad-ajk-gb-today>

### **'IC constituted by the Supreme Court of Pakistan reviews progress on Mohmand, Diamer-Basha Dams'**

*Daily Parliament Times, January 26, 2022*

The officials of the Implementation Committee (IC) of the Supreme Court (SC) of Pakistan on Diamer Basha and Mohmand Dams (DBMD) met to review progress on mega multi-purpose projects of DBMD. The IC-DBMD was constituted by the SC of Pakistan in July 2018 for early commencement and timely completion of DBMD projects. The recent meeting was presided over by Pakistan Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) and IC-DBMD chairman general Muzammil Hussain (Retd). In addition to the Ministry of Water

Resources, Joint Secretary and IC-DBMD and deputy secretary to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), commissioner of Diamer-Astore among other officers were also present on the occasion. While addressing the participants, the WAPDA chairman said that the IC has been tremendously contributing towards the implementation of DBMD projects and reiterated his commitment to the completion of both projects as early as possible. He noted that at present, construction work is continuing going on as many as 13 sites of Mohmand Dam and 10 sites of Diamer Basha Dam.

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2022/01/26/implementation-committee-constituted-by-supreme-court-of-pakistan-reviews-progress-on-mohmand-diamer-basha-dams/>

### **'The PM of AJK lays foundation stone of development projects worth over 1.15 billion'**

*Urdupoint, January 26, 2022*

The Prime Minister (PM) of "Azad Jammu and Kashmir" (AJK) Sardar Abdul Qayyum Niazi laid the foundation stone of electricity and water development projects amounting to 1.15 billion rupees in Tehsil Sehnsa, Kotli, and a water supply scheme were amounting to 502.6 million rupees. He also laid the foundation stone of the 132 Kilo Volts (KV) grid station and 132 KV transmission line project to further improve the power transmission system. The project will cost 645.54 million rupees and will be completed in three years. While talking to the media, he said that "Azad Kashmir" has been put on the path of practical development and the government will

launch more public welfare-oriented projects with the help of the federal government. He said that according to the vision of the PM of Pakistan Imran Khan, “Azad Kashmir” will be made a developed and welfare-oriented state.

<https://www.urdupoint.com/pakistan/news/kotli/important-news/live-news-3029181.html>

### **Chinese firm wins contract to construct 61kms of Gilgit-Shandur Road**

*Pamir Times, January 26, 2022*

A Chinese company, Ningxia Communications Construction co. Limited (NCCL) has won the contract for construction of a 61 kilometres long patch of the Gilgit-Shandur Express Highway (GSEH) which is being perceived as an “alternate route of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).” It has been noted that the Chinese company has “received Letter of Acceptance for Construction of Package -02 (61Km) of Gilgit-Shandoor (216 Km).” The Gilgit-Shandur road, also known as the “Ghizer-Chitral Express Highway” will provide an alternate route, reducing dependency on the Gilgit-Kohistan patch of the Karakoram Highway (KH). The project connects Gilgit and Ghizer with the upper Chitral district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) province, the road will pass through Dir and other adjacent districts connecting mainland Pakistan.

<https://pamirtimes.net/2022/01/26/chinese-firm-wins-contract-to-construct-61kms-of-gilgit-shandur-road/>

### **From Vernacular Urdu Media**

#### **UNSG should take measures to resolve the Kashmir dispute: PM of ‘AJK’**

*Urdupoint, January 24, 2022*

The Prime Minister (PM) of “Azad Jammu and Kashmir” (AJK) Sardar Abdul Qayyum Niazi has welcomed the offer of the United Nations Secretary-General (UNSG) to meditate on the Kashmir issue. While mentioning the statement of UNSG, he said that it is good news for the Kashmiri people on the eve of New Year that UNSG, Antonio Guterres has reiterated the “principled stand on Kashmir issue” and stressed the need for resolving the longstanding dispute based on the UN Charter, UN security council resolutions and in the light of the bilateral agreements between India and Pakistan. The PM said that the endorsement of our position by the world body is a moral and diplomatic victory for the Kashmiri people. He expressed the hope that the UNSG would take practical steps to resolve the Kashmir issue for establishing durable peace in the region. He urged the UNSG to take notice of “the repressions and gruesome human rights violations of the Kashmiri people who have been struggling for their internationally recognized right to self-determination.” by the ‘Indian forces’

<https://www.urdupoint.com/pakistan/news/muzaffarabad/kashmir/live-news-3027207.html>

#### **‘UN should declare Indian forces terrorists:’ Governor of Punjab**

*Jasarat, January 26, 2022*

The governor of Punjab Chaudhry Sarwar has said that the United Nations



(UN) should declare the "Indian forces who perpetrated atrocities on innocent Kashmiris as terrorists." Chaudhry Sarwar in his message on "Kashmiris' black day against India" said that without Kashmir, Pakistan is incomplete and without Pakistan, Kashmir is incomplete and stressed that even with "guns and tanks" India could not suppress the voice of Kashmiris. He said that Prime Minister (PM) Imran Khan was fighting for the cause as a true ambassador of Kashmiris and noted that Pakistan could not separate itself from Kashmiris even for a moment. He stressed that 220 million Pakistanis stand with their Kashmiri brothers and sisters. He said that the time is not far when "Kashmir will be free", the courage with which "Kashmiris are fighting for their freedom is commendable."

<https://www.jasarat.com/2022/01/26/governor-punjab-2/>

### **The 'AJK' President announces to convene an all-party conference on January 30 in Islamabad**

*Jammu and Kashmir Times, January 27, 2022*

The president of "Azad Jammu and Kashmir" (AJK) Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry has announced to convene an All Party Conference (APC) on January 30 at Kashmir House Islamabad. The conference will be attended by the Leader of the House, Leader of the Opposition, former Presidents, former Prime Ministers (PM), and leaders of other political parties. The main objective of the APC is to draw a future course of action on the Kashmir issue. The president of 'AJK' while addressing a news

conference said that "today Kashmiris all over the world, including 'Azad' Kashmir," are observing India's Republic Day as a "black day" to draw the world's attention towards "Indian forces' repressions on Kashmiri people in occupied Kashmir." He said that after repealing articles 370 and 35-A and the special status of "occupied Kashmir," India has issued "fake domiciles to 4.2 million Hindus to change the proportion of the population" which is an attempt to change the demographics of the "occupied Kashmir." He further said that the base camp was set up to raise a voice for the "liberation of occupied Kashmir." He stressed that although there is a need for construction and development in "Azad Kashmir" at the same time the "Kashmir issue has to be aggressively highlighted." He urged the Kashmiri living abroad to come out on the 5th of February to observe solidarity day with the people of "occupied Kashmir" and express their full solidarity with them.

<http://jammukashmirtimes.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/FRONT-PAGE-27.jpg>

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## Disclaimer

*PoK weekly News Digest is a collection of news reports and press releases published in various newspapers and local media related to Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK), referred to as 'Azad Kashmir' and 'Gilgit Baltistan' by the government of Pakistan. The news reports have been edited and abridged to provide clarity. MP-IDSA is not responsible for the accuracy and authenticity of the news items.*



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