

Weekly POK News Digest

(A weekly news digest on Pakistan Occupied Kashmir)

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Land Reforms **act** **Gilgit-Baltistan**
Karot Hydropower
POK Project CPEC
Economic Transformation
Environment Initiative



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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

‘Modi’s repressive media policies destroying Kashmiri journalism’

Pakistan Observer, 13 March 2023

The owner of a sealed newspaper in ‘Indian-occupied Kashmir’ (IOK) says Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s ‘repressive’ media policies are destroying Kashmiri journalism, intimidating media outlets into serving as government mouthpieces, and creating an information vacuum in our region of about 13 million people, as India descends into ‘authoritarianism.’ Anuradha Bhasin, the executive editor of The Kashmir Times, whose offices in Srinagar were sealed by the ‘occupation’ authorities three years ago, in an opinion piece published in The New York Times, wrote that Modi was taking steps that could replicate this disturbing model on a national scale. She noted that ‘his Hindu-chauvinist movement, which has normalized intolerance and violence against Indian Muslims, has already put severe pressure on India’s once-rambunctious press, with journalists surveilled and jailed, and the government using strong-arm tactics against media outlets to ensure favorable coverage’, Ms. Bhasin wrote in her piece titled: Modi’s Final Assault on India’s Press Freedom Has Begun.

She pointed out that in January draft amendments to digital media, guidelines were introduced that would essentially allow the government to block any content it doesn't like. Similarly, new rules were introduced

that empowered officials to label media content in Kashmir as ‘fake news, plagiarism and unethical or anti-national’ and to punish journalists and publications. She also opined that ‘journalists are routinely summoned by the police, interrogated and threatened with charges such as income tax violations or terrorism or separatism, noting that several prominent journalists have been detained or sentenced to jail terms. She also said that ‘we work under a cloud of fear’, and added that ‘an information vacuum hangs over Kashmir, with the public under-informed or misinformed about what’s going on in the region.’ She also noted that when Syed Ali Shah Geelani, died in 2021, the news was ‘blacked out’ and added that the government still doing the same when they began a drive to bulldoze thousands of homes that authorities said were illegally built on state land. She further wrote that the media stands as one of the ‘last remaining institutions’ capable of preventing India’s descent into authoritarianism. But if Mr. Modi succeeds in introducing the Kashmir model of information control to the rest of the country, it won’t just press freedom that is at risk, but Indian democracy itself.’

<https://pakobserver.net/modis-repressive-media-policies-destroying-kashmiri-journalism/>

Hosting G-20 summit in Srinagar aimed at deflecting world attention

The Express Tribune, 14 March 2023

The president of Jammu and Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party, Shabir

Ahmed Shah said that the Indian bid to host the G-20 summit in Srinagar territory was an attempt to ‘deflect’ world attention away from the real issue of Kashmir. In a letter addressed to the Secretary Generals UN and OIC, Shah said that the Modi government’s plan to hold the summit in the disputed territory was part of its ‘disinformation campaign’ aimed at creating a smokescreen to hide ground realities in Kashmir and to hoodwink the international community. Shah in his statement said that since 5 August 2019, India has been ‘shamelessly promoting’ the so-called normalcy narrative to create a notion that ‘all is well in Kashmir.’ While terming the move as an attempt by the Modi government to ‘whitewash its crimes’ against innocent civilians in Kashmir, Shah said that India’s present-day government, which in brazen violation of the UNSC resolutions had unilaterally and unlawfully changed the special status of Kashmir in 2019, has since then been remorselessly peddling lies to promote so-called normalcy narrative on Kashmir. He said that the Indian government’s motive behind arranging a meeting of the members of the G-20 in Srinagar is to keep the ‘façade’ of normalcy alive. While urging the UN and OIC to take effective cognizance of the matter, he said that the move would amount to legitimizing India’s ‘illegal occupation’ of the internationally recognized disputed territory.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2406001/hosting-g-20-summit-in-srinagar-aimed-at-deflecting-world-attention>

In Kashmir, Indian bulldozers are now carrying out settler-colonial policy

Pakistan Observer, 14 March 2023

Bricks are falling amid a cloud of dust onto the snow-covered roads as bulldozers are moving in, aiming to bury a long struggle for freedom. The scenes might be akin to the Israeli demolition of Palestinian homes, but this time we are witnessing India’s ‘settler-colonial policy’ in Kashmir. Videos emerge from Kashmir each day, showing bulldozers plowing through residential and non-residential areas, demolishing structures that the administration claim to have been built illegally by encroaching on state land. Each day brings new stories about how much land has been ‘reclaimed’ by the state. India’s continual anxiety over the Kashmiris’ collective power and demands for the right to self-determination expresses itself through such demolitions. Even the properties of pro-India politicians, who have carried out the writ of the Indian state in Kashmir, are being demolished. This also enables narrative building around how this destruction is not directed at the poor and the honest but targets the rich and corrupt, to create an acceptance of such actions. Over the past three decades of Kashmir’s armed resistance to India’s control, homes have often been destroyed as part of the counter-insurgency tactics of the Indian state when engaged in gunfights against pro-freedom militants.

In recent years, properties belonging to political dissidents, militants, political organizations such as the All Parties Hurriyat Conference, and religio-political groups such as the now-banned Jamaat-e-Islami, and of individuals affiliated to it have been sealed off and taken control of by the state in the name of combating terror. A recent order has also banned the sale of agricultural land belonging to 'missing persons', with the administration directing that such persons be presumed dead. The missing persons primarily include thousands of Kashmiri men subjected to 'enforced disappearance' by the Indian state. Their families have wandered from jails to torture centers to find any trace of their kin.

This destruction of homes, in addition to the killings, torture, and multiple other forms of violence that have been well documented, is part of a policy designed to break the will of the people. The vision of Kashmir as an integral part of India means such policies are seen as a legitimate way to secure the territory. This policy is now witnessing the widespread use of bulldozers to perform the act of 'spacio-cide' for the state, in that people's spaces and properties are being taken control of or destroyed by the Indian state to make it uninhabitable for Kashmiris and render their lives even more precarious. Also, by calling this 'state land', India is making the transfer of this property from Kashmiris to India, and by extension to its imperialist-capitalist agents. This

habitational violence, as Kate Siegfried argued in the context of Palestine, is one where people's domestic spaces are destroyed under the guise of illegality to eventually erase the locals' land claims and make way for the settler society. The claim of 'state land' is riddled with multiple problems in terms of how what belongs to the commons comes to be expropriated over the years and the state finds new categories for dispossession and eviction. This dispossession is an ongoing story, one that is absent from most mainstream media outlets, focused as they are on India's growth trajectory.

<https://pakobserver.net/in-kashmir-indian-bulldozers-are-now-carrying-out-settler-colonial-policy/>

Al Jazeera report belies the Modi regime's logic behind the revocation of 'IIOJK's special status

Pakistan Observer, 15 March 2023

A report released by Al Jazeera TV has belied the Modi-led Indian government's justification for the revocation of Jammu and Kashmir's special status in 2019 that the move would wipe out armed resistance in the disputed territory of Jammu and Kashmir by saying that after three years, the same Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government is 'reviving a civilian militia, called the Village Defence Guards (VDGs).' The Al Jazeera report ridiculed the BJP government's rhetoric and said, 'three years later, the same government is reviving a civilian militia, called the VDGs in the region's

southern Jammu area.' First established in 1995 in the districts of the Jammu area, the VDGs (then known as Village Defence Committees) were tasked with targeting pro-freedom people in 'Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir' (IIOJK).

The report said that since January, hundreds of civilians from Dhangri and other villages around Jammu are being trained and armed by the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) paramilitary group. Dheeraj Sharma told Al Jazeera that 'we presently have more than 150 VDG members active in the village,' Dhangri's village. A VDG member is paid a monthly remuneration of 4,000-4,500 rupees (\$48-\$54). Muhammad Aslam Chowdhury, a senior police official in Rajouri, told Al Jazeera that 700 VDG members have been sanctioned in Rajouri. He said while some have been given self-loading rifles (SLRs), a majority have Lee-Enfield rifles, commonly known as 303 – a bolt action, magazine-fed rifle invented in the late 19th century. Chowdhury said the VDGs will operate under police supervision. But not everyone in the region has welcomed the move to arm the civilians, with many politicians and experts fearing it could spark religious tensions. Shafiq Mir, a politician in Rajouri, said the weapons could be misused by people to settle personal scores as had happened in the past. He noted that the neighbors of these VDG members who are from other communities are not feeling secure. Even when there are small issues in the

locality, they will not feel safe as the guns could be misused, Mir told Al Jazeera. Mir's fears are not unfounded. The civil militias in the 1990s were accused of many criminal activities, including 'murders and rapes.'

<https://pakobserver.net/al-jazeera-report-belies-modi-regimes-logic-behind-revocation-of-iiojks-special-status/>

GB IGP was removed for 'sending force' to Zaman Park

The Nation, 16 March 2023

The federal government removed Inspector General (IG) of Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) Mohammad Saeed Wazir from his post following the allegations that a GB 'force' was employed to attack the Punjab police personnel at former Prime Minister Imran Khan's Zaman Park residence in Lahore. The development comes as clashes between PTI workers and law enforcement agencies got intensified for the second day, as the Punjab police tried to arrest Imran after an Islamabad court issued a non-bailable arrest warrant against him. Mohammad Saeed has been directed to report to the Establishment Division, while Grade-20 police officer Dar Ali Khattak from Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province has been appointed as the new IG of GB police. Earlier in the day, Federal Information Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb had alleged that a GB 'force' was being employed to attack the Punjab police.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/16-Mar-2023/gb-igp-removed-for-sending-force-to-zaman-park>

Peace between Pakistan, and India not possible without resolving Kashmir issue: FM Bilawal

The Nation, 17 March 2023

Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said durable peace between Pakistan and India was not possible without resolving the Kashmir issue. While delivering his opening statement as Chairman of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) at the two-day 49th Session of the CFM in Nouakchott, Mauritania, he said that the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) had adopted a resolution that the people of Jammu and Kashmir must be able to exercise the right of self-determination through an UN-sponsored plebiscite. However, he said that India moved away from its commitment to implement the decision, and resorted to fraud and force. He claimed that three years after India's unilateral and 'illegal measures' of 5 August 2019, it was evident that its campaign of 'colonial expansion' had failed and that it would never succeed and the people of Kashmir would win in their struggle for freedom and self-determination.

He said Kashmir and Pakistan were bound by geography, faith, history, and culture, and Pakistan would continue to extend its full political, diplomatic, and moral support for the Kashmiris' freedom struggle. He said the OIC Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir and the OIC Secretary General and his special envoy had made valuable contributions in projecting

and advocating the just cause of the Kashmiri people. He also proposed to establish a special task force of experts at the OIC forum to develop a strategy to secure equal treatment in the rules and structure of international finance, trade, and taxation.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/17-Mar-2023/peace-between-pakistan-india-not-possible-without-resolving-kashmir-issue-fm-bilawal>

Economic Developments

'AJK' finance minister stripped of portfolio

Dawn, 14 March 2023

The Prime Minister of 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK), Tanveer Ilyas has withdrawn the coveted portfolio of Inland Revenue from his Minister for Finance Abdul Majid Khan. He also stripped Mr. Khan of the chairmanship of the state-owned Bank of 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (BoAJK) by replacing the finance minister with the chief secretary. The decision came within three days of a 'disclosure' by PM Ilyas at a Women's Day function in Muzaffarabad that the commissioner of Inland Revenue would get this position against 350 to 400 million [as inducement]. At the same function, the premier had also alleged that an 'AJK' civil servant owned offshore companies which had triggered a guessing game in the state. It was claimed that harsh decisions by the prime minister against some civil servants were also around the corner. The finance minister when contacted by Dawn newspaper, said that it's the

sole discretion and prerogative of the prime minister to allot or withdraw any department from his cabinet members. I have been a member of his core team, and so far, I do not know what made him take this decision.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1741957/ajk-finance-minister-stripped-of-portfolio>

Dialogue Forum Hunza's Recommendations regarding GB Land Reforms Act 2023

Pamir Times, 17 March 2023

Dialogue Forum Hunza, a representative forum of the District Hunza would like to present recommendations regarding the proposed Gilgit Baltistan (GB) Land Reforms Act 2023. The forum proposed that the Land Reforms act should be deferred for the following reasons. 1. This draft bill (being circulated on social media) prepared by settlement officer Gilgit has not taken into consideration, the local historical backgrounds, the traditional and customary laws, and the current political status of GB. 2. The authors of the draft appear ill-informed about the historical indigenous land ownership systems of GB. They seem to believe the indigenous communities are not the owners of the mountains, pastures, glaciers, lakes, and forests of GB. The ownership of everything in GB belongs to the people living here for centuries and they inherited this ownership through generations. Even the mighty British Empire did not attempt to take away their original ownership rights. 3.

The Draft focuses on reducing poverty and economic growth in GB, however, this aim cannot be linked to the distribution and selling of all lands of GB. This would be an exploitative way of telling GBians that if they wanted material progression, development, and reduction in their poverty, then, they must surrender their mountains, glaciers, and pastures and accept the sale of many of their lands.

4. Environmental protection of all GB lands and especially the natural features should have been the top priority of the Land Reforms Act but this draft instead focuses on land allotments as the priority of the land reforms. 5. The application of a definition of Impartible lands which include all the mountains, glaciers, pastures, lakes, forests, rivers, and streams cannot be strictly applied because all mountains, glaciers, pastures, lake and forest, none and never belonging to single individuals are still the inherited combined property of those communities living there locally over centuries. 6. There are many other reasons to become suspicious about the contents of the draft including the 'Economic Transformation Initiative' (ETI) being linked to Land Reforms without providing any details about what this ETI is, how it would work etc. Therefore this current draft should be considered null and void and the bill presentation should be deferred until a new draft is prepared by a credible body.

GB Land Reforms Commission

A Land Reforms Commission should be formed by GBLA to prepare an authentic document for this purpose. The commission should study all the historical evidence, land reforms in GB in previous times, and local customary laws, and should conduct interviews and consultations with locals all over GB, especially with those who are experts in these matters. The commission should comprise experts, government officials, and people's representatives from every district of GB. The main aims of the Commissions should include: i) Environmental protection of all natural features of GB including mountains, glaciers, pastures, forests, and rivers by formulating laws to stop all kinds of constructions there, to stop selling and buying and all kinds of businesses on and around such natural features and related natural landscapes. Similar environmental protection laws should be passed for the regulation of construction in cities, towns, and villages of GB which should not destroy the local ecological system. ii) Devise transparent and fair mechanisms of allotment of barren and unoccupied lands to indigenous GBians gradually and in several phases over the coming many years to improve the economic conditions of the locals. But the selling of lands to those without domicile of GB should be stopped immediately. The forum agrees that Land Reforms are essential in GB primarily to save its unique natural environment, its lofty mountains, its thousands of glaciers, its lakes, rivers, and forests but these are

only possible through honoring the centuries-old ownership rights of its original owners, those living in the soils of their valleys and pastures for many generations.

<https://pamirtimes.net/2023/03/16/dialogue-forum-hunzas-recommendations-regarding-gb-land-reforms-act-2023/>

Karot Hydropower Project

The Nation, 17 March 2023

The friendship between Pakistan and China cannot fall because it is unique and incomparable. Pakistan and China do not just share a border, but their hearts also meet and beat together. The Silk Road, which has been in use for decades between Pakistan and China, is a symbol of deep respect and friendship, modesty, patience, tolerance, and trade activities in the region. It will not be out of place to call this highway a sustainable bridge between the Chinese people and the people of Pakistan. The alert and fearless Chinese leadership does not care about the 'criticism' and 'anxiety' of its enemies, including Washington and Delhi, but remains engrossed in its tunes for its economic goals. Silk Road (Shahraah-E-Resham) is actually 'Shah Rah' meaning 'King of highways', many emperors have passed through this highway. The construction of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has been carried out on the golden principles of large-scale consultation, joint partnership, and protection of common interests. China Three Gorges Corporation (CTG) is

dedicated to building a close community with a bright future jointly with Pakistan in the new era, based on Pakistan's development needs. In January 2016, the groundbreaking ceremony of the Karot Hydropower Project was held in Pakistan. In February 2017, the project completed its financing closure, setting a record for the fastest financing closure in Pakistan's hydropower industry. The closure of the river was completed in September 2018, marking the entry into the comprehensive construction phase.

On 20 November 2021, water storage was started when the sluice gate was closed. On 29 March 2022, the rotor hoisting of all four units was completed. On 12 May 2022, units 1 and 2 were officially connected to the grid for power generation. This project started work on 29 June 2022. The Karot Hydropower Project is the fourth of the five cascade HPPs to be developed along the Jhelum River. The installed capacity of the project is 720MW with an average annual power generation of 3206 Gigawatt hours (GWh) and annual usage hours of 4452. The project has been developed under the Power Policy 2002 on an Own Build, Operate, Transfer (BOOT) basis with a construction period of five years and a grace period of thirty years. The 720 MW Hydropower Project has been listed as one of the priority projects under the CPEC. The project is located on the Jhelum River in District Rawalpindi and 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK). The feasibility study of the project was approved on 7 October

2009. Karot Hydropower Station is located on the Jhelum, a tributary of the Indus River in the northern part of Pakistan. It is the first large-scale hydropower investment and construction project of the BRI, which is the first hydropower investment project of the CPEC. It is also the first hydropower project to be invested in by the Silk Road Fund after its inception.

It has emerged as the largest private-sector hydropower project in Pakistan and provides more than 3.2 billion Kilowatt hours (KWh) of clean energy to the people of Pakistan every year. It aims to increase the share of clean energy in Pakistan, improve energy infrastructure, overcome the shortage of electricity in Pakistan, promote Pakistani economic and social development, and improve the lives and welfare of citizens and global carbon neutrality. The total investment in the project is USD 1.74 billion. It will also provide more than 4,500 decent jobs for Pakistan every year directly or indirectly. By the end of 2021, China Three Gorges South Asia Investment Limited (CSAIL), an investment holding company created by CTG, has provided a total of nearly 6,000 jobs to Pakistan. The friendship between China and Pakistan is higher and more enduring than the Himalayas and deeper than the oceans. The joint development process of Pakistan and China is sweeter than honey and is contributing to building a common future community in Asia. Despite the changing international conditions,

CTG continues to pursue the path of openness and win-win cooperation. It is jointly developing a cooperation platform with Pakistan to share the fruits of cooperation. So that sustainable achievements can be achieved in the joint construction of the BRI.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/17-Mar-2023/karot-hydropower-project>

From Vernacular Urdu Media

The unparalleled sacrifices of the Kashmiri people will not go in vain: Uzair Ahmad Ghazali

UrduPoint, 13 March 2023

The leader of Pasban-e-Hurriyat Jammu and Kashmir, Uzair Ahmad Ghazali, claimed that the 'fascist' Indian government of Narendra Modi is trying to disregard the freedom fervor of the Kashmiri people in the forcibly 'occupied' Jammu and Kashmir and is taking the worst retaliation against them. Uzair claimed that India has obstructed the Kashmiri people from claiming their freedom using a variety of colonial and barbaric strategies and plots during their protracted struggle for independence from Indian domination for the past 75 years. While saluting the 'freedom spirit' of the Kashmiri people, he said that through their matchless struggle against 'Indian tyranny', the Kashmiris have established themselves as one of the bravest peoples in the world. Ghazali claimed that as of 5 August 2019, the imperialist acts taken by the

Modi administration against the Kashmiri people in the 'occupied lands' must be met with retaliation. He claimed that the Kashmiri people had given millions of their lives in the face of 'oppression' and 'misery' to free themselves from Indian 'oppression' and 'persecution.' He claimed that India's oppressive imperialism would be forced out of Jammu and Kashmir and that the Kashmiri people, he continued, will fight against Indian rule until they achieved freedom.

<https://www.urdupoint.com/pakistan/news/muzaffarabad/national-news/live-news-3508791.html>

India using dreaded agencies as a weapon to sow panic and fear in 'IOJK:' APHC-'AJK' leader

Jammu and Kashmir Times, 15 March 2023

Mahmood Ahmed Saghar, the convener of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference-'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (APHC-'AJK') chapter, claimed that the 'fascist' government of PM Modi is using 'notorious' agencies like the National Investigation Agency (NIA), State Investigation Agency (SIA), and Enforcement Directorate (ED) as a weapon to instill fear and harassment of the people in 'Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir' (IOJK). He claimed that Indian agencies are falsely accusing the Hurriyat leadership to undermine their commitment to the right to self-determination and underlined, however, that the Kashmiri people will

continue their nonviolent struggle to realize their natural right and that the Modi administration will never succeed in its 'evil plans.' He regretted that the 'cruel' Indian security forces were breaking into and bulldozing the homes of Hurriyat leaders, human rights defenders, journalists, and ordinary people to silence their demands for freedom. He said that political detainees from Kashmir were being moved from 'IOJK' to outlying Indian prisons. He called for the immediate release of all Kashmiri political figures who had been 'wrongfully detained' and were currently being held in Indian prisons, including Naeem Ahmed Khan, Moulvi Bashir Ahmed, Bilal Siddiqui, Aasiya Andrabi, and others. He criticized the media blackout and persecution of journalists in Kashmir and said that human rights advocates like Khurram Parvez and Muhammad Ahsan Untoo, as well as journalists Asif Sultan, Fahad Shah, and Sajjad Gul, are still imprisoned. He urged international human rights groups to secure the freedom of Kashmiri journalists, rights advocates, and political detainees. Saghar claimed that on the pretext of search and siege operations in the 'occupied territory', Indian forces are 'complicit in grave human rights abuses such as encounters, murders' and other 'war crimes.'

<http://jammukashmirtimes.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Resize-of-front-6.jpg>

The search is ongoing, as posters with images of the Pakistan Army Chief have surfaced in 'IOJK'

Nawaiwaqt, 15 March 2023

Posters containing quotes and images of Pakistan Army Chief General Asim Munir have surfaced in 'Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir' (IOJK), congratulating him for 'standing in solidarity' with the Kashmiri people and promoting their 'legitimate right' to self-determination. Kashmir Media Agency reports claimed that posters with the wording of the Army Chief read: 'the world must ensure justice and deliver what is promised to the Kashmiri people following UN resolutions' have been put up in several locations around Srinagar and surrounding areas. Several posters also used the phrase like, 'India will never succeed in its evil objectives and any misadventure would be reacted befittingly'; 'let me make it clear; Pakistan's military forces are ever-ready, not only to protect every inch of our homeland but also to take the battle to the enemy if ever, war is imposed on us,' another poster quoted. The late Hurriyat leader Syed Ali Gilani's 'iconic phrase', 'Hum Pakistani Hein Pakistan Hamara Hai', which was printed on posters and plastered on buildings, pillars, and poles appeared around Srinagar and other parts of the valley. Such posters were also posted and shared on Facebook and Twitter.

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/AJK/2023-03-15/page-1>

The Supreme Court granted the federal government time to submit its response on the issue of judicial appointments in GB

Urdupoint, 16 March 2023

The federal government has been given time by the Supreme Court (SC) to file its answer in the matter of the nomination of judges in Gilgit-Baltistan (GB). The case filed by the GB Chief Minister objecting to the selection of judges for the GB high court was considered by a two-member court led by Justice Ejaz-ul-Ahsan. Attorney General Aamir Rehman said that the federal government had provided a response about the appointment of judges, but that it has now been withdrawn and the government would submit it again with more supporting documentation. It should be noted that the SC has heard a case challenging PM Shehbaz Sharief's decision to appoint judges to the GB judiciary without the GB Chief Minister's consent.

<https://www.urdupoint.com/pakistan/news/islamabad/national-news/live-news-3511022.html>

GB has historically been neglected and deserves constitutional protections: Syed Amjad Ali Zaidi

Dailyk2, 17 March 2023

Syed Amjad Zaidi, the speaker of the Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) assembly, asserts that the granting of constitutional rights to the citizens of GB is now inevitable and that a committee was also set up by the prior government to deal with constitutional rights. But he said that since the new federal

government took office, the circumstances had altered and our constitutional concern was once more in limbo. While speaking on the occasion of the Senate's golden jubilee, he reminded the senators about the constitutional problem of GB and insisted that it must be incorporated into the national mainstream immediately. He emphasized how crucial GB is to Pakistan and how incomplete Pakistan would be without providing constitutional status to it. He claimed that despite the enormous sacrifices made by the people of GB for the country, several federal governments had throughout the years overlooked the area and its young generation. He asserted that Imran Khan would be reelected as prime minister by God's will, that he will handle the matter of constitutional rights, finish the job he started, and that we have complete faith in Imran Khan.

<https://www.dailyk2.com/Post/12879>

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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