

# Weekly POK News Digest

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

Volume 3 | Issue 2

09 - 15 January 2023

**Revenue Authority Bill POK**  
**Mangla Hydel Power Station**  
**land rights Neelum-Jhelum provisional**  
**Hydro provincial status**  
**Power climate-resilient projects**  
**Project Gilgit-Baltistan**  
**Diamer Bhasha CPEC**



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

## Contents

### Political Developments

- 'AJK' contemplates allocating specific seats for 'IIOJK' State in 'AJK' Legislative Assembly
- GB protests
- Indian troops killing innocent youth in the valley: APHC-'AJK' leader
- G20 event in 'IIOJK' will erode democratic face of member countries: APHC
- Mushahid lambasts world community on G-20 moot in 'IIOJK'
- Colonizing Kashmir

### Economic Developments

- 3 billion needed to remove NJHPP blockage: Govt
- 'AJK' Govt takes decisive steps to boost region's economy: Tanveer Ilyas
- EU approves 7.8 billion grant for GB, KP
- WAPDA awards 11.922 billion contracts for the Mangla refurbishment project
- Transparency International recommends a reexamination of the bidding process for the construction of the regional grid in GB
- Dams fund has over 16 billion, SC informed

### Vernacular Urdu Media

- The property of the Kashmiri prisoner was seized by the Modi government
- Over 50 youths were arrested from dozens of villages in the 'IIOJK' Rajouri region
- Speakers at a conference urged the international community to help Kashmiris exercise their right to self-determination
- No amount of Indian 'state terrorism' in 'occupied Kashmir' can rob the people of Kashmir of their freedom: 'AJK' PM

## Political Developments

### **'AJK' contemplates allocating specific seats for 'IIOJK' State in 'AJK' Legislative Assembly**

*Daily Parliament Times, 9 January 2023*

The government of 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK) is contemplating allocating specific seats for 'Indian Illegally occupied Jammu Kashmir' (IIOJK) in the 'AJK' Legislative Assembly. This was revealed during a meeting between the 'AJK' president Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry and the 'AJK' Prime Minister Tanveer Illayas Khan as the two leaders discussed the proposed allocation of specific seats for the 'IIOJK' in the 'AJK' Legislative Assembly. Besides discussing the administrative and political affairs, the duo agreed to intensify efforts to raise the issue of Kashmir vigorously at the international level and expose 'brutalities' being committed against Kashmiris by the 'Indian troops 'in the 'occupied Jammu and Kashmir.'

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2023/01/09/ajk-contemplates-to-allocate-specific-seats-for-iiojk-state-in-ajk-legislative-assembly/>

### **GB protests**

*Dawn, 9 January 2023*

Massive protests held across Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) over the past several days have united the region's geographically and religiously diverse communities, as well as supporters of different political parties. Moreover, traders' bodies in the northern region have also backed the demonstrations. GB's people have taken to the streets for a raft of reasons, which include

questions about land rights, taxation, extensive power cuts as well as a reduction in the amount of subsidized wheat that the federal government is supposed to provide to the region. The fact is that GB's residents are protesting about many of the same things people in other parts of Pakistan also raise their voices against. However, GB's ambiguous constitutional status, as well as the lack of infrastructure compared to the rest of the country, makes this region's plight unique. The protesters are not in favor of the GB Revenue Authority Bill, which was passed by the region's assembly last year, as they say, it imposes additional taxes on the region without giving it any representation in the federation.

Moreover, the locals also have serious reservations about the state taking over land in the region that they say belongs to the people. The state has been acquiring land in GB for CPEC as well as other projects. The local people have a valid point when it comes to additional taxation. If the state is extracting revenue from the region, then it also has a responsibility to provide elected representation for GB in parliament. Of course, the constitutional status of the region has been kept vague due to the Kashmir dispute, but as has been argued in the past, a provisional provincial status can be considered for GB until that imbroglio is resolved. Similarly, the land issue is a very sensitive matter and only through engaging with the local people politically can be resolved. While the state has a right to acquire the land it feels is essential in the national interest, the people need to be taken on

board and compensated accordingly, and no forced takeovers of land should take place.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1730696/gb-protests>

### **Indian troops killing innocent youths in the valley: APHC-'AJK' leader**

*Pakistan Observer, 9 January 2023*

The Convener of All Parties Hurriyat Conference 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (APHC-AJK) chapter, Mehmood Ahmed Saghar has said that the Indian troops have accelerated their 'atrocities' in 'India illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir' (IIOJK) and are 'martyring innocent youth' under the guise of siege and search operations. Saghar in a statement issued in Islamabad said India is continuously increasing its state terrorism in 'IIOJK' and even today two youths were martyred in Poonch district while 18 Kashmiris were arrested from Rajouri district. While paying tributes to the 'martyred youth', he said India's cruel tactics cannot change the reality of the Kashmir dispute and urged India to give up its 'oppressive policy' towards Kashmir and resolve the lingering dispute by giving Kashmiris their birthright to self-determination. He said India has declared a 'war' against the Kashmiris and has detained thousands of Kashmiri youth in various jails and detention centers in India and the territory. He said that despite the Indian 'atrocities,' the Hurriyat leadership and people were standing on the sacred mission of freedom. The Kashmiri people should be given the right to decide their future, he added. Saghar said that implementation of the United Nations

resolutions is the only solution to the lingering Kashmir dispute.

<https://pakobserver.net/indian-troops-killing-innocent-youth-in-valley-saghar/>

### **G20 event in 'IIOJK' will erode democratic face of member countries: APHC**

*Pakistan Observer, 9 January 2023*

The All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) while expressing concern over the media reports about the likelihood of the G20 conference in Srinagar, the summer capital of the disputed 'Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir' (IIOJK), has said that the event if held, would erode the democratic face of the member countries. The APHC in a statement issued in Srinagar said that Jammu and Kashmir is an UN-recognized disputed territory whose political future is yet to be decided through a plebiscite and that holding international event like the G20 conference in 'IIOJK' will blatantly expose the so-called democratic face of the Group of Twenty, which is an intergovernmental forum comprising 19 countries and the European Union, the 'APHC' added. A senior official in Srinagar said that Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) administration is making 'advance arrangements as Srinagar city is likely to host one of the G20 events in May this year.' The APHC 'strongly opposing' the move said that the Group, particularly, the European Union, would have, then, no right to champion democratic and human values in the world because the event will prove that the G20 countries are least bothered about 'human rights violations' in 'IIOJK.'

<https://pakobserver.net/g20-event-in-iiojk-will-erode-democratic-face-of-member-countries-aphc/>

## **Mushahid lambasts world community on G-20 moot in 'IIOJK'**

*The Nation, 11 January 2023*

The chairman of the Senate's Standing Committee on Defence, Mushahid Hussain Sayed criticized the world community for its double standards and silence over India's attempts to hold the Group of Twenty (G-20) Summit 2023 in the disputed territory of 'Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir' (IIOJK). While talking to a private news channel, he said that it was rather incumbent upon the world to foil such Indian attempts in solidarity with the 'oppressed innocent Kashmiris' facing the worst 'state-sponsored human rights abuses.' Mushahid claimed that if the world is much concerned then the G-20 forum should hold its session in Kyiv, the capital of Ukraine, which is under Russian attack. He said the international community should not turn a blind eye to the plight of Kashmiris facing the 'worst violence' and 'persecution' at the hands of Indian 'occupant forces.'

<https://www.nation.com.pk/11-Jan-2023/mushahid-lambasts-world-community-on-g-20-moot-in-iiojk>

## **Colonizing Kashmir**

*Pakistan Observer, 12 January 2023*

The Indian 'occupation regime' introduced new land lease rules in Jammu and Kashmir on December 11, 2022. The rules notified by the revenue department under Section 4, read with Section 9 of the Jammu and Kashmir Land Grants Act, 1960 state that all outgoing lessees, except those for residential purposes, shall immediately

handover the possession of their land to the government, failing which the outgoing lessee will be evicted. 'Colonizing' Kashmir has long been India's Holy Grail. From Nehru to Modi, every Indian ruler has treated Kashmir as a 'colony.' A case study of the conflict dating back to the 'military invasion' of the territory by India in 1947 to its 'unlawful integration' in 2019 substantiates the widely held view that Indian governments have persistently pursued a 'settler-colonial' framework to strengthen New Delhi's control over Jammu and Kashmir.

India's goal has always been to take advantage of Kashmir's resources, replace the indigenous population with an 'invasive settler society', and control the region's space, resources, and people by occupying their lands. It has always wished to establish an exclusively private property regime, change the political nature of the Kashmir dispute through demographic changes, political maneuverings, and administrative machinations, and deprive its people of the right to self-determination promised to them by the international community. The August 5, 2019 abrogation move, rightly censured as an act of colonization, was a watershed moment in the history of Kashmir as it marked the region's transition from Patrick Wolfe's first model to the second model of colonialism. The move, which opened the floodgates for Indian settlers and enabled them to have access to more capital to take over Kashmiri lands, was a typical example of Machiavellian mischief by the Indian state to disenfranchise, disempower, and dispossess Kashmiris of their lands.

Since the abrogation of these constitutional provisions, the Indian government through a host of settler strategies has tried to obtain and maintain territorial control over the state. The dominant features of the Indian government's Kashmir policy today include 'replacing' the indigenous population, seizing their land, 'committing genocide' and dehumanizing the local people, accumulating capital and extracting resources, changing the demography, using and abusing the military force, re-writing history, and enabling communalism. A settler-colonial drive has been initiated under the garb of the new domicile law to replace the indigenous population with new settlers. The law has formally paved the way for outsiders to settle in the state permanently, enabling them to claim the already non-existent jobs in Jammu and Kashmir, where the unemployment rate is double that in any other Indian state. Under the pretext of the new law, outsiders (non-state subjects) employed in 'Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir' (IIOJK) will also have the right to purchase land in the state.

Since occupying the lands of the indigenous population has been central to settler-colonial state processes, the new administration in Kashmir has introduced amendments to the Control of Building Operations Act, 1988, and the Development Act, 1970, giving sweeping powers to the Indian army to acquire more land in Kashmir. Under the new law, the Indian Army can declare any part of 'IIOJK', including agricultural lands, residential areas,

and neighborhoods to be 'strategic areas', and take possession of any land of their choice. As per a report, over 4.30 lakh kanals of land in Jammu and Kashmir are already under the 'illegal occupation' of the Indian military and paramilitary forces. In 2016, the then chief minister of the state, Mehbooba Mufti, informed the legislative assembly that 51,116 kanals of state land in Jammu and 379,817 kanals of land in Kashmir and Ladakh were under the unauthorized 'occupation' of the 'Indian forces.' On October 27, 2020, the Indian government amended the Land Revenue Act. The changes were authorized by the Hindu right-wing Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and were implemented on the day Kashmir observes Black Day to mark the arrival of the Indian Army in the region's main city of Srinagar in 1947. The amendment in these laws means more destruction, plunder of state-land, the disempowerment of the local authorities, and further erosion of the political and economic rights of the native people.

Amending the Land Revenue Act was tantamount to putting Kashmir on sale. Under the new law, anyone from outside Jammu and Kashmir can now buy agricultural land for commercial and other non-agricultural purposes with the government's permission. Kashmiris widely perceive the repealing of basic land laws and massive amendments to other laws as a conspiracy to push and implement the agenda of demographic change, and disempowering the people of 'IIOJK.' The frequent tampering with land laws by the 'occupation authorities' clearly



tells that the Indian government's main motive to abrogate Articles 370 and 35/A was to take away the lands of indigenous Kashmiris and bring outsiders to settle in the occupied territory.

The locals who have long held land under lease, farmers, hoteliers, and businesspeople are now being asked to vacate the land. The Indian authorities will do whatever they please to achieve their goals. This is yet another fraud with the people of 'occupied Kashmir.' The right-wing RSS-backed BJP government of India is committing tyranny on the people of 'IIOJK' by grabbing their resources and land on one pretext or the other. This is no different from what was done in Palestine by the Israeli government. On abrogating Articles 370 and 35/A, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi claimed that it was done to ensure development, create jobs, empower women and encourage transparency. But the Kashmiris knew that the real reason for abrogating the constitutional laws was land grabbing and demographic changes. Tragically, their fears have not remained unfounded. It cannot be more obvious than what is unfolding in 'IIOJK' today as the Indian government implements its brazen and 'ferocious agenda.'

<https://pakobserver.net/colonizing-kashmir/>

### **Economic Developments**

#### **3 billion needed to remove NJHPP blockage: Govt**

*Business Recorder, 10 January 2023*

The government said that over 3 billion including the cost of consultancy

services is needed for removing the blockage of the 969-MW Neelum-Jhelum Hydro Power Project (NJHPP). This was stated by the senior official of the project during a briefing to the national assembly standing committee on water resources presided over by Mir Ghulam Ali Talpur. The members of the committee were also told that even four years after the completion of the project its PV-IV has not yet been completed. Upon this, the chairman asked about the number of directors of the project and he was informed that there were four directors. The meeting was informed that one director has retired, whereas, the remaining are in the country. The committee sought the names of the project directors from the ministry of water resources and the chief executive officer of the NJHPP project.

The committee was informed that the NJHPP is closed consequent to the collapse of the drainage tunnel between the powerhouse and the river Jhelum. The committee was informed that 2.69 billion would be the cost of opening the blockage of the tunnel plus, daily work and consultancy service costs would be 415 million. The meeting was also told that the project has been operational since 2018 and during the last four years generated 1,600 billion units. About the daily losses following the closure of the project, the meeting was informed that daily loss of generation varies as it solely depends upon the availability of water. During the high flow season, when plenty of water is available, the NJHPP contributes to a peak capacity of 969 MW; however, during low flow season, power

production considerably (up to 100 MW). A copy of the briefing noted that excessive leakage was observed in the powerhouse on July 4, 2022, and project consultants on July 5, 2022, concluded that abnormal increase in Tail Race Tunnel (TRT) pressure and water leakages/ seepage in the powerhouse are due to some blockage in TRT.

To save powerhouses and equipment, units were shut down gradually on July 5 and completely shut down on July 6, 2022. Subsequently, the Independent Panel of Experts (IPOE) was finalized by the inter-ministerial committee as per directives of the prime minister of Pakistan, and accordingly, five members of the IPOE were engaged in September 2022 for ascertaining the causes of the blockage. The IPOEs submitted two interim reports in October and November 2022 and their opinion was that there could be 11 different possibilities triggering the blockage and not a single postulated root cause would be sufficient to cause a tunnel collapse of the magnitude of the one observed in TRT. The meeting was also apprised that for the remedial work, a contract has been awarded to China Gezhouba Group of Company (CGGC), and also additional consultancy services have been agreed with the existing project consultant with remedial works cost of 2.69 billion-plus, and a consultancy services cost of 415 million.

<https://www.brecorder.com/news/40219327/rs3bn-needed-to-remove-njhpp-blockage-govt>

### **‘AJK’ Govt takes decisive steps to boost region’s economy: Tanveer Ilyas**

*Pakistan Observer, 10 January 2023*

The Prime Minister of ‘Azad Jammu and Kashmir’ (AJK), Tanveer Ilyas Khan has said that decisive steps were being taken to stabilize the economy of the region including encouragement of the private sector to invest in small industries and other sectors. While addressing a press conference, he said that besides getting the Bank of ‘Azad Jammu and Kashmir’ (AJK) scheduled, 49% of its shares will be given to the business community, adding that the ‘AJK’ Bank has earned a profit of 950 million rupees in addition to taxation and salaries during his government’s period. He said that Skill University would be established to make the youth skillful and that institutions on the lines of the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) and National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) will be established within ‘Azad Kashmir.’

The PM further said that financial and administrative autonomy would be given to the department of electricity and that the power supply company is being reshaped on the pattern of Design Engineering and Construction Services (DESCOs), which will save about 7 billion rupees. Similarly, the PM said that after improving the tax system, the number of taxpayers will be increased to 100,000. He said that the government was bringing investors into ‘Azad Kashmir,’ who were willing



to invest their capital in the state, and added that the number of tax filers increased from 5 thousand to 38 thousand during the last six months. While the number of filers working in the system has reached 58 thousand. He further said that no economy in the world can flourish without development in the private sector and the future government will bring the best model of public-private partnership within 'Azad Kashmir.'

<https://pakobserver.net/ajk-govt-takes-decisive-steps-to-boost-regions-economy-tanveer/>

### **EU approves 7.8 billion grant for GB, KP**

*Dawn, 11 January 2023*

The European Union (EU) has approved a grant of 7.86 billion (31.5 million euros) to support sustainable and climate-resilient projects in Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) and Chitral in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP). This grant will be utilized towards building energy projects through implementation partners, said a statement by the GB chief secretary's office. The project will help alleviate the suffering of the people who are at the forefront, bearing the impact of climate change and global warming. GB chief secretary Mohiyuddin Ahmad Wani expressed joy over the grant and vowed to complete the projects on time in collaboration with the implementation partners with no compromise on transparency. The chief secretary said the government would continue its efforts to preserve the environment and improve the education and health infrastructure.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1731041/eu-approves-rs78bn-grant-for-gb-kp>

### **WAPDA awards 11.922 billion contracts for the Mangla refurbishment project**

*Business Recorder, 11 January 2023*

The Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) has awarded contract Package XI of the Mangla refurbishment project for units 9 and 10 to General Electric (GE Hydro), France. The contract worth 11.922 billion includes manufacturing, supplying, installation, and commissioning of the two units. The general manager (Hydel) of WAPDA, Ihsan Ullah, and a representative of GE Hydro France Abubakar signed the agreement on behalf of their organizations. The chairman of WAPDA Lt Gen Sajjad Ghani (retd), Member (Power) WAPDA, Jamil Akhtar, project director Mangla Refurbishment Project, senior officers, representatives of the consultants, and the contractors were also present on the occasion. The WAPDA is implementing Mangla Refurbishment Project with an approved PC-I cost of 52.224 billion. The project is being carried out in various phases, wherein the generating units are to be refurbished by closing down one tunnel (two generating units) at a time.

The refurbishment works have been divided into 11 different packages. Before the signing of Package-XI, nine other packages have already been awarded, while works on four packages have been completed. Refurbishment of the first two units has been completed in 2022, while refurbishment of all 10 generating units is likely to be accomplished by the year

2026-27. Mangla Refurbishment Project, on its completion, will enhance the generation capacity of the existing Mangla Hydel Power Station from 1000 megawatt (MW) to 1310 MW, thus adding 310 MW additional power with an average of 1610 million units of additional energy per annum to the National Grid. It may be mentioned that the USAID is providing \$ 150 million as a grant and Agence Française de Développement (AFD) is providing 90 million Euros as a loan for Mangla Refurbishment Project, while the rest of the amount is being arranged by WAPDA through loans and from its resources.

<https://www.brecorder.com/news/40219492/wapda-awards-rs11922bn-contract-for-mangla-refurbishment-project>

### **Transparency International recommends a reexamination of the bidding process for the construction of the regional grid in GB**

*Pamir Times, 13 January 2023*

Transparency International has said that complaints about irregularities in the bidding process for the construction of a regional grid in Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) have surfaced, raising concerns about a lack of transparency. In a letter addressed to the region's chief secretary, transparency international has said the joint venture chosen to implement the project lacks 'expertise and experience' and that their foreign partners are not registered to operate 'legally' in Pakistan. Through the letter, written on January 4, 2023, transparency international recommends to the Chief Secretary to examine the

complaint and invite bids again, if the complaints were valid.

<https://pamirtimes.net/2023/01/12/transparency-international-recommends-reexamination-of-bidding-process-for-construction-of-regional-grid-in-gilgit-baltistan/>

### **Dams fund has over 16 billion, SC informed**

*The Express Tribune, 13 January 2023*

The Supreme Court directed the auditor general of Pakistan to review the records of the Diamer Bhasha dam fund and observed that the money in the dam fund would not be spent on repairing the damage caused by recent floods. A three-member bench, headed by Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial, heard the Diamer Bhasha and Mohmand dams' execution case. The chief justice observed that the auditor general's office had full access to the records of the dam fund. The court directed the auditor general to review the entire record of the donations and capital disbursements together with the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) and identify whether or not there were any irregularities in the documents. State Bank officials informed the court that the dams fund currently had more than 16 billion but so far neither any withdrawal had been made from the fund nor any expenditure incurred from that money.

The court was informed that the money deposited in the fund was invested in government securities such as Treasury Bills (T-bills) by the National Bank. Sitting on the bench, Justice Ijazul Ahsan said that the fund had 10 billion which would become 17 billion on January 26. The Chief Justice said that

the record of the donors of the dams fund was available on the website of the Supreme Court. He added that he would tell the people which machinery was bought from this fund. He stressed that the dam fund money would not be spent on repairing flood damage. During the hearing, counsel for the Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) drew attention to the transmission lines. The chief justice said that transmission lines were very important for the dam's project and asked the lawyer to inform the court whether there was a need for instructions for the release of funds. The Power Division secretary said that the circular debt in the country had risen to 2.6 trillion, adding that a further increase in it was also expected.

WAPDA's lawyer said that Power Division had to pay 240 billion to the Central Power Purchasing Agency (CPPA). He added that because of non-payment to contractors, work on dams was affected. Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhel, sitting on the bench said maybe the government was unable to make the payment because of the paucity of funds. The counsel for WAPDA also informed the court that work on dam projects was affected because of the floods and security situation. The court was informed that the Mohmand dam's infrastructure was damaged by the floods, but added that the amount allocated to the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) was also not available. The lawyer for WAPDA said that international experts also left the country after the Covid-19 outbreak.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2395658/dams-fund-has-over-rs16-billion-sc-informed>

## [From Vernacular Urdu Media](#)

### **The property of the Kashmiri prisoner was seized by the Modi government**

*Jasarat, 10 January 2023*

The 'fascist' Indian government of Modi in the 'India illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir' has seized the property of a Shopian district-based Kashmiri youth 'freedom fighter' who was 'unjustly imprisoned.' According to allegations in the Indian media, Usman Gulzar Wani's property in the Nagbal neighborhood of the Shopian district was seized by the Modi administration while he was being mistreated in custody on 'false charges.' Usman was detained by Indian authorities in August 2022 while they carried out a siege and search operation, and he was subsequently transported to Kot Bhalwal Jail in Jammu.

<https://www.jasarat.com/2023/01/10/confiscated-property-of-kashmiri-youth/>

### **Over 50 youths were arrested from dozens of villages in the 'IIOJK' Rajouri region**

*Nawairwaqt, 11 January 2023*

Indian army has detained over 50 innocent youths for questioning in the Rajouri area of 'India Illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir' (IIOJK). The arrests took place during a continuing joint cordon and search operations by the Indian army, police, and Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) in more than two dozen villages in Rajouri. Mohammad Aslam, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) in Rajouri, told the media that the

operation is ongoing on a big scale and added that more CRPF members and police officers have been stationed in key places to increase security. The arrests, according to the SSP, were related to recent attacks in the Dhangri village of the Rajouri district. According to officials, more paramilitary and police officers have been stationed at border crossings as part of enhanced security near the Line of Control (LoC). In the meantime, firearms and shooting instructions were provided to the recently hired government gunmen Village Defense Guards (VDG) at the Mahadev Menka firing range in the Sunderbani sector. As per the officials, the army-run firing practice session was held in collaboration with the police and included more than 50 VDGs from several villages along the LoC.

<https://www.nawaitwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/AJK/2023-01-11/page-1>

### **Speakers at a conference urged the international community to help Kashmiris exercise their right to self-determination**

*Urdu point, 11 January 2023*

The leaders of the ruling and opposition parties in "Azad Jammu and Kashmir" (AJK) as well as other leaders and representatives from various political ideologies have reiterated their unwavering support for the right of Kashmiris to self-determination and urged the international community and organizations to assist in granting Kashmiris their birthright. A 'Women's Youth Conference' was held in Muzaffarabad by Jammu and Kashmir

Self-determination International, an organization headed by Raja Najabat Hussain that promotes Kashmiris' right to self-determination throughout Europe and the United Kingdom in collaboration with 'Azad Kashmir University.' In addition to the usual declarations and assurances of political, diplomatic, and moral support, the conference speakers emphasized the necessity to take concrete action to 'liberate' the people of 'Occupied Jammu and Kashmir' from India's 'illegitimate and brutal occupation.' The speakers emphasized the dire circumstances in Occupied Jammu and Kashmir and asserted that despite passing years, international organizations and powers have not upheld their commitments to put an end to the conflict in Kashmir and provide Kashmiris their right to self-determination. Millions of people in the region, they claimed, are deprived of their fundamental right to freedom, as a result, India's 'illegal, undemocratic, and unconstitutional conduct' and policies endanger the peace and security of the entire region. The speakers said that neither the international community nor its institutions had done anything to prevent India from 'killing Kashmiris.'

It was highlighted at the conference that the Kashmir struggle has long attracted the attention of the British, American, European, and Islamic nations, as well as the international community and institutions, thanks to the Pakistani and Kashmiri diaspora and their representatives. The speakers underlined that Raja Najabat Hussain has relentlessly fought to raise public

awareness of crimes against humanity in 'occupied Kashmir.' The councilor Yasmin Dar, the deputy mayor of Manchester, the senior Minister of Local Government and Rural Development of 'Azad Kashmir', Khawaja Farooq Ahmed, the parliamentary secretary of 'Azad Kashmir', Prof. Taqdees Geelani, a member of the Muslim League-N, Nisara Abbasi, the former director general of the Kashmir Liberation Cell Women Wing, 'Azad Kashmir' University Dean Professor Nusrat Durrani, and the Muslim Conference Women leaders, young workers, and other organizations attended the meeting along with Sardar Ali Shan, the media coordinator for the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Commission.

<https://www.urdupoint.com/pakistan/news/muzaffarabad/kashmir/live-news-3428956.html>

**No amount of Indian 'state terrorism' in 'occupied Kashmir' can rob the people of Kashmir of their freedom: 'AJK' PM**

*Jammu and Kashmir Times, 15 January 2023*

The visit by Indian Home Minister Amit Shah to 'occupied Kashmir', according to the Prime Minister of 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK), Tanveer Ilyas Khan was like putting 'salt in the wounds' of the Kashmiri people. He claimed that Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Indian Home Minister Amit Shah were the 'worst terrorists,' claiming that their hands were 'stained' with the 'blood' of 'defenseless' Kashmiris. The two, he claimed, have caused all hell to break loose in Kashmir over the past few

years, but despite establishing a 'reign of terror', they have 'utterly failed' to weaken the determination of the Kashmiris for their desire for independence of their motherland. He claimed that Pakistan is the final stop for Kashmiris and added that until this objective was attained, the ongoing 'liberation war' would continue.

He asserted that Kashmiris cannot be deterred from pursuing the just cause of freedom by Indian state terrorism. He claimed that Indian soldiers have 'brutally oppressed' the people of 'occupied Kashmir' for the past 70 years and that the Indian state had 'flagrantly violated' fundamental human rights in the 'occupied region.' He claimed that while hundreds of thousands of Kashmiris had died as martyrs, tens of thousands of Kashmiris were still languishing in 'Indian Jails.' The PM praised Kashmiris for their sacrifices and fight, saying it was time for the world to step up and help Kashmiris obtain the legal rights that the international community had promised them. He asserted that Pakistan had actively supported Kashmiris' right to self-determination and added that despite confronting numerous challenges, Pakistan had offered Kashmiris all of its diplomatic, moral, and political assistance.

<http://jammukashmirtimes.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/1-1.jpg>



# Weekly POK News Digest

Volume 3 | Issue 2

09 - 15 January 2023

**Compiled by**  
Mohd. Usman Bhatti

**Edited By**  
Dr. Smruti S Pattanaik

## **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.*



**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](http://www.idsa.in); Email: [pokdigest@gmail.com](mailto:pokdigest@gmail.com)