

Weekly POK News Digest

(A weekly news digest on Pakistan Occupied Kashmir)

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infrastructure
Gandhara Corridor POK
Gilgit-Baltistan Diamer
Skardu tourism
by-election royalties
Climate change
Carbon footprints



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मनोहर पर्रिकर रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान

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Political Developments

JKLF Narr tehsil of district Kotli in 'AJK' held impressive 'Release Yasin Malik' rally

Daily Parliament Times, 11 September 2023

Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) Narr tehsil of district Kotli in 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK) held an 'impressive', 'Release Yasin Malik' rally yesterday at Narr that was led by party leaders including Raja Haq Nawaz Khan (acting chairman), Muhammad Rafiq Dar (special representative of incarcerated JKLF chairman Yasin Malik), Saleem Haroon (Vice Chairman), Sajid Siddiqi (AJK-GB Zonal President), Obaid Shabir (Chairman JKSLF) among others. All walks of life in the area including men, women, and children besides the senior leaders and workers of JKLF and JKSLF participated in the rally. According to the statement issued from the central information office of JKLF, the rally was followed by a 'Martyrs Conference.' A unanimously adopted resolution in the name of 'Narr Declaration' was passed by the participants at the end of the conference. The resolutions of the Narr Declaration are as follows:

1. While paying rich tributes to the martyrs of Jammu Kashmir the participants of the conference pledged to continue the freedom struggle until the ultimate goal of independence of Jammu Kashmir is achieved, and the lost sovereignty and oneness of the State is resumed.
2. While condemning the conspiracies being hatched from both sides of the ceasefire line against the national identity of the State of Jammu Kashmir, the participants of the conference vowed to play an active role in safeguarding the national interests of the motherland of Jammu Kashmir along with the sacrifices rendered by people of the State for independence.
3. While condemning the gross human rights violations committed by Indian forces in 'Indian held Jammu Kashmir', the participants of the conference demanded an immediate and unconditional release of incarcerated chairman JKLF Muhammad Yasin Malik and other pro-freedom people languishing in different jails of India.
4. The conference appeals to the G-20 leaders to take notice of the continued and unabated human rights violations in the State and play their role in resolving the long pending issue of Jammu Kashmir in accordance with the wishes and aspirations of the people of the State.
5. While extending their support in favor of the rights movement in 'AJK', the participants of the conference suggested the government of 'AJK' approach the protesters and start a dialogue

process for the peaceful resolution of the crises.

6. The participants of the conference condemned all sorts of conspiracies of communal divide being hatched in GB and appealed to people to maintain their national and religious brotherhood.

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2023/09/11/ljklf-narr-tehsil-of-district-kotli-in-ajk-held-impressive-release-yasin-malik-rally/>

GB by-poll result 'held' amid rigging claims

Dawn, 12 September 2023

The chief election commissioner has restrained the district returning officer from announcing the result of a by-election to the GB Assembly over allegations of rigging. The by-election for GBA-13 Astore-I constituency was held on Saturday. The seat had fallen vacant after a three-member bench of GB Chief Court disqualified former chief minister Khalid Khurshid Khan in a fake degree case. According to the provisional result issued by RO Muhammad Zakir, PTI's Mohammad Khurshid Khan bagged 6,164 votes, followed by PML-N's Farman Ali with 4,899 votes and PPP's Abdul Hameed Khan with 4,125 votes. Mr Khurshid is the father of former chief minister Khalid Khurshid.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1775363/gb-by-poll-result-held-amid-rigging-claims>

PM lays wreath on martyrs' monument in Gilgit

Daily Parliament Times, 12 September 2023

Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar arrived in Gilgit Baltistan (GB) on a two-day visit. Accompanied by Interior Minister Sarfraz Bugti and Minister for Information Murtaza Solangi, the prime minister laid a floral wreath at the monument of martyrs at the Chief Minister's Secretariat. The caretaker prime minister was briefed by Chief Secretary GB Mohyuddin Ahmen Wani on various matters. Later, he visited an exhibition of science models by students of local schools and evinced a keen interest in the innovative models made by the students and interacted with them. The students presented various models depicting power generation from hydel and solar sources to mitigate impact of the climate change.

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2023/09/12/pm-lays-wreath-on-martyrs-monument-in-gilgit/>

10-member Kashmiri delegation leaves for Geneva

Pakistan Observer, 12 September 2023

A 10-member Kashmiri delegation, hailing from both sides of the Line of Control (LoC), left for Geneva to attend the 54th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council. The delegation led by All Parties Hurriyat Conference- 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (APHC-

AJK) chapter leader Altaf Hussain Wani, the delegation comprised political leaders, academicians, civil society members, and human rights activists. During its week-long stay in Geneva, the Kashmiri delegation besides attending the UNHRC session is scheduled to attend important meetings with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Special rapporteurs, diplomats, and representatives of international Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs).

The main objective of the visit is to bring to focus the ongoing human rights violations in 'Indian illegally occupied' Jammu and Kashmir, particularly the rising incidents of extrajudicial killings, illegal detentions, atrocities, snatching of properties, suspending Kashmiri Muslim government employees, clampdown on dissent, silencing political voice, media, attacks on right to education and religious rights and the plight of the Kashmiri prisoners. The delegation would also apprise the world community of the Indian government's sinister designs aimed at changing the demographics of the region. Its anti-Kashmir policies intended to minimize the majority community's role in the decision-making process and reduce their political representation in the legislature by granting voting rights to non-Kashmiris.

<https://pakobserver.net/10-member-kashmiri-delegation-leaves-for-geneva/>

India using its judiciary as a tool to stifle dissenting voices in 'Occupied Kashmir' State: Kashmir Seminar

Daily Parliament Times, 12 September 2023

Speakers at seminar/ Webinar while castigating India for using the judiciary as a tool to stifle dissenting voices in the 'illegally occupied' territory of Jammu and Kashmir state, have said that denying fair trial to Kashmiri prisoners raises a big question mark over the Indian judiciary's impartiality as well as its credibility. The event hosted on the sidelines of the 54th session of the UNHRC by the World Muslim Congress was co-sponsored by the Universal Human Rights Council. World Muslim Congress permanent representative to the United Nations Geneva presided and moderated the event. The panelists include Barrister Abdul Majeed Trambo, Ms. Tazeen Hassan Justice for All Canada, Ms. Marry Scully note Rights defender from the USA, and many APHC leaders.

Member of Sri Lanka parliament

Speakers while referring to Article 10 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), said that as per the UDHR, every prisoner is entitled to an impartial and public hearing when his or her rights are at stake. They said that the right to fair trial internationally recognized human right- was also an indispensable pillar of justice and

democracy. Referring to the illegal detention of political leaders, they said that the Indian government booked the top tier of the Hurriyat leadership and left them to rot in jails. They said that the Kashmiri prisoners who had been arrested on trumped-up charges before and after 5th August 2019 were not given enough opportunity to defend themselves in a court of law. Referring to international law, the panelists said that the burden of proof rests solely with the prosecution but in many cases, Kashmiri detainees were left with no option but to prove their innocence. The Kashmiri prisoners' unfair treatment by the Indian judiciary, they said, spoke volumes about the declining justice system in India. The denial of a fair trial to Kashmiri prisoners also underscores the loss of independence by India's judiciary that works on the whims and fantasies of the ruling regime, they claimed.

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2023/09/12/india-using-its-judiciary-as-a-tool-to-stifle-dissenting-voices-in-occupied-kashmir-state-kashmir-seminar/>

From bullets to carbon footprints: The ecological consequences of Kashmir dispute

Pakistan Observer, 13 September 2023

The challenges and threats of global climate change are well known. The shifts in the ecological patterns of the 'IOJK' are an emerging trend in the international environment security

paradigm that has serious implications for maintaining environmental security in 'IOJK.' Kashmir, a regional conflict with global implications, has been a significant issue, with the Indian Army's large-scale presence in 'IOJK' deteriorating the ecology. The environmental cost of the decade's long, protracted conflict, reflects the inhuman use of heavy weapons (also accused of utilizing chemical weapons) by the Indian Army against the 'occupied' Kashmiris and freedom fighters.

The Indian Army and CRPF engage in artillery attacks against innocent Kashmiris in the name of counter-terrorism operations, using various weapons such as Kalashnikov, Bulgarian AR-M1, Mpi KMS-72, Md.90, Md.63 Fixed Stock AKs, Russian AKMS, and captured Type 56 Assault Rifles. Other weapons used include indigenous INSAS, 1B BREN LMG'S, Tavor rifles, Pika General Purpose Machine Guns, M4A1, Galil SAR Carbines, MAG 2A1, MP-5, MP-9, Uzi Submachine Guns, C-90, Shmel Thermobaric Rocket launcher, AGS-30, X-95 Carbine, Multiple Grenade Launcher 40mm, and Sniper Rifles like SVD Dragunov, Galatz and Ishapore. The destruction caused by these weapons following open fires by the Indian Army in 'IOJK' is so immense that it not only kills innocent Kashmiris but also causes massive infrastructure and property destruction.

The 1990 Handwara and Cheenichowk Fire, the 1993 Lal-chowk and Sopore Fire, and the 2001 Palhallan Fire cannot be forgotten as they marked the horrid events of mass destruction of civilian properties in 'IOJK' in the early 1990s. These intentional, damage-inflicting activities by the Indian Army have rendered thousands of Kashmiris homeless and deteriorated the climate patterns of the region as well. Over the years, the frequent use of guns by the Indian army in 'IOJK,' has posed a greater environmental crisis that looms over the region. Most of these weapons are used for illumination and smoke screening purposes to target innocent Kashmiris. These weapons release harmful carbon monoxide pollutants, including copper, lead, carbonaceous material (e.g. soot), and other metals, causing harm to human health and the environment. In the last two decades, the Indian authorities have converted Kashmir's green landscape into a military garrison. The Indian army is clearing forests to create hideouts followed by the intentional setting of forest fires to clear land to target innocent Kashmiris, in the name of counter-terrorism operations.

Deforestation amid illegal construction, and timber smuggling has severely degraded the Kashmir valley's forests. The construction of resorts and hotels in Pahalgam is encroaching on forests and putting pressure on wildlife. India's longstanding habit of pursuing its own

military and strategic interests by peddling falsehoods has now facilitated its unlawful activities of deteriorating the climate of 'IOJK.' In this era of increasing climate crises 'military weapons have become a climate killer,' generating around 6% of global CO2 emissions. Emissions from military equipment cause considerable environmental harm around the globe, the amount released varies on the duration of the conflict as well as the types of artillery used. The Indian Army's use of heavy weapons in 'IOJK' contributes to global climate change, incinerating the ecology of the region and increasing carbon footprints. The Indian military's consumption of fossil fuels contributes to global warming while targeted bombings directly harm wildlife and biodiversity. Pollution which comes as a result of these attacks contaminates bodies of water, soil, and air, making areas unsafe for Kashmiris to inhabit.

Siachen Glacier, the largest glacier outside the Polar Regions and the biggest source of fresh water in South Asia is rapidly deicing, posing a significant risk to climate change. The glacier's retreat is estimated to be 110 meters per year. Reports also indicate that a sizable lake has developed in the center of the Siachen Glacier, which the Indian army is now 'occupying.' India deliberately claims that global warming is the main cause of the glacier retreat, but it is covering up the catastrophic environmental crime

being committed by its army in the form of military activity, infrastructure development following the cutting of glacial ice, and huge explosive storage on the eastern side of the Salto Ridge. The Siachen Glaciers serve as the lifeline for the millions of people whose food security is dependent on Himalayan waters. India dedicates huge budgets, investments, and human capital, to weapons production which in turn drain the resources that are required to address global climate change and achieve the SDGs.

<https://pakobserver.net/from-bullets-to-carbon-footprints-the-ecological-consequences-of-kashmir-dispute/>

Mushaal vows to continue raising Kashmiris' issues

The Nation, 15 September 2023

Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Human Rights and Women Empowerment, Mushaal Hussein Mullick vowed to continue raising issues of oppressed people in 'Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir' (IIOJK) at all international forums. Addressing the 'Pehchan Pakistan' conference at a private university, she said Kashmiris have been struggling for the past seven decades for their inalienable right to self-determination as promised by the United Nations (UN). Mushaal said India had miserably failed to suppress the voice of Kashmiris for freedom despite the deployment of more than a

million troops in 'IIOJK.' She claimed that fake and expired medicines were being supplied to continue the genocide of the Kashmiri people. She said there was no political, religious, and social liberty in 'IIOJK' and massive human rights violations by the 'occupation' Indian forces were routine matters. Mushaal urged the people in Pakistan and the Pakistani Diaspora to support the Kashmiri people in attaining their right to self-determination under the UNSC resolutions and aspirations of the Kashmiri people.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/15-Sep-2023/mushaal-vows-to-continue-raising-kashmiris-issues>

Kashmir; A silent genocide

The Nation, 17 September 2023

Kashmir has been facing significant unrest, and its people are experiencing hardships. There have been concerns about human rights in the region, especially after the revocation of Articles 370 and 35 A. Some argue that the situation in the state is more than just human rights violations; they see it as a pressing issue that requires global attention. It is high time to acknowledge that what's happening in the state is, in fact, a 'systematic genocide.' The inhuman acts in 'IIOJK' are seen as a part of a larger plan for genocide. The presence of 70,000 Indian soldiers against seven million Kashmiris intentionally targets Muslims and uses pallet guns to

suppress their voices. According to the available accounts for 2023, 8000 forced disappearances, 8652 unmarked graves, 7150 extra judicial killings, and molestation of children and women have exposed India's 'secular' façade. The heinous 'war crimes' of the Indian military extend beyond torture to mental anguish. According to Médecins Sans Frontières, an international independent humanitarian organisation, nearly one in ten people (9.4%) has lost one or more members of their family in the freedom struggle. These family losses have severely affected Kashmiri's physical and mental health. Moreover, a survey conducted by the same organisation reveals that nearly 1.8 million adults (45% of the population) in Kashmir exhibit symptoms of significant mental distress.

Even during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Indian military did not cease its violence. Doctors were harassed on their way to Kashmir and there was an acute lack of medical resources and staff. Internet access was cut off by the authorities, preventing the dissemination of international recommendations for the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite the population of seven million, only six ventilators were available in the region. The Indian regime has also permitted non-state settlers to purchase properties and secure government jobs in Kashmir. Over six million domicile certificates of the state have been provided to Hindus

for demographic altercations. Cross-cultural marriages for demographic changes are also being encouraged. This reveals India's desire to assimilate Kashmir into its territory. Surprisingly, according to India's latest National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5) conducted under the Indian Health Ministry, the fertility rate among Muslim women in 'IIOJK' has sharply declined to 1.4 far below the replacement level of 2.1.

India is systematically disempowering and displacing Kashmiris through an anti-encroachment policy proposed by the Indian Home Ministry. As of 2023, India initiated an anti-encroachment drive in 20 districts of 'IIOJK' following an Israeli model of systematic settler colonialism. These processes are intended to dislodge the civil population from their properties, leading to their geographical displacement in other parts of India. Given these dynamics, BJP's design to bring demographic altercations to 'IIOJK' is evident. To enhance the state's capacity to protect civilians from mass atrocities, a global center known as the 'Right to Protect' (R2P) was established in 1948. It aims to protect citizens of a country from crimes against humanity such as genocide, ethnic cleansing, and other war crimes. It consists of three pillars.

The third pillar argues that if a state is found complicit in mass atrocities against its people, the responsibility

falls on the international community to protect the population with a timely and decisive response. In the case of Kashmir, it's clear that the UN's proposed R2P theory has not proven effective in de-escalating the situation. Nevertheless, Kashmiris maintain their hope and continue to seek international intervention. Ongoing proceedings in India's highest court regarding 'IIOJK's special status also raise the hopes of oppressed Kashmiris, although the final decision is still pending.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/17-Sep-2023/kashmir-a-silent-genocide>

Caretaker PM reaffirms Pakistan's commitment to continue to raise J&K issue at every world forum

The Nation, 17 September 2023

Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar has reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to continue to raise the Jammu and Kashmir dispute at all the global and regional forums. In an interview with Voice of America, he pointed out that this dispute is one of the oldest agenda items of the UN Security Council. He claimed that there are gross human rights violations taking place in 'Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir' (IIOJK). The entire area has been turned into the largest prison in the world, while Kashmiris' voices are stifled. He said Pakistan has been consistently and regularly defending and advocating

the Kashmir issue at all the available multilateral and regional fora.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/17-Sep-2023/caretaker-pm-reaffirms-pakistan-s-commitment-to-continue-to-raise-j-k-issue-at-every-world-forum>

Economic Developments

Gilgit-Baltistan govt, Nestlé Pakistan promote nutritional awareness, sustainability education

The Nation, 9 September 2023

The government of Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) and Nestlé Pakistan inaugurated the Nestlé for Healthier Kids (N4HK) at KG Model School for Girls in Skardu and conducted trainings for 250 teachers on nutritional awareness and sustainability education to reach out to more than 15000 children under its flagship N4HK program in Gilgit, Skardu, Shigar and Kharmang. The N4HK is Nestlé's global nutritional awareness initiative which supports, teachers and caregivers on their journey to raise healthier kids through a curriculum-based education program promoting healthy nutrition, hydration, hygiene, and active lifestyles. Speaking about the partnership, Mohyuddin Ahmad Wani, Chief Secretary GB, said that this partnership is a way for teachers and educators to reinforce the importance of good nutrition for children in the classroom through fun and engaging activities. Kids are the future of Pakistan and it is important that we

encourage them to get involved in activities that inform them about sustainability and conservation practices, he said while also recognizing Nestlé's other recycling initiatives in the region. The N4HK program is part of our commitment to the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3 of Good Health and Well-Being, to ensure that children understand the value of nutrition as they grow older. So far, the program has reached about 320,000 children and 1750 teachers, in Pakistan.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/09-Sep-2023/gilgit-baltistan-govt-nestle-pakistan-promote-nutritional-awareness-sustainability-education>

The people of Gilgit-Baltistan should receive the Diamer Dam's royalties: JI

Dailyk2, 13 September 2023

The head of Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK) and Gilgit Baltistan (GB) Dr. Muhammad Mushtaq Khan has stated that the government of Pakistan should ensure the execution of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) announced projects and that the people of GB should get dam royalties in addition to an increase in the budget due to the region's remoteness. In addition, he stated that peace in GB must be maintained for the stability and prosperity of Pakistan and the region as a whole. All of us need peace in GB; the adversaries oppose both peace and development in this region, he added.

He made these remarks while speaking to the General Council of GB members, which was also attended by Secretary General Raja Jahangir Khan, Deputy Secretary General Maulana Abdul Sami, and recently elected Amir of JI GB Maulana Tanveer Hydari. He claimed that GB is a sensitive area and a gateway to CPEC's projects and that is why the area has come under attack from enemies. He asserted that JI consistently advocated for the constitutional and political rights of GB at all forums and that the group would keep fighting until these rights were granted to the local population.

<https://www.dailyk2.com/Post/16764>

Establishment of Gandhara Corridor as indispensable for country's prosperity: Dr. Ramesh

Pakistan Today, 13 September 2023

Minister of State, Chairman Prime Minister's Task Force for Gandhara Tourism, Dr Ramesh Kumar Vankwani termed the establishment of Gandhara Corridor as indispensable for the development and prosperity of the country. He was talking to the media during his visit to the ancient Manthal Buddha Rock, Gilgit Baltistan (GB) along with a delegation of Japanese experts and local citizens. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Ramesh said that the mesmerizing natural beauty of GB is a great source of attraction for tourists from across the world. Ramesh said that the air corridor being established

between the federal capital Islamabad and the capitals of Buddhist-majority countries will facilitate a large number of international Buddhist tourists to land at the Islamabad International Airport will later facilitate their visits to the Gandhara spots in coordination with the provincial authorities. He said that hundreds of years ago, the followers of Gautama Buddha used to cross the high rocky cliffs of GB to go to China, Japan Korea, etc. The site of the Buddha Manthal Rock has also been a place of worship for the Tibetans. Historically Skardu has been an important part of Buddhist Tibet in the past and even today Skardu is called Little Tibet (Tibet Khurd), he added. On this occasion, the Japanese delegation and the followers of Buddha supported the stance of Dr Ramesh and said that it is a heartfelt desire of the citizens of Buddhist-majority countries to visit Gandhara spots located in GB.

<https://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2023/09/12/establishment-of-gandhara-corridor-as-indispensable-for-countrys-prosperity-dr-ramesh/>

GB's communication: PM orders infrastructure development

Business Recorder, 14 September 2023

Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar directed the authorities concerned to formulate a strategy to reconstruct and improve the communication infrastructure of Gilgit-Baltistan (GB). He paid a visit to the Hunar Kohn project of the Karakorum

Area Development Organisation (KADO), and during his meeting with sociopolitical leaders of Hunza, he promised that the challenges the area was having with energy would be resolved quickly. The delegation apprised the prime minister of the issues about the demand and supply of electricity in Hunza, the allocation of additional seats for Hunza in the GB Assembly in proportion to the population, and other matters. The prime minister instructed for formulation of a strategy for the generation of electricity in coordination with the power sector. The GB's political leadership briefed the prime minister about the challenges confronting the tourism sector of the region. They requested the prime minister to order the establishment of aerial connectivity with different parts of GB. Kakar directed the GB chief secretary to utilize all-out resources for early resolution of the issues. The prime minister also visited the digital hub at KADO's Hunar Kohn project and rehabilitation center for special persons.

<https://www.brecorder.com/news/40263083/gbs-communication-pm-orders-infrastructure-development>

India's efforts to weaponize tourism and normalizing foreign investment in J&K

Pakistan Observer, 14 September 2023

Tourism has long been a major source of revenue for Jammu and Kashmir

(J&K), but it has also been used as a tool by the Indian government to promote its control over the region. In recent years, the government has stepped up its efforts to weaponize tourism, using it to project a positive image of the region to counter the narrative of the Kashmiri people and to hide their oppressive actions. The Indian government has invested heavily in developing tourist infrastructure in J&K, building new hotels, roads, and other facilities. It has also launched several marketing campaigns aimed at attracting tourists from India and abroad. These efforts have been somewhat successful, with the number of tourists visiting J&K increasing in recent years. However, this weaponization of tourism has also been criticized by some people.

They argue that the Indian government is using tourism to whitewash the ongoing human rights abuses in J&K. They also argue that the government's focus on tourism is displacing the local population and destroying the environment. The debate over the weaponization of tourism in J&K is going to continue as its role in the region's economy but the behavior of the Indian Armed Forces in the region cannot be put aside, and the directives of the Indian Authorities for the people of 'Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir' (IOJK) are just as barbaric.

The Emaar Group is a major real estate developer with a presence in over 30

countries. Its investment in Kashmir is expected to boost the local economy by creating jobs and generating revenue. The company plans to invest \$60 million in the construction of a shopping mall and an office complex in Srinagar, the capital of J&K. The project is expected to create 7,000 to 8,000 jobs during construction and 3,000 permanent jobs once it is completed. The mall is also expected to attract tourists and more international businesses to the region. However, this is all a play to brush the human rights violations happening in the region at the hands of Indian Authorities, under the rug. The 'occupation state' can control who is allowed to visit the territory, and how they are allowed to travel within the territory. This can be done by issuing visas, setting up checkpoints, and controlling the movement of tourists within the territory. Moreover, they can market the territory as a tourist destination, highlighting its natural beauty, historical sites, and cultural attractions.

This can help to create a positive image of the territory and to legitimize the state's claim to it but in the case of 'IOJK' they have only sought to destroy the region and the existing culture along with its sites etc. Consider how the Indian government is urging people to move to J&K and trying to change the demographic of the region to stake their claim on the region even stronger and create this false sense of

familiarity with the rest of India for the people who visit from abroad.

The Indian Government has long been trying to woo investors, both domestic and foreign, but with little success due to the three-decade freedom movement in the disputed territory. India keeps on trying to take advantage of this factor and capitalize on not only the region's tourism but also its oppression of the innocent people of J&K altogether. That land and region belongs to the people that it has been oppressing for decades and now after years of planning and scheming the Indian Government after taking away their special status, is trying to transform the region in such a manner that the people of 'IOJK' have no say in it.

Apart from that the whole scenario that is going on side by side is to change the demographic of the region so that in case of a plebiscite the majority would choose to stay with India. Another thing that seems to be one of the major focuses of the 'occupiers' is demographic changes, primarily driven by settlements of individuals from outside the region, which have also had a substantial impact. This is how India seeks to achieve their 'oppressive goals' by using these newer and unconventional means of 'apartheid.'

<https://pakobserver.net/indias-efforts-to-weaponize-tourism-and-normalizing-foreign-investment-in-jk/>

[From Vernacular Urdu Media](#)

Hafiz Tahir Ashrafi's appeal to world leaders to exert pressure on India

Daily Pakistan Urdu, 10 September 2023

Chairman of the Pakistan Ulema Council Hafiz Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi during a press conference at Lahore has urged the international community to exert pressure on India to revert its 5 August action in 'occupied Kashmir.' He argued that the Kashmir issue should be addressed and resolved by the G-20 leadership. He said that the only way to achieve success is to apply pressure on the Indian leadership and that the international community including leaders like Sheikh Zayed and Mohammad Bin Salman who have travelled to India to attend the G20 conference need to raise the Kashmir issue. He further pleaded with these leaders to assist in putting an end to the 'persecution' of Muslims in Kashmir and India.

<https://dailypakistan.com.pk/10-Sep-2023/1625145>

Germany should contribute to the peaceful resolution of the Kashmir conflict between India and Pakistan: 'AJK' President

Nawaiwaqt, 13 September 2023

Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry, the president of 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK), said that Germany should help Pakistan and India reach a peaceful resolution to the Kashmir conflict. While speaking with Jan Kuhn

von Burgsdorff, secretary of the German Embassy in Islamabad, the president noted that Germany, a friend of both nations, could play a significant role in resolving the ongoing conflict and ensuring long-term peace in South Asia. Jan Kuhn von Burgsdorff was briefed by the president about the current political and human rights situation in 'Indian-occupied Kashmir' (IOK). He noted that since the region's special status was revoked by the Indian government in August 2019, the situation for human rights in the region has gotten worse.

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/AJK/2023-09-13/page-1>

Strict action must be taken against those who foment religious unrest: Anwarul Kakar

Dailyk2, 14 September 2023

Prime Minister Anwaar ul Haq Kakar while presiding over a conference to discuss development projects, and the law and order situation in Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) among others has said that the security of every citizen was the responsibility of the state. He urged the pertinent authorities to swiftly identify all individuals causing havoc in Gilgit in the name of religion and take decisive action against them. He said that GB is a tranquil and beautiful area, and because it is so important to Pakistan's geography and defence, it won't be allowed to become a haven for criminals who commit horrible things. No one, he declared, would be permitted to

undermine the brotherhood that is a fundamental part of our society, morals, and culture. Wisdom will eliminate any discrepancies brought on by misinterpretations and no foreign entity is permitted to meddle in the domestic affairs of Pakistan. He also pledged that the government would implement long-term plans to maximise the region's economic potential in several industries, including mining, tourism, and power generation. Additionally, one of the government's top focuses is to improve the region's road system, he added. The progress of initiatives in the fields of information technology, health, education, and other industries was discussed at the meeting. He was also informed that initiatives had been done to identify and address the issues the education sector was facing in all of the GB districts, particularly Diamer and Astore.

<https://www.dailyk2.com/Post/16767>

Pakistan rejects Indian maps that include Gilgit-Baltistan and 'Azad Kashmir'

Dailyk2, 15 September 2023

Pakistan Foreign Office Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said that the regions of Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) and 'Azad Kashmir' that are depicted on India's map are a part of Pakistan and that no such Indian maps would be accepted by Pakistan. She claimed that human rights are continuously being violated by the Indian army in 'occupied' Jammu and Kashmir and

that women are specifically being targeted.

<https://www.dailyk2.com/Post/16817>

[Social Media \(tweets\)](#)

PAMIR TIMES ®@pamirtimes

15 September 2023

The Chief Secretary of #Gilgit-#Baltistan, Mohyuddin Ahmed Wani, said that 4G services will be restored in Gilgit-Baltistan within a few days. Talking to Pamir Times, he mentioned that the suspension of 4G services helped in the easing the tense situation in Gilgit-Baltistan by curbing hate mongering. Pamir Times has conducted a detailed interview with the Chief Secretary on various issues in Gilgit-Baltistan. The complete interview will be published later.

<https://twitter.com/pamirtimes/status/1702702724951806073>

Ijaz Shigri@ijazshigri

15 September 2023

Saqlain Abbas, an outstanding student at NED UET Karachi hailing from Gilgit Baltistan, has been abducted from his hostel room within the varsity campus by unknown persons. As per the students, some university employees were also present on the scene & his whereabouts

#FreeSaqlain

<https://twitter.com/ijazshigri/status/1702409403721286123>

Faisal Mir @faisalmirppp

15 September 2023

Peoples Party is being cornered by election commission of Pakistan to bring PMLN in power just like PTI was brought into power in 2018. Press conference with Governor GB Sayed Mahdi Shah sb.

Video link.

<https://twitter.com/faisalmirppp/status/1702608016497914350>

ShabbirMir Shina @ShabbirMir

16 September 2023

Anti-Hafeez lobby within PMLN GB is trying to oust @CMGBPK from party chief position. But that seems highly unlikely as Hafeez's commitment with PMLN/ @NawazSharifMNS have been unfaltering, stood by Nawaz ideology in testing times while others deserted him. @MaryamNSharif has reportedly been approached by that group in Islamabad. Let's see what transpires.

<https://twitter.com/ShabbirMir/status/1703013156367258064>

Talha Jameel @Talha_mirza5

17 September 2023

Here we are in politics and there is a map shown to the whole world at the G-20 Summit. In which Pakistan's Kashmir and GB Side are said to be part of India, once again the security of Pakistan has been attacked and the Pakistani Foreign Office is sitting silently. #DGISPR

https://twitter.com/Talha_mirza5/status/1703240017806868483

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Disclaimer

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