

Weekly POK News Digest

(A weekly news digest on Pakistan Occupied Kashmir)

Volume 3 | Issue 51

18 December - 24 December 2023

eye Karakorum
hospital POK Al-Shifa Trust **Highway**
hospital Gilgit-Baltistan
Rupani Foundation
Anjuman-e-Imamia



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

- No peace in South Asia sans solution of Kashmir dispute: General Asim Munir
- Kashmiris ongoing freedom struggle is part of Pakistan Movement: Former 'AJK' PM
- Mushaal lauds COAS US visit
- Kashmiris urged to resist India's Hindutva-driven policies in 'IIOJK'
- Pakistan calls UNGA's resolution upholding self-determination 'beacon of hope' for Kashmiris
- Kashmir: what's next?
- As Indian polls near, Modi govt resumes anti-Pakistan mantra

Economic Developments

- Al-Shifa to construct eye hospital in Gilgit
- 'AJK' PM presides over a high-level meeting of the 'Azad Kashmir' IRD
- Anjuman-e-Imamia GB proposes to mediate between the GB Government and the All Party Alliance

Vernacular Urdu Media

- Indian SC ruling addressing 'IIOJK' is the most egregious violation of law, constitution, and principles: Kashmiri lawyers
- On the International Day of Human Solidarity, Kashmiris await the world's attention
- Kashmir is a globally recognised conflict, and no unilateral action can change it: Army Chief
- India constantly blames Pakistan and spreads false propaganda: FO Spokesperson
- Former CM Khalid Khursheed has been disqualified from leading the PTI in GB
- India is deploying draconian laws to stifle the freedom fight of Kashmiris: A report

Political Developments

No peace in South Asia sans solution of Kashmir dispute: General Asim Munir

The Nation, 17 December 2023

Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir said that peace in South Asia will remain elusive until a peaceful solution to the longstanding Kashmir dispute is found in accordance with the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions and the aspirations of Kashmiri people. The Army Chief made these remarks during a meeting with UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres in New York. The Army Chief also condemned unilateral and illegal Indian efforts to change the status of Jammu and Kashmir saying these violate UNSC resolutions. General Asim Munir also reiterated Pakistan's stance on the Palestine issue and urged the Secretary-General to mobilise the international community for an immediate cessation of hostilities in Gaza to prevent the unfolding human tragedy.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/17-Dec-2023/no-peace-in-south-asia-sans-solution-of-kashmir-dispute-general-asim-munir>

Kashmiris ongoing freedom struggle is part of Pakistan Movement: Former 'AJK' PM

Daily Parliament Times, 18 December 2023

Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan, former Prime Minister of 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK) has said that

geographic and ideological stability, solidarity, and strong defense of Pakistan are atop the agenda of his political party Muslim Conference as the ongoing struggle of Kashmir is part of Pakistan Movement; our party policies, practices and objectives stand oriented towards achieving these goals, he asserted. In the presence of Palestinian representative Mr Bilal Sheikh, Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan announced the twinning of Kashmir and Palestine struggles as identical movements against 'illegal occupations' of both Kashmir and Palestine by India and Israel respectively. The meeting venue was profusely decorated with Pakistan and Palestine, party flags, banners, and slogans. Ongoing Israeli atrocities against Palestinians were loudly condemned via speeches and resolutions. Tributes were paid to the veteran Kashmiri leaders Ch Ghulam Abbas, and Sardar Mohammad Abdul Qayyum Khan for steering the ideological platform of the Muslim Conference in the hardest phase of history leaving behind a wealth of legacy.

He made these remarks while addressing a major public meeting marking the observance of the 56th death anniversary of veteran Kashmiri leader Ch Ghulam Abbas on Monday at his Faizabad Mazaar hinted at a policy shift at the federal level favoring the restoration of ideology of Kashmir's accession to Pakistan. This favorable policy towards Pakistan, he said, had suffered somehow a great setback

during the past decade. He clarified that the dispute over Jammu and Kashmir is linked with the sacrosanct defense of Pakistan.

Palestinian representative Bilal Sheikh in his address recounted the colossal sacrifices of the people of Palestine in the ongoing struggle to end the illegal occupation of Israel over Palestine saying the supreme sacrifices by Palestinian people shall continue till the complete liberation of Palestine and Al-Quds from occupation of Zionists. He thanked Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan for his spot announcement twinning the struggles of Kashmir and Palestine as both are sufferers of alien occupation by India and Israel.

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2023/12/18/kashmiris-ongoing-freedom-struggle-is-part-of-pakistan-movement-attique/>

Mushaal lauds COAS US visit

The Express Tribune, 20 December 2023

Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Human Rights and Women Empowerment Mushaal Hussein Mullick praised the successful visit of Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Asim Munir to the United States (US) during which he raised the longstanding 'Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir' (IIOJK) issue in a befitting manner. The SAPM, in a statement, said that the COAS unequivocally conveyed to UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres that peace in South Asia would remain elusive until the resolution of the Kashmir dispute by the UN Security

Council resolutions and the aspirations of Kashmiri people, giving a fresh impetus to the Kashmir freedom movement and a testament that Pakistan stood firmly with the Kashmiri brothers and sisters in the struggle for the right to self-determination.

The SAPM lauded the COAS for strongly taking up the unilateral, unconstitutional, and illegal actions of the Narendra Modi-led Indian government to change the special status of 'IIOJK' at the highest level. She said that the Indian government had crossed all limits of 'barbarism and terrorism' to silence the dissenting voices within and outside of the country. All the minority communities in India were being subjected to brutal state terrorism and coercive actions, which was evident from its global terrorist networks targeting people in Pakistan, Canada, and even in the US, she added. The SAPM urged the UN bodies and the world powers to pay attention to the report of the US Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) that had exposed the dirty and brutal face of India. The USCIRF, she said, rightly demanded the Biden administration to designate India as a 'country of particular concern' under the US Religious Freedom Act, for targeting religious minorities overseas.

Mushaal said the report revealed that recent efforts by the Indian government to silence activists, journalists, and lawyers abroad posed a serious threat to religious freedom. She called upon the international community to shun

the double standards and take punitive and decisive actions against the rogue Indian state to avert the possible human catastrophe, as it was fast spreading tentacles of its terrorist networks across the globe and became a threat to world peace.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2450604/mushaal-lauds-coas-us-visit>

Kashmiris urged to resist India's Hindutva-driven policies in 'IIOJK'

Pakistan Observer, 20 December 2023

Posters have appeared in 'Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir' (IIOJK), which rejected India's Hindutva-driven policies in the territory. According to Kashmir Media Service, through the posters displayed by different Hurriyat organizations in several parts of the territory, the international community has been asked to take practical steps for the resolution of the Kashmir dispute by relevant resolutions of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). The 05 January 1949 UN resolution embodies the principle of the right to self-determination for the Kashmiris, some posters read stressing that Kashmiris' right to plebiscite has even been accepted by Indian first Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. New Delhi is using nefarious tactics to suppress Kashmiris' genuine demand for the right to self-determination, posters read, adding that 'Kashmiri people have never accepted Indian illegal occupation as Kashmir have never been part of India as Jammu and Kashmir is not India's internal matter;

instead, it is an international dispute on the United Nations agenda,' many posters with the message were seen in streets of Srinagar. People have been asked to beware of the evil designs of the BJP regime and its anti-Kashmir policies in the disputed territory.

<https://pakobserver.net/kashmiris-urged-to-resist-indias-hindutva-driven-policies-in-iiojk/>

Pakistan calls UNGA's resolution upholding self-determination 'beacon of hope' for Kashmiris

Daily Times, 20 December 2023

The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) stamped its approval on a Pakistan-sponsored resolution that upholds occupied peoples' right to self-determination, with Ambassador Munir Akram calling it a 'beacon of hope' for Kashmiris and Palestinians suffering under 'alien occupation.' Under the terms of the resolution, which was adopted by consensus, the 193-member Assembly reaffirmed the right to self-determination for peoples who are subjected to colonial, foreign, and alien occupation. The text was recommended last month by the General Assembly's Third Committee, which deals with Social, humanitarian, and cultural issues. At a time when the right to self-determination of the people of 'occupied Jammu and Kashmir' (OJK) and Palestine is being brutally suppressed, the unanimous adoption of Pakistan's flagship resolution on self-determination offers a beacon of hope that they will secure their freedom from foreign occupation, Ambassador Munir Akram told

Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) when asked for his comments.

Pakistan has been tabling this resolution since 1981 to focus the world's attention on the people still struggling for their inalienable right to self-determination, including those in 'IOK' and Palestine. Co-sponsored by 64 countries, the resolution calls on countries to immediately cease their foreign military intervention in and occupation of foreign countries and territories, as well as acts of repression, discrimination, and maltreatment. It urges the Human Rights Council to give special attention to the violation of human rights, especially the right to self-determination, resulting from foreign military intervention, aggression, or occupation.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1153410/pakistan-calls-ungas-resolution-upholding-self-determination-beacon-of-hope-for-kashmiris/>

Kashmir: what's next?

The News International, 22 December 2023

By upholding the decisions of the BJP-led government—which include the abrogation of Article 370, the division of 'Occupied Kashmir' into two parts, and the removal of its statehood, the Supreme Court (SC) of India has encouraged the government's ongoing pursuit to completely disempower the people of Kashmir and annihilate their cultural identity and geographical sanctity. The SC decision is not an isolated event but part of a larger scheme orchestrated by the BJP aimed at reshaping Kashmir's political

landscape. To set the stage for implementing the BJP's agenda, the governor's rule was imposed on 'Indian-held Kashmir' on flimsy grounds in 2018, and the elected government of Mehbooba Mufti was dissolved. In 2019, the controversial Pulwama suicide attack rocked India. In retaliation, India attacked Balakot, Pakistan, and Modi seized an opportunity for chest-thumping.

In May 2019, Indian Prime Minister Modi's resounding electoral victory consolidated his political power, positioning him as the key figure in shaping India's future. To achieve the desired electoral outcome, Modi skillfully used Kashmir as a pawn, and Pakistan bashing served as a political gimmick that resulted in strengthening Modi's control over the national political scene. Insiders like Satya Pal Malik, the former governor of Jammu and Kashmir, exposed that the Pulwama terror attack stemmed from a systemic failure characterized by significant security and intelligence lapses. He emphasized that the tragic incident was manipulated for political advantage. Malik asserted that after he highlighted the security shortcomings that contributed to the attack, Indian PM Modi directed him to maintain silence. Additionally, Malik disclosed that National Security Advisor Ajit Doval also counseled him against discussing the matter publicly.

A dot-connecting exercise reveals that all these events seem pre-planned, interlinked, and skillfully designed to

crush the Kashmiri resistance and, simultaneously, garner global sympathy. In the next stage, the Modi government unveiled a revised list of electoral constituencies in the region, showing increased representation for Hindu-majority areas. This move aimed at weakening the political influence of Muslims in Jammu and Kashmir politics. The Delimitation Commission, tasked with redrawing the Assembly in 'Indian-held' Jammu and Kashmir, explicitly favored the Hindu-majority Jammu region. The commission allotted six seats to Jammu and one to the Kashmir Valley. Additionally, allowing outsiders to permanently reside in Kashmir only accelerates the progression of a 'settler-colonial project' in a state with a Muslim majority.

In a nutshell, redrawing the constituencies and establishing a settler-colonial project will drastically reduce the number of Muslim members of the J&K Assembly in the upcoming state election in 2024. As a result, the BJP's long-standing ideologically driven dream of altering 'Indian-held Kashmir's Muslim-majority character and ultimately installing a Hindu chief minister in Srinagar will be completed. To put Pakistan in a defensive position, 24 seats have been reserved in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly for 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK) and Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) a few days ago. India's Home Minister Amit Shah said in parliament, 'Pakistan-occupied Kashmir' (PoK) is ours.'

In March 2020, the Indian government stated that the Union Territories of Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh are integral parts of India, as affirmed by a parliamentary resolution in 1994. The government also monitors developments in territories that are 'under illegal occupation' by Pakistan. In 2016, Prime Minister Modi mentioned 'Azad Kashmir' and GB during his Independence Day speech. The Indian defense minister has repeatedly boasted that India would gain control over 'AJK' and GB soon. The absence of space for political engagement, ongoing repression in Kashmir, and the frozen diplomatic relationship with Pakistan align seamlessly with the BJP's brand of militant nationalism.

Despite multiple offers by the previous PDM government, the BJP government seems unwilling to resume talks with Pakistan or pro-freedom Kashmiri leaders unless they announce unconditional surrender before Indian hegemony in the region and accept Kashmir as an integral part of India. A fait accompli. India's muscular policy will not slow down until the complete extinction of the resistance constituency. Most of the pro-freedom leaders are jailed or silenced. Independent media has been tamed either by arm-twisting or forced to shut down its publication. The office of 'The Kashmir Times', the oldest Kashmiri newspaper, was sealed in Srinagar. Now, only its web edition is available. Pakistan's international isolation, precarious domestic political situation,

and feeble economy have severely curtailed its diplomatic influence, rendering it unable to play the necessary role in halting India's relentless push to transform Kashmir into the Palestine of the 20th century.

In this challenging scenario, the people of Kashmir find themselves in a catch-22 position, grappling with an existential challenge. Silence in this critical situation is not just passive, it is criminal. The only viable solution lies in forging a broad-based coalition that cuts across political and ideological divides. A peaceful and indigenous political struggle is the need of the hour to reclaim Kashmiri's identity, preserve its cultural ethos, uphold its Muslim-majority status, and regain lost political power.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/1140522-kashmir-what-s-next>

As Indian polls near, Modi govt resumes anti-Pakistan mantra

The Nation, 22 December 2023

Allegations of an attack on an Indian military convoy by 'freedom fighters' in the Suran-Kote area of Poonch district on Thursday have led to immediate accusations against Pakistan, despite Suran Kote being 15 to 20 kilometers inside 'Occupied Jammu and Kashmir' (OJK). Fake Twitter accounts and sensationalized media reports from India have started blaming Pakistan without evidence of its involvement in the attack. The Modi government previously had conducted multiple false flag

operations to fuel anti-Pakistan sentiments and gain sympathy in elections. The false flag operations were carried out just before Indian Republic Day on 26 January and during the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly session targeting propaganda against Pakistan. Similar operations were planned in Poonch on 21 May, Anantnag on 14 September, and Neelum on 28 October.

On 5 October, Indian media falsely accused Pakistan of aiding terrorism after an attack in Rajouri which was later revealed to be an internal matter where an Indian major shot five soldiers. In April, the Indian media labeled an incident in Bhatinda as a terrorist attack, blaming Pakistan, only for it to be later exposed as a drama. Subsequently, it was revealed that an Indian soldier had murdered four comrades after facing sexual harassment.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/22-Dec-2023/as-indian-polls-near-modi-govt-resumes-anti-pakistan-mantra>

Economic Developments

Al-Shifa to construct eye hospital in Gilgit

Daily Times, 19 December 2023

The government of Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) had allotted prime land to Al-Shifa Trust for constructing a state-of-the-art eye hospital, said the president of Al-Shifa Trust, Maj. Gen. (Retd) Rehmat Khan. While briefing a board meeting of the trust, he said that the GB

government had issued the allotment letter during his recent visit to the area. Khan said that the 20-kanal land situated on Karakorum Highway near Aga Khan Hospital was accessible to people from remote areas for treatment. He stressed that the site allocated for the eye hospital is three kilometers away from the city, and the hospital will be able to treat 150 OPD patients per day and conduct 50 surgeries daily. Rehmat Khan said that the hospital would be constructed with the help of the Rupani Foundation Pakistan, which had been reaching out to vulnerable populations for the last 16 years.

This hospital will be the first state-of-the-art hospital in the area, which will cost around 220 million rupees, and the Rupani Foundation will bear half of its cost while the trust will arrange the remaining cost through donations, he informed. The trust's president said the hospital's groundbreaking ceremony would be held in March 2024, and the grey structure would be completed by July 2025. He noted that people of GB were badly affected by eye diseases, and a large number were facing blindness due to cataracts; therefore, it was necessary to provide them with a facility at their doorstep.

The hospital will also establish an attachment of medicines and mental health to treat general patients, he said, adding that training of paramedics would be started at Rawalpindi Eye Hospital. In this regard, a diploma course was being offered to the GB

students on a preferable basis, he added. The trust had already started serving the patients, and a two-day free surgical eye camp and general medical camp had already been organized at Chilas, along with school screening activities in collaboration with Force Command Northern Areas (FCNA).

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1152748/al-shifa-to-construct-eye-hospital-in-gilgit/>

'AJK' PM presides over a high-level meeting of the 'Azad Kashmir' IRD

The Daily Parliament Times, 19 December 2023

Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq presided over a high-level meeting of the 'Azad Kashmir' Inland Revenue Department (IRD). The discussion went over taxation issues in depth, including setting taxation targets and executing fiscal measures to broaden the region's revenue base. The Commissioner of IRD briefed the Prime Minister in detail on the tax collection targets in Muzaffarabad, Neelum, and Jhelum Valley, as well as the administrative challenges in collecting the taxes. Speaking on the occasion, the Prime Minister stated that the department should combine all of its efforts to meet tax collection targets while also minimizing the discrepancy between filers and non-filers. He stated that the government would provide the necessary resources to the department, but that neglect of tasks would not be permitted under any circumstances. The Prime Minister asked Inland Revenue authorities to gather taxes from all private hospitals, hotels,

tourism resorts, business centers, local industries, marquee, and private schools and submit the report to the PM office within 15 days.

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2023/12/19/a-high-level-meeting-of-the-inland-revenue-department-with-pm-ajk-in-the-chair/>

Anjuman-e-Imamia GB proposes to mediate between the GB Government and the All Party Alliance

Dailyk2, 21 December 2023

Anjuman-e-Imamia, Gilgit Baltistan (GB) leaders have offered to act as a mediator in wheat talks between the GB government and the All-Party Alliance's coordination committee. They added that they will negotiate on the wheat issue and that they will not let this matter persist, adding that the more the government ignores the situation, the worse it will become. The government should continue negotiating, and it is the government's primary job to meet our requirements; if the wheat issue is not handled, protests will be staged throughout the region, they stated. They emphasised that wheat is a problem that affects everyone and that there are no Shia, Sunni, Ismaili, or other sects or issues when it comes to our primary needs. Everyone requires flour, and as a nation, we must fight for our rights collectively. We want the government to avoid making a spectacle in a border state, as the enemy countries benefit from such spectacles. According to them, the government first creates a

spectacle here, then the enemy country's media spews poison, and all the damage is done to the beloved country in the process. They declared that the government must accept us as Pakistanis or award us the rights of the disputed region. The longer we wait for rights, the more our demands will grow, and the government should not force us to sit in.

<https://www.dailyk2.com/Post/19155>

From Vernacular Urdu Media

Indian SC ruling addressing 'IIOJK' is the most egregious violation of law, constitution, and principles: Kashmiri lawyers

Urdupoint, 18 December 2023

Kashmiri lawyers in 'Azad Kashmir' have labeled the Indian Supreme Court's (SC) judgment on the 'illegal occupation' of Jammu and Kashmir as the most heinous violation of law, justice, and human values. Former Chief Justice of 'Azad Kashmir', Chaudhry Muhammad Ibrahim Zia, along with renowned lawyers spoke out against India's SC ruling on 11 December. Lawyers alleged that India's SC ruling has disgraced the legal system on a global scale, claiming that the ruling has prompted many concerns regarding the fairness of the Indian justice system. They denounced the SC judgment as legally unjust, biased, defective, and politicised.

<https://www.urdupoint.com/pakistan/news/muzaffarabad/kashmir/live-news-3849292.html>

On the International Day of Human Solidarity, Kashmiris await the world's attention

Urdupoint, 20 December 2023

Since today is International Day of Human Solidarity, the major purpose of which is to remind national governments to implement international treaties, Kashmiris have been waiting for the implementation of the provision of the right to self-determination for more than seven decades. According to a report released by Kashmir Media Service, 'fascist Indian forces' inspired by Adolf Hitler have martyred approximately 5 lakh Muslims in 'Occupied Jammu and Kashmir' (OJK) over the last 76 years, while the region has been under complete siege by the Indian Army and Police since August 2019. According to the report, observing the International Day of Human Solidarity will have no impact on the situation on the ground unless international champions of justice and peace stand with the oppressed people of Kashmir and Palestine, whose political rights have been taken away by India and Israel's occupying forces.

According to the report, the concerned individuals should raise their voices in support of the oppressed people of 'OJK' since every single voice spoken in support of Kashmiris will undoubtedly make a huge difference. The report added that the support of the oppressed Kashmiris is the support of humanity and that the Kashmiri people, who are fighting for

the UN-recognized right to self-determination, deserve the world's support. The report asked the world community to speak up for the oppressed people of 'OJK' and that the United Nations should support Kashmiris' legitimate cause and resolve the Kashmir dispute according to Kashmiris' wishes. According to the report, the Modi government should be held accountable for its war crimes in 'OJK.'

<https://www.urdupoint.com/pakistan/news/islama-bad/national-news/live-news-3851649.html>

Kashmir is a globally recognised conflict, and no unilateral action can change it: Army Chief

Daily Pakistan, 20 December 2023

According to the Pakistan Army's Inter-Services Public Relations Department (ISPR), the Army Chief had a special meeting with American think tanks and the media during his tour to America. The Army Chief emphasised Pakistan's viewpoint on regional security and international terrorism. According to ISPR, the need to sustain strategic stability in South Asia was also emphasised at the conference. According to ISPR, the Army Chief emphasised the need to settle the Kashmir issue in accordance with United Nations resolutions and the aspirations of the Kashmiri people, stating that Kashmir is an internationally recognised conflict and that no unilateral action will change the nature of this conflict.

<https://dailypakistan.com.pk/20-Dec-2023/1660928>

India constantly blames Pakistan and spreads false propaganda: FO Spokesperson

Jasarat, 21 December 2023

The news of Daud Ibrahim being admitted to a hospital in Karachi is a fabrication, and India is spreading false propaganda through its various disinformation outlets including a DisinfoLab. In the weekly briefing, Foreign Office (FO), spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said that the Pakistani High Commission in New Delhi gave visas to Sikh pilgrims, which also include 166 Indian citizens to visit sacred places in Pakistan. She asserted that the international community condemns Indian atrocities in 'occupied Kashmir.' She further claimed that Army Chief Syed Asim Munir is in the United States on an official visit, where he held vital discussions concerning security and defence cooperation. Concerning terrorism, she emphasised that there is no communication between the state of Pakistan and the proscribed TTP and that Afghan authorities must take action against anti-Pakistan terrorists on their soil.

<https://www.jasarat.com/2023/12/21/foriegn-affair/>

Former CM Khalid Khursheed has been disqualified from leading the PTI in GB

Jammu and Kashmir Times, 22 December 2023

Former Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) chief minister Khalid Khursheed has been barred Election Commissioner (CEC)

from heading the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) GB chapter for the rest of his life. Earlier, on 4 July, the GB's top Court barred Khalid Khursheed Khan from serving as the GB chief minister in a bogus degree case. A three-judge panel issued its decision on a petition filed by GB Assembly member Shahzad Agha against the chief minister. The petitioner claimed that Khursheed's law degree was forged and that he should be disqualified under Articles 62 and 63 of the Constitution. Khursheed claimed to have a law degree from the University of London, however this could not be confirmed. He has been in government since December 2020 and was a close adviser to the founder and former prime minister of Pakistan Imran Khan.

<http://jammukashmirtimes.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/Resize-of-FRONT-PAGE-22.jpg>

India is deploying draconian laws to stifle the freedom fight of Kashmiris: A report

Nawaiwaqt, 22 December 2023

India is implementing draconian laws to crush the Kashmiris' struggle for self-determination in 'illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir' (IOJK). According to Kashmir Media Service, Indian military, paramilitary, and police personnel with unrestricted powers under draconian laws such as the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA), the Disturbed Areas Act (DAA), the Public Safety Act, and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) are committing war crimes

and crimes against humanity, to intimidate Kashmiris into submission. To instill fear in the people of 'occupied Kashmir', Indian Army personnel commit the most heinous human rights crimes, including extrajudicial executions, killings, arbitrary arrests, torture, and molestation of women, with impunity. The Indian government, led by Mr. Narendra Modi, is deploying severe measures to suppress political dissent in the occupied area as thousands of Kashmiris are languishing in Indian jails, and the Modi regime is purposefully prolonging their illegal incarceration. The world's human rights champions including the international human rights organisations must speak up for the rights of Kashmiris and against the barbaric laws used against Kashmiris.

<https://www.nawawaqf.com.pk/E-Paper/AJK/2023-12-22/page-1>

From Social Media

Rizwan Karim @RKQalandar

9 December 2023

How many Pakistani mainstream news channels and talk shows have been covering the KKH incident? How many YouTube journos have discussed it? Or they're too busy discussing NS' return, IK's bedroom & Zardari's infighting?

#GilgitBaltistan #KKHIncident
#Terrorism #Pakistanimedia

<https://twitter.com/RKQalandar/status/1733229404237537462>

The Friday Times@TFT_

20 December 2023

The excessive fee hike at #GilgitBaltistan's only public-sector #University has prompted #Students to #protest in the #streets. This is just the most recent #manifestation of a long-existing crisis. By

@IlyasGBian

Read more: <https://thefridaytimes.com/20-Dec-2023/priced-out-of-an-education-in-gilgit-baltistan>. #EducationForAll #GB

https://twitter.com/TFT_/status/1737468408965541999

Hashim Shah @HashimShahSyed

24 December 2023

The colonizers & their puppets have increased wheat prices in gilgit baltistan by 300%. Bijli, pani, rozgar pehle hi ni hai now they've decided to starve my people to death directly...#GB should & will fight back these demons inshallah.

<https://twitter.com/HashimShahSyed/status/1738812234024026389>

Basharat Issa @BasharatIssa

25 December 2023

Literacy and education aren't the same and one shouldn't confuse the two. A good example of this is Gilgit-Baltistan and Balochistan. GB is known for the highest literacy rates while Baloch are highly educated. Hence, there is a clear difference in the collective consciousness.

<https://twitter.com/BasharatIssa/status/1739193343215886801>

Weekly POK News Digest

Volume 3 | Issue 51

18 December - 24 December 2023

Compiled by

Mohd. Usman Bhatti and Muneeb Yousuf

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; Email: pokdigest@gmail.com