

# Weekly POK News Digest

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

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## POK Land Reforms cottage industry Act small set on fire industries schools Gilgit-Baltistan



MANOHAR PARRIKAR INSTITUTE FOR  
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## Political Developments

### **We shall not forget Jammu's 'martyrs' says KC-EU's Chairman**

*Pakistan Observer, 8 November 2022*

The chairman of Kashmir Council Europe (KC-EU) Ali Raza Syed said that we shall not forget the 'martyrs' of Jammu, and added that the martyrs provided great courage and strengthen the freedom movement of Jammu and Kashmir. During a meeting of the core committee of KC-EU held on the occasion of 'martyrdom day of Jammu' (on 6 November 1947) in Brussels, Ali Raza said, the 75-year history of Jammu and Kashmir is full of sacrifices and particularly people of 'illegally occupied Kashmir' are still paying a huge price for freedom struggle for the liberation of their homeland from Indian 'illegal occupation.' He claimed that there is no comparative example of 'genocide' of the people of Jammu and Kashmir by the Indian 'occupation forces', stressing that the martyrs of Jammu and Kashmir have a very important role in the freedom movement. He urged the international community to take serious notice of the 'severe' situation of human rights in Jammu and Kashmir.

<https://pakobserver.net/we-shall-not-forget-jammus-martyrs-says-kc-eus-chairman/>

### **Girl's school in Diامر set on fire by unknown miscreants**

*Dawn, 8 November 2022*

A girls' school in Darel valley of Diامر district was set on fire by three

unknown miscreants. The police have registered a First Information Report (FIR) under Section 6 (terrorist act) and 7 (punishment for the terrorist act) of the Anti-Terrorism Act along with Section 34 (acts done by several persons in furtherance of common intention), 341 (punishment for wrongful restraint), 427 (mischief causing damage to the amount of fifty rupees), and 436 (mischief by fire or explosive substance with intent to destroy a house, etc) of the Pakistan Penal Code. The miscreants torched the Girl's Middle School and fled the scene. Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) Chief Minister Khalid Khurshid ordered an investigation into the incident and has sought a report from the police with the commitment to take strict action against the criminals behind the incident. It is worth mentioning that 12 schools were set on fire in Diامر on Aug 3, 2018, for which the Taliban took responsibility and had strict action taken against them.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1719740/girls-school-in-diامر-set-on-fire-by-unknown-miscreants>

### **Tehreek-e-Kashmir conducts digital campaign in UK to remember forgotten Jammu 'genocide'**

*Pakistan today, 8 November 2022*

The Tehreek-e-Kashmir-United Kingdom (TeK-UK) conducted a digital campaign, which was aimed to highlight the 'massacre committed on 400,000 Muslims in Jammu division of India 'Illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir' (IloJK) in the first week of

November 1947, claimed Fahim Kayani, leader of the TeK UK. The TeK UK ran a digital van around the diplomatic enclave in London including around Indian High Commission besides landmark points including the British parliament. He said that Hindu Dogra autocratic Hari Singh in connivance with the then 'Indian army massacred Muslims in the Jammu division to physically change the demographics' of the Muslim-majority region.

He claimed that as per the 'historical evidence', tens of thousands of people, mostly Muslims, were 'brutally killed, burnt alive, abducted,' wounded, and thrown into rivers by the autocratic Singh who held the region under 'forcible rule.' He alleged that the 'Jammu massacre' was the first case of 'ethnic cleansing' after World War II. He claimed that the scars of the 'brutal massacre' are still fresh in the memories of Kashmiris and this chapter in the history of 'IloJK' has not attained much attention in international academia and media. Kayani claimed that the 'Jammu Genocide' was committed because India was 'sacred that any plebiscite held in IloJK' will be against her, since the region is mostly Muslims, adding that India took it upon itself to force a 'demographic change in IloJK' by way of 'massacre.' He said that if 'properly probed', India can be held responsible for 'genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity in Jammu Genocide case.'

<https://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2022/11/08/british-reminded-of-jammu-genocide/>

### **'AJK' PM and President discuss the current Kashmir situation**

*Daily Pakistan, 9 November 2022*

The Prime Minister of 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK), Tanveer Ilyas Khan held a detailed discussion on the current situation in Kashmir with the president of 'AJK', Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry at Jammu Kashmir House. While referring to his recent visit to the USA, he said that his visit was fruitful and expressed satisfaction over the diaspora community's role in raising the Kashmir issue abroad, adding that overseas Kashmiris are more enthusiastic than before in raising the issue. While citing his recent engagements with the high officials of the OIC, the UN, and the US administration, the president said that there was a dire need to amplify efforts both at the national and international level and increase diplomatic outreach to shape up world opinion in favor of Kashmir. He also said that the federal government will provide the requisite security for holding local elections.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1024617/ilyas-sultan-discuss-current-kashmir-situation/>

### **Diamer police rule out terrorism in school fire incident**

*Dawn, 10 November 2022*

The Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Sher Khan said that the fire in a girls' school in Darel valley of Diamer district was not an act of terrorism. He further said that a security guard of the Girls' Middle School had been taken into custody and the investigation was

being conducted from various angles. While the incident was initially being treated as a case of terrorism, there are now indications that it could have been a single individual rather than a terrorist, Khan added. Khan also highlighted the fact that militants would have claimed responsibility for the incident as they did in 2018 when 12 schools were burned. On the contrary, he said that instead, 'local militants' have expressed on social media that they are not related to the incident.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1720119/diameter-police-rule-out-terrorism-in-school-fire-incident>

### **India violating human rights of Kashmiris, minorities: Pakistan FO**

*The Nation, 11 November 2022*

During the 4th Universal Periodic Review of India at a session of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) in Geneva, Pakistan Foreign Office (FO) secretary, Danyal Hasnain in a statement said that 'human rights' of the 'Kashmiri people' and 'minorities' in India were continued to be 'violated with impunity.' He claimed that India's 'abuses' had been widely documented and added that India's standing invitation to UN Special Procedure Mandate Holders to Kashmir during its previous UPR had never materialized. He said that India should reverse 'illegal steps' taken since 05 August 2019, in 'Occupied Jammu and Kashmir' and cease 'demographic engineering', added that India should demonstrate its commitment to international law by complying with article 25 of UN

Charter and implementing UNSC resolutions on Jammu and Kashmir. He held that India should accept recommendations made in the OHCHR's Kashmir reports and allow the independent observers access to the 'occupied territory.' He also expected that India should repeal the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA), the Jammu and Kashmir Public Safety Act (PSA), the National Security Act (NSA), the Citizenship (Amendment) Act 2019, and the National Register of Citizens (NRC).

<https://www.nation.com.pk/11-Nov-2022/india-violating-human-rights-of-kashmiris-minorities-fo>

### **India is following the Israeli model to suppress Kashmiris' freedom struggle**

*Pakistan Observer, 12 November 2022*

The PM Narendra Modi-led 'Hindutva' government is assiduously implementing Israel's Palestinian occupation model in 'India illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir' (ILOJK) as New Delhi and Tel Aviv are cooperating to coordinate their occupation tactics. The PM Modi regime's new domicile law for 'IIOJK' is a reflection of the Israeli colonial project, said a report released by the Kashmir Media Service (KMS). It added the then Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, during his visit to India in 1993, had said that the only solution to the Kashmir dispute is to 'settle Indian Hindus' there. India has recently accorded full access to Israel in 'IIOJK' in the name of cooperation in the agriculture sector and that Tel Aviv's decision to open two centers in

the ‘occupied territory’ is aimed at helping New Delhi to suppress the Kashmiris’ freedom struggle.

The report said the Kashmiris and Palestinians have been demanding their UN-recognized right to self-determination for over seven decades, but India and Israel are unleashing similar types of ‘brutalities’ on the people of both the ‘occupied’ regions to suppress their just cause of freedom. The report said the right to self-determination of the Kashmiris and Palestinians should be raised at all forums and the world must come forward to help them to secure their birthright. It claims that ‘occupiers’ India and Israel are openly violating international laws in Kashmir and Palestine. Global peace and stability are linked to resolutions of the two long-pending disputes, it maintained. The report said close military cooperation between India and Israel is dangerous to humanity and world peace.

<https://pakobserver.net/india-is-following-israeli-model-to-suppress-kashmiris-freedom-struggle/>

## **Economic Developments**

### **‘BoAJK’ provides loans of 3.36 billion to customers**

*Pakistan Observer, 8 November 2022*

The Bank of ‘Azad Jammu and Kashmir’ (BoAJK) spokesperson said that the BoAJK has provided loans of 3.36 billion to customers under different special credit schemes designed for the Socio-Economic development of the state. The Bank provided 3.05 billion in September 2021

and 2.45 billion in September 2020 to customers. In the past few years, the bank also provided loans of 2.20 billion rupees till September 2019 to promote business activities in the state. The spokesperson said that in line with the vision of the Government of ‘Azad Kashmir’, more than a dozen loan products, based on very low markup and easy installments were launched for the convenience of customers. The products include the best and most attractive schemes of commercial and consumer loans such as Advance Salary, Tourism Development, Healthcare, construction of Guest Houses and Homes, Car, Motorcycle purchases, and Commercial and Consumer Loans like Small and large Business Promotions. The business community of the state while appreciating the schemes of the bank declares that fully cooperates with the bank as these credit schemes will help in boosting trade activities in the state.

<https://pakobserver.net/boajk-provides-loans-of-rs-3-36b-to-customers/>

### **‘AJK’ PM seeks the promotion of small industries**

*Pakistan Today, 10 November 2022*

The Prime Minister of ‘Azad Jammu and Kashmir’ (AJK), Tanveer Illayas has asked the small industries corporation to devise a comprehensive plan to reduce poverty and create employment opportunities for youth in the state. He stressed that there is a dire need for the promotion of the cottage industry in ‘Azad Kashmir’ and noted that the government will take all

necessary measures including providing loans. He emphasized that the government is ready to provide all the facilities and legal protection to investors who were willing to invest their capital in the region.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1025171/ajk-pm-seeks-promotion-of-small-industries/>

### **GB CS directs swift actions for the computerization of land records**

*Pakistan Today, 13 November 2022*

The Chief Secretary (CS) of Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) presided over a meeting to decide on a plan of action for proceeding with swift update and computerization of land reforms and records. He said that a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the region and the Board of Revenue, the government of Punjab shall be signed, and added that this MoU will be aimed to help GB move on for swift update and computerization of the land records. He said that the GB Board of Revenue has also drafted Land Reforms Act which shall be presented in seminars all across the GB for discussions and consensus building. Wider public consultations shall be held involving all stakeholders. A consensus draft of the law shall be presented to the Cabinet for promulgation.

<https://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2022/11/13/gb-chief-secretary-directs-swift-actions-for-computerisation-of-land-records/>

### **From Vernacular Urdu Media**

#### **Muslims have expectations from the Turkish leadership: JI leader**

*Jasarat, 8 November 2022*

The leader of the Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK), Dr. Khalid Mehmood Khan said that the Turkish government and its citizens must live up to the expectations of oppressed Muslims living around the world. He stressed that the long-standing issues of the Muslim Ummah can be resolved according to the vision offered by former Turkish Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan. He claimed that India is 'killing' Kashmiris in the 'occupied territory' and violating the UN Charter and Security Council resolutions. He said that it was the Indian government that took the Kashmir dispute to the UN and promised that it would grant Kashmiris the right to self-determination so they may choose their political future through a free referendum. He said that the Turkish people and government have always stood up for Kashmiris, for which the Kashmiri people are grateful.

<https://www.jasarat.com/2022/11/08/turkey-17/>

#### **American visit was of great importance and will have far-reaching effects: 'AJK' President**

*Mahasib, 9 November 2022*

While describing his recent trip to the US as highly productive, the president of 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK), Sultan Mehmood Chaudhry said that

trip would have a significant impact on Kashmir's independence movement. He mentioned his series of crucial meetings with world leaders and top officials of the UN, OIC, and the US State Department and said that during these high-profile meetings, he had been able to present Kashmiris' point of view before the world effectively. While recalling his meeting with the US Deputy Secretary of State Elizabeth Horst and other top US officials at the State Department, he stressed that he gave a detailed briefing on the Kashmir issue and the fast 'deteriorating' political and human rights situation in the 'Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir' (IOJK).

He noted that he also presented Kashmiri's case at the OIC Contact Group meeting, OIC Foreign Ministers' Conference, and other forums. He said that the world was gradually realizing the importance of the resolution of the Kashmir issue, and added that the international community needs to understand the fact that the unresolved Kashmir dispute is a major source of nuclear tension between India and Pakistan. It is therefore imperative that the world community in particular the US should play its role to settle the Kashmir dispute following the UNSC resolutions. He said that the Kashmiri and Pakistani Americans can also play a vital role by getting involved in mainstream politics in the USA the way the Kashmiri community had created its constituency in the UK.

<http://mahasib.com.pk/epaper/news.php?id=898>

### **India's membership in the UNHCR should be revoked for breaches of human rights in 'Occupied Kashmir:' Mushaal Mullick**

*UrduPoint, 10 November 2022*

Mushaal Mullick has urged the United Nation Human Rights Council (UNHRC) to take action against India for failing to address the basic human rights issues of Kashmiris as highlighted by the third Universal Periodic Review (UPR) report. She said that India's membership needs to be halted and questioned. She said Yasin Malik is being 'illegally' held against his will in an Indian Jail and that the international community needs to hold India accountable. She added that despite vehement protests from human rights groups and international organizations like the OIC and the UN, the Indian government has not adequately addressed issues relating to human rights.

<https://www.urduPoint.com/pakistan/news/islamabad/national-news/live-news-3349752.html>

### **India will be given a hard response to any of its nefarious aggression: 'AJK' President**

*Mahasib, 10 November 2022*

The president of 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK), Sultan Mehmood Chaudhry said that any attack by India on 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK) will be met with a hard response and India will never succeed in its malicious goals. He said that the Kashmiri people are in good spirits, and that fight will go on until the



India's 'occupation' over the territory ends. He expressed these views while addressing the nineteenth convocation ceremony of the University of 'AJK' Muzaffarabad as a special guest. He asked students to support their brothers and sisters' living under the 'occupation' forces across the Line of Control. He expressed confidence that 'Azad Kashmir's youth would not let their brothers and sisters down and stressed that it's their responsibility to carry out the freedom struggle of people in 'occupied' Kashmir.

<http://mahasib.com.pk/epaper/news.php?id=912>

### **South Asian peace is threatened by silence on the Kashmir issue: Pasban-e-Hurriyat**

*Nawaiwaqt, 11 November 2022*

According to the Chairman of Pasban-e-Hurriyat, Uzair Ahmad Ghazali, the 'Azad Kashmir' government should undertake a determined resistance effort for the independence of the 'Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir' (IIOJK), rather than making statements. While referring to the 'threatening' remarks made by Rajnath Singh, he said that such warnings would be devastating for the peace in the area. He expressed concern over the base camp government's dismal performance and noted that the Indian government's 'atrocities' in 'IIOJK' need to be documented and pursued. He said that the base camp's previous and current governments should be honest about whether or not they have carried out their constitutionally mandated duties and national

obligations. He questioned whether through frequent public announcements, international trips, news conferences, and speeches anything can be achieved? Would that force India's one million troops to leave the 'occupied' state. He said that 'AJK' government needs to be questioned because no practical, concrete or realistic plan for the 'liberation movement' has been implemented by the base camp government over the past 33 years. The silence of the base camp on 05 August 2019, and the 'illegal' constitutional amendments made by India and inflicting worst attacks on Muslim identity in the 'occupied' part, raised many questions. He urged the 'AJK' government to properly mobilize the resistance movement to carry out its constitutional obligations for the freedom of the 'occupied state.'

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2022-11-11>

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## Disclaimer

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



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