

# Weekly POK News Digest

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

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development projects  
land 'Under-funded' GB  
wheat scarcity  
reforms  
Gilgit-Baltistan  
Kishan Ganga Ratle  
POK hydropower



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## Political Developments

### **Kashmir's settlement central to bilateral ties with India: PM Ilyas**

*Dawn, 22 January 2023*

The Prime Minister of 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK), Tanveer Ilyas has said settlement of the Kashmir dispute in line with the wishes and aspirations of Kashmiris was central to improving the bilateral relationship between India and Pakistan. In his response to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's recent dialogue offer to his Indian counterpart PM Narendra Modi, the 'AJK' premier asserted that talks with India, at any level, would be meaningless without the participation of the Kashmiris.

The Kashmiris, he claimed, were not averse to the relationship between Islamabad and New Delhi but the revival of ties with India at the cost of Kashmiris' blood was unacceptable to them. He claimed that the Kashmiri nation has waged a heroic struggle and offered innumerable sacrifices for a long for the 'accomplishment of Pakistan' which cannot be ignored. He said the past 75 years' history bore testimony to the fact that India had always tried to 'sabotage the sacred struggle of the Kashmiris under the cover of dialogue with Pakistan. While terming Jammu and Kashmir as the unfinished agenda of the partition of the subcontinent, Ilyas emphatically stated that this issue was a matter of the life and death of 15 million people. The Kashmiris had declared Pakistan as

their ultimate destination even before the creation of Pakistan and they have been constantly struggling to achieve this long-cherished goal set by their forefathers, he said. He said that India had 'miserably failed' to suppress the Kashmiris' struggle for the right to self-determination notwithstanding the use of brute force against them. Even after the August 5, 2019 tragedy, India has been unable to establish its foothold in the 'occupied territory,' he claimed.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1732901/kashmir-settlement-central-to-bilateral-ties-with-india-pm-ilyas>

### **Dispossessed and disempowered**

*Dawn, 23 January 2023*

Anurudha Bhasin, a well-known writer, executive editor of the Kashmir Times, and a Kashmir native, has written a gripping new book, 'A Dismantled State: The Untold Story of Kashmir after Article 370,' is a critique of Indian actions in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) after its 'annexation' and bifurcation by the abrogation of Article 370 of the Indian constitution on August 5, 2019. Anurudha, analyses how the abrogation significantly affected the sociopolitical and economic landscape, 'impacted the people of J&K in their day-to-day lives.' The book is an effort to 'combat disinformation in Kashmir's dangerous information desert.'

I asked the author in an email exchange what motivated her to write this ground-breaking book, Anurudha said

almost a year after Kashmir lost its special status, very little was known and there was little media coverage, and that she began digging for facts in a 'complete desert of information.' Among the impediments she faced was people's reluctance to be interviewed due to the climate of fear. In the book, Anurudha shows how the Pulwama incident and the 'officially sponsored narrative' of antipathy towards Kashmiri Muslims prepared the ground for August 2019. In fact, through many political, military, and administrative maneuvers, 'the ground was being readied for bulldozing Kashmir's special status, a year before it happened.' When the 'constitutional fraud' was imposed, people's world suddenly turned upside down and they were virtually trapped in their homes, with unannounced curfews, barbed wire, multitudes of barricades, and communication systems in complete disarray.

The draconian Public Safety Act was weaponized and subsequently used more widely, as were torture, arrests and detentions followed in the crackdown of political leaders, lawyers, traders, businessmen, academics, activists, and even children in midnight raids. Virtually imprisoned by the lockdown, 13.65 million people were placed under siege. The Internet was shut down and a communication blockade was imposed. Although the book examines the post-August 2019 period, the author also reflects on decades of Delhi's failed policies in

J&K, policies of manipulation and jailing of leaders combined with military coercion. She offers a clear analysis of how in the last seven decades successive governments dealt with the Kashmir conflict through force and manipulation, with the 'Modi-led BJP government, consistently contributing to deepening the conflict by pursuing an all-out military policy.' 'Militancy,' she asserts, 'was a symptom of a deeper malaise, an unaddressed political dispute, subversion of democracy and democratic rights of the people and neglect of human rights violations.'

Commenting on recent trends in militancy, she argues that unlike in the 1990s, when boys crossed the border into 'Azad Kashmir' to receive weapons and training, the new wave of militancy is mostly homegrown. Post-2019 militancy feeds on anger and 'thrives on local support' and has been increasing with rising local recruitment. The book catalogs the plethora of laws that were changed or promulgated mostly during, and taking advantage of, the Covid-19 pandemic. In October 2020, the government brought in 26 land-related laws which marginalized locals and aimed to deprive them of land. Under other changes, land could be seized from locals and given to outsiders. Overall, out of 334 state laws, 164 laws were repealed, and 167 laws were adopted. Also detailed is the electoral delimitation plan unveiled in 2022 that sought to change the 'demographic'

character of the region and make way for J&K's first Hindu chief minister. The addition of new voters to the electoral rolls, which gave non-resident voting rights, also aimed at enabling a BJP majority whenever an election to the J&K assembly is held. All this has left Kashmir demoted, disempowered, and disenfranchised.

She sees India's tightening 'military control,' silencing of dissent, bulldozing of its economy and demography, and assault on civil liberties as unsustainable and therefore believes its Kashmir strategy is 'bound to fail.' Although the BJP government has disingenuously sought to portray the imposed silence in Kashmir as acceptance, the reality is of seething and massive discontent and deepening alienation from which 'India stands to be the bigger loser.' I asked Anurudha how she sees the situation play out from here. She said while all of J&K's people including Hindus and Sikhs feel robbed, 'the Muslim majority reels under an existential threat.' But a deafening silence has been produced by the jailing of politicians and civil society activists as well as the throttling of the media. This, she says, portends danger because it makes it impossible to fully understand or assess the ground situation. It also makes it difficult to predict how Kashmiris will eventually respond. A key message of her book is that a volcanic outburst is simply a matter of time.'

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1733092>

### **Kashmiris have formed a global alliance to push for their freedom: KDC Leader**

*Business Recorder, 23 January 2023*

The International Kashmiri diaspora, currently functioning under various names and flags, will now advance the Kashmiri freedom struggle unitedly under one banner in a single international alliance platform. This was disclosed by the senior vice chairman of Kashmir Diaspora Coalition (KDC) Dr. Mubeen Shah in an exclusive talk at the sideline of an event hosted by the Mirpur Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI). The world-fame Kashmiri entrepreneur, former president of the chamber of commerce and industry in the 'Indian Occupied Kashmir' (IOK), and ex-founder president of Jammu Kashmir Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry is currently living in exile in Turkiye. He said initially, the alliance will comprise World Kashmir Awareness Forum USA, Kashmir House Istanbul, Turkey, Kashmir Civitas Canada, World Kashmir Freedom Movement, Tehreek Kashmir UK, Tehreek Kashmir EU, and Kashmir Campaign Global. Dr. Shah said KDC believes in the Kashmiris' right to self-determination and recognizes Pakistan as a 'natural ally' and friend of Kashmir while India is a 'sworn enemy' of Kashmiris that has been taking inimical anti-Kashmir actions. The two countries cannot be equated, he said, adding that the 'need of the hour is that Kashmiri diaspora

join hands together and champion the cause of Kashmir at the global level.’

Shah continued that one single international alliance of various Kashmiri platforms will cooperate, coordinate and collaborate on Kashmir activities. The coalition has assigned various responsibilities to the professional teams like social media, legal cell, and youth wing with emphasis on women’s involvement, he added. He said that to broaden its global working scope, the KDC will develop contacts with the UNGA, UNHRC, OIC, EU, and African Council besides building ties with think tanks, international NGOs, academic institutions, and student bodies worldwide.

The coalition will always have a respectful, cordial, and brotherly relationship with the All Parties Hurriyat Conference of Kashmir as an intellectual and moral guide with the ethical authority vested in them by the original political leaderships of all parties on the ground. He said that we will seek their guidance (Hurriyat leaders) and render our honest and sincere counsel to them on all matters important to our national cause. The KDC will change the Kashmir narrative in light of what has happened in Ukraine. It will shift it (narrative) to Kashmir freedom to what it was in the 1990s and the role played by freedom fighters. Shah underlined that besides Kashmiri media, the world media shall be sensitized with reports, videos,

scripts, and pictures showing Indian atrocities on innocent Kashmiris. Under the management of Kashmir House Istanbul, an Institute of Kashmir studies in one or more Turkish universities utilizing various languages shall be launched, he said, adding that an academic studies program at Bachelor’s and Master’s levels in several universities would also be found.

<https://www.brecorder.com/news/40221770/kashmiris-have-formed-global-alliance-to-push-for-their-freedom-dr-shah>

### **Modi regime snatching land from ‘IIOJK’ people in name of anti-encroachment drive**

*Pakistan Observer, 23 January 2023*

The Modi-led ‘fascist’ Indian regime has started ‘snatching’ Kashmiris’ land and properties in the name of an anti-encroachment drive in ‘India illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir’ (IIOJK). A report released by Kashmir Media Service, today, said the latest land eviction campaign in the ‘occupied territory’ is yet another manifestation of the ‘colonial-settler mindset’ of the PM Modi regime. The Modi regime is introducing one after other laws that are aimed at changing the Muslim majority status of the territory into a minority. The ‘IIOJK’ authorities’ new order on land encroachment is part of Modi’s ‘sinister plan’ to snatch the Kashmiris’ land, it claimed. The report said the ‘IIOJK’ authorities have already ‘snatched’ thousands of kanals

of land from the Kashmiris in the last few days. It said, the authorities have taken away a total of more than 40,000 kanals of land from the people in the Islamabad (Anantnag) district of the territory and more than 4200 kanals of land have been taken away from people in the last three days alone. It said evicting locals from the lands, which have been under their possession for generations, is meant to colonize Kashmir, therefore, the international community should take notice of Modi's 'nefarious plans' in 'IIOJK'. The United Nations must also step in and stop the 'fascist Modi regime' from implementing its 'colonial settler project' in the 'occupied territory.'

<https://pakobserver.net/modi-regime-snatching-land-from-iiojk-people-in-name-of-anti-encroachment-drive/>

### **The power of the capital 'Azad Kashmir' will also be restored soon**

*Daily Parliament Times, 23 January 2023*

The National Grid's system frequency dropped around 7:34 in the morning, causing the power system to fail. People yelled, suffered from the longest electricity outage, and the Rampura and Muzaffarabad grids were shut down. According to the relevant authorities and the WAPDA department, work on the restoration of the system to the Rampura and Muzaffarabad grid is progressing quickly. The electricity division reports that within the last hour, work on the

restoration of the grid stations from Mansehra has begun. A limited number of grids of Islamabad Supply Company and Peshawar Supply Company have been restored. The power division further said that the power supply of the capital 'Azad Kashmir' will also be restored soon, the power supply has been suspended in the Muzaffarabad and Neelam Valley. According to the officials of Mansehra Electric Supply Company. The electricity transmission line coming from Mansehra to Muzaffarabad has been tripped.

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2023/01/23/the-power-of-the-capital-azad-kashmir-will-also-be-restored-soon/>

### **Status of GB in Limbo**

*The Nation, 24 January 2023*

Gilgit Baltistan (GB) was liberated in 1947 without any help from a foreign power. It was a self-driven force that created history. But it is unfortunate that after 75 years, the fate of GB is hanging like a suspension bridge without any base. The Pakistan People's Party (PPP) gave a setup through an ordinance but there is no legal cover. The situation has created a sense of deprivation that is deepening day by day. It is high time to realize the gravity of the situation and come up with a provincial set up with a legal base and restore state subjects in GB.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/24-Jan-2023/status-of-gb-in-limbo>

## **KC-EU plans protest camp in Brussels on India's Republic Day**

*Pakistan Observer, 24 January 2023*

Kashmir Council Europe (KC-EU) has planned to hold a protest camp on the Indian Republic Day on January 26 in front of the EU External Action Service (EU foreign ministry) in Brussels, Belgium. According to Kashmir Media Service, Kashmiris, who are suffering from 'Indian atrocities' for the last seven decades, observe the Indian Republic Day on 26th January every year as a black day. The peaceful protest camp in Brussels would start at 2 p.m., 26th January 23, 2023. Ali Raza Syed, chairman of KC-EU said, India claims to be the largest democracy in the world but it refuses the democratic rights of the people of 'occupied Jammu and Kashmir' as atrocities against them go unchecked. He said that the Kashmiri people are not ready to compromise on their right to self-determination and that India should end 'brutalities' against the Kashmiris and fulfill its promise for the right of self-determination to the people of Kashmir.

<https://pakobserver.net/kc-eu-plans-protest-camp-in-brussels-on-indias-republic-day/>

## **Appoint special representative for Kashmir: 'AJK' president to EU**

*Pakistan Today, 25 January 2023*

Sultan Mehmood Chaudhry, the president of 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK), has requested that the

European Union (EU) designate a special envoy for Kashmir to aid in the peaceful settlement of the ongoing conflict. He made this call while speaking to members of the European Parliament, the Belgian Senate, and the Belgian Parliament at a dinner reception in Brussels. He stressed throughout the event the crucial role that European nations have played in defending human rights and attempting to resolve international conflicts and emphasized the urgent necessity to revive the Kashmir Committee in the European Parliament. He expressed hope that the EU would play an important role in resolving the Kashmir dispute for establishing peace and security in South Asia. While referring to the Indian government's ban on BBC documentary, he said the footage has exposed the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'real face' before the world.

<https://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2023/01/25/appoint-special-representative-for-kashmir-ajk-president-to-eu/>

## **Kashmiris have sacrificed three generations to achieve their cherished goal of freedom: 'AJK' PM**

*Daily Parliament Times, 26 January 2023*

The Prime Minister of 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK), Tanvir Ilyas Khan has said that Kashmiris have sacrificed their three generations to achieve their cherished goal of freedom from India's 'forcible occupation.' While castigating



India's 'forcible occupation' of Kashmir, he said that the people of the 'occupied Kashmir' have been observing the so-called Republic Day of India as a 'black day' to tell the world that the 'Indian occupation' of their motherland was never acceptable to them. He said the Kashmiris living on both sides of the Line of Control (LoC) and the rest of the world observe the Indian republic day as a black day. While stressing the need for resolving the dispute peacefully in line with the aspirations of the Kashmiri people, he said that the international community should come forward to help Kashmir determine their future on the accepted principle of the right to self-determination.

He said that India claims to be a democratic country but Modi has turned it into a 'fascist state' where minorities were being ruthlessly attacked and persecuted. He said that India had backtracked from commitments it had made Vis a Vis holding of a plebiscite to allow Kashmiris to decide their political future. While terming Kashmir as an international dispute he said that Kashmir has 'never been a part of India', claiming that 'Kashmiris consider themselves as Pakistanis' and that the people of Kashmir have been fighting a war for the 'completion of Pakistan.'

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2023/01/26/kashmiris-have-sacrificed-three-generations-to-achieve-their-cherished-goal-of-freedom/>

## **Pakistan reiterates to raise voice on continuing grave Human Rights abuses in 'IIOJK'**

*Pakistan Today, 26 January 2023*

Pakistan has reiterated to raise its voice on the continuing grave 'human rights abuses' in 'Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir' (IIOJK). During the weekly press briefing, foreign office spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said Pakistan will also continue to extend unstinted moral, political and diplomatic support to the people of Jammu and Kashmir in their quest for self-determination under the relevant UN Security Council resolution. She said we pay rich tribute to the sacrifices of martyrs of three massacres committed by the 'Indian occupation forces' in 'IIOJK' during January in the 1990s.

<https://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2023/01/26/pakistan-reiterates-to-raise-voice-on-continuing-grave-hr-abuses-in-iiojk/>

## **Economic Developments**

### **No mountain expedition in GB this winter amid political unrest, visa delays**

*Dawn, 23 January 2023*

International mountaineers' plans to visit Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) this winter and attempt to climb some of the highest mountains in the world were severely derailed by growing political unpredictability and visa bottlenecks; as a result, not a single foreign mountain expedition has come this

season. Additionally, aggravating factors included high permit prices and travel advisories issued by Saudi Arabia, Australia, and the United States against visiting Pakistan.

According to the GB tourism department, no foreign expedition or trekking group has been issued a permit this winter expedition season, which usually lasts from November to February. And the fact the season is set to end after a little over a month, no adventure group is expected as they usually need at least two months to prepare for expeditions. Only two foreign expedition groups applied for a visa to summit Nanga Parbat this winter, but visa delays compelled them to cancel their plans. This stands in stark contrast to previous years when hundreds of foreign mountaineers visited Pakistan in winter to attempt to summit mighty mountains like K2 and Nanga Parbat. Besides, last summer was the first time when more than 1,600 international climbers visited GB.

Karar Haidri, secretary to the Alpine Club of Pakistan, told Dawn that prevailing political uncertainty in the country was the main factor behind the decline, as many adventure tourists canceled their visits to the region. However, Asghar Ali Porik, a tour operator from GB, told Dawn the visa policy was the main cause, as it resulted in delayed issuance of visas. Another factor was a 40 percent hike in permit royalty fees from this year, said Mr. Porik, who organized many foreign expedition groups at K2 and other

mountains last winter. When contacted, an official of the GB tourism department agreed that the decline in the number of adventurers visiting Pakistan was caused by political unrest and the visa regime.

Five of the world's 14 eight-thousands, mountains above 8,000 meters from sea level are in Pakistan, including the world's second-highest peak K2 (8,611 meters), followed by Nanga Parbat (ranked ninth at 8,126 meters), Gasherbrum-I (11th at 8,080 meters), Broad Peak (12th at 8,051 meters), and Gasherbrum-II (13th at 8,035 meters). Naiknam Karim, chief executive officer at Adventure Tours Pakistan, lamented that top climbers from across the world had applied for a visa to attempt the summit of Nanga Parbat this winter, but they canceled their plans after visa delays and instead went to Nepal. He said that complications in the visa application process and delays, which could last for months, also prevented other adventurers from even applying.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1733182/no-mountain-expedition-in-gb-this-winter-amid-political-unrest-visa-delays>

### **'Under-funded' GB seeks release of funds, grant by the federal government**

*Dawn, 26 January 2023*

The governor of Gilgit-Baltistan (GB), Syed Mehdi Shah informed Federal Minister for Planning Ahsan Iqbal during a meeting about the serious financial crisis the GB government was facing and sought the release of funds by the federal government. The

governor in a press release requested the federal minister to release funds for Public Sector Development Program (PSDP) projects and an annual grant from the GB government. The federal government had not released the annual financial development grant of the GB as the region depends on the financial grant of the federal government. Mr. Iqbal ordered the release of funds for GB development projects and promised to take immediate steps for the release of the grant by the federal government to the GB government. Additionally, the governor asked the federal minister to provide \$500 million for Baltistan University's endowment funds. Mr. Iqbal gave the GB governor his word that he would make his efforts to get the money released for the funding. Through grants and cash granted by the federal government, the GB government covers its development and non-development costs.

In the meantime, there is severe wheat scarcity in the region. To supply subsidized wheat to the locals, the federal government pays GB 8 billion every year. However, as a result of the rising price of wheat both nationally and in GB, the GB government was forced to buy less wheat, which contributed to the region's wheat shortage as additional funds from the federal government are required to purchase the required quantity of wheat for the area people. The GB administration has written to the federal government informing it of the

scarcity and requesting more money to support residents' needs for wheat.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1733665/under-funded-gb-seeks-release-of-funds-grant-by-federal-govt>

### **Indus Basin Agreement unilateral amendment plot by India exposed**

*Jasarat, 27 January 2023*

A plot by India to unilaterally change the Indus Basin Agreement has been exposed. The news that was reported in the Indian press was noted by the Attorney General's Office (AGO) of Pakistan. Officials from the attorney general's office said that the treaty cannot be unilaterally altered and that India is attempting to deflect attention from the ongoing proceedings before the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA), added that the first hearing of the dispute started at the PCA in Hague. He said that concerns over the construction of the 330 MW Kishan Ganga Hydroelectric Project at Jhelum River and the 850 MW Ratle hydropower project by India are under consideration. According to a spokesperson for the AGO, the delegation from Pakistan is led by additional attorney general Ahmed Irfan Aslam, and also includes the secretary of water resources Hassan Nasir Jamy and Pakistan's Indus Water Commissioner Syed Muhammad Mehr Ali Shah. Pakistan's case is represented by British barrister Daniel Bethlehem.

<https://www.jasarat.com/2023/01/27/indus-basin-agreement/>

### **Comprehensive land reforms indispensable for a sustainable, permanent solution: CM of GB**

*The Nation, 27 January 2023*

Under the leadership of the Chief Minister of Gilgit-Baltistan (GB), Khalid Khurshid, a meeting of the land reforms committee was convened in Gilgit. The meeting was attended by the deputy speaker of the GB assembly Nazir Ahmed Advocate, the provincial minister of law, excise, and taxation, Syed Sohail Abbas, and other authorities. A private law company with expertise in land reforms was also consulted at the meeting, which included a thorough review of the status of land reforms in GB. According to Khurshid, fundamental land reforms are necessary for a long-term, viable solution.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/27-Jan-2023/comprehensive-land-reforms-indispensable-for-sustainable-permanent-solution-cm-gb>

### **From Vernacular Urdu Media**

#### **Indian soldiers are committing acts of 'genocide' against Kashmiris to reduce the regions predominately Muslim population to a minority: Imtiaz Wani**

*UrduPoint, 23 January 2023*

While paying tribute to the martyrs in 'occupied Kashmir,' Imtiaz Wani, the information secretary of the All-Party Hurriyat Conference-'Azad Jammu Kashmir' (APHC-AJK), asserted that Indian forces are killing locals and committing genocide to turn the area's

Muslim majority into a minority. He asserted that, in light of the documentation provided by Human Rights Watch, it is now abundantly clear to everyone in the world that India has been misleading the UN for a long time using fabrications and deceit. He said that the Indian government is officially waging a campaign against foreign human rights organizations and that it is unlawful for human rights organizations to function freely in India, making it hard for them to report on contemporary atrocities in "occupied" Jammu and Kashmir. He claimed that India has made it a point to keep the rest of the world in the dark about its atrocities against minorities, particularly Muslims. He claimed that Hurriyat activists and leaders are being imprisoned while being held captive, endangering their lives.

<https://www.urduPoint.com/pakistan/news/islamabad/national-news/live-news-3443329.html>

#### **Pakistani political and religious leaders should develop a united policy towards the Kashmir issue: Muzzammil Ayyub Thakur**

*Nawaiwaqt, 24 January 2023*

The leader of the Kashmir Freedom Movement, Dr. Muzamil Ayub Thakur during an event at Karachi Press Club stressed that the 'Azad Kashmir' leadership should act as a base camp for the right to self-determination movement in 'occupied Kashmir.' The situation in the 'occupied Kashmir', he claimed, has gotten much worse since August 5, 2019, which is worrying. He

claimed that the Kashmiri people are still fighting for their freedom despite Indian 'atrocities', and they are devoted to Allama Iqbal and Muhammad Ali Jinnah's Pakistan, not to any particular political party. He underlined that the Kashmir problem should not be reduced to the government alone and that the political and religious leadership in Pakistan needs to come up with a coordinated strategy. He claimed that the 'worst human rights abuses' are occurring in Kashmir, where my father was exiled and we are the targets of terrorism cases, but he emphasized that we are willing to sacrifice our lives for Kashmir.

He claimed that all journalists who spoke the truth, including Asif Dar, had been detained for years and that the Indian media had likewise deceived its audience by stifling the truth. He asserted that the situation in Kashmir is severe, that people are ready for martyrdom, and that they are informed and ready to act like they were in 1980 and 1990. He further claimed that the situation is unlikely to improve as it worsens and that a 'united Hindu India' is more dangerous than Hitler because it will first wipe out the Muslims living there. He said that Indian nationalists believe that their country is building the Mukesh Mahadev Temple in Makkah and that Akhand Bharat extends from Nepal to Mecca.

<https://www.nawawaqat.com.pk/24-Jan-2023/1674188>

## **India's false flag attempt to malign Pakistan exposed**

*Daily Pakistan, 25 January 2023*

Pakistani intelligence agencies have uncovered and exposed Indian intelligence agencies' plan to carry out another 'false flag' operation in the 'Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir' (IIOJK) Poonch region on the day of India's Republic Day. The execution of this operation was planned for Indian Republic Day (26 January 2023) with Pakistan to be held accountable for the claimed cross-border infiltration of the perpetrators. According to the plan, this diabolical bogus operation in the Poonch district of 'IIOJK' was to be carried out by the Indian army and Jammu and Kashmir police. This false flag operation was specifically scripted to stir up international concern about purported terrorism in the valley being perpetrated through supposed infiltration across the Line of Control (LoC). As per the plot's script, the operation was planned in the Poonch district, which would have been executed by the Indian army and police. The intelligence agencies have also exposed three key facilitators, one of whom, Bashir, is associated with the 93 Infantry Division, and Alam and Aslam are his companions. Bashir's plan requires him to recruit locals later to pose as accused infiltrators from the Jashkwal region of 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK) to put a bomb or significant IED in Poonch on the Indian

Republic Day. Subsequently, as per the intended plot, the Indian Army will conduct an operation to prevent this staged activity near a mosque, and it will be presented as a significant operation against terrorists.

<https://dailypakistan.com.pk/25-Jan-2023/1536851>

### **Kashmiris celebrate India's Republic Day as 'Black Day' on both sides of the LoC**

*Jammu and Kashmir Times, 27 January 2023*

India's Republic Day is being observed as a 'Black Day' by Kashmiris on both sides of the Line of Control (LoC) and around the world to draw attention to New Delhi's ongoing denial of the right to self-determination to the Kashmiri people. The Black Day will be commemorated with a total strike in 'Indian Illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir' (IIOJK) as well as anti-India protests and rallies in 'Azad Kashmir', Pakistan, and major cities around the world. The All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) on both sides has called for the observation of Black Day to send a clear message to the international community that Kashmiris view India as a 'usurper' of their fundamental rights. The APHC and leaders of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front have advised Kashmiris to boycott all official Indian holidays and raise black flags from the tops of their homes, places of business, and other buildings. Meanwhile, the Indian government in 'IIOJK', had

turned the entire territory into a military garrison and had escalated checking and frisking in Srinagar City and other parts of the 'occupied valley.'

<http://jammukashmirtimes.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Resize-of-front-jmmu.jpg>

### **The GB provincial government is misusing its budget to fund Bani Gala and Zaman Park while falsely accusing the federal government: Sadia Danish**

*UrduPoint, 26 January 2023*

Sadia Danish, the Pakistan People's Party's (PPP) information secretary and a member of the Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) assembly, said that the provincial government is cynically blaming the federal government for the lack of funding while the money intended for GB is being squandered on Bani Gala and Zaman Park. The worst kinds of corruption, incompetence, and mismanagement caused the provincial government to experience a financial crisis, she added, and as a result, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) falsehood and accusation-based politics have failed and that these people are now trying in vain to shift responsibility for their incompetence to the federal government. The GB economy is being destroyed in a similar way to how Imran Khan's leadership brought the country's economy to its knees in under four years. She continued by saying that the PTI government in GB had set the region on a road for degradation rather than progress.

The GB Chief Minister and the cabinet have both taken steps that have only included attacking political rivals, much like Imran Khan, who has only blamed others. The economy of the nation had not been harmed as severely in seventy years as Imran Khan had destroyed it in four years, she added. Since Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, was named foreign minister, he swiftly enhanced Pakistan's reputation abroad and restored lost trust, and the present federal government has been working relentlessly to reconstruct the devastated economy. She said that there is no one else who can succeed Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto following how foreign minister Bilawal brought attention to Pakistan's economic problems, presented the plight of the flood victims to the world, and portrayed Pakistan in a favourable light. According to her, the PPP will dominate the country in the upcoming years and should be credited for the constitutional, administrative, and judicial reforms in GB.

<https://www.urdupoint.com/pakistan/news/islamabad/national-news/live-news-3447699.html>

### **India and Israel are committing war crimes in Kashmir and Palestine: JI Leader**

*Jasarat, 27 January 2023*

Dr. Khalid Mahmood Khan, the leader of the Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) in 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK) claimed that 'war crimes' are being committed in Kashmir and Palestine by India and

Israel. While referring to Israel's attack on the Jenin refugee camp in Palestine, which resulted in the deaths of 9 Palestinians and the injuries of many more, he said that 'massacres' of Kashmiris and Palestinians are occurring, and sacred places are being vandalized in both the 'occupied' territories. He continued by saying that both the Muslim community and the wider world should be aware of this. He asserted that the world community's silence is degrading and that Israel and India are exiling Muslims from their homes, torturing and killing innocent people, and destroying the Muslim identity. He added that India and Israel are flagrantly violating the UN Charter and Security Council resolutions and therefore sanctions against them are necessary.

<https://www.jasarat.com/2023/01/27/dr-khalid-mehmood-4/>

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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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