Weekly POK News Digest

(A weekly news digest on Pakistan Occupied Kashmir)

Volume 3 | Issue 5

30 January - 05 February 2023

investment POK Waqf Board digital transformation Gilgit-Baltistan Kashmir Premier League



MANOHAR PARRIKAR INSTITUTE FOR DEFENCE STUDIES AND ANALYSES मनोहर पर्रिकर रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान

No. 1, Development Enclave, Rao Tula Ram Marg New Delhi-110 010

Contents

Political Developments

- 'AJK' President to attend annual breakfast hosted by US President
- Diaspora urged to highlight 'IIOJK' situation
- Pasban-e-Hurriyat conducts a long march to seek world attention on the Kashmir issue
- 'AJK' President meet UN representatives in New York: Discussed 'atrocities' in Kashmir
- Kashmiris to resist RSS-BJP's Hindutva agenda in 'IIOJK:' APHC
- RSS imposing Hindutva agenda through WAQF Board in 'IIOJK'
- Armed forces of Pakistan pay tribute to Kashmiris
- Pakistan spying agencies expose another Indian 'plot' to implicate Kashmiris
- Kashmir Solidarity Day observed across the globe
- J&K dispute will remain a key pillar of Pakistan's foreign policy: FM
- If a referendum can be held in East Timor and Sudan, why not in Kashmir, says PM 'AJK'
- 'AJK' President to lead a rally in the UK on Kashmir Solidarity Day
- Malaysia's Mahathir voices concern over the plight of Kashmiris in 'IIOJK'

Economic Developments

- No payments to players have been made yet for the Kashmir Premier League's Season 2
- A contract has been made between the GB government and the 'Google for Education' technology
- Economically-strong Pakistan can ensure Kashmir freedom: PM

<u>Vernacular Urdu Media</u>

- The government of Pakistan must speak out in favor of Kashmiris: JI head
- JI Sindh will observe Kashmir Solidarity Day on February 5
- Pakistani citizens won't be able to live in peace until the Kashmir dispute is resolved fairly: PM Shehbaz Sharif
- A theater show 'Yes Mein Kashmir Hoon' will be presented on February 5 in Peshawar's Nishtar Hall in observance of Kashmir Solidarity Day
- The conflict in Kashmir is not about the territory; it's about the millions of Kashmiris' right to self-determination: 'AJK' PM
- International organizations must be deaf as they ignore the cry of oppressed Kashmiris: JI leader
- A stable and prosperous Pakistan is the guarantee of Kashmir's freedom

Political Developments

'AJK' President to attend annual breakfast hosted by US President

The Nation, 30 January 2023

The president of 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK), Sultan Mehmood Chaudhry, who currently is on weeklong United States (US) tour, will attend the annual breakfast party being hosted by the US president Joe Biden to Muslims each year at White House in Washington DC, said a release issued by Chaudhary's staff. The event is held each year on the first Thursday of February in Washington, DC in honor of Muslims of the US and is attended by thousands including of guests dignitaries many nations. from Meanwhile, on his arrival in New York, the president meet with various delegations of the Kashmir community and settled in America.

<u>https://www.nation.com.pk/30-Jan-2023/ajk-</u> president-to-attend-annual-breakfast-hosted-by-uspresident</u>

Diaspora urged to highlight 'IIOJK' situation

Pakistan Observer, 31 January 2023

The president of 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry has urged the Kashmir and Pakistani diaspora in the United States (US) to play their due role to highlight the plight of Kashmiri people and 'expose Indian brutalities' in 'Indian Illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir' (IIOJK). He expressed these views while addressing an event in Brooklyn, New York. The event was attended and addressed by former members of the Kashmir Council, Sardar Sawar Khan, Syed Aftab Shah, Chaudhry Sarwar, Raja Taj, Raja Razzaq, Chaudhry Rashid, and others. While referring to the critical situation in 'IIOJK', Sultan Mahmood said that it was the responsibility of people living in 'Azad Kashmir', Pakistan, and around the world to express solidarity with their brethren and draw the of the international attention community towards the 'killings' and violation of human rights by 'Indian forces.' He said that Kashmir day would be observed in 'Azad Kashmir', Pakistan and all across the globe with a renewed pledge to express complete solidarity with Kashmiris who were facing 'barbarism' in the 'occupied Kashmir.'

<u>https://pakobserver.net/diaspora-urged-tohighlight-iiojk-situation/</u>

Pasban-e-Hurriyat conducts a long march to seek world attention on the Kashmir issue

Daily Parliament Times, 31 January 2023

The Pasban-e-Hurriyat (PH) Jammu and Kashmir have announced an 'India! Leave Jammu and Kashmir's march from Chakothi to Muzaffarabad. The march will commence on February 03 from the Chakothi Line of Control and reach the capital on February 5th, 2023. The chairman of PH, Uzair Ahmad Ghazali in a press conference has said that the first week of February will be commemorated as 'Jammu and Kashmir Solidarity Week' to express solidarity with the Kashmiri people who are struggling for freedom. He said that India should know that the Kashmir issue cannot be suppressed through 'imperialist tactics' and 'illegal measures' and claimed that the world knows that 'India exists as an occupier and usurper in Jammu and Kashmir.' Ghazali said that the government of the Bharatiya Janata Party was involved in the 'worst violence' on innocent Kashmiri citizens besides trying to crush the freedom movement of Kashmiri people through military force.

He further said that it is necessary for a peaceful and long-lasting solution to the Kashmir issue that the world should make it possible to hold a free, fair, and impartial referendum in the state according to the wishes and aspirations of the Kashmiri people for the establishment of sustainable peace in South Asia. He reiterated that the Kashmiri people will continue their vigorous and determined struggle to stop India's expansionist ambitions within the state and claimed that our march will seek the world's attention towards this deteriorating issue and we will appeal to UNSC, OIC, and other human rights organizations to play their role on Kashmir issue. He also appealed to the people of Jhelum Valley and Muzaffarabad to participate in the long march and express their solidarity with their brethren in the 'occupied' Jammu and Kashmir.

<u>https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2023/01/31</u> /pasban-e-hurriyat-conducts-long-march-to-seekworld-attention-on-kashmir-issue/</u>

'AJK' President meet UN representatives in New York: Discussed 'atrocities' in Kashmir

Daily Parliament Times, 31 January 2023

The United Nations (UN) Charter continues to mention the Kashmir problem and this is something that the UN Secretary-General has stressed time and time again, and he is worried about the way that human rights are being violated in 'occupied Kashmir.' Mohamed Khaled Khiari, the UN's assistant secretary for political and peace affairs, and Ilze Brands Kehris, the UN's assistant secretary for the commission on Human Rights, shared these opinions with the president of 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK), Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry during a thorough meeting held at the UN headquarters in New York. The 'AJK' president said that while he is representing 15 million Kashmiri people in the UN and claimed that if the Kashmir issue was not resolved, the credibility of the UN would also be affected. He said, to resolve the Kashmir issue, the UN secretarygeneral António Guterres should speed up his efforts because India had started large-scale changes in 'occupied Kashmir' August since 5, 2019, including changing the demography of 'occupied Kashmir' and paving the way for bringing a Hindu chief minister there.

He also said that the international community should keep in mind that Pakistan and India are two nuclear powers of the third world and any small or big accident between the two countries could be a precursor to a major war that would affect the peace of the entire world. He also gave a detailed briefing to the top officials of the UN on the issue of Kashmir and the latest situation in 'occupied Kashmir.' He also said that the Prime Minister of Pakistan offered talks to India, but India had not given any positive because the response Indian government was following the 'policy of Hindutva', while 'atrocities' were being committed on Muslims and minorities living in India. He urged the UN to not remain silent and take responsibility for initiating dialogue between the two countries and at the international same time, the community should immediately act to the ongoing 'atrocities' in stop 'occupied Kashmir.'

https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2023/01/31 /president-sultan-met-u-n-representatives-in-newyork-discussed-atrocities-in-kashmir/

Kashmiris to resist RSS-BJP's Hindutva agenda in 'IIOJK:' APHC

Pakistan Observer, 1 February 2023

The leaders of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference-'Azad Iammu and Kashmir' (APHC-AJK) chapter have strongly condemned the confiscation of the APHC head office in Srinagar by the Modi regime on a so-called court order in 'Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir' (IIOJK). The APHC-'AIK' leaders Ghulam Muhammad Safi, Sved Faiz Syed Naqshbandi, and Yousuf

Naseem, among others in a joint statement issued in Islamabad, said that the Kashmiri people will resist the 'illegal occupation' by India and the 'Hindutva agenda' of the 'RSS and BJP' in 'IIOJK.' They urged the United Nations to stop the Indian regime from such cruel undertaking and Meanwhile, undemocratic actions. APHC-'AJK' chapter's former convener, Muhammad Farooq Rehmani in a statement in Islamabad strongly castigated India for attaching the APHC office in Srinagar, saying the Indian establishment has choked the sole representative institution of the Kashmiris for their basic rights and inalienable birthright to selfdetermination. He said that the APHC has a status as an observer before the OIC and international and regional organizations and that many Indian politicians and constitutionalists have in the past remained engaged with it for finding out a solution to this international dispute of the erstwhile princely State of British India. Hence, it is against the UN Charter and the UN resolutions on Kashmir to seize the office of the organization, the only representative and collective voice for a peaceful solution to the Kashmir dispute. He urged the UN to take notice of the 'prejudicial' and 'revengeful' step of the ruling regime against the APHC and also urged the OIC to intervene.

<u>https://pakobserver.net/kashmiris-to-resist-rss-bjps-</u> <u>hindutva-agenda-in-iiojk-aphc/</u>

RSS imposing Hindutva agenda through WAQF Board in 'IIOJK'

Pakistan Observer, 1 February 2023

The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), which is in the driving seat in India is advancing its 'Hindutva agenda' in 'India illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir' (IIOJK) through the so-called Jammu and Kashmir Waqf Board, administered directly from New Delhi. The Waqf Board has issued its fresh instructions regarding the usage of public address systems which is likely to hit the centuries-long tradition of waz (an admonition), and khutba in mosques, shrines, and across the 'occupied khanqahs territory.' Without naming profreedom discussions and speeches, in the notice, the Waqf Board said, the public address system of shrines, khangahs, and mosques 'are being used unauthorisedly to raise sensitive issues and stir controversies.' The Waqf Board person...shall ordered no that henceforth use the public address system without prior permission of the concerned administrator and that all the administrators shall ensure strict compliance with the order, and any violation shall invite immediate legal action.

<u>https://pakobserver.net/rss-imposing-hindutva-agenda-through-waqf-board-in-iiojk/</u>

Armed forces of Pakistan pay tribute to Kashmiris

The Nation, 5 February 2023

Pakistan Army paid tribute to the valiant Kashmiris for their tireless

decades-long resistance against Indian oppression on Kashmir Solidarity Day. In his tweet, Director General Inter-Services Public Relations (DG-ISPR) Major General Ahmad Sharif Chaudhry shared the armed forces' message on Kashmir Solidarity Day. The DG ISPR said in a tweet that;

'Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCSC), Services Chiefs, and Armed Forces of Pakistan pay tribute to the indigenous freedom struggle of brave Kashmiris for their right to self-determination as per UN resolutions & aspirations of the people of Kashmir. No amount of Human rights violations and atrocities can suppress the spirit of Kashmiris for freedom.' The Kashmir Solidarity Day is being observed in Pakistan to highlight the Indian 'atrocities in occupied valley' and to pay rich tributes to the freedom struggle of urging Kashmiri people, the community international to take practical steps to hold New Delhi accountable 'gross for its and widespread human rights violations.'

<u>https://www.nation.com.pk/05-Feb-2023/armed-</u> <u>forces-of-pakistan-pay-tribute-to-kashmiris</u>

Pakistan spying agencies expose another Indian 'plot' to implicate Kashmiris

The Nation, 5 February 2023

Pakistan's intelligence agencies 'exposed' the script of yet another 'false flag operation' planned by Indian intelligence agencies, which was aimed to implicate Pakistan for alleged infiltration into the 'Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir' (IIOJK) and malign Pakistan before the world community. According to the script of the Indian plot, a group of Kashmiris from 'IIOJK' was to be lured for money and given the task of smuggling a small consignment of arms and drugs. The Indian intelligence agencies planned the game in a way that it would be made to look like the 'smugglers' were carrying the consignment of weapons and narcotics into 'IIOJK' allegedly at the behest of Pakistan. Under the plan, these alleged Kashmiri smugglers were then to be eliminated in a staged 'encounter' by the 'occupying forces' and Pakistan would be blamed for instigating and exporting them into the 'occupied valley.' It was also planned by the Indian intelligence agencies that 50 rifles, 30 pistols, 20 hand grenades, and 50 kilograms of drugs were to be 'recovered' from the alleged smugglers during a raid by security forces at some unknown location.

Subsequently, later, the Indian authorities were to use this 'fake operation' to malign Pakistan at the global level by spreading propaganda. Moreover, according to the plot, to give legitimacy to the entire operation and in a bid to fool their people and the international community, the Indian authorities had planned to accord 'honor' to those army officers involved in this so-called 'successful' operation with appreciation certificates. It is to be noted here that this would not be the first time Indian intelligence agencies planned have such 'false flag

operations.' Such staged encounters and operations and 'baseless accusations against Pakistan have taken place several times in the past.

https://www.nation.com.pk/05-Feb-2023/pakspying-agencies-expose-another-indian-plot-toimplicate-kashmiris

Kashmir Solidarity Day observed across the globe

The Express Tribune, 5 February 2023

People across the globe expressed solidarity with the people of 'Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir' (IIOJK) in their legitimate for the right struggle to selfdetermination by the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions and the wishes of the Kashmiri people. Embassies and missions of Pakistan organized seminars and events to highlight the longest lingering and unresolved issue on the agenda of the UN. Moreover, 'different nationalities' and expatriates also took out rallies and held protest processions in different countries. Meanwhile, in Tokyo, an event was organized on February 3, 2023, by the Embassy of Pakistan, Tokyo to mark Kashmir Solidarity Day. The Pakistani community members and Kashmiris as well as Japanese people attended the event. Syed Faiz Naqshbandi, the convener of the All Parties Hurrivat Conference, joined the event virtually. ambassador-The designate highlighted the continuous 'atrocities' being committed by 'Indian occupation' forces in 'IIOJK.' Earlier in the day, the members of the Pakistani community Kashmiris, and with banners and placards in their hands, held protests in front of the UN Office and Indian Embassy in Tokyo.

Similarly, the Embassy of Pakistan in Kabul organized an event to mark Kashmir Solidarity Day to express solidarity with their Kashmiri brethren and to pay tribute to the sacrifices made by the people of Jammu and Kashmir for their right to self-determination against the 'Indian brutal forces.' In his Charge remarks, ď Affaires Muhammad Junaid Wazir stated 75 years ago on October 27, 1947, the Indian forces 'illegally occupied' Jammu and Kashmir in connivance with Dogra Raj against the will of the Kashmiris. He said that the people of the valley were looking to the international community for justice and fulfillment of its promise of holding a plebiscite according to UNSC resolutions. Pakistan The High Commission in Canada along with the consulates Pakistan in Toronto, Vancouver, and Montreal arranged a series of events comprising pictorial demonstrations, exhibitions, and roadshows to mark the Kashmir Solidarity Day. The main event was held at the Pakistan High Commission in Ottawa where High Commissioner Zaheer Janjua addressed a gathering of the Pakistani and Kashmiri diaspora on the significance of Kashmir Solidarity Day. The high commissioner also highlighted the woes and sufferings of the Kashmiris following the 'illegal' and unilateral Indian actions of August 5, 2019. He said that India's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party was

implementing the 'Hindutva agenda' of 'Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh' (RSS) in Kashmir by 'assaulting' the Kashmiri culture and identity.

https://tribune.com.pk/story/2399600/kashmirsolidarity-day-observed-across-the-globe

J&K dispute will remain a key pillar of Pakistan's foreign policy: FM

The Nation, 5 February 2023

Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has called upon India to end its 'gross human rights violations' in 'Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and (IIOJK) and reverse its Kashmir' unilateral and illegal actions of 5 August 2019 including demographic changes. In his message on the occasion of Kashmir Solidarity Day, he said India must repeal draconian laws, allow UN-mandated investigations into cases of 'extrajudicial killings', and implement relevant UN Security Council resolutions on Jammu and Kashmir. He claimed that Jammu and Kashmir dispute will remain a key pillar of Pakistan's foreign policy.

https://www.nation.com.pk/05-Feb-2023/j-kdispute-will-remain-key-pillar-of-pakistan-sforeign-policy-fm

If a referendum can be held in East Timor and Sudan, why not in Kashmir, says PM 'AJK'

Daily Parliament Times, 5 February 2023

The Prime Minister of 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK), Tanveer Ilyas Khan while terming the unresolved Kashmir dispute as a constant threat to regional peace has said that if a referendum can be held in East Timor and Sudan, why not in Kashmir. While addressing a special session of the 'AJK' Legislative Assembly convened on the occasion of Kashmir Solidarity Day, he said that the United Nations (UN) must take effective notice of the prolonged 'military occupation' of Kashmir by India and play its role to settle the dispute in line with the UNSC resolutions. While referring to the UK role, he said that the responsibility of the UK was even more important as it quit the subcontinent while leaving the partition of India halfway. He added that today we remind the UN to complete the incomplete agenda of the partition of India.

While denouncing the PM Modi government's unilateral move to change the region's special status, he said after abrogating articles 370 and 35A the 'Hindu supremacist regime' was hell-bent on changing the region's demography aimed at converting the Muslim majority of the state into a minority. He said that India was investing heavily in 'occupied Kashmir', but Kashmiris have rejected this so-called investment by the Modi regime. While recalling Hurriyat leader Syed Ali Geelani, he said, 'Geelani had once said that even if India paves the streets of Kashmir with gold, we would still refuse to identify ourselves as Indians,' adding that Kashmiris have an enviable history and tradition of against aggressors. fighting He thanked China for opposing the holding of the G20 conference in 'Occupied Kashmir' and added that he had requested the OIC secretary general to include Kashmiris in his secretariat. He said that a package of 500 billion announced by former Prime Minister Imran Khan for 'Azad Kashmir' should be restored on an urgent basis and he also sought tax relief for people in 'AJK.'

https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2023/02/05 /if-a-referendum-can-be-held-in-east-timor-andsudan-why-not-in-kashmir-says-pm-ajk/

'AJK' President to lead a rally in the UK on Kashmir Solidarity Day

The Nation, 5 February 2023

The President of 'Azad Jammu and (AJK), Sultan Mahmood Kashmir' Chaudhry has said that the United States (US) should play its role in resolving the lingering Kashmir dispute that has been a major cause and consequence of human rights abuses in the region. He said this during a meeting with Jason McClellan, the top official of the State Department in Washington, and further stressed that it high that the was time world particularly, the US should play its role in granting the people their right to self-determination guaranteed to them by the United Nations (UN). He said that the Indian government's 05 August 2019 actions had pushed the region deeper into unending chaos and uncertainty. Meanwhile, Sultan would also lead a rally from the Indian High Commission in London to the British Minister's residence, Prime 10 Downing Street on 05 February to express solidarity with the people of 'Indian Occupied Kashmir' (IOK). The

rally being organized by the Kashmir Peace Forum International would be attended by the members of the Kashmiri and Pakistani diaspora community in the United Kingdom (UK).

https://www.nation.com.pk/05-Feb-2023/ajkpresident-to-lead-rally-in-uk-on-kashmirsolidarity-day

Malaysia's Mahathir voices concern over the plight of Kashmiris in 'IIOJK'

The Express Tribune, 5 February 2023

Dr. Mahathir Mohamad, former prime minister of Malaysia, said that the plight of the people of 'Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir' (IIOJK) had 'worsened' since the abrogation of the 'occupied valley's autonomous status in August 2019. In a video statement on the occasion of Kashmir Solidarity Day, he said that, while India continued to insist that the revocation was its right, its follow-up actions and the impact of the decision were wrong and against 'all basic principles of relations between nations.' He said that while the rest of the world imposed lockdowns to contain the spread of Covid-19, India imposed a lockdown on 'IIOJK' to contain protests and opposition to its emergency law and revocation of the autonomous status of the 'occupied territory.' He claimed that the world came to know of horrific stories of 'Indian occupation forces' extrajudicial carrying out 'mass killings', and torture and these stories continue to emerge despite repeated protests and concerns expressed by international bodies. India was

angered after then-Malaysian prime minister Mahathir said New Delhi had 'invaded and occupied', 'IIOJK' during his address in New York City at the 74th session of the United Nations General Assembly on September 27, 2019.

https://tribune.com.pk/story/2399555/malaysiasmahathir-voices-concern-over-plight-of-kashmirisin-iiojk

Economic Developments

No player payments have been made yet for the Kashmir Premier League's Season 2

Urdupoint, 30 January 2023

According to the Kashmir Premier League (KPL) management, the title sponsor of the KPL Season 2-Kingdom Valley-has embezzled millions of rupees, and as a result, payments to the players who participated in the second season have not yet been made. KPL According to management, Kingdom Valley is required to pay taxes and 13 crore 71 million 60 thousand 820 rupees as the title sponsor of KPL Season 2. Kingdom Valley has received a legal warning from KPL management for failing to pay lakhs toward season 2's title sponsorship. Kingdom Valley has been granted a 10-day grace period by the management, KPL and the management warned that beyond the grace period time, they will file a lawsuit against Kingdom Valley.

<u>https://www.urdupoint.com/pakistan/news/islamab</u> <u>ad/sports/live-news-3452635.html</u>

A contract has been made between the GB government and the 'Google for Education' technology

Urdupoint, 1 February 2023

An agreement between 'Google for Edu Technology' and the Gilgit Baltistan (GB) government has been established. The idea of using 'Google for Education' resources and technologies to implement revolutionary changes in GB's educational system. Meanwhile, the chief secretary of GB, Mohiuddin Ahmad Wani, visited the Project Albus site in Islamabad and stated that project Albus is the first step towards the digital transformation of schools, which can play a significant role in the adoption of technology and the modification of teaching and learning methods by international educational institutions. He said that a similar strategy to turn the institutions into technological hubs using Google for educational tools and technologies would be implemented in GB very soon.

<u>https://www.urdupoint.com/pakistan/news/gilgit/n</u> <u>ational-news/live-news-3455451.html</u>

Economically-strong Pakistan can ensure Kashmir freedom: PM

The Express Tribune, 5 February 2023

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif urged the nation and political leadership of the country to make efforts to make Pakistan economically and politically stable to free Kashmir from the 'Indian yoke.' While addressing a special session of 'The Azad Jammu and Kashmir' Legislative Assembly (AJKLA) on the occasion of Kashmir Solidarity Day, the prime minister said the country's economic challenges enormous and called for were shunning all political differences in the national interest. He asserted that we will have to become an economic power for the freedom of Kashmiris, and added that Pakistan's financial challenges were serious. While referring to the ongoing review of the national economy by a delegation of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) delegation, Shehbaz said that everyone will have to come together to deal with the difficult situation. He claimed that Kashmiris are rightly looking towards Pakistan and Pakistan has to repay this debt and fulfill its responsibility. If we shun inconsistency in our words and actions, we can reach our destination and add that when a society moves with unity, its goals are achieved. He dispelled 'rumors' that the UNpromised referendum in Kashmir would be delayed for 20 years and claimed there was no substance to the rumors. There cannot be a bigger conspiracy than this; neither politician nor a member of the military could have thought of it; consultation is another matter.

He said it was regrettable that divisions were apparent in society, but in Muzaffarabad, 'AJK' and in Pakistan, all the political parties, their leadership, and the assembly members were in unison, which reflected the national unity that certainly 'perturbed India.' For the last 75 years, Shehbaz said, the blood of innocent Kashmiris was spilled mercilessly in 'IIOJK.' He recalled that in 2019, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi deprived 'IIOJK' of its special status, turning the whole 'occupied valley' into an open jail. However, he added that this 'barbaric and inhuman treatment' of the Kashmiri people would not last for long. He assured that Pakistani people and all the political governments always raised their voice for the Kashmir cause and wholeheartedly supported it. Meanwhile, Shehbaz also meets a delegation of the All Parties Hurrivat Conference (APHC). During the meeting, Shehbaz emphasized that entire Pakistani nation the was standing shoulder to shoulder with their Kashmiri brothers in their struggle for freedom.

https://tribune.com.pk/story/2399586/economically -strong-pakistan-can-ensure-kashmir-freedom-pm

From Vernacular Urdu Media

The government of Pakistan must speak out in favor of Kashmiris: JI head

Daily Pakistan, 31 January 2023

According to Siraj-ul-Haq, the head of Jamaat-e-Islami (JI), if Pakistan is the body, then Kashmir is the soul, and independence of 'occupied Kashmir' is what completes Pakistan. As a result, he stressed, Pakistani government has a responsibility to speak up for Kashmiris. He opined, let me be clear: 'we can sacrifice lives, but we will not give up on the Kashmir cause.' He made these remarks during a reception honoring the leaders of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) at Mansura (Sindh). Amirul Azeem, the

secretary general of JI also spoke at the occasion. Leading members of the 'Azad Hurriyat Conference from Kashmir,' Gilgit-Baltistan (GB), Islamabad, Britain, Turkey, and other countries also attended the meeting. Siraj-ul-Haq added that the Pakistani government had been cautioned not to grant GB the status of a province since doing so would weaken Pakistan's constitutional and moral authority over the Kashmir dispute. As a result, he emphasized that this is not the wisest course of action. He also forewarned the Pakistani leaders that if the fight for 'Kashmir's independence' was not carried out in Srinagar itself, India relocate the battle would to Muzaffarabad. He continued, 'I confess Islamabad is buckling under pressure, but the Pakistani people and JI are standing firm like a leaden wall on the Kashmir problem, and the youth, mothers, and sisters of the 'occupied valley 'are also making sacrifices.' He urged the whole country to observe Kashmir Solidarity Day on February 5 with renewed vigour.

https://dailypakistan.com.pk/31-Jan-2023/1538884

JI Sindh will observe Kashmir Solidarity Day on February 5

Jasarat, 1 February 2023

According to the Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) spokesman, rallies in support of Kashmir Solidarity Day will be held on February 5 in several Sindh cities, including Karachi, Hyderabad, Sukkur, Larkana, and Jacobabad among others. JI will also host demonstrations, seminars, and protests during these rallies. The leaders of other political and social parties will also address them in addition to the central, provincial, and local leaders of JI. Kashif Saeed Sheikh, the general secretary of JI Sindh, claimed that India had transformed the Kashmir region into hell and had practiced 'severe cruelty' and 'brutality' in the 'occupied valley.' He claimed that despite all of the 'persecution' and aggressive measures, India had failed to extinguish the Kashmiri people's resolve for their freedom. Quaid-e-Azam, the creator of Pakistan, he stressed, declared Kashmir to be its aorta; as a result, Pakistan cannot be fully realized without Kashmir's liberation from India's 'illegal occupation.'

https://www.jasarat.com/2023/02/01/kashmir-dayjamaat-islami-karachi/

Pakistani citizens won't be able to live in peace until the Kashmir dispute is resolved fairly: PM Shehbaz Sharif

Jasarat, 2 February 2023

The nation of Pakistan will not be able to live in peace, according to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, until the Jammu and Kashmir conflict has been resolved fairly. He claimed that India has been infringing international law by 'illegally occupying' Jammu and Kashmir for the past 75 years. He claimed that following an illegal act on August 5, 2019, Kashmiris were walled off, and India has since escalated its 'atrocities' against them. He said that Pakistan would continue to provide its Kashmiri brothers and sisters with unshakable support, and the country will keep raising the voice of Kashmiris around the world.

https://www.jasarat.com/2023/02/02/shahbazsharif-117/

A theatre show 'Yes Mein Kashmir Hoon' will be presented on February 5 in Peshawar's Nishtar Hall in observance of Kashmir Solidarity Day

Urdupoint, 3 February 2023

To commemorate Kashmir Solidarity Day and to show support for those who are being 'persecuted' in 'occupied Kashmir', the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Culture and Tourism Authority and Green Sky Entertainment will present the theatre production 'Yes Mein Kashmir Hoon' at Nishtar Hall in Peshawar on February 5, 2023. The drama will focus on the Kashmiri freedom movement, their fight for selfdetermination, and the 'brutality' of the 'Indian Army' in Kashmir. The play is being put on by the Culture and Tourism Authority to support the people who valiantly Kashmiri endured the 'brutality of the Indian Army.'

https://www.urdupoint.com/pakistan/news/peshaw ar/national-news/live-news-3457065.html

The conflict in Kashmir is not about the territory; it's about the millions of Kashmiris' right to selfdetermination: 'AJK' PM

Jammu and Kashmir Times, 3 February 2023

According to the Prime Minister of 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK), Tanveer Ilyas Khan, Kashmir Day will

VOLUME 3 | ISSUE 5 | 30 JANUARY - 05 FEBRUARY 2023

marked with the be customary enthusiasm and zeal to show our unwavering support for our brothers and sisters in the 'occupied Kashmir.' He stated that the day would be observed throughout Pakistan and 'Azad Kashmir' with a renewed commitment to continue providing unequivocal political, moral, and diplomatic support to Kashmiris in their legitimate struggle for the right to self-determination. He also added that rallies would be held in all cities, towns, and district and tehsil offices, and human chains would be formed on all bridges linking Pakistan and 'AJK.' He reaffirmed Kashmiris' commitment to continuing their liberation fight and added that the people of Kashmir would not allow the blood of their great martyrs to go in vain. The Indian government, he claimed, was heavily influenced by the RSS, who are hellbent on changing the demographic of 'occupied Kashmir.' He emphasized that the conflict over Kashmir is not one over territory but rather one over the millions of Kashmiris' right to selfdetermination, adding that India has been holding Kashmiris prisoner by using force. He claimed that Kashmir's independence was also necessary for Pakistan to survive.

<u>http://jammukashmirtimes.com/wp-</u> <u>content/uploads/2023/02/Resize-of-front-page-</u> <u>jktimes.jpg</u>

International organizations must be deaf as they ignore the cry of oppressed Kashmiris: JI leader

Jasarat, 5 February 2023

Farid Ahmad Dr. Paracha, vice president of Jamaat-e-Islami (JI), claims that although the world and the UN are that India has aware violently 'occupied Kashmir', they are now all blind, deaf, and mute to the suffering that the 'oppressed Kashmiris' are going through. He also said that they can hear the suffering but have failed to see it or call it out. According to Paracha, Pakistan's leaders must respond to India in their language in light of India's resolve to keep 'oppressing Kashmiris.' According to the JI leader, Kashmir is Pakistan's aorta and therefore Pakistan will conquer Kashmir sooner or later. While speaking at a rally, he asserted that Pakistan and Kashmir are linked and that Pakistan will continue to support the Kashmiris.

https://www.jasarat.com/2023/02/05/dr-fareedparacha-3/

A stable and prosperous Pakistan is the guarantee of Kashmir's freedom

Jasarat, 5 February 2023

According to advocate Ziauddin Ansari, the head of Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) and Lahore, а strong, stable, prosperous Pakistan is the only guarantee for Kashmir's freedom. He asserted that because of the criminal inaction of the United Nations and our governments, India had violated Articles 370 and 35A and the dignity of Kashmiri mothers and sisters. He claimed that while Kashmiris are looking to Pakistani armed forces and government for assistance, however, these authorities are apathetic and are instead using slogans, speeches, and

songs to delay the 'liberation of Kashmir', which he said is a prime example of cowardice. Every Pakistani youngster, elder, and senior citizen is prepared to rise and take a stand against 'Indian aggression' and for Kashmir's 'liberation.' He claimed that Kashmir's independence is tied to the stability and security of Pakistan and that Kashmir is Pakistan's aorta, but regrettably, India has taken control of it, so all we can do now is protest and speak at the UN, which is abhorrent. Any compromise/deal over Kashmir and the sacrifices made by Kashmiris will not be acceptable to the entire Pakistani population. He said that the country wants to know where the Muslim League, the People's Party, the Tehreek-e-Insaf, and Maulana Fazalur-Rehman stand on Kashmir's independence. What actions has PDM made to ensure Kashmir's freedom?

https://www.jasarat.com/2023/02/05/ziauddinansari-3/

Weekly POK News Digest

Volume 3 | Issue 5

30 January - 05 February 2023

Compiled by Mohd. Usman Bhatti

Edited By Dr. Smruti S Pattanaik

Disclaimer

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



MANOHAR PARRIKAR INSTITUTE FOR DEFENCE STUDIES AND ANALYSES

No. 1, Development Enclave, Rao Tula Ram Marg New Delhi-110 010 Telephone: 91-11-26717983; Fax: 91-11-26154191 Website: www.idsa.in; Email: pokdigest@gmail.com