

Weekly POK News Digest

(A weekly news digest on Pakistan Occupied Kashmir)

Volume 4 | Issue 1

01 January - 07 January 2024

Diamer-Basha high-altitude
Rate wheat subsidy agriculture
wheat price POK
Gilgit-Baltistan
Hydro Electric Power



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

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Political Developments

Kashmiris would soon achieve the goal of freedom from India's occupation: PM of 'AJK'

Daily Parliament Times, 1 January 2024

Prime Minister of 'Azad Kashmir Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq has said that the Indian government's 5th August move and its endorsement by the Supreme Court of India has no moral or legal standing. Talking to a private TV program, the PM said that the Kashmiris on both sides of the Line of Control (LoC) have rejected this unlawful move that violates the sanctity of the UN resolutions. While referring to the historic resolution, which was adopted by the Kashmiri leaders on 19th July 1947, the PM said that the Kashmiri nation had decided to join Pakistan even months before its creation. While appreciating the Army chief, Gen. Asim Munir's bold stance on the issue of Kashmir, he said, the Army chief's statements have boosted the morale of the Kashmiri people on both sides of the dividing line.

He said that in response to the Indian Supreme Court's verdict, the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Anwar ul Haq Kakar, delivered a powerful speech in the 'AJK' Legislative Assembly. He said that despite using its brute force, India has miserably failed in its attempts to suppress the freedom movement of the Kashmiris. He expressed optimism that the Kashmiris would soon achieve the goal of freedom from 'India's occupation' and become a part of Pakistan. He said that

the United Nations Charter also gives Kashmiris the right to self-determination. We will teach India a lesson if it resorts to misadventure, the PM said. He claimed that minorities in India were being persecuted by Hindu fanatics being aided and abetted by the Modi government.

He said that the base camp government would utilize all available resources to promote and project the Kashmir cause at every world forum. The PM said that his sole mission was to serve his countrymen. In response to a query, he said that a strong and prosperous Pakistan is the center of the Kashmiris' hopes. He said that the armed forces of Pakistan were the defenders of the country's geographical and ideological frontiers.

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2024/01/01/pm-ajk-says-the-indian-governments-5th-august-move-and-its-endorsement-by-the-sc-of-india-has-no-moral-or-legal-standing/>

Pakistan condemns ban on Tehreek-e-Hurriyat Party in 'IIOJK'

The Nation, 2 January 2024

Pakistan has strongly condemned the Indian authorities' decision to declare the Tehreek-e-Hurriyat Party in Jammu and Kashmir as an 'unlawful association' for five years. In a statement, Foreign Office Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said that the banning of political parties is part of India's relentless campaign to subjugate the Kashmiri people, suppress dissent, and consolidate its 'occupation' of the 'Indian Illegally

Occupied Jammu and Kashmir' (IOJK). Mumtaz Zahra Baloch emphasized that India must lift the ban on all political parties unlawfully outlawed in 'IOJK', and respect the fundamental rights and freedoms of the Kashmiri people.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/02-Jan-2024/pakistan-condemns-ban-on-tehreek-e-hurriyat-party-in-iojk>

LFK releases annual report on state repression in 'IOJK'

Pakistan Observer, 2 January 2024

The Legal Forum for Kashmir (LFK) released its annual report, titled 'Human Rights Situation in Indian Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IOJK): January to December 2023.' According to Kashmir Media Service, the LFK's annual report aims to shed light on the ongoing human rights situation in the 'Indian-Occupied Jammu & Kashmir' (IOJK). It presents an in-depth analysis of various human rights issues, including heightened militarization, land grabbing by the 'Indian occupation forces' and the authorities, excessive use of force against non-combatants, extrajudicial killings, torture, and arbitrary detentions, prohibition of the public assembly, mass imprisonments, curbs on press and freedom of speech, nomenclature and demographic changes with a larger settler colonial design. According to the LFK annual report, January-December 2023 saw a new trend of state repression and counterinsurgency operations in the war-trampled region of 'IOJK.' On the ground, the violations of International Human Rights law (IHL) and International

Humanitarian law (IHL) led to appalling human tragedies. A total of 260 Cordon and Search Operations (CASOs) were reported by the local media which are just a fraction of the total Search Operations launched by the occupation forces.

This year so far LFK has recorded 248 killings in multiple incidents of violence across 'IOJK.' The armed actions against the native population as a result of heightened military presence have resulted in the killing of 82 Indigenous freedom fighters and 100 Indian troops from Jan to December 2023. At least 70 encounters took place between the Indian forces and the freedom fighters of Kashmir. During these CASOs, vandalism, and destruction of 138 civilian properties were reported. Also, 171 instances of Internet shutdown were reported. India's Infamous investigation agencies National Investigation Agency (NIA) and State Investigation Agency (SIA) attached 200 properties across 'IOJK' in the year 2023. Police claimed to have secured direct cooperation from social media giants, including WhatsApp, X, Snapchat, Instagram, Telegram, and TikTok. LFK reports the torture and custodial deaths at Dhera Ki Gali and Buffliaz in the Poonch and Rajouri twin districts. According to the families, the three men – Mohammad Showkat, 22, Safer Hussain, 45, and Shabir Ahmad, 32, were detained by the Indian army at the hilly Topa Pir village in Poonch district on 22 December 2023, stripped naked and sprayed chili powder over

their sensitive parts before killing them. The 'occupational' authorities and their auxiliaries seized over 178005.213 acres in the Kashmir region and 25159.56 acres in Jammu.

<https://pakobserver.net/lfk-releases-annual-report-on-state-repression-in-iiojk/>

Modi's normalcy mantra in question after army gets 50 Armado vehicles for 'IIOJK' operations

Daily Times, 3 January 2024

In contravention of its normalcy propaganda, the Narendra Modi-led Indian government is equipping its army with specially designed bullet-proof Light Specialist Vehicles (ALSVs) to suppress the ongoing freedom movement in 'occupied Jammu and Kashmir' (OJK). According to Kashmir Media Service, the Indian army will get around 50 advanced Armado vehicles for its troops in 'OJK'. Indian army officials said that given the recent attacks on army vehicles in Rajouri and Poonch districts along the Line of Control (LOC), nearly 50 more advanced bullet-proof vehicles have been sanctioned. They said the introduction of advanced armado vehicles would help the soldiers eliminate militancy. "With an increase in the number of advanced bullet-proof Armado vehicles in the border districts of Rajouri and Poonch, the Army will now become more augmented, they added.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1157291/modis-normalcy-mantra-in-question-after-army-gets-50-armado-vehicles-for-iiojk-operations/>

Dr. Fai lauds S. Africa's move against Israel and seeks a similar case against India in the ICC

Pakistan Observer, 3 January 2024

A prominent Kashmiri leader has said that South Africa's move to sue Israel in the world court for 'genocidal acts' in Gaza and a similar case filed by Gambia against Myanmar for atrocities against Rohingya Muslims were 'significant' steps towards addressing human rights abuses committed against civilians. Filing of an application at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) may take the veil of secrecy off of the alleged human rights violations, Dr Ghulam Nabi Fai, Chairman of World Forum for Peace & Justice, said in a statement. Perhaps now the global community can share the outrage felt by the people of the region, Dr Fai said, hoping the world would now turn its attention to Kashmir where atrocities of a similar pattern are being perpetrated by the 900,000 Indian forces with impunity.

The scale of the human rights atrocities in Kashmir dwarfs those in Kosovo, Bosnia, Sierra Leone, and East Timor which have triggered international interventions, he alleged. But the world powers and the United Nations have remained silent, not even employing moral suasion against India's shocking indiscriminate violence in Kashmir as was done in South Africa during its ugly years of apartheid. Pointing out that Dr. Gregory Stanton, President of the Genocide Watch, had warned the world community in 2021 that the Indian government's actions in

Kashmir had been an extreme case of persecution and could lead to genocide, he regretted that there was no response to the sounding of that alarm. It is painful to note the virtual immunity Indian law gives to any type of 'war crime against humanity perpetrated in Kashmir,' Dr Fai claimed.

<https://pakobserver.net/dr-fai-lauds-s-africas-move-against-israel-seeks-similar-case-against-india-in-icc/>

Kashmiris observing Right to Self-Determination Day today

The Nation, 5 January 2024

Kashmiris on both sides of the Line of Control and the world over are observing Right to Self-Determination Day today (Friday) with the pledge to continue their struggle till the achievement of their internationally acknowledged inalienable right. Call for observance of the day has been given by the All Parties Hurriyat Conference. It was on 5th January 1949 when the UN Security Council passed a resolution supporting the Kashmiris' right to decide their future by themselves under an UN-supervised plebiscite. Over seven decades have lapsed, but no concrete steps have been taken by the UN to implement the resolutions of 13th August 1948 and 5th January 1949. The situation in 'occupied Kashmir' has worsened since 05 August 2019 when the Narendra Modi-led fascist Indian government revoked the special status of the territory. In 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK), protest

demonstrations, rallies, seminars, and other programs will be held in all districts to draw world attention toward the sufferings of the Kashmiri people in 'Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir' (IIOJK). In Muzaffarabad, Hurriyat organizations including Pasban-e-Hurriyathave have arranged rallies at Shaheed Burhan Muzaffarwani Chowk. The participants of the rallies will march towards the UN Observer Mission Office in Muzaffarabad.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/05-Jan-2024/kashmiris-observing-right-to-self-determination-day-today>

PM directs envoys to project Pak stance on Kashmir, Palestine

The Nation, 6 January 2024

Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar has directed diplomats to effectively highlight Pakistan's position on the Kashmir and the Palestine issues. The Prime Minister issued these directives while meeting with the Ambassador of Pakistan to the United States Masood Khan and High Commissioner of Pakistan to UK Dr. Muhammad Faisal. Masood Khan and Dr. Muhammad Faisal briefed the Prime Minister about the performance of their missions and took instructions from him about the country's foreign policy. Meanwhile, Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Munir Akram, also called on the PM. During the meeting, the PM directed him to effectively highlight Pakistan's stance on the Kashmir issue at the United Nations.

The PM said identification of opportunities for the economic welfare of the country at the global level should be the topmost priority of all diplomatic representatives of Pakistan. Kakar appreciated Munir Akram for effectively raising the Palestine issue at the United Nations. The Prime Minister said Pakistani diplomats should conduct roadshows to attract foreign investors for projects launched under the platform of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC). He instructed both diplomats to identify new and unique opportunities for economic cooperation at the international level.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/06-Jan-2024/pm-directs-envoys-to-project-pak-stance-on-kashmir-palestine>

Indian administration continues to plunder 'IIOJK' resources

Pakistan Observer, 7 January 2024

Indian administration in 'occupied Jammu and Kashmir' (OJK) continues to plunder the resources of the territory as, despite the severe power crisis, the electricity generated in the region is provided to the Indian state of Rajasthan and the agreement has been finalized. According to Kashmir Media Service, the Ratle Hydro Electric Power Corporation Limited (RHPCL), a collaboration between National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) Limited and Jammu and Kashmir State Power Development Corporation (JKSPDC), has finalized a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with Rajasthan Urja Vikas and IT Services

Limited. This agreement pertains to the procurement of power generated from the 850 MW Ratle Hydroelectric Project in Kishtwar, 'IIOJK.' The PPA spans 40 years from the Commercial Operation Date (COD) of the project, following the power allocation specified by the Ministry of Power, Government of India.

The signing of the PPA took place in Jaipur on 3 January 2024, in the presence of senior officials from RHPCL and Rajasthan Urja Vikas and IT Services Limited. However, the recent power purchase agreement has sparked concerns among regional parties in 'OJK' as the people of the territory have been facing the worst kind of electricity crisis. Imran Nabi Dar, spokesperson for the National Conference called for clarification, expressing unease over the extended duration of the agreement, which typically lasts for a maximum of 20 years. He emphasized the need for transparency, urging the government to release a white paper detailing the agreement's purpose and the anticipated benefits for Jammu and Kashmir.

<https://pakobserver.net/indian-administration-continues-to-plunder-iiojk-resources/>

Economic Developments

Over 11,000 foreign climbers and tourists visited GB in 2023

Dawn, 1 January 2024

In the summer season of 2023, Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) witnessed a notable influx of over 2,050 foreign climbers and

trekkers, apart from around 9,000 foreign tourists. The GB government collected Rs40.5 million in permit fees for climbing peaks during this period. The tourism department reported that over 9,000 foreign tourists, including paragliders and trekkers in open zones, explored GB in 2023. Among the visitors, 2,050 foreign climbers and trekkers endeavored to ascend various peaks, including the renowned five eight-thousanders: K2, Nanga Parbat, Gasherbrum-I, Gasherbrum-II, and Broad Peak. This marked the highest number of foreign tourists visiting the region in the past two decades. Tour operators suggested that implementing specific measures could further attract a greater number of foreign tourists, while simultaneously criticising the role of the tourism department. Numerous foreign tourists faced challenges visiting GB due to visa complexities and related issues. Mohammad Ali, representing the Pakistan Association of Tour Operators, pointed out what he called the intricate and time-consuming nature of the visa process.

According to him, obtaining a Pakistan visa after application takes several months. The prolonged delays and security clearance procedures compel many foreigners to abandon their plans to visit Pakistan, Mr Ali said. Asghar Ali Porik, a tour operator from GB, pointed out the complications faced by foreign tourists, mountaineers, and trekkers in applying for visas. He noted that the online visa application form, available on the official website, is only in English, restricting tourists from

countries with other languages. Mr Porik explained that there are two visa categories for Pakistan: tourist visa and mountaineering/trekking visa. The dual categories sometimes confuse foreigners during the application process. Although the tourist visa is supposed to be issued within a week, and the mountaineering/trekking visa within a month, the actual issuance after security clearance often takes more time. This uncertainty causes foreigners to reconsider and, in some cases, cancel their planned visits to Pakistan.

A significant number of foreign tourists encountered difficulties when attempting to visit GB due to visa complexities and associated issues. Mr Ali, a representative of the Pakistan Association of Tour Operators, stressed the intricate and time-consuming nature of the visa application process. Mr Ali underscored that the extended delays and security clearance procedures force many foreigners to reconsider and ultimately abandon their plans to visit Pakistan. Mr Porik, a tour operator from GB, highlighted the challenges faced by foreign tourists, mountaineers, and trekkers when applying for visas.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1802229/over-11000-foreign-climbers-tourists-visited-gb-in-2023>

Protests erupt in Gilgit-Baltistan against increase in wheat price

Dawn, 3 January 2024

Protest demonstrations and sit-ins started across Gilgit-Baltistan (GB)

amid freezing temperatures against an increase in the price of subsidised wheat and other issues. The protesters announced to continue their sit-ins daily in all districts till acceptance of their demands. The call for protests has been given by the Awami Action Committee (ACC). The GB government recently increased the subsidised wheat price from Rs20 kg to Rs36 per kg. In June last year, the government led by then chief minister Khalid Khurshid Khan increased the price from Rs12 per kg to Rs20 per kg. The protest demonstrations were held on Tuesday at Yadgar-i-Shuhada Skardu, Siddiq-i-Akbar Chowk Chillas, Etehad Chowk Gilgit, and various areas of Diamer, Nagar, Hunza, Astore, Ghanche, Ghizer, Shigar and Kharmang.

Large numbers of people from various political groups, civil society organisations, trade unions, and transport and tourism sectors participated in the demonstrations, chanting slogans against both the GB and federal governments for increasing the price of the subsidised wheat. They vowed to continue their protest till the withdrawal of the decision and acceptance of their demands. Meanwhile, speaking to the protesters at Etehad Chowk in Gilgit, AAC chief coordinator Ehsan Ali Advocate said the movement had been launched for the rights of the masses. He said it had been decided that protest sit-ins would be held in all districts for two hours daily till acceptance of their demands. He said the GB government had not

consulted the local people before increasing the prices.

The committee also issued a charter of demands which said the price of the subsidised wheat should be restored to the 2022 level. It also demanded that the Finance Act 2023 should be suspended and all taxes imposed on GB people be abolished. Moreover, it also called for an end to the prolonged electricity crisis. It said GB should be given its share in the National Finance Commission (NFC) award like other provinces of the country. The charter of demand included a demand for an 80 percent royalty of Diamer-Basha Dam net hydel profit and water usage rights. People related to the hotel, transportation, and tourism sectors should be given the status of industry. Medical, engineering colleges, and a women's university should be established in GB, and all traditional routes of GB should be restored. The opposition leader in the GB assembly Kazim Mesum and members from the opposition benches have already supported the protest against the hike in the wheat price.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1802700/protests-erupt-in-gilgit-baltistan-against-increase-in-wheat-price>

China to help modernise GB agriculture sector

The Nation, 3 January 2024

China will help the government of Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) in modernising its agriculture sector by employing advanced high-mountain technology

and machinery. Under a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the GB government and China's Gansu province, the latter would facilitate the transfer of advanced high-mountain agriculture technology and machinery to the former. The MoU marks a significant step forward in strengthening the partnership between Gansu province and GB. It aligns with the GB government's strategy to mitigate food shortages in the region by utilising China's advanced agricultural technology and modern irrigation methods. The transfer 'marks a crucial step towards transforming the agricultural landscape in the region,' said Ghulamullah Saqib, a deputy director at the GB agriculture department.

He said that this collaboration aims to address the immediate need for increasing crop production and establishing long-term agricultural resilience in the region. Due to its challenging topography and distinctive climate, GB possesses significant potential for high-altitude agriculture, he added. The transfer of technology and machinery will be instrumental in enhancing the local capacity to produce crops in high-altitude regions. This will empower farmers to navigate the complexities of high-altitude agriculture and help them achieve higher yields. The long-term effects of this collaboration will be far-reaching, he underscored.

Saqib pointed out that merely two percent of the entire land area in GB is

suitable for cultivation. Within this limited arable land, farming activities are currently confined to a mere one percent. Alarming, the remaining one percent faces a critical water crisis, exacerbating the challenges associated with agricultural production in the region. However, Saqib emphasised the need for a comprehensive approach that considers environmental sustainability and the preservation of the region's unique ecosystem. While increasing agricultural productivity is crucial, it's equally important to adopt environmentally responsible practices. The collaboration should integrate strategies for soil conservation, water management, and biodiversity preservation to ensure the long-term viability of agriculture in GB," he stressed. This collaboration is a testament to the power of international partnerships in addressing region-specific challenges. It goes beyond technology transfer; it fosters knowledge exchange, capacity building, and the cultivation of a resilient agricultural ecosystem, he pointed out.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/03-Jan-2024/china-to-help-modernise-gb-agriculture-sector>

1000 sacks of wheat were recovered during a raid in Gilgit

Dailyk2, 4 January 2024

Under the supervision of the Secretary Food Department, Gilgit-Baltistan (GB), Usman Ahmed, a thousand bags of 100 kg wheat unlawfully dumped at a flour mill in Jaglot Goro were seized, the flour mill was sealed, and a truck

with a civil supply employee and the driver was impounded. According to details, on the special instructions of Chief Secretary GB, a team led by Secretary Food Department Usman Ahmed, Director General Anti-Corruption Khurshid Ahmed, and their team raided various warehouses of the Food Department, and when irregularities were discovered, an employee of the Food Department, Shah Alam, was arrested and an investigation was launched. The GB's anti-corruption department has been very active recently, and operations against illegal wheat trafficking are still ongoing.

<https://www.dailyk2.com/Post/19424>

From Vernacular Urdu Media

The overseas Kashmiri community should play a role in raising the voices of oppressed Kashmiris in 'occupied Kashmir:' President of 'AJK'

Jammu and Kashmir Times, 1 January 2024

The president of 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK), Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry has stated that the Kashmiri expatriate community should play an important role in drawing attention to the human rights violations done by India in 'Occupied Jammu and Kashmir' (OJK) at the international level. Speaking to a delegation of Kashmiri expatriates led by Lord Mayor of Manchester Yasmin Dar, the president stated that the diaspora community should become the voice of the oppressed Kashmiri people who

have been reeling under Indian barbarism and brutality in the 'OJK). On the occasion, Chaudhry commended the role of the overseas Kashmiri community and its significant support to the Kashmir cause.

He stated that the aim and emphasis of his entire life have been to mobilise the diaspora population and emphasise the liberation movement on the diplomatic front. He stressed that the Kashmiri community in the United Kingdom and other regions of the world may play an important role in educating the world about the importance of resolving the Kashmir dispute as soon as possible. He stated that elected lawmakers, councilors, and community leaders may play a vital role in mobilising British legislators and human rights organisations on the Kashmir problem. The delegation included Councilor Majid Khan, Chairman of the Jammu and Kashmir Self-determination Movement Raja Najjabat Hussain, Kanwal Hayat, and others.

<http://jammukashmirtimes.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Resize-of-fds.jpg>

Indian army martyred 120 Kashmiris and injured 107 in 2023

Nawairwaqt, 2 January 2024

During the year 2023, the Indian army killed 120 innocent Kashmiris, including four elderly women and many youths, and injured 102 in 'Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir' (IIOJK). According to a report released by the Kashmir Media

Service's Research Section, 41 of the martyrs were slain in bogus encounters and captivity. One Hindu in prison was also killed by Indian police in Jorian police station in 'IIOJK', and another Hindu was killed by Indian troops in Jammu district's Showara Khour Akhnoor area. According to the report, the killings by troops, paramilitaries, and police personnel left 18 women widowed and 58 children orphaned, while the Indian forces assaulted, humiliated, or disgraced 7 women over the year. The report further claimed that Indian forces damaged 13 private homes and structures in the region. It said that at least 107 people were injured as a result of the use of force, and 3,610 people, including Hurriyat leaders, activists, students, and women, were arrested during house raids and cordon and search operations conducted by Indian troops and police officers in the area. Many of those arrested were charged under the Public Safety Act (PSA) and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA). Dozens of APHC leaders among others were detained this year.

The Indian authorities barred worshippers from offering Friday prayers at Srinagar's ancient Jamia Masjid 11 times, as well as other religious ceremonies such as Shab-e-Baraat, Shabe Qadr, and Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAW) gatherings. The report said that resistance leaders, including APHC Chairman Masarrat Alam Butt, Muhammad Yasin Malik, Shabbir Ahmed Shah, Nayeem Ahmed Khan, Aasiya Andrabi, Naheeda Nasreen,

and human rights defender Khurram Parvaiz among other dissenters continued to remain in detention in Delhi's Tihar Jail in fake cases. The report claimed that over 4,000 people, including Mushtaq ul Islam, Maulvi Bashir Ahmed, and Zaffar Akbar Butt, among others remained in different jails of 'IIOJK.' Similarly, at least 14 Kashmiri Muslim employees were suspended or terminated from their services by the BJP regime. The Modi regime attached at least 72 assets in the area, including agricultural grounds, houses, and shops, to quiet the call for self-determination. It claimed that the Indian army martyred seven Kashmiris in December 2023 alone, with three of those killed in detention. During the month, at least 97 youngsters, including women, were arrested. According to the report, the Indian army has martyred 852 Kashmiris since the 5th of August 2019, when the Modi-led Hindutva government removed the 'IIOJK's special status. It went on to say that 96,285 Kashmiris had died as a result of Indian gunshots and extrajudicial killings in the 'occupied' region over the last 35 years.

<https://www.nawawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/AJK/2024-01-02/page-1>

Kashmiris intend to mark January 5 as Right to Self-Determination Day: Hurriyat Conference

Jammu and Kashmir Times, 3 January 2024

The All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) has announced that Kashmiris

will mark 5 January as Right to Self-Determination Day by organising protests, rallies, seminars, and other programs to draw international attention to the importance of resolving the long-standing Kashmir dispute to prevent Jammu and Kashmir from becoming another Palestine. As per the Kashmir Media Service, an APHC spokeswoman stated in a statement issued in Srinagar that the unresolved Kashmir dispute calls the UN's credibility into question and that if the UN wants to restore its credibility it needs to implement its resolutions on Kashmir without further delay. On 5 January 1949, the UN Security Council enacted a historic resolution stating that the question of accession of the State of Jammu and Kashmir to India or Pakistan would be decided through the democratic method of a free and impartial plebiscite.

The APHC claimed that seven decades have passed, yet the scheduled plebiscite has yet to take place and that India has transformed Kashmir into a massive jail by sending over a million troops into the 'occupied' territory. It further claims that the Indian army with the authority to kill Kashmiris is trampling humanity under their jackboots and that martyrdom of nearly one lakh Kashmiris, demolition of thousands of houses and structures, molestation, and blinding youth are clear indicators of India's will to annihilate Kashmiris and occupy their territory. It claimed that the Hindutva BJP-RSS administration has shattered all prior records of brutality as of 5

August 2019. It employs Israeli-style techniques to deprive Kashmiris of their economy and property while imposing its diabolical Hindutva agenda in 'IIOJK.' Issuing citizenship to thousands of non-Kashmiris, granting them property rights in 'occupied' territory, and enacting various anti-Kashmir and anti-Muslim policies have made Hindutva forces' nefarious objectives clear: they seek to deprive Kashmiris of their identity, culture, and land.

<http://jammukashmirtimes.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Resize-of-BACK-PAGE-2.jpg>

The Pakistan Army Commander-in-Chief has always backed Kashmiris: PM of 'Azad Kashmir'

UrduPoint, 7 January 2024

The Prime Minister of 'Azad Kashmir,' Chaudhry Anwar Haq, declared that he and his forefathers advocated for the merger of the entire state of Jammu and Kashmir with Pakistan and that he will never compromise on the Kashmiris' freedom fight as long as he lives. He stated that our goal is to complete Kashmir's independence and embrace Pakistan. He stated that the leaders of Pakistan and Kashmir have rejected the Indian Supreme Court's recent decision upholding the repeal of Article 370. He claimed that while Kashmiris enjoying complete freedom in 'Azad Kashmir,' significant human rights violations were taking place in 'Occupied Kashmir.' He warned PM Modi not to stage a scene along the Line of Control during the 2024 elections, adding that if

India conducts such an expedition in 'Azad Kashmir', we will teach them a lesson by entering India. He declared that the moment had come for Indian forces to withdraw from 'occupied Kashmir.'

<https://www.urdupoint.com/pakistan/news/kotli/national-news/live-news-3872131.html>

From Social Media

Araib Ali Baig @The_North_Blood

3 January 2024

This is not Palestine, nor is this Balochistan. This is Gilgit-Baltistan, which is a disputed region, so all the rights of the disputed region should be given, even in this freezing weather people protested.

#gilgitbaltistan #wheat #subsidy #baltistan #skardu #disputed.

Video link:

https://twitter.com/The_North_Blood/status/1742593831076237604

WAJAHAT ALI @wajahatgilgiti

5 January 2024

Protest continues for third day in Gilgit. Leaders sitting in the assembly not as a public representative but as a facilitator of the federation: Faizan Mir.

#gilgitbaltistan #wheat #subsidy #movement #protest #strike #gilgit #city.

Video link:

<https://twitter.com/wajahatgilgiti/status/1743291936432161043>

Roshan Din Diameri @Rohshan_Din

7 January 2024

In different areas of Gilgit-Baltistan, protest sit-in against wheat subsidy, abolition of health card, poor internet and lack of electricity facilities has entered the thirteenth day. #GilgitBaltistan

Images link:

https://twitter.com/Rohshan_Din/status/1743951431764517307

Zaheer Shigri @Zaheerm_Shigri

8 January 2024

As the protest in #Gilgit-Baltistan are turning into a huge movement, here we are witnessing unity among different sects & if it continues then it would create trouble for govt. So they will strife to create sectarian difference but we should understand it and stay united.

https://twitter.com/Zaheerm_Shigri/status/1744220133822976249

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01 January - 07 January 2024

Compiled by

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Dr. Smruti S Pattanaik

Disclaimer

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