

Weekly POK News Digest

(A weekly news digest on Pakistan Occupied Kashmir)

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employment development package
POK infrastructure
resource augmentation
cellular spectrum
spectrum auction
mega-development package
tourism



MANOHAR PARRIKAR INSTITUTE FOR
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Political Developments

'World must stop human rights violations in Indian held Kashmir'

Op-ed, The Express Tribune, September 27 2021

For over seven decades, people of "Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir" (IIOJK), have struggled to realise their inalienable right to self-determination. This right was guaranteed to them by the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), the international community, and both India and Pakistan, the parties to the Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) dispute. But India reneged on its commitment, refusing to implement the UNSC resolutions by holding an impartial plebiscite under the auspices of the UN to let the Kashmiris decide their future. India has tried to muzzle the voice of the Kashmiri people through the use of force which has increased in brutality and oppression after 5 August 2019. Often termed a nuclear flashpoint, the J&K dispute endangers regional as well as international peace and security. At the same time, its humanitarian dimensions deserve particular attention and therefore resolution of this core dispute is also key to unlocking the true potential of development and regional cooperation in South Asia.

In line with Prime Minister (PM) Imran Khan's declaration to take two steps for peace if India takes one, a meeting between foreign ministers of Pakistan and India was planned on the sidelines of the UN general assembly session in September 2018 which was cancelled.

However, our peace overtures were undoubtedly "misconstrued as weakness by the Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP) and Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) combine that thrives on anti-Muslim, anti-minority and anti-Pakistan rhetoric and policies." India failed to translate bravado into action when, in February 2019, its misadventure across the Line of Control backfired. Pakistan shot down two Indian Air Force planes and captured an Indian pilot who was later returned as a gesture of peace.

Despite BJP's dangerous record of scuttling peace, PM Imran Khan congratulated Modi on his electoral victory in May 2019 and expressed the desire to build peace in the region. India chose not to respond to that and the BJP had other ideas. They sought, illegally and unilaterally, to change the status of Indian-held Kashmir with nearly a million troops, it imposed a military siege on 8 million Kashmiris, imprisoned the entire Kashmiri political leadership, and detained thousands of Kashmiri youth. Draconian laws, communications blackout, and denial of access to international media and observers created a climate of impunity in which systematic and gross violations of human rights including enforced disappearances and extra-judicial killings have continued unabated. All this flies in the face of UNSC resolutions and international law, particularly the 4th Geneva Convention. Ironically, "India, the perpetrator," wants a permanent seat at the UNSC.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2322072/world-must-stop-human-rights-violations-in-iiojk>

AJK President meets Governor of Punjab: Call for resolution of Kashmir issue as per UN resolutions

The Nation, September 27 2021

Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) President, Barrister Sultan Mehmood had a meeting with the Punjab Governor, Mohammad Sarwar at Governor House, Lahore. Both the leaders discussed a wide range of issues including, Kashmir, Prime Minister (PM), Imran Khan's address at the United Nations (UN), and other political and governmental matters. While appreciating PM, Imran Khan for advocating the cause of Kashmir at the United Nations (UN), both the leaders maintained that the Kashmir issue should be resolved under the UN resolutions for the establishment of peace in the region.

The governor of Punjab said that PM, Imran Khan had exposed Indian oppression of Kashmiris in front of the world as a true and strong ambassador of Kashmir. He stressed that "due to the current leadership of Pakistan, the voice of Kashmiris is being heard around the world and Indian terrorism is getting exposed in front of the world." He further opined that there was no denying the fact that the present Indian government and the Indian army were carrying out horrible acts of violence in Kashmir. He noted that until the resolution of the Kashmir issue, the dream of peace in the region cannot be realized. He maintained that the way people of Kashmir are struggling for freedom, "Kashmir will surely be liberated from Indian occupation" as India is alone and exposed at the international level. AJK President Barrister Sultan Mehmood said that India cannot silence the voice of Kashmiris by the power of guns. The

world should take immediate and strict notice of India's human rights violations.

<https://nation.com.pk/27-Sep-2021/governor-ajk-president-call-for-resolution-of-kashmir-issue-as-per-un-resolutions>

Pakistan refuted 'baseless Indian propaganda of killing militant' along LoC

The Express Tribune, September 29 2021

Pakistan, Foreign Office (FO) Spokesperson, Asim Iftikhar, while responding to the news circulating in the Indian media about the arrest of a Pakistan based militant and killing another near the Line of Control (LoC), said that "such allegations are the established Indian tactics to mischievously implicate Pakistan and divert world attention from its heinous activities in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK)." He asserted that Pakistan has categorically rejected the "baseless propaganda" by terming it an attempt to divert focus from the grave human rights violations in the occupied territory.

The FO spokesperson further noted that Pakistan had shared "incontrovertible evidence" with the world about India's serious human rights violations in "occupied Kashmir", through a dossier with "concrete evidence." He stated that as a matter of fact, thousands of young Kashmiris are imprisoned in Indian jails on fabricated charges, and then they are produced before the world as "alleged militants" whenever India feels the pressure from the international community.

The FO spokesperson further noted that Pakistan is "seriously concerned" about the recent Indian attempts to vitiate the environment in and around

the LoC. Though, he stressed that Pakistan is “maintaining restraint, despite the Indian provocations,” in line with the Director General of Military Operations’ (DGMO), understanding of February 2021 regarding the ceasefire along the LoC.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2322373/pakistan-rubbishes-baseless-indian-propaganda-of-killing-militant-along-loc>

‘Establish Commission of Inquiry to investigate Human Rights Violations in Kashmir:’ KIIR to UN

Pakistan Observer, September 30 2021

Chairman of Kashmir Institute of International Relations (KIIR), and permanent representatives of World Muslim Congress (WMC), Altaf Hussain Wani has urged the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) to intensify its efforts to establish a commission of inquiry in line with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) recommendations to investigate human rights violations in the Indian held territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

Taking part in the debate held under Item-4 during the 48th session of the human rights council in Geneva, Wani briefed the world audience about the worsening political and human rights situation in the Indian-held territory.

He further noted that ‘most of the credible outlets of international media and human rights organizations, including UN have been reporting on the killings, torture, intimidation and judicial harassment against activists and journalists, and other mass human rights violation in Kashmir but the Indian government’s is still uninclined to refrain from hiding its crimes.’ The

KIIR chief said that, recently, the police in Jammu and Kashmir raided the homes of many Kashmiri journalists, and confiscated their phones, laptops, and Passports.

The Indian authorities, he said, have brought politically motivated criminal cases, including under broadly worded terrorism and sedition laws, against political leaders of Kashmir including Shabir Ahmed Shah, M. Yasin Malik, Nayeem Ahmed Khan, Massrat Alam Butt, Asiya Andrabi, and others languishing in Indian Jails without trial.

<https://pakobserver.net/establish-commission-of-inquiry-to-investigate-hrvs-in-kashmir-kiir-to-un/>

Economic Developments

The first 4G spectrum for AJK and GB auctioned for more than 30 million

Dailyk2, September 29 2021

The first-ever cellular spectrum auction for Next Generation Mobile Services (NGMS) in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) and Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) has been completed, which generated revenue of \$30.5 million. Four mobile companies have participated in the spectrum auction. Telenor Pakistan Limited acquired 1.2 megahertz (MHz) in the 1800 MHz band for 1,044,000, while China Mobile Pakistan (CMPak) Telecommunication Operator, Zong acquired 1.2 MHz in the 1,800 MHz bands for 1,044,000. Similarly, Ufone, Pakistan Telecom Mobile Limited managed to get 1.2 MHz in the 1800 MHz band for 10.44 million while Telenor got 15 MHz in the 2100 MHz band for one crore 13 million.

According to Federal Minister for Information Technology Syed Aminul

Haq, successful companies will be responsible for at least 50% payment in a month. He noted that the chairman of the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) and the entire team deserve congratulations on the successful conduct of the spectrum auction. The Federal Minister said that the spectrum auction will provide broadband services to 9 million customers of AJK and GB and within 6 months of the auction, consumers will get a clear difference in the speed of mobile internet. Amin-ul-Haq said that after broadband services, tourism, health, education, and business activities in the region will be relieved.

<https://www.dailyk2.com/Post/3637>

AJK PM applauds MTBC role in growing employment ratio

Daily Parliament Times, September 29 2021

The Executive Chairman of Medical Transcription and Billing Company (MTBC), Mehmood ul-Haq met Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) Prime Minister (PM) Sardar Abdul Qayyum Niazi and briefed him about the ongoing projects of his organisation. The AJK PM lauded the role of MTBC in creating vast employment opportunities in AJK and Gilgit Baltistan (GB). He said that the government is working on a comprehensive development oriented program to overcome unemployment and a policy for the promotion of tourism is also being prepared to boost tourism in the state. He stressed that the investments of Information Technology (IT) companies in AJK will not only help in eradicating the issue of unemployment but it will also help in resolving the issues related to the economy.

While briefing the PM, the Chairman of MTBC said that his organisation is currently the largest private company in AJK that is providing employment to thousands of people. He requested PM to hand over the outmoded properties to MTBC under public-private partnership (PPP) so that his company would renew them, which would create more employment opportunities. He also noted that MTBC will shortly launch a comprehensive visit to the Kashmir program to boost tourism in the state. In this connection Helicopter and Kashmir Airline would be set up to facilitate the tourists to visit different places of AJK to help boost the domestic and international tourism in the state.

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2021/09/29/194979/>

AJK Government and Pakistan Planning Division to work together on Development Projects

Daily Parliament Times, September 29 2021

Prime Minister (PM) of 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK), Sardar Abdul Qayyum Niazi, and Pakistan Federal Minister for Planning and Development, Asad Umar, held a meeting in Islamabad. Both the leaders discussed the strategies to implement the vision of PM of Pakistan Imran Khan for the development of 'AJK.' PM of 'AJK' thanked the PM of Pakistan and his Cabinet for holding high-level meetings to pave the way for development and resource augmentation for 'AJK'. He noted that under the dynamic leadership of PM Imran Khan, 'AJK' would be the cradle of development and prosperity and maintained that the historic development package for the people of

'AJK' will extend basic amenities of life to the people of the state at their doorstep.

Federal Minister, Asad Umar, said that the development package for 'AJK' will be the same as the development package for other parts of Pakistan. He reiterated that the Pakistan planning division and the 'AJK' government will work together to finalize the infrastructure in the areas of tourism, Hydel, education, and health among others. He further stressed that under the directions of the PM of Pakistan, major projects in the fields of tourism, Hydel, forestry, livestock, and agriculture will be launched in 'AJK' and their timely completion will also be ensured.

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2021/09/29/lajk-government-and-planning-division-to-work-together-on-development-projects/>

PM 'AJK' calls on PM Pakistan to discuss development projects

Jammu and Kashmir Times, September 30 2021

The Prime Minister (PM) of 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK), Sardar Abdul Qayyum Niazi met with the PM of Pakistan Imran Khan and discussed the various development packages including Five Year Development Plan for 'AJK.' The development package included improvement of tourism infrastructure, provision of basic health and education facilities and the projects for people living along the Line of Control (LOC) in 'AJK'. PM of Pakistan stressed that the federal government was taking concrete steps for the improvement of infrastructure to promote tourism in 'AJK', as the development of tourism will not only help create employment opportunities but would also make the lives of the

people easier. The PM further said that measures were also being taken to ensure the provision of health and education facilities to the people of 'AJK.'

<http://jammukashmirtimes.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/FP.....30.jpg>

Development project worth 500 billion allocated for AJK: PM

Mahasib, October 01 2021

The Prime Minister (PM) of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), Sardar Abdul Qayyum Niazi revealed that the PM of Pakistan, Imran Khan has given a historic mega development package, amounting to 500 billion rupees for the development of AJK. PM of 'AJK' while elaborating the salient feature of the mega project has said that the project envisages the construction and improvement of infrastructure for the socio-economic uplift of the people of 'AJK'. He noted that this mega-development package includes upgrading of highways and construction of tunnels, improvement of infrastructure, reform in educational institutions, hydropower, Information Technology and Communication (ITC), agriculture, livestock and industry, governance and law enforcement, and tourism and forests.

'AJK' PM stressed that the 500 billion rupees package by the PM of Pakistan is the largest development package in the history of 'AJK' which will not only help to provide employment opportunities but will also make 'AJK' a model state. He said the package funds which will be delivered in phases are also a reflection of Imran Khan's interest in building and developing 'AJK' and improving the living standards of the people of the state. He further said that in the last elections, the

people of 'AJK' expressed confidence in Imran Khan's ideology and voted for his vision of construction, development, and prosperity.

The PM said that the Federal Ministry of Planning and Development of Pakistan in collaboration with the Government of 'AJK' will finalize the mega-development package and will ensure their timely completion. The 'AJK' PM said that the PM of Pakistan is determined to change the destiny of the people of 'AJK' and is taking all possible steps to turn "Azad Kashmir" into a model state as special funds will be set aside for the people living at the Line of Control (LOC) and revolutionary steps will be taken to mitigate their sufferings.

<https://mahasib.com.pk/epaper/page.php?id=1&edit ion=muzzaaffarabad&dt=01-10-2021>

[From Vernacular Urdu Media](#)

Pakistan has exercised its right to represent 'occupied Kashmir' in UN General Assembly

Opinion, Nawai Waqt, September 27 2021

Every year, Pakistan discusses its most important issue in the United Nations (UN), General Assembly (GA), annual meeting to draw the attention of the international community. The issue of 'Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJK)' is not just a matter of occupying a piece of land but it goes beyond that to the issue of freedom and human rights. This year, on the occasion of the 76th GA meeting of the UN, Pakistan once again presented its position on this issue to the international community.

To take forward the position taken by the Prime Minister's (PM) Imran Khan

in his speech, Foreign Minister, Shah Mehmood Qureshi called on the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and presented him with a comprehensive dossier about India's barbarism in occupied Kashmir. The Foreign Minister also met with Abdullah Shahid, President of the UNGA, in which Shah Mehmood Qureshi briefed him on the evidence of systematic human rights violations and war crimes by the Indian forces.

Saima Saleem, Ambassador of Pakistan Mission to the UN, concretely presented the case of Kashmir. She said that IOJK is not an integral part of India, nor is it an internal matter, rather, since India has occupied the internationally recognized disputed territory, it is an international matter. Let the world take notice of Indian atrocities in the occupied valley. She demanded that the Kashmir dispute be resolved under UN and Security Council resolutions. The curfew imposed on occupied Kashmir for the last 784 days is enough to show India's oppression of Kashmiris. India's security forces have been violating the basic human rights of the unarmed Kashmiris but their plight has not been heard by the international community. Many countries see India as a big market where they can sell their goods which prevents them from openly talking about the Indian's atrocities against Kashmiris. At this time, Pakistan should step up its diplomatic efforts and work with friendly countries to make the international community and international organizations realize that the atrocities against Kashmiris are not just a matter of one community but humanity as a whole.

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/27-Sep-2021/1423008>

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Disclaimer

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