

Weekly POK News Digest

(A weekly news digest on Pakistan Occupied Kashmir)

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मनोहर पर्रिकर रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान

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Political Developments

'The unresolved Kashmir dispute'

Editorial, The Nation, January 03, 2022

The Kashmir issue is a "territorial conflict" between India and Pakistan. It covers 85,806 square miles, of which 31,643 square miles are "occupied by India" and 12,387 square miles are "under Pakistan." The state of Kashmir is larger than the 140 member states of the United Nations (UN) in terms of population and 112 member states in terms of area. The Kashmir issue is one of the longest-running disputes of the world, which has affected 1.5 billion people of the subcontinent. The presence of nuclear power on both sides of the conflict is making the Kashmir dispute a flashpoint, which can endanger the life of ten million people. Pakistan and India have fought three wars (1947, 1965, and 1971) on the Kashmir issue and also a limited Kargil war in 1999. India and Pakistan are once again at war over the Kashmir issue, which has been unresolved for 73 years.

The state of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) was "annexed by the Indian government" on 27th October 1947, "contrary to the wishes" of the Kashmiri people, the Indian army "occupied the state of J&K." According to the Indian rulers, the state of Pakistan which became independent a few months ago is not capable of withstanding the aggression of the Indian army. But with the full support of the tribal people, Pakistan resisted the Indian forces and "liberated about

35% of the state" of J&K from the control of the "Indian forces" and laid the foundation of "Azad Jammu and Kashmir" (AJK) government. When India saw that the Pakistani people were easily defeating the Indian forces, the Indian government took the Kashmir issue to the United Nations (UN) on January 1, 1948, and requested a ceasefire. In this way, the UN declared a ceasefire between the two countries and a unanimous resolution was passed that the Kashmir issue would be resolved through a referendum. The resolution said that the state of Kashmir was geographically, economically, linguistically, culturally, and religiously closer to Pakistan and therefore should be included in Pakistan.

On August 5, 2019, articles 370 and 35-A of the Indian constitution became ineffective and Kashmiris started to become a minority and a "never-ending lockdown was imposed on them." The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government has forcibly abolished 370A and 35A and removed the constitutional justification of "occupied Kashmir" to remain with India. However, expressing solidarity with Kashmiris once or twice a year will not solve the Kashmir issue. The world is playing the role of the silent spectator on the ongoing "state atrocities in Occupied Kashmir." There will be no other way but armed struggle.

<https://nation.com.pk/03-Jan-2022/the-unresolved-kashmir-dispute>

'Freedom of IIOJK, speedy uplift of 'AJK' a top priorities of PTI regime:' PM of 'AJK'

Daily Parliament Times, January 03, 2022

The Prime Minister (PM) of "Azad Jammu and Kashmir" (AJK) Sardar Abdul Qayyum Niazi has said that the "liberation of Jammu Kashmir" state from "Indian illegal occupation" and speedy development of the "liberated territory" of 'AJK' were the top priorities of his government, fulfilling the vision of the PM of Pakistan, Imran Khan. While addressing the oath-taking ceremony of the joint supreme council in Kotli, he said that the PM of Pakistan had taken a historical decision by introducing health cards for every citizen of 'AJK' and extended free medical treatment for the people of the state.

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2022/01/03/freedom-of-iiojk-speedy-uplift-of-ajk-atop-priorities-of-pti-regime-ajk-prime-minister/>

'PM Imran reiterates support to Kashmir issue'

The Express Tribune, January 05, 2022

The Prime Minister (PM) of Pakistan, Imran Khan in his message on the occasion of right to self-determination day (January 05), urged the world community that it cannot abandon its "moral and legal responsibilities towards Kashmiris" and said that "durable peace" in South Asia is contingent upon "peaceful resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute." The PM said that the importance of the "inalienable right to self-

determination" has been acknowledged in all important human rights covenants, decisions of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) and Security Council. He noted that in 1949, the UN Commission on India and Pakistan (UNCIP) adopted a resolution that guaranteed "Kashmiri people their inherent right to self-determination" through a free and impartial plebiscite. He stressed that "we reiterate our commitment to uphold the fundamental human rights of the people of Jammu and Kashmir and pay homage to Kashmiris' just struggle "spanning more than seven decades." The PM said that the "right to self-determination granted to Kashmiris" by the UN could not be "unilaterally denied by India." He further said that "three generations of Kashmiris have waited for the world community and the UN to honour their commitments made to Kashmiris," and stressed that "Indian atrocities in Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (OJK) continued unabated but the Kashmiris stood steadfast against them."

He noted that the recent surge in "oppression of the people of Kashmir through arbitrary detentions, coercion, harassment and humiliation, and extra-judicial killings in staged encounters" is a matter of grave concern for the international community." The PM noted that India's "illegal and unilateral actions" of August 5, 2019, and subsequent measures, particularly about domicile rules and land ownership laws, were aimed at "changing the demographic structure

of occupied Kashmir.” He reiterated that “Pakistan will continue to extend all possible support to the Kashmiris till the realization of their right to self-determination” following the relevant UNSC resolutions and the wishes of the Kashmiri people.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2337241/pm-imran-reiterates-support-to-kashmir-issue>

‘Indian atrocities are exposed across the world, Pakistan to continue support Kashmir:’ Punjab Governor

Daily Parliament Times, January 05, 2022

The governor of Punjab Chaudhry Mohammad Sarwar has said that “Pakistan and Kashmir are incomplete” without each other. He noted that Kashmiris are “sacrificing their lives” to save the life-blood of Pakistan and stressed that we cannot distance ourselves from the people of Kashmir for a single moment. He noted that the PM of Pakistan Imran Khan has emerged as the ambassador of Kashmir and maintained that we are “exposing the atrocities of India” against Kashmiri people all over the world. While referring to “self-determination day of the Kashmiris”, he said that “Indian forces are committing genocide of innocent Kashmiris” and there is no such thing as human rights in Kashmir. He stressed that the time has come for the United Nations (UN) to resolve the “Kashmir issue” following its resolutions instead of remaining silent on the “atrocities being perpetrated on Kashmiris” and to “liberate the Kashmiris from Indian atrocities.” He emphasized that Pakistan stands

united with its Kashmiri brothers and sisters and will not only raise its voice at every forum for the solution of the Kashmir issue but we will not shy away from any sacrifice in this regard.

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2022/01/05/indian-atrocities-are-exposed-across-world-pakistan-to-continue-support-kashmir-governor/>

‘JKLC Chief urges UNSC to implement Jan 5 resolution on Kashmir without further delay’

Daily Parliament Times, January 05, 2022

The chief of Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Cell (JKLC), Ershad Mahmud urged the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) to ensure implementation of its resolution of January 5, 1949, by ensuring a plebiscite in the “disputed territory” of Jammu and Kashmir and to enable the Kashmiri people to decide their destiny under the spirit of the UN resolutions. While talking on the eve of the right to self-determination day, he said that the UNSC resolution of January 5, 1949, and other resolutions on the Kashmir conflict are still a reality that cannot be overlooked. He further said that India wanted to resolve the Kashmir issue through the use of force instead of peaceful political and diplomatic means, but India must keep in mind that none of its tactics can deprive the Kashmiri people of their fundamental right to self-determination.

He noted that the right to self-determination is the mother of all human rights and human dignity across the world and therefore, no

power on the earth can snatch this legitimate and undeniable right of the Kashmiri people. He asserted that the situation in the “occupied Kashmir” had become highly alarming because of the inhuman treatment being meted out to the defenceless Kashmiri people by the “Indian Army.” He appealed to the international community to intervene and help to “save the Kashmiris from the appalling conditions” which they are facing because of their legitimate demand for the right to self-determination.

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2022/01/05/jklc-chief-urges-unsc-to-implement-jan-5-resolution-on-kashmir-without-further-delay/>

‘Afridi urged UN to play role in resolving Kashmir dispute’

Daily Times, January 06, 2022

The chairman of the parliamentary committee on Kashmir Shehryar Khan Afridi urged the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) and the international court of justice to characterize the Kashmir situation as an “uncompleted de-colonialization process.” He stressed that the time has come to recognize the legal force of the UN Security Council’s resolution which ensured for a plebiscite of the people of Kashmir so that the “occupied people of Kashmir” determine their future. While speaking at an event organized by the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS) held to commemorate the adoption of the United Nations Commission on India and Pakistan (UNCIP), Afridi said just like the UN intervened and found that

Britain had not properly completed the de-colonialization process in the Chagos Archipelago in the 1960s, it could offer a similar intervention vis-à-vis Kashmir.

He stressed that the UN should intervene now as “India is committing war crimes” in Jammu and Kashmir. While citing news reports by international media organizations, Afridi said that India is imposing severe restrictions on press freedom and committing “gross human rights violations, including war crimes, mass rapes and other crimes against humanity in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir.”

Afridi said that the Kashmir issue should arguably be seen within a broader global context of “settler colonialism, genocide, and crimes against humanity.” He said that Kashmir is disputed territory, a fact established by 18 UN resolutions and it cannot be claimed legitimately by any country or claimed as an integral part until the time that the people of Kashmir have been granted the right to freely, and without fear, express their opinion in the referendum that they were promised by the UN. He urged for greater involvement of the youth through interactive sessions in universities to counter the influence of the hybrid warfare waged against Pakistan by India through social media.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/864376/afridi-urges-un-to-play-role-in-resolving-kashmir-dispute/>

‘PM’s iconoclastic move on Kashmir’*Editorial, The Nation, January 06, 2022*

Long, long time after former premier Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, a Pakistani Prime Minister (PM) Imran Khan has come up with an “iconoclastic approach on Kashmir dispute” by reiterating Pakistan’s never-ending support for the “oppressed Kashmiris”, not only on moral grounds but saying that it is our constitutional responsibility. It is pragmatism and can be aptly described as a serious endeavour to put the resolution of the seven-decade-old Kashmir issue on a practical track instead of merely resorting to verbal condemnations and criticism. When the PM talks about Pakistan’s constitutional obligations, he is, in a way, suggesting to the world fraternity in general and to the foreign office, diplomatic corps and international law experts in particular to identify legal and constitutional remedies that are very much available for moving forward on this path practically. Some eminent experts of international law and senior media persons, well versed with the legal-cum-constitutional aspect of the matter, have been pleading for this strategy that now seems to be the axis of Islamabad’s Kashmir policy.

With this approach, Pakistan has cleared many obstacles created by the repeal of articles 370 and 35-A of the Indian constitution that conferred special status on the Kashmir valley under the United Nations Security

Council (UNSC) resolution adopted 73 years ago on January 5, 1949.

To keep the record straight, the plebiscite was fully endorsed by the New Delhi government of the day that was headed by Prime Ministers of India, Jawaharlal Nehru. PM Nehru is on record having openly declared that “neither Kashmir belongs to India nor Pakistan but the people of Kashmir.” In the following years, India backtracked on its plebiscite promise. Instead, it let loose a reign of terror on the Kashmiris seeking their due right of self-determination. To add insult to injury, the government of Narendra Modi crossed all the constitutional limits of its constitution, and other international laws and conventions including the 4th Geneva Convention, to consolidate its forcible “occupation of Kashmir.” Pakistan now seems to have geared up to combat these negative and inhuman networks that stand in sheer conflict with the universal principles of peaceful coexistence.

<https://nation.com.pk/06-Jan-2022/pm-s-iconoclastic-move-on-kashmir>

‘President of ‘AJK’ meets EU Ambassador Androlla Kaminara to discuss IOK situation’*Daily Parliament Times, January 06, 2022*

The president of “Azad Jammu and Kashmir” (AJK) Barrister Sultan met with the ambassador of the European Union (EU), Androulla Kaminara. During the meeting, the president of AJK briefed the EU ambassador about the “critical situation of occupied

Kashmir” and urged the EU ambassador to pressurize India for implementation of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions. Barrister Sultan said that even in past, the EU and the European Parliament had expressed their interest in Kashmir by presenting resolutions and passing the Emma Nicholson Report and other resolutions on the “discovery of unmarked graves in occupied Kashmir.” He stressed that the EU believes in the highest values of basic human rights and that is why Kashmiris have high expectations from the EU and the European Parliament to play their role, as “occupied Kashmir has become a prison” after the Indian measures of 05 August 2019.

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2022/01/06/president-ajk-meets-eu-ambassador-androlla-kaminara-to-discuss-iok-situation/>

Economic Developments

PM of Pakistan Imran Khan meets PM of AJK: Discussion on LG polls and tourism

The Nation, January 07, 2022

The Prime Minister (PM) of Pakistan Imran Khan has directed the PM of “Azad Jammu and Kashmir” (AJK) Sardar Abdul Qayyum Khan Niazi to immediately make preparations and reach out to the public as part of the campaign for Local Government (LG) elections in ‘AJK’ that would be held in the middle of the current year.

During the meeting, the PM of ‘AJK’ briefed Imran Khan about various ongoing development projects in the

‘AJK’ and ensured for early completion of these projects. Sardar Abdul Qayyum Khan Niazi also briefed PM Khan about projects for the promotion of tourism in ‘AJK’. PM Imran Khan said that both Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) and ‘AJK’ had the vast potential of tourism which should be properly exploited and investment be done in improving the infrastructure to attract domestic and foreign tourists. He further stressed that the government was taking concrete steps to take full advantage of the immense potential of the tourism sector in AJK, Northern Areas and GB. He noted that providing employment to local people through eco-tourism and conserving the natural beauty of these areas are among the top priorities of the government.

<https://nation.com.pk/07-Jan-2022/pm-asks-ajk-premier-to-reach-out-to-public-for-lg-polls>

From Vernacular Urdu Media

Pakistan's position on the Palestine issue is clear, Kashmir issue will continue to be raised in international forums: Shah Mehmood Qureshi

Daily Pakistan, January 03, 2022

The foreign minister of Pakistan Shah Mehmood Qureshi said that the year 2021 was very important in terms of diplomacy and stressed our position on the issue of Palestine is clear while we will continue to raise the issue of Kashmir at every regional and international forum. He said that last year was important in terms of diplomacy, Pakistan wants peace in Afghanistan, and most of the steps taken by the Prime Minister (PM) were appreciated internationally. PM has

also highlighted the Kashmir issue at various international forums.

<https://dailypakistan.com.pk/03-Jan-2022/1385906>

US government, members of Congress and senators call for resolution of Kashmir dispute: 'AJK' President

Mahasib, January 04, 2022

The president of "Azad Jammu and Kashmir" (AJK) Barrister Sultan Mehmood Chaudhry in a detailed meeting with Barry Junker, foreign affairs officer of the United States (US) embassy and David Marou, political officer at the US embassy in Kashmir House, Islamabad. He emphasized that the US can play a role in finding a lasting and peaceful solution to the Kashmir issue. He further stressed that during his visit to the US, the US government, members of Congress and senators acknowledged the importance of the Kashmir issue in South Asia and called for a peaceful solution. He noted that Pakistan has never been against the talks. However, to resume the talks India should stop "human rights violations in occupied Kashmir" and include Kashmiris in the talks. The president of 'AJK' while talking to the delegation said that although General Pervez Musharraf also gave a four-point formula for the solution of the Kashmir issue, it seems that India is neither sincere nor serious in this regard. Therefore, the international community, especially the US, should play an important role in resolving the Kashmir issue.

<https://mahasib.com.pk/epaper/page.php?id=1&edition=muzzaffarabad&dt=04-01-2022>

'Pakistan is incomplete without Kashmir, our graveyards are inhabited by martyrs who gave their blood for Kashmir' Fawad Chaudhry

Urdu Point, January 05, 2022

The Pakistan federal minister for Information and Broadcasting (IB) Chaudhry Fawad Hussain has said that "Pakistan is incomplete without Kashmir." He stressed that we stand with Kashmiri brothers like a wall, we fought wars for Kashmir and our graveyards are inhabited by martyrs who gave their blood for Kashmir. He said that the people of Pakistan and Kashmir share deep bond of love and we are with Kashmiris in their struggle till the "independence of Kashmir." The federal minister for information said that the United Nations (UN) should also recognize the "right of the Kashmiri people to freedom." In a message on the occasion of "Kashmiri's right to self-determination" day, he reiterated the commitment of Pakistan to continue providing political, diplomatic and moral support to the Kashmiris till their "right to self-determination" were not recognized by Indian forces.

<https://www.urdupoint.com/pakistan/news/islamabad/important-news/live-news-3009934.html>

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Disclaimer

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