

# Weekly POK News Digest

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

Volume 2 | Issue 33

15 - 21 August 2022

**T**urkish Business Forum  
**T**ourism Authority  
financial contract  
**POK** revenue  
Investment authority  
**Gilgit-Baltistan**  
tourist



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मनोहर पर्रिकर रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान

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## Political Developments

### **APHC- 'AJK' holds a protest demo in Islamabad on India's Independence Day**

*Pakistan Observer, 16 August 2022*

On the occasion of India's Independence Day, the All Parties Hurriyat Conference 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (APHC-AJK) organized a protest demonstration in front of the Indian High Commission in Islamabad. The protesters were waving black flags while yelling anti-Indian and pro-freedom chants. While speaking to the crowd, the speakers claimed that Kashmiris have been giving their lives for 'freedom' for the past 75 years and that India cannot win their hearts via 'persecution.' They claimed that the 'battle' for 'self-determination' would go on until Kashmiris achieved full 'independence' from India and that this was their inherent right. While speaking at the event, it was said that the 'Indian Army' would have been 'forced' to depart the region in 'humiliation' if the United Nations (UN) and major powers had played their part. To bring about a lasting peace throughout South Asia, the speakers asked the UN to play its part in resolving the ongoing Kashmir dispute.

<https://pakobserver.net/aphc-ajk-holds-protest-demo-in-islamabad-on-indias-i-day/>

### **India uses military power to stem Kashmiris from freedom struggle: JKSM Chairman**

*Daily Parliament Times, 17 August 2022*

Altaf Ahmed Bhat, the chairman of the Jammu and Kashmir Salvation

Movement (JKSM), claimed that the delimitation policy of the PM Modi-led Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP) government permits 'occupation' forces and other non-resident Hindus to vote in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K), and added that this is a deliberate attempt to 'rig elections' and eradicate J&K's Muslim identity. He claimed that the identity, demography, and socioeconomic makeup of J&K are being 'forcefully' and 'illegally' changed by the Indian government in violation of all international laws and conventions. He further asserted that India employs 'terrorism' as a state policy to 'terrorize' Kashmiris, utilizing its 'military' strength to stifle Kashmiris' desire for 'freedom'. The Kashmiris' desire for 'freedom,' he said, has cost 'us' hundreds of thousands of lives, and no amount of state-sponsored 'violence' from India will be able to crush it. He said that no matter what, Kashmiris are committed to preserving their distinctive identity and culture and added that Kashmiris will continue to fight for their 'independence.' He called on the international community and human rights organizations to step in and hold India accountable for violating human rights, international laws, and resolutions on Kashmir, claiming that the silence of the world is encouraging India to further up its 'repression in IIOJK.'

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2022/08/17/india-uses-military-power-to-stem-kashmiris-from-freedom-struggle-altaf-ahmed-bhat/>

### **'Kashmiris' mark Indian Independence Day as 'Black Day'**

*The Nation, 16 August 2022*

Uzair Ahmad Ghazali, the chairman of Pasban-e-Hurriyat, and Ijaz Ahmed

Lone, the secretary of the Kashmir Liberation Cell, among others, observed India's Independence Day as a 'Black Day' and protest marches and demonstrations were held throughout the capital city of 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK), as well as in other districts. The protesters carried banners stated with slogans against India and its 'illegal military occupation' in Jammu and Kashmir. During the event, speakers said that India has no 'moral' justification to celebrate Independence Day while usurping the 'freedom' of the Kashmiri people. They maintained that Kashmiri people have given a 'referendum' against India by expressing anger on her Independence Day, and by completely 'rejecting' the 'brutal' actions of August 5, 2019. The speakers termed the campaign of waving the Indian flag at every house under the shadow of guns as a cowardly act and said that the Indian flag has no recognition and importance except as a foreign usurping force. The speakers said that if the Indian government does not abandon the campaign in Kashmir, then the same will be started throughout 'Azad Kashmir' where the Indian flag will be under the 'foot' of every 'Kashmiri' citizen.

<https://nation.com.pk/2022/08/16/kashmiris-mark-indian-independence-day-as-black-day/>

### **Indians are not allowed to vote for Kashmir Assembly: Pasban-e-Hurriyat Leader**

*Daily Parliament Times, 18 August 2022*

The chairman of Pasban-e-Hurriyat Uzair Ahmad Ghazali has 'condemned' the move of 'converting' Muslim

majority state into a minority by issuing domicile and voting right to Indian citizens in 'Indian Illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir' (IIOJK). He said that giving the right to vote to Indian citizens in 'IIOJK' upcoming elections will be another 'imperialist' act of the Indian government. He asserted that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is actively supporting an agenda that is 'anti-Kashmir' and that it has secret plans to impose a Hindu Chief Minister in a state which has Muslim majority.

He further said that the government of India has already taken the 'undemocratic' step of dividing the state in the name of religion through new delimitations. Uzair warned that it is blatantly against UN resolutions to grant the right to vote to Indian nationals who are temporarily resident in the state. He claimed that since 27 October 1947, the residents of Jammu and Kashmir had 'rejected' the Indian 'occupation.' He urged Pakistan's government, the OIC, and the UN to take serious action to halt Indian 'colonialist machinations' and acts in 'occupied Kashmir.' He added that to preserve their identity and unity, the people of Jammu and Kashmir should organize a state-wide 'resistance' against Indian 'oppression.'

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2022/08/18/indians-are-not-allowed-to-vote-for-kashmir-assembly-pasban-e-hurriyat/>

### **A plan under consideration to change 'AJK' status: Fazlur Rehman**

*Dawn, 21 August 2022*

The Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam-Fazlur (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman has

said that a 'plan' is under consideration to 'change' the status of 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK) and declare it as a 'separate province.' While addressing the party's general council meeting, he said that JUI-F had 'opposed' the plan and passed a resolution at the all parties' conference not to 'change' the 'existing' status of 'Azad Kashmir.' He said that the plan about changing the status of 'Azad Kashmir' is still under consideration, but JUI-F would insist on not changing the position of 'Azad Kashmir.' The two-day general council meeting of JUI-F started in Peshawar, in which over 900 members were participating. The council would discuss the prevailing political scenario, upcoming by-elections, and the next general elections in the country.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1705917/plan-under-consideration-to-change-ajk-status-fazl>

## **Economic Developments**

### **19 IT Labs, Libraries were established in the Diamer district of Gilgit-Baltistan**

*Pamir Times, 15 August 2022*

The Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) administration opened 19 information technology (IT) labs and libraries in the Diamer District of GB on the eve of Independence Day. The establishment of IT laboratories and libraries is a component of the 'Shaukat-e-Taleem' initiative, which aims to give students in the Diamer area access to the most up-to-date tools and materials. It's important to remember that in March of 2018, four years prior, miscreants set a dozen or more schools on fire in Diamer. After the attack on the schools, the locals, especially the educated

youth, called for the declaration of an educational emergency in the area. Subsequently, several steps were taken to boost student enrollment and expand the district's educational facilities.

<https://pamirtimes.net/2022/08/15/19-it-labs-libraries-established-in-diamer-district-of-gilgit-baltistan/>

### **Turkish Business forum calls on 'AJK' President**

*Daily Parliament Times, 17 August 2022*

Sultan Mehmood Chaudhry, the president of 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK), has stated that 'Azad Kashmir's' enormous potential presents a variety of investment opportunities to foreign companies, particularly in the tourist, hydro, and construction industries. The president expressed these views while talking to a delegation of the Turkish Business Forum which was led by Huseyin Nasar, and Gokmen Ayyildiz among others. While referring to the region's business environment and the government's friendly investment policies, Sultan Mehmood said that government would provide all possible assistance to foreign investors. While briefing the president about the purpose of their visit, the Turkish delegation expressed their interest in trade and investment in 'Azad Kashmir.' The 'AJK' president assured the Turkish Business Forum that the 'AJK' government would provide all possible support, assistance, and facilities in this regard.

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2022/08/17/turkish-business-forum-calls-on-president-barrister-sultan-mehmood/>

## **'AJK' PM unveils a host of packages for post-1990 'occupied' Jammu and Kashmir migrants**

*Daily Parliament Times, 19 August 2022*

The Prime Minister (PM) of 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir', Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan announced a host of packages for the post-1990 Kashmiri migrants including government jobs for 100 migrant children, a grant of rupees 1.5 million for education and marriages, a grant of loans and establishment of Girls Middle School at Ambur refugee camp. The PM announced while addressing a special ceremony held at Ambore refugee camp. While speaking at the event, the PM hailed the sacrifices of the migrant community who were 'forced' to leave their homes by the 'Indian army', and added that the refugees have left their homes for a great cause. While handing over an official notification of the increase in refugees' subsistence allowance to the migrant representative, he said that migrants won't be left alone, and added that 100% implementation of migrant quota in jobs will be ensured. He also directed the concerned authorities to allocate 80 kanals of land for the graveyard at Ambore refugee camp. He said that loans worth 3 crore rupees will be given to the refugees, of which 10 lakhs will be given per person.

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2022/08/19/ajk-pm-unveils-a-host-of-packages-for-post-1990-occupied-jammu-kashmir-migrants/>

## **Our financial problems have doubled since the new government took charge in the center: PM of 'AJK'**

*Daily Parliament Times, 20 August 2022*

The PM of 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK), Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan has

said that the 'Azad Kashmir' government was facing 'severe' financial problems since the new coalition government took the reins of power in the center. The PM said that it was unfortunate that creating hurdles in the financial affairs of the government of 'Azad Kashmir' has become a part of the federal government's daily routine. While referring to 2018's financial contract between the 'AJK' and the federal government, the PM said that as per the agreement, the share of 'Azad Kashmir' is 3.6% of the total revenue income determined by the federation, which amounts to 225 billion rupees. However, on the contrary, the 'AJK' government was allotted a variable grant of 74.32 billion rupees, out of which 59.5 billion have been given while 15.02 billion are still due. He said that the irony was that the federal government has laid the burden of pensions, hardship allowances, and employees' salaries on the shoulders of the cash-starved government of 'Azad Kashmir.'

He said that the cuts on the region's development and non-development budget by the federal government have frozen the development process in the liberated territory and added that owing to the budgetary cuts, it has become difficult for the government to pay the salaries and pensions to the employees and pensioners. He said that the projects initiated by the federal government in 'Azad Kashmir' have also been made part of the annual development program of the 'Azad Kashmir' government and noted that the funds allocated for Kail Road, Assembly building, and Rathwa Hariyam Bridge have also been delayed, and added that the leaders sitting in Islamabad do not understand

the 'geographical sensitivity' of 'Azad Kashmir' and its people.

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2022/08/20/our-financial-problems-have-doubled-since-new-government-took-charge-in-the-centre-pm-ajk/>

### **Bill passed to set up GB revenue authority**

*Dawn, 21 August 2022*

The Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) Assembly passed legislation to set up a revenue authority, a move which has been hailed as 'revolutionary' and the first step towards economic self-reliance. The bill titled 'Gilgit-Baltistan Revenue Authority Bill 2022' was easily passed with a majority, with four opposition members also voting in favor of the bill. The bill was tabled in the assembly by GB Finance Minister Javed Ali Manwa in a session chaired by Deputy Speaker Nazir Ahmed Advocate.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1705980/bill-passed-to-set-up-gb-revenue-authority>

### **PM of AJK' urges center to release required grant of budget to 'AJK' agreed under 2018 agreement**

*Daily Parliament Times, 21 August 2022*

The PM of 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK), Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan has urged the federal government to provide the required grant of budget to the 'AJK' government following 2018's financial contract. While referring to his government's legitimate demands, he said that 'Azad Kashmir' was facing a 'severe' financial crisis, and added that the federal government should fulfill our legitimate demands rather than treating us as 'beggars.' He said that it was quite unfortunate that the PML-N-led coalition government is not treating us 'fairly.' While referring to the establishment of the Tourism

Authority (TA), he said that the setting up of the TA was meant to make investment possible through one window operation. He further said that his government's stance on the 15th amendment was very clear and that the PTI government won't compromise on vital national interests, adding that negative propaganda being peddled on social media regarding the abolition of the 13th amendment was a conspiracy aimed at creating political unrest within the region. He said that 'we' support the 15th Amendment to the extent of increasing the number of Ministers, adding that 16 ministries were not enough to run 24 departments.

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2022/08/21/pm-urges-center-to-release-required-grant-of-budget-to-ajk-agreed-under-2018-agreement/>

### **From Vernacular Urdu Media**

#### **The Kashmiris' commemoration of India's Independence Day as a Black Day expresses their anger at the 'Hindutva's persecution:' 'AJK' PM**

*UrduPoint, 15 August 2022*

The Prime Minister of 'Azad Kashmir,' Sardar Tanvir Ilyas Khan, claimed that Kashmiris' celebration of India's Independence Day as a 'dark day' was an outward sign of their 'hate' and 'condemnation' of India's 'illegal' and 'forceful' rule over their motherland, and added that Kashmiris living on 'both sides' of the line of control and the world over observe India's Independence Day as black day. While terming the right of 'self-determination' as an inalienable and non-negotiable right of the people of Kashmir, he said that India cannot 'forcefully' impose its will on Kashmiris by 'wreaking havoc' in the

region. He claimed that on one hand, India has 'let loose' its 'trigger happy' forces to unleash 'terror' in the region while on the other the 'occupation' authorities are 'hatching conspiracies' to change the population ratio to turn Muslim majority of the state into a minority.

He claimed that India had issued 'fake domiciles' to more than 42 lakh Hindus to 'alter' the region's demography, which constitutes a grave violation of the UNSC resolutions. He said that the world has been witnessing the 'abysmal' situation in the region like a silent spectator, added that Kashmiris will continue their 'struggle' until the 'right of self-determination' is achieved. He stressed that it was high time that the United Nations should play its due role and exert pressure on India to resolve the dispute in line with the UNSC resolutions.

<https://www.urdupoint.com/pakistan/news/muzaffarabad/kashmir/live-news-3240953.html>

### **Pakistan's completion is possible with the Kashmir 'Azadi' Movement: Speakers at a Rally: Speakers at a Rally**

*Urdupoint, 15 August 2022*

The leaders of many organizations including the Tehreek Jawanan Pakistan, chairman of the Freedom movement, Sardar Asrar Babar, the spokesperson of 'Azad Kashmir' Prime Minister, Dr. Irfan Ashraf among others organized the Pakistan Zindabad rally. During the event, the speakers noted that the freedom movement of Kashmir is the journey of completion of Pakistan, which was started by Sardar Ibrahim Khan among

others and the present generation of Kashmiris stand by the side of the brave armed forces to raise the flag of Pakistan, and added that a strong Pakistan is the guarantor of the 'freedom' of Kashmir. The speakers said that Pakistan is the axis and center of aspirations of Kashmiris and they (Kashmiris) want to join the state of Jammu and Kashmir with Pakistan, added that the partition of the state of Jammu and Kashmir is not in the interest of the state of Pakistan, nor will Kashmiris accept such a decision. The speakers said that Pakistan is the shelter of the Kashmiris, the support of the Kashmiri freedom movement, and the hope of the Islamic nation.

That the people of 'Azad Kashmir' will continue their struggle until the mission of Ghazi Millat Sardar Ibrahim Khan, Quaid Hurriyat Syed Ali Geelani, and other great martyrs is fulfilled. The speakers further said that some forces want to 'alienate' Kashmiris from Pakistan which is not in the interest of Kashmiris in any way and added that the Kashmiri nation has sacrificed for the accession of Kashmir to Pakistan and this journey will continue till the goal is fully achieved. The speakers paid tribute to the Pakistani forces and said that our brave armed forces fought wars on the Kashmir front and crushed India's dream of 'occupying Kashmir.' The speakers expressed their determination that they will fight on the front line to protect the integrity of the state of Pakistan and its ideological borders and the struggle will continue until the full 'accession' of Kashmir to Pakistan.

<https://www.urdupoint.com/pakistan/news/rawalakot/kashmir/live-news-3240655.html>

## **Social media plays an important role in highlighting the issue of Kashmir**

*UrduPoint, 16 August 2022*

The president of 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK), Sultan Mehmood Chaudhry said that in the present age social and digital media are very high. He said that social media plays an important role in highlighting the Kashmir issue and all steps will be taken to highlight the Kashmir Freedom Movement from the base camp. He said that the government has provided ample funds for the development of media in the current financial year. The president said that 'Azad Kashmir' has a lot of potential for tourism and added that the promotion of tourism is one of the priorities of the current government. He said that through the media, we can not only play an important role in the promotion of tourism but it will also help to present the issue of Kashmir in the best way in the international forums.

<https://www.urdupoint.com/pakistan/news/muzaffarabad/kashmir/live-news-3241593.html>

## **Pakistan condemns India's attempts to pre-poll rigging in 'IIOJK'**

*Jammu and Kashmir Times, 20 August 2022*

The Pakistan foreign ministry has 'categorically rejected' the deliberate Indian attempts of pre-poll 'rigging' and 'overt manipulation' in the 'Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir' (IIOJK). An obvious example of India's 'treacherous' plan to sway the results of the 'so-called' elections in the 'IIOJK' is the most recent statement that even transient residents, including

workers from outside the 'occupied' area and security officials, are now allowed to register as voters. The foreign ministry in its statement further 'reject' India's actions 'intended' to reduce the Muslim majority in 'IIOJK' to a minority, including the creation of the so-called 'Delimitation' Commission and its erroneous report, the granting of fictitious Kashmiri domiciles to millions of outsiders, and changes to the property laws. The statement further urged the Indian government to must stop any activities in the 'IIOJK' that are against the UN Charter, international law, and the Fourth Geneva Convention. It further noted that the military 'siege' must end, human rights abuses in the 'IIOJK' must stop, and India must allow the Kashmiris to exercise their legal right to 'self-determination' as outlined in the pertinent UN Security Council resolutions.

<http://jammukashmirtimes.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Resize-of-aaaaaa.jpg>

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## Disclaimer

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



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