

# Weekly POK News Digest

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

Volume 2 | Issue 5

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bridge Dasu-Raikot  
cableway POK  
Diemer-Bhasha Dam  
Karakoram Gilgit  
Highway Baltistan  
telemedicine  
tourism



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

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## Political Developments

### **Sindh government announces public holiday on February 5 to observe Kashmir solidarity day**

*The Express Tribune, January 31, 2022*

The Sindh government has declared February 5 a public holiday on the occasion of Kashmir Solidarity Day. As per the notification, all government and private offices, educational institutions and markets would remain closed on that day. The day is included in the list of gazetted holidays of the federal government every year. The Foreign Office (FO) spokesperson had said that on January 26, as India observed Republic Day, Pakistan reaffirmed its “unshakable resolve to continue to raise its voice and extend all possible support for the right of self-determination of the people of Kashmir”, who marked that day as “black day.” He said that it was deplorable that in the past few days, the “Indian occupation forces had further intensified the military siege” already in place in the “occupied territory” for more than seven decades. The spokesperson said that “coercing innocent Kashmiris to hoist Indian flags on Republic Day” was typical of India’s arrogance to project a “false sense of normalcy” and a hopeless attempt at masking its “systematic and widespread oppression.”

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2341302/sindh-announces-public-holiday-on-february-5>

### **GB CM Khalid Khurshid meet with the PM of AJK**

*Daily Parliament Times, January 31, 2022*

The Chief Minister (CM) of Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) Khalid Khurshid called

on the Prime Minister (PM) of “Azad Jammu and Kashmir” (AJK) Sardar Abdul Qayyum Niazi at Jammu and Kashmir House. They discussed the situation in “occupied Kashmir”, and other issues of mutual interest during the meeting. The PM of ‘AJK’ said that the process of construction and development is going on in “Azad Kashmir” as per the vision of the PM of Pakistan, Imran Khan. He stressed that in addition to the developmental activities, the state government is taking solid steps for the “liberation of occupied Kashmir” which is the top priority of the government. The GB CM said that after Pakistan and GB, the people of “Azad Kashmir” have also laid the foundation of change in “Azad Kashmir” by expressing confidence in the ideology of PM Imran Khan.

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2022/01/31/gb-cm-khalid-khurshid-calls-on-pm-ajk/>

### **'India's cruel tactics cannot change the reality of Kashmir dispute:' APHC-AJK**

*Pakistan Observer, January 31, 2022*

The leaders of All Parties Hurriyat Conference “Azad Jammu and Kashmir” (APHC-AJK) chapter, Sheikh Abdul Mateen and Imtiaz Wani have said that “India’s cruel tactics” cannot change the reality of the Kashmir dispute. The APHC-AJK leaders paid tributes to the “five Kashmiri youth who were martyred by the Indian troops” in Pulwama and Budgam. They noted that India had intensified its “atrocities in the occupied territory and was killing innocent Kashmiri youth” during the so-called cordon and search operations, which was condemnable. The Hurriyat leaders urged India to

give up its “oppressive policy” towards Kashmir and resolve the lingering Kashmir dispute by giving “Kashmiris their right to self-determination.”

<https://pakobserver.net/indias-cruel-tactics-cannot-change-reality-of-kashmir-dispute/>

### **'Utterly delusional:' Pakistan FO rejects Indian minister's remarks regarding 'integration' of 'AJK'**

*Dawn, February 01, 2022*

The Pakistan Foreign Office (FO) spokesperson Asim Iftikhar Ahmad said that Pakistan “reject the utterly delusional and provocative” remarks by an Indian minister belonging to the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) who called for the “integration” of “Azad Jammu and Kashmir” (AJK) with India by 2024. The FO spokesperson said that political figures from the “BJP and Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh” (RSS) combined are in the habit of dragging Pakistan into India's domestic politics “in a bid to divert public attention from major issues and to stoke hyper-nationalism to make electoral gains.” He further said that the Indian government should stop indulging in “absurd fantasies and to take cognizance of the grave situation on the ground in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir” (IIOJK).” He said that despite “decades of unabated Indian oppression and the illegal and unilateral actions” of August 5, 2019, Kashmiris’ resolve to “resist Indian occupation” has only strengthened over time. He opined that Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) is an “internationally recognised dispute” on the agenda of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) and the final disposition of J&K will be made in a free and

impartial plebiscite. He stressed that rather than entertaining any notions of “aggrandizement, India should vacate its illegal occupation of IIOJK” and be prepared for accountability for the “brutalization of the innocent Kashmiris by its occupation forces.” The FO spokesperson added that Pakistan would continue to extend all possible support to the Kashmiri people in their struggle for the “right to self-determination.”

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1672717/utterly-delusional-fo-rejects-indian-ministers-remarks-regarding-integration-of-ajk>

### **'India bent on changing IIOJK into Hindu majority state:' JKNF Spokesman**

*Daily Times, 02, 2022*

The Jammu and Kashmir National Front (JKNF) spokesman Shafiq-ur-Rehman said that the “brutal killing of four Kashmiri youths by the Indian occupation forces” during a crackdown and search operations in the Naira area of Pulwama district is the “worst form of state terrorism.” He further said that the “systematic killing of Kashmiri youth” was a part of the ruling “regime’s dream project” that sought to “change the region’s demography” from a Muslim majority region into a minority through “systematic elimination of Muslims.”

He further claimed that “everyday carnage” on the streets in Kashmir, was the most obvious manifestation of “extremist nationalism”, aimed at fueling an “ethnic cleansing” which posed a grave “existential threat” to Kashmiris under “India’s authoritarian regime.” While expressing his party’s

concern over the “worsening political and human rights situation in the region”, he said that it was high time that the world took cognizance of “Indian state terrorism.” He also condemned the issuing of summons by police to two Kashmiri journalists and termed it as an “atrocious assault on free media and independent journalism.”

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/878796/india-bent-on-changing-iiojk-into-hindu-majority-state-jknf/>

### **‘Kashmiris full confident in PM Khan Kashmir policy:’ PM of ‘AJK’**

*Daily Parliament Times, February 02, 2022*

The “Azad Jammu and Kashmir” (AJK) Prime Minister (PM) Sardar Abdul Qayyum Niazi has appealed to “Kashmiri around the world and Pakistanis” to fully participate in the rallies, meetings and processions on the occasion of Kashmir Solidarity Day on 5th of February to show full solidarity with the people of “occupied Kashmir.” The PM said that “Kashmir Solidarity Week” will be celebrated in Europe from 4th February to 10th of February, organized by European Union (EU), Pakistan Friendship Federation Europe. While talking to various delegations at Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) house, he said that given the “critical situation in occupied Kashmir”, there will be “massive protests all over the world” against the removal of the “constitutional status of occupied” J&K by the Indian government and imposing the “extremist ideology of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh” (RSS). He further claimed that meetings, processions and rallies will be held in

Germany, Netherlands, Italy, Belgium, Spain, Portugal, Sweden, Greece, Poland and other countries in connection with Kashmir Solidarity Week. He said that the PM of Pakistan, Imran Khan has effectively projected the “Kashmir issue” at the international level. He said it was due to the bold steps of the PM of Pakistan on the “Kashmir issue” at the international level, the world is now realizing the “gravity of the situation in occupied Kashmir.” He stressed that the “Kashmiri nation” has full confidence in the Kashmir policy of the PM of Pakistan Imran Khan. He said that on the occasion of Kashmir solidarity day, the “people of Kashmir” would renew their historic decision to “associate their future with Pakistan” and would “reaffirm their commitment to liberate occupied Kashmir from India.”

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2022/02/02/kashmiris-full-confident-in-kashmir-policy-of-pm-khan-pm-ajk/>

### **‘Modi’s fascist policies have failed to crush Kashmiri resistance spirit:’ PM Imran Khan**

*Daily Parliament Times, February 05, 2022*

The Prime Minister (PM) of Pakistan, Imran Khan in his message on Kashmir solidarity day, reiterated that “Pakistan stands united with Kashmiri brothers and sisters” and urged the international community to take notice of “India’s crimes against humanity.” The PM wrote in his Twitter handle, that, “Modi’s fascist policies of oppression and violence have failed to crush the spirit of the Kashmiri resistance in Indian-occupied Kashmir” (IoK). He stressed that it is

time the world takes notice of “India’s grave human rights violations in ‘IoK’, war crimes and genocidal acts as well as the threat of forced demographic change.” He noted that “all these are in complete violation of the Geneva conventions,” and added that it is the international community’s responsibility to ensure an “impartial plebiscite in Kashmir.”

He further maintained that Kashmir issue is an internationally recognized dispute in the relevant United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions and stressed that the “human rights situation in ‘IoK’ has continued to worsen following India’s illegal and unilateral actions in August 2019.” He said that India has not “reciprocated Pakistan’s efforts for peace and stability”, and stressed that the “durable peace, security and development in the region hinge on peaceful resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute.”

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2022/02/05/modis-fascist-policies-have-failed-to-crush-kashmiri-resistance-spirit-pm-imran/>

### Economic Developments

#### **‘267 meter Diemer-Bhasha Dam cableway bridge Completed’**

*Daily Times, January 31, 2022*

To accelerate the transportation of heavy machinery and construction materials across the Indus River to the Diemer-Bhasha Dam Project (DBDP), the construction of a 267-meter long temporary cable bridge has been completed. According to the Pakistan Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA), the cableway bridge can bear 80 tons of weight and

noted that before the 267-meter long cableway bridge on River Indus downstream, three cableway bridges, upstream of Main Dam, are already operational for the transportation of heavy machinery and building materials. The contract for consultancy services for the project was awarded to Diemer-Bhasha Consultants Group (DBCG). The DBCG’s comprises 12 top-ranked national and foreign consulting firms, including China Water Resources Beifang Investigation, Design and Research (BIDR) Company. These firms have vast experience in providing consultancy services for mega water projects the world over. The DBDP is being constructed on River Indus, which is scheduled to be completed in 2028-29. The project will have a gross water storage capacity of 8.1 Million Acre-Feet (MAF) to irrigate 1.23 million acres of additional land, with an installed power generation capacity of 4,500 Mega Watt (MW), the project will provide more than 18 billion units per annum to the national grid.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/877558/diemer-bhasha-dam-another-267-meter-cableway-bridge-completed/>

#### **‘Dasu-Raikot project of KKH to be completed in March 2022’**

*The Nation, January 31, 2022*

The north zone of the National Highway Authority (NHA) member said that the rehabilitation, improvement and widening of the existing Karakoram Highway (KKH) from Dasu to Raikot will be completed in March 2022. After completion of the 172km-long project, the KKH from Thakot to Khunjerab would become

fully functional as this was the major block to reach the China border. He said that the rehabilitation of KKH from Dasu to Raikot is a deposit work of the Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) and it has provided the 2.4 billion total funds for the project while NHA is only executing the project on-site. The project is being constructed by the Rustum Associates and Dynamic Constructors-Joint Venture (RADC-JV), which has gained a positive reputation for constructing roads, especially in hard areas like Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) and “Azad Jammu and Kashmir” (AJK).

The JV has also developed three projects, funded by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) that include the Rehabilitation of Mansehra to Naran-Jalkhad-Chillas Road, Rehabilitation of National Highways and Bridges Naran-Jalkhad and Rehabilitation of National Highways and Bridges at Naran-Jalkhad of N-15. The KKH is one of the highest paved “international roads” in the world and now the tourists could reach Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) directly by using KKH from Mansehra after leaving Hazara motorway.

<https://nation.com.pk/31-Jan-2022/dasu-raikot-project-of-kkh-to-be-completed-in-march-2022>

### **‘SCO brings 4G to GB's Shamshal valley’**

*The Express Tribune, February 01, 2022*

The Special Communications Organisation (SCO) has bought 4G services to Shamshal village in Gilgit-Baltistan (GB), where people previously had to travel five hours to

Hunza for communication and medical assistance. Shamshal, a border village that connects Pakistan and China, is located 55 kilometres away from the Karakoram Highway. The SCO worked to bring “civic facilities for people of far-flung regions” of GB, as earlier, it installed Shifa telemedicine in the region, which helped connect the local community with 6,000 doctors across Pakistan to avail the medical facility at home. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the SCO and Zong Pakistan last year to carry out various telecom projects and activities in “Azad Jammu and Kashmir” (AJK) and GB. The MoU signing ceremony was attended by SCO director major general Shahid Siddique, Zong CEO Wang Hua, Zong Chief Technical Officer (CTO) Lu Jianhui and senior officials of SCO and Zong. According to a press release, Zong will work in collaboration with the SCO, which is the largest and most prominent telecom services provider in GB, AJK, through its “strategic activities.”

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2341443/sco-brings-4g-to-g-bs-shamshal-valley>

### **‘Promotion of tourism in ‘AJK’ among Govt.'s top priorities:’ PM Imran Khan**

*The Nation, February 02, 2022*

The Prime Minister (PM) of Pakistan, Imran Khan said that “Azad Jammu and Kashmir” (AJK) had a lot of tourism potential, the promotion of tourism and other allied sectors was among the government’s foremost priorities. He stressed that the development of the tourism sector in the valley besides improving infrastructure and economy will also

help create ample employment opportunities. The PM was talking to 'AJK' PM, Sardar Abdul Qayyum Niazi, who also briefed him about the progress of the 'AJK' government's ongoing public welfare and tourism sector development projects.

<https://nation.com.pk/02-Feb-2022/promotion-of-tourism-in-ajk-among-govt-s-top-priorities-pm-imran>

### **From Vernacular Urdu Media**

#### **'Senate strives for Kashmiris' right to self-determination:' Chairman Senate to AJK President**

*Urdu point, February 01, 2022*

The chairman of the Senate, Sadiq Sanjarani has said that the Pakistan Senate is continuing its efforts for "securing the right to self-determination" of the Kashmiri people and taking various steps in this regard. He expressed these views during a meeting with the president of "Azad Jammu and Kashmir" (AJK), Sultan Mehmood Chaudhry. He said they are "trying to convene a meeting" of the Senate of Pakistan on the 5th of February in Muzaffarabad to send a clear message of solidarity to the people of "occupied Kashmir." He noted that the "people of occupied Kashmir" have been continuing their "heroic struggle" in the presence of 900,000 Indian troops to achieve their "right to self-determination." During the meeting, the president of 'AJK' stressed that all the "institutions of Pakistan should unite and show solidarity with the Kashmiri people." The president said that "we have to intensify" our efforts to raise the Kashmir issue aggressively at the international level. The president

further thanked the Chairman and members of the Senate for expressing solidarity with the Kashmiri people.

<https://www.jasarat.com/2022/02/01/220201-01-20/>

#### **India is engaged in 'genocide of Kashmiri people:' PM of 'AJK'**

*Nawaiwaqt, February 01, 2022*

The Prime Minister (PM) of "Azad Jammu and Kashmir" (AJK) Sardar Abdul Qayyum Niazi "condemned the martyrdom of five innocent Kashmiris by the brutal Indian occupying forces" in "Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir's" (IIOJK) cities of Pulwama and Budgam. He urged the international community, United Nations (UN), OIC, and the international human rights forums to take immediate notice of the "ugly situation in IIOJK" where the "occupying Indian forces" have launched a "systematic war of repressions against innocent Kashmiri people", struggling for the "liberation of their motherland from Indian subjugation." While talking to various delegations at the Jammu Kashmir house, he said "India is the biggest terrorist country" in the world, engaged in "genocide of Kashmiri people" to crush the "freedom movement" launched by the people of "occupied Kashmir."

He said that the "Indian atrocities" have crossed all boundaries while "IIOJK" has now become the "largest military base in the world." He said that there are 900,000 "Indian occupying" troops stationed in Kashmir where "India was blatantly involved in committing serious crimes against humanity." He underlined the

need for taking “concrete steps to mobilize the international community” for resolving the long-standing “Kashmir dispute” under the United Nations (UN) resolutions. The ‘AJK’ PM said that Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) Liberation Cell would also be reorganized so that it could play an effective role in apprising the world of the “ugly situation of the IIOJK.” He said that the speedy progress and prosperity of ‘AJK’ with prime focus to ensure the socio-economic well-being of the people of the “liberated territory” is being ensured.

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/AJK/2022-02-01/page-1>

### **‘Kashmir Solidarity Day to be observed on February 5’**

Nawaiwaqt, February 03, 2022

The Kashmir solidarity day will be observed on Feb 5 to express wholehearted support of the Pakistani nation to the “just struggle of Kashmiri people” for their inalienable “right to self-determination” under United Nations (UN) resolutions. It will be a public holiday and preparations are in full swing to observe the day to highlight the plight of the “oppressed Kashmiri people” and remind the world community of its obligations towards the resolution of the longstanding dispute. The day is being observed after India revoked the special status of Kashmir in August 2019 in “breach of all international laws”, and since then the entire population of the “occupied territory” has been under a lockdown. A human chain will be formed at Kohala, Mangla, Holar and Azad Pattan point linking Pakistan and “Azad Kashmir”.

Rallies, public meetings, and seminars will be held to draw the attention of the world community towards “grave human rights violations and brutalities against innocent Kashmiris by the Indian security forces.” The banners highlighting the “plight of innocent Kashmiris” have been put on display at all important places and the education department would organize special programmes in educational institutions to draw the world’s attention towards the “Kashmir issue.”

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/AJK/2022-02-03/page-1>

### **‘Jamaat-e-Islami will hold nationwide rallies on Kashmir Solidarity Day’**

Urdupoint, February 03, 2022

The Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) secretary of information Qaiser Sharif has said that Kashmir solidarity day will be celebrated with enthusiasm on February 5 to show solidarity with the “oppressed Muslims of occupied Kashmir.” In this regard, there will be rallies and demonstrations in all cities and towns to be addressed by the central leaders of JI. In Qaiser Sharif’s view, Ameer of JI, Sirajul Haq will address the rally in Peshawar, while the secretary-general of JI, Amir-ul-Azeem will address a rally in “solidarity with Kashmiris” in Lahore. The Amir of JI and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Senator Mushtaq Ahmed will address the rally in Islamabad and Deputy Amir JI Liaquat Baloch in Multan. Similarly, all the Amir’s of JI will address rallies and conduct awareness programs in all and different parts of provinces in Pakistan.

<https://www.urdupoint.com/pakistan/news/lahore/national-news/live-news-3036379.htm>

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## Disclaimer

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