

# Weekly POK News Digest

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

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## Counter-Terrorism POK Neelum Jhelum Dasu Hydropower Project Gilgit-Baltistan climate change



MANOHAR PARRIKAR INSTITUTE FOR  
DEFENCE STUDIES AND ANALYSES

मनोहर पर्रिकर रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान

No. 1, Development Enclave, Rao Tula Ram Marg  
New Delhi-110 010

## Contents

### Political Developments

- 'IIOJK' faces another 'legal' oppression
- Kashmiris demand Justice
- JKLF condemns the killing of six people in India-held Jammu
- India planning to pursue Israeli model of demographic engineering in 'IIOJK'
- UN must fulfill Kashmir obligation: Dr. Fai
- President Alvi and PM Shehbaz reassure Pakistan's continued support to Kashmir as it observes 'Right to Self-Determination Day'
- GB apex body decides to beef up Chinese citizens' security
- Pakistan committed to supporting Kashmiris' self-will right: Bilawal
- APHC-'AJK' appeals to UN Chief to take steps for Kashmir settlement

### Economic Developments

- CGGC is attempting to restore the Neelum Jhelum Hydropower Project
- Sherry promises measures to combat climate change in Gilgit-Baltistan
- Dasu Hydropower Project to miss its completion deadline

### Vernacular Urdu Media

- JKSM announced a rally from Burhan Wani Chowk to the UN office on the International Day for the Right to Self-Determination
- 'AJK' PM has declared that 'Azad Kashmir' will officially mark the anniversaries of the martyrs of the Pakistani Army
- Kashmiris' right to self-determination will be celebrated on both sides of the line of control
- The world community should act right away to stop Indian 'state terrorism' in 'occupied' Jammu and Kashmir: Qamar Zaman Kaira
- The right to self-determination is the only long-term response to the Kashmiri people's aspirations and sacrifices: JI Leader
- Despite Indian brutality, Kashmiris are determined about getting their freedom: Dr. Khalid Mehmood

## Political Developments

### 'IIOJK' faces another 'legal' oppression

*The Express Tribune, 2 January 2023*

As Indian 'atrocities' in 'Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir' (IIOJK) continue unabated and three Kashmiri youths were martyred on 28 December in the name of 'militancy.' The 'IIOJK' is facing a new challenge: 'illegal delimitation' to suit Modi's 'agenda.' In April 2022, an Indian frontline magazine voiced concerns about the matter and said the Delimitation Commission, which was in charge of redrawing 'occupied' Jammu and Kashmir's Assembly and legislative districts, was being used to 'manipulate' the facts in BJP's favor. The commission kept hold of its allocation of six of the seven additional constituencies that will be added to the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly, despite accusations from the political elite in the Kashmir valley that it was blatantly tipping the electoral scale in favor of the Jammu region, which has a majority of Hindus. Why electoral district 'redrawing' is taking place in 'IIOJK' while it is put on hold in the rest of India until 2026 has been brought up numerous times. Former chief minister Omar Abdullah referred to the delimitation process as the Centre's discriminatory policies toward 'IIOJK.' While we don't trust the fake leadership of Abdullah's and Muftis, the mere fact that even these leaders are raising their voices merits attention.

The 'illegal' Delimitation Commission set aside six additional assembly seats for the Jammu region and just one additional seat for the Kashmir region.

The action is considered an 'attack on political centrality and domination' of Kashmir in 'IIOJK's politics as well as 'part of the sequence of measures taken by the BJP-led government from 5th August 2019 to disempower Kashmiris of 'IIOJK.' Since there are 15 lacks more people living in the Kashmir Valley than there are in Jammu, according to the most recent census, concerns have been raised over the proposal. It is important to remember that a census of the Indian population was planned for 2021, while delimitation, based on the fresh census, was to take place in 2026.

There is one seat for every 1,25,082 people in the Jammu region and one seat for every 1,46,563 people in the Kashmir region. For 1,25,082 residents in the Jammu Division, a single seat has been established. The Kashmir Division, which has 1,46,563 people, has the same constituency. There is no doubt that the rights of 10,09,621 valley dwellers have been violated. Jammu's assembly seats grew from 37 to 43 with the delimitation, whereas Kashmir's seats climbed from 46 to 47. Delimitation in 'IIOJK' has long been a BJP policy, and the party routinely emphasizes the fallacy of Jammu's under-representation. In 1995, Kashmir received 46 seats and Jammu 37. This shows that Kashmir, where 56.15% of J&K's population resides, got 55.42% representation in the assembly while Jammu, home to 43.84% of the region's population, had 44.57%. The number of seats in the Jammu area has also grown since 1957 by a proportion that is more than double that of Kashmir.

The Muslim population of the Jammu region is further being marginalized; the Muslim-majority parts of Jammu

that were originally a part of the Jammu Lok Sabha seat have been added to the Anantnag constituency, which is significant. Currently, the Jammu area's Rajouri and Poonch districts, which are predominately Muslim, are a part of the Kashmir region's Anantnag constituency. According to Kashmir's political elite, this has made the divide between the Kashmir valley and the largely Hindu Jammu region even wider. Allotment of six of the seven new Assembly seats to the Jammu region by the Delimitation Commission is being regarded as a part of the BJP's strategy to appoint a Hindu Chief Minister in 'IIOJK.' To succeed in elections and show the rest of the world its adherence to democratic ideas and practices, India purposely carried out the delimitation during this period. Another major issue is the Schedule Tribe (STs) Status of the Paharis: long denied the STs status, the Paharis have lately received it as a political compromise. Reservations in employment, education, and other areas benefited the STs as well. The Pahari population is mainly concentrated in the twin border districts of Baramulla and Kupwara in the Kashmir division, as well as Rajouri and Poonch in the Jammu area. Nine seats in the 90-member Assembly of Jammu and Kashmir have been designated for STs. Four seats in Kashmir and five in the Jammu division are reserved for STs. Six of the reserved assembly seats will go to Jammu, and three to Kashmir. The BJP, which is appeasing the Paharis at the moment, sees them as a potential voting pool that may grow if given ST status. While BJP/RSS agenda is being forcefully imposed on the Muslim

population of 'IIOJK,' they will resist it squarely. The Pakistani leadership needs to raise this blatant violation of the rights of Kashmiris in the international arena.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2393755/iiojk-faces-another-legal-oppression>

### **Kashmiris demand Justice**

*The Nation, 3 January 2023*

Imran Khan jeopardized the Kashmir cause when he met with President Trump at the UN General Assembly meeting in 2018–19. Why the PDM government did not file a lawsuit at the proper international venue after that? Our official complicity can be seen in our silence regarding the Indian parliament's actions on August 5, 2019, which revoked 'Indian Occupied Kashmir' (IOK) autonomy and legalized their 'illegal occupation' for the previous 74 years. However, this could be contested to bring into play the applicability of several international laws and regulations. With US help, the Indian parliament committed this 'illegal act' in an attempt to deceive the rest of the world into believing that the 'IOK' had become a completely established Indian Union Territory. Indian behavior is a grave breach of Jus Cogen (customary principles) and international law rules that, if the global conscience is still alive, would result in justice for human dignity. The recent effort by India and Israel to permit Israel to build a foothold and develop agricultural farms in 'occupied Kashmir' is not only concerning, but it also demonstrates Israel's intention to advance its settler-colonialist agenda in the region of Kashmir through the

Modi government. The United Nations' pledge to hold a referendum after receiving approval from India and Pakistan in 1949 has not been forgotten by the people of Kashmir. It is important to pursue legal options to put pressure on India and Pakistan to uphold the pledge made by their founding fathers to hold a plebiscite and provide them the inherent right to exercise their right to self-determination.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/03-Jan-2023/kashmiris-demand-justice>

### **JKLF condemns the killing of six people in India-held Jammu**

*Dawn, 4 January 2023*

The 'pro-independence' Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) has condemned the killing of six people, including two children, in Dangri village of 'India-occupied Jammu' over the past three days as 'intolerable and highly condemnable acts of terrorism.' The JKLF chief spokesperson Rafiq Dar in a statement said that the Dangri-like massacres that have occurred in Jammu and Kashmir during the ongoing freedom struggle are 'acts of terrorism' under a 'conspiracy' hatched by the 'imperialist forces' to destroy the centuries-old atmosphere of brotherhood in the state. He said that the killing of people from any sect or religion in the state of Jammu and Kashmir is regrettable and condemnable and the whole nation is mourning this latest tragedy.

While expressing sympathy with the bereaved families, the JKLF spokesperson said that his organization had been struggling for the 'complete

independence' and sovereignty of the state of Jammu and Kashmir and such incidents were a blatant attempt to portray and malign this sacred freedom movement as a 'religious and communal movement.' He demanded that the international community, particularly the international human rights organizations, investigate tragic incidents of killings of innocent civilians in the state to bring their perpetrators to justice. He said that this investigation will also expose before the world in general and the people of the state of Jammu and Kashmir, in particular, the elements behind such incidents of 'bloodbath in their region.'

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1729852/jklf-condemns-killing-of-six-people-in-india-held-jammu>

### **India planning to pursue Israeli model of demographic engineering in 'IIOJK'**

*Pakistan Observer, 4 January 2023*

Diplomats have termed India's abstention on a United Nations (UN) General Assembly's landmark resolution calling on the International Court of Justice (ICJ) to give an opinion on the legal consequences of Israel's illegal occupation of Palestinian territories reflected India's drive to pursue 'Israeli model of demographic engineering in occupied Jammu and Kashmir.' In the 193-member Assembly, 87 voted in favor to 26 against with 53 abstentions on the resolution, co-sponsored by Pakistan, which saw Western nations divided but it garnered unanimous support of the Islamic world. Russia and China voted in favor of the resolution. Israel, the US, and 24 other members,

including the United Kingdom and Germany voted against the resolution, while India and France were among the 53 nations that abstained.

Pakistan's UN Ambassador Munir Akram said in an interview that India's abstention derives from its policies of 'occupation' in Jammu and Kashmir, 'usurpation of Kashmiri lands, demographic change', and denial of the right to self-determination, the precise issues of the Israeli occupation on which the General Assembly has sought an advisory opinion from the ICJ. Israeli culpability in Palestine will also confirm India's 'culpability in IIOJK,' the Pakistani envoy claimed. The resolution, titled 'Israeli practices affecting the human rights of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem' calls on the ICJ to determine the 'legal consequences arising from the ongoing violation by Israel of the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination' as well as of its measures 'aimed at altering the demographic composition, character and status' of the holy city of Jerusalem.

<https://pakobserver.net/india-planning-to-pursue-israeli-model-of-demographic-engineering-in-iiojkl>

### **UN must fulfill Kashmir obligation: Dr. Fai**

*Pakistan Observer, 4 January 2023*

Dr. Ghulam Nabi Fai, chairman of, the World Forum for Peace and Justice, said that the Kashmiri global diaspora will observe the Right to Self-Determination Day on January 5, 2023. It was on January 5, 1949, when the United Nations Commission for India and Pakistan (UNCIP) adopted the

resolution that gave the people of Jammu and Kashmir the right to self-determination. American Ambassador to the United Nations (UN), Adlai Stevenson eloquently noted on June 15, 1962, that, 'the larger interest of South Asia's peace and security requirements, it seems to us, the prompt settlement of the Kashmir dumpsite.' Fai said that the Kashmiri diaspora will hold public rallies, seminars, and processions in different capitals of the world, added that in Washington, DC, and New York, 'World Kashmir Awareness Forum' has arranged digital trucks to highlight not only the demand of the people of Kashmir to right to self-determination but also to bring to light the nature of 'atrocities' committed by the 'Indian occupation forces' in 'occupied Jammu and Kashmir.' The digital trucks will move around the city of Washington and New York between 10.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. with messages like, 'stop India's military and demographic terrorism in Kashmir.'

<https://pakobserver.net/un-must-fulfill-kashmir-obligation-dr-fai/>

### **President Alvi and PM Shehbaz reassure Pakistan's continued support to Kashmir as it observes 'Right to Self-Determination Day'**

*Pakistan Observer, 5 January 2023*

As Kashmiris on both sides of the Line of Control (LoC) and all over the world are observing the Right to Self-Determination Day, President Dr. Arif Alvi and Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif have reassured Pakistan's continued 'political, diplomatic, and moral support' to Kashmiris in their 'just struggle' for the right to self-determination under the relevant UN

Security Council resolutions. Alvi said that the 'oppressed people' of the 'Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir' (IIOJK) have not been able to exercise their right to self-determination as outlined by the United Nations. While extending Pakistan's support to the people of Kashmir, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said that the right to self-determination is a 'cardinal principle' of international law and is upheld by international human rights organizations. However, Shehbaz regretted that the 'oppressed' people of 'IIOJK' have not been able to exercise this right, claiming that the people of 'IIOJK' are being subjected to 'systematic and widespread human rights abuses.' On the right to self-determination day, he said that India must reverse its actions of Aug 5 2019 and he urged the global community to play its part in giving Kashmiris of 'IIOJK' their legal right to decide their destiny. <https://pakobserver.net/president-alvi-pm-shehbaz-reassure-pakistans-continued-support-to-kashmir-as-it-observes-right-to-self-determination-day/>

### **GB apex body decides to beef up Chinese citizens' security**

*Dawn, 6 January 2023*

A security committee, comprising high-ranking civil and military officials, chaired by Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) Chief Minister Khalid Khurshid, decided to enhance the security of Chinese citizens working in (GB). The GB apex committee also agreed to develop a comprehensive communication strategy to counter misinformation and disinformation in the media that might create a law and

order situation. The meeting decided to increase vigilance to ensure the security of Chinese officials and personnel working on a number of projects in the region under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The meeting was also attended by Force Command Northern Areas (FCNA) commander major general Kashif Khalil, GB chief secretary Mohyuddin Ahmad Wani, GB IGP Saeed Wazir, GB Scouts DG, Military Intelligence and ISI sector commanders, and Intelligence Bureau's deputy DG. The committee reviewed the existing security environment in the region and resolved to ensure peace and stability. It also decided to reactivate the National Action Plan (NAP) and ensure its enforcement in letter and spirit. The meeting was informed that the issue of capacity building and reinforcement of the police in general and the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) in particular has been taken up with the federal government.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1730205/gb-apex-body-decides-to-beef-up-chinese-citizens-security>

### **Pakistan committed to supporting Kashmiris' self-will right: Bilawal**

*The Nation, 6 January 2023*

Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said that Pakistan will continue supporting Kashmiri brethren for their just right to self-determination. In a message on the occasion of Right to Self-Determination Day, Bilawal said that on this day in 1949, the United Nations Commission for India and Pakistan (UNCIP) unanimously adopted a resolution espousing the right to self-determination of the Kashmiri people through a free and

impartial plebiscite under the auspices of the United Nations. The right to self-determination is a cardinal principle of international law that is upheld by international human rights instruments. It has been reaffirmed by UN General Assembly in its annual resolution on self-determination. He added that this day reminds the international community, especially the United Nations, of the imperative of honoring its commitment to the people of Jammu and Kashmir. He said the last 75 years of India's 'occupation' of 'Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir' (IIOJK) are a sad story of 'repression' of the Kashmiri people. India has unleashed a reign of terror in 'IIOJK' and denied these oppressed people the right to exercise their inalienable right to self-determination and lead a life of dignity. Since its 'illegal' and unilateral actions of 5 August 2019, India is engineering demographic and political changes in 'IIOJK' to convert Kashmiris into a 'disempowered minority' in their own land.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/06-Jan-2023/pakistan-committed-to-support-kashmiris-self-will-right-bilawal>

### **APHC-'AJK' appeals to UN Chief to take steps for Kashmir settlement**

*Pakistan Observer, 6 January 2023*

The All Parties Hurriyat Conference 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (APHC-AJK) chapter has appealed to the UN secretary-general, Antonio Guterres, to take steps for resolving the Kashmir dispute by giving the Kashmiris their right to self-determination guaranteed to them by the UN through its resolutions. The appeal has been made

in a memorandum submitted to the UN office in Islamabad by an APHC-'AJK' delegation led by the Convener, Mahmood Ahmad Saghar. The memorandum said the Kashmiri people have rendered unparalleled sacrifices in their struggle for achieving this right in the last seven decades. It said the silence of the United Nations and international powers on the issue has emboldened India to carry on its 'state terrorism' in 'India illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir' (IOJK).

<https://pakobserver.net/aphc-ajk-appeals-un-chief-to-take-steps-for-kashmir-settlement/>

## **Economic Developments**

### **CGGC is attempting to restore the Neelum Jhelum Hydropower Project**

*Jasarat, 2 January 2023*

The Neelum Jhelum Hydropower Project's (NJHP) tail race tunnel is being repaired round-the-clock by China Gezhouba Group Company (CGGC). A blockage in the tail race tunnel that occurred in July 2022, roughly 68 kilometers outside the project's tunneling system, forced NJHP to halt power production. The Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) chairman Lt. Gen. Sajjad Ghani (retd) visited the NJHP and evaluated the progress on the restoration works in the project's tail race tunnel. The CGGC representatives and experts as well as the chief executive officer of the Neelum Jhelum Hydropower Company (NJHC) were also present. After receiving permission from the federal government, WAPDA granted the rehabilitation contract to CGGC in

August 2022. The WAPDA chairman urged the project management to finish the repair work on time and also instructed the remedial work to be done in accordance with the advice of the international panel of experts.

<https://www.jasarat.com/2023/01/02/cggcs-work-on-rehabilitation-of-neelum-jhelum-hydropower-project-continues/>

### **Sherry promises measures to combat climate change in Gilgit-Baltistan**

*Dawn, 3 January 2023*

The climate change minister Sherry Rehman has said the federal government would take more effective and serious measures to mitigate the impact of climate change on Gilgit-Baltistan (GB). She made these comments during a meeting with Amjad Hussain, the opposition leader in the GB assembly who apprised the federal minister of the adverse impacts of climate change in GB. He further told that various issues are arising in GB due to climate change, and added that the glaciers that were melting at a rapid pace posed risks to the local population and infrastructure. Protecting these glaciers and preventing locals from melting glaciers disaster is the urgent need of the hour, he added.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1729663/sherry-promises-measures-to-combat-climate-change-in-gilgit-baltistan>

### **Dasu Hydropower Project to miss its completion deadline**

*The Nation, 4 January 2023*

The construction of the Dasu Hydropower Project (DHP-Stage-I) having an installed capacity of 2,160

MW will miss its earlier completion deadline and now power generation from the project will commence by the end of 2026. Project management, while giving a briefing to Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) chairman Lt-Gen (Retd) Sajjad Ghani during his visit to DHP, said construction work was continuing simultaneously on 12 different sites. The critical diversion system will be completed in May 2023, while electricity generation from the project will commence by the end of 2026. Due to Land acquisition issues, the COVID Pandemic, and terrorism incidents which are all beyond the control of WAPDA, the expected Cash on Delivery (COD) of the Dasu Stage-I Hydropower Project (HPP) has been pushed till Financial Year (FY) 2026-27, said WAPDA in its bulk supply tariff petition shared with National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA).

WAPDA had requested NEPRA to allow an extension in COD of the project till 2026-27. The Dasu Stage-I, situated on River Indus, was approved in 2014, however, due to land acquisition issues pace of work on the project remained slow. Resolution of land acquisition delayed the project for almost three years. The Main Civil Works Contract was awarded to M/S China Gezhouba Group Company (CGGC) which was expected to be completed by June 2023. The Evaluation and Management (E&M) contract was awarded to M/s Power China-General Electronics JV in Feb 2021 with expected completion in March 2026.

The pace of main civil works remained slow initially, however, after the resolution of land acquisition issues in 2019, work on the project was going on smoothly and gaining momentum amid the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak until July 14, 2021, when an unfortunate terrorist attack took place on a bus of Chinese contractor staff resulting in several casualties and injuries which caused the complete suspension of work for the next almost four months. After concrete efforts of WAPDA and the government of Pakistan and CGGC resumed the halted work on October 25, 2021, albeit in a phased manner. This delay has badly impacted the construction schedule as the major milestone of River Diversion which was earlier scheduled in Nov-Dec 2021 has slipped to Dec-2022 causing a one-year delay, said the petition. The statement issued by WAPDA said that the 4320 MW-Dasu Hydropower Project is planned to be completed in two stages. At present, WAPDA is constructing stage-I with an installed generation capacity of 2160 MW and an annual energy generation of 12 billion units of low-cost and environment-friendly electricity. The stage-II, when implemented, will also provide 9 billion units to the National Grid. On completion of both Stages, Dasu will become the project with the highest annual energy generation in Pakistan i.e., 21 billion units on average. WAPDA is spending Rs. 17.34 billion on schemes relating to resettlement, environmental management, and social development in the project area. About 3722 jobs, including 1945 for locals, have so far been created, which will increase to the

8000 mark during the peak construction period of the project.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/04-Jan-2023/dasu-hydropower-project-to-miss-its-completion-deadline>

## From Vernacular Urdu Media

### **JKSM announced a rally from Burhan Wani Chowk to the UN office on the International Day for the Right to Self-Determination**

*Jammu and Kashmir Times, 3 January 2023*

Altaf Ahmed Bhat, the chairman of the Jammu and Kashmir Salvation Movement (JKSM), announced that a rally and demonstration would take place from Burhan Wani Chowk to the United Nations (UN) office on the eve of International Day for the Right to Self-Determination, which is observed on January 5, with the demand that Kashmiris be granted their right to self-determination as promised by the UN. According to Bhat, the UN should uphold its resolutions on Kashmir, push India to acknowledge the right of Kashmiris to self-determination, and restore its (UN) damaged reputation. He asserted that the Kashmiri people have always seen 'India's occupation' of the area as 'oppressive and punitive.' The brave Kashmiri brothers, he alleged, never submitted to the might of the Indian army, despite the fact that numerous of our brothers and sisters were 'killed', 'tortured', and had their homes and places of business destroyed. He added that the Kashmiri people made all of these sacrifices to protect the right of their country to freedom, which India was denying by

using force and other coercive and illegal methods. He claimed that women are 'raped and sexually attacked,' children are 'slaughtered' and intimidated, innocent Kashmiris are killed every day, and the majority of young people are suffering from psychological trauma. According to him, the UN and the international community should cease holding Kashmiris to unfair standards and instead fulfill their commitments to guarantee Kashmiris' birthright to self-determination.

<http://jammukashmirtimes.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Resize-of-front-page-...02.jpg>

**'AJK' PM has declared that 'Azad Kashmir' will officially mark the anniversaries of the martyrs of the Pakistani Army**

*Mahasib, 3 January 2023*

Tanvir Ilyas, the prime minister of 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK), has declared that 'AJK' will officially observe the anniversaries of the Pakistan Army martyrs who gave their lives in defense of the country and people. Muhammad Sarwar Shaheed, who was awarded the first Nishan-i-Haider for his valor and actions during the first war between India and Pakistan in 1947–1948, will have his martyrdom anniversary commemorated on a national scale, according to a statement from the Department of Services and General Administration. He embraced Shahadat on July 27, 1948, following the capture of the 'enemy's main strategic locations in the Uri region. Ilyas Khan said that every officer and soldier who sacrificed their lives in

defense and honor of the country will be formally recognized at the official level.

<http://mahasib.com.pk/epaper/news.php?id=1532>

**Kashmiris' right to self-determination will be celebrated on both sides of the line of control**

*Jammu and Kashmir Times, 4 January 2023*

Kashmiris on both sides of the Line of Control (LoC) and around the world will observe January 5, as Right to Self-Determination Day. The All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) in 'Indian-occupied Kashmir' (IOK) and 'Azad Kashmir' has issued a call for the day's observance and to remind the international community of its responsibilities towards 'occupied Kashmir.' To draw attention to the long-pending Kashmir conflict, protest demonstrations, rallies, seminars, and other events will be conducted in 'Azad Kashmir', Pakistan, as well as in all major world capitals. The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) adopted a historic resolution on January 5th, 1949, stating that 'the issue of the State of Jammu and Kashmir's accession to India or Pakistan shall be settled through the democratic process of a free and impartial plebiscite.' In a statement released in Srinagar, the APHC pleaded for the UN to swiftly carry out its resolutions on Kashmir 'if it wishes to regain its damaged credibility.'

Similarly, the APHC leaders in 'Azad Kashmir' stated that the moment has come for the UN to intervene to defend Kashmiris from the 'Modi regime's onslaught.' The organization expressed

sadness that seven decades have gone by and the World Body has not yet carried out its promise to the Kashmiris of a referendum. The APHC leader in 'AJK' stated that, if the UN continues to take no action, India will feel more 'emboldened to suppress the Kashmiris' as Delhi has about a million of its security personnel stationed in Kashmir. In addition to special gatherings and demonstrations in each of the nine district headquarters of the liberated area, 'AJK' would hold public rallies to mark the occasion and stress the significance of giving the Jammu Kashmir people their right to self-determination as soon as possible.

<http://jammukashmirtimes.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Resize-of-front-04.jpg>

**The world community should act right away to stop Indian 'state terrorism' in 'occupied' Jammu and Kashmir: Qamar Zaman Kaira**

*UrduPoint, 5 January 2023*

According to Qamar Zaman Kaira, the prime minister's advisor on Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) and 'Azad Kashmir' affairs, India's actions in 'occupied Kashmir' are blatant violations of the Fourth Geneva Convention and international law. In a statement on the occasion of Right to Self-Determination Day, he said that Kashmiris should be freed from India's 'unlawful rule' and that the UN should see to it that its resolutions supporting the right of the Kashmiris to self-determination are implemented. Kaira said that India is disregarding UN resolutions and constantly violating the human rights of Kashmiris while pursuing Israeli-style practices in 'occupied' Jammu and Kashmir. Thousands of Kashmiris, he

claimed have given their lives in order to exercise their right to self-determination. According to him, India is altering the demographics of 'occupied' Jammu and Kashmir under the cover of unlawful and unilateral activities as of August 5, 2019. As a result, the UN must act immediately to prevent Indian 'state terrorism.' Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, according to Kaira, are bravely defending the rights of Kashmiris in all international venues.

<https://www.urduPoint.com/pakistan/news/islamabad/national-news/live-news-3420573.html>

**The right to self-determination is the only long-term response to the Kashmiri people's aspirations and sacrifices: JI Leader**

*UrduPoint, 5 January 2023*

The right to self-determination, according to Liaqat Baloch, a former member of the parliamentary Kashmir committee and vice Amir of Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) is the only long-term answer to the Kashmir problem and to the ambitions and sacrifices of the Kashmiri people. He said that the international community and the UN should forsake bias and indifference and provide the right to self-determination to the people of 'occupied Kashmir' so they can be freed from Indian 'fascism' and 'unlawful occupation.' Kashmir belongs to Kashmiris, and Kashmiri people have a right to justice from the rest of the world, Baloch added. He asserted that neither India nor Pakistan has the right to unilaterally impose their own solution on Kashmiris, enforce oppression or control portions of

Jammu and Kashmir. Baloch claims that Pakistanis are fighting for Kashmiris' freedom and right to self-determination.

He said that the past 75 years have shown that the common people across Pakistan have supported the Kashmiris, but the ruling class has consistently used a haphazard and uncoordinated approach. He asserts that the international community forbids India despite its 'fascism,' violations of human rights and violations of international law. He also emphasized that the Islamic world cannot experience peace, stability, and prosperity without finding a solution to the Kashmir and Palestine conflicts.

<https://www.urdupoint.com/pakistan/news/lahore/national-news/live-news-3421510.html>

### **Despite Indian brutality, Kashmiris are determined about getting their freedom: Dr. Khalid Mehmood**

*Jasarat, 7 January 2023*

The Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) leader in 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK), Dr. Khalid Mehmood Khan, stated that Kashmiris are devoted to obtaining their freedom despite the 'atrocities' carried out by the Indian Army in 'Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir' (IIOJK). Mehmood continued that our goals are for Kashmir to be free from the 'illegal Indian occupation' and that the 15 lakh members of our family living in 'IIOJK' are determined to exercise and pursue their undeniable right to self-determination.

<https://www.jasarat.com/2023/01/07/kashmiris-are-determined/>

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**Compiled by**  
Mohd. Usman Bhatti

**Edited By**  
Dr. Smruti S Pattanaik

## Disclaimer

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**MANOHAR PARRIKAR INSTITUTE FOR DEFENCE STUDIES AND ANALYSES**

No. 1, Development Enclave, Rao Tula Ram Marg  
New Delhi-110 010

Telephone: 91-11-26717983; Fax: 91-11-26154191

Website: [www.idsa.in](http://www.idsa.in); Email: [pokdigest@gmail.com](mailto:pokdigest@gmail.com)