

**Message from President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Mr. Asif Ali Zardari, on 'Youm-e-Istehsal' (5 August 2024)**

Today marks the completion of five years of India's latest campaign to consolidate its illegal occupation of Jammu and Kashmir. On this day, five years ago, India took a number of unilateral and unlawful steps in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) to undermine its internationally recognised disputed status.

Since 5 August 2019, India has embarked upon a ceaseless campaign to alter the demographic structure and political landscape of IIOJK. Issuing domicile certificates to outsiders, registering temporary residents in the voters' lists, gerrymandering assembly constituencies, and modifying land and property ownership laws are some of the key features of this campaign. All these measures are in blatant violation of the United Nations Security Council resolutions and international law, including the 4th Geneva Convention.

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The continued presence of hundreds of thousands of Indian troops has turned IIOJK into one of the most heavily militarized zones in the world. The gross human rights violations in IIOJK have been documented extensively and condemned globally. The mistreatment of Kashmiri journalists and human rights defenders has further revealed India's willingness to go to any lengths to silence dissenting voices.

India's actions since 5 August 2019 demonstrate complete disregard for international law, the aspirations of the Kashmiri people, and the UN Security Council resolutions. India would not succeed in suppressing the just struggle of the people of IIOJK through domestic legislation and judicial verdicts.

For the past seven decades, the Kashmiris have waited for the United Nations to fulfill its solemn commitments. It is crucial that the international community urges India to end its human rights violations in IIOJK and implement the relevant UN Security Council resolutions.

Pakistan, for its part, will continue to extend full moral, diplomatic and political support to the just struggle of the people of Jammu and Kashmir for realization of their inalienable right to self-determination, as enshrined in the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions.

**Message from the Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Mr. Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, on 'Youm-e-Istehsal' (5 August 2024)**

The people and Government of Pakistan are observing the 'Youm-e-Istehsal', today. This somber occasion reminds us of the grave consequences of India's illegal actions of 5 August 2019 vis-à-vis Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

On 5 August 2019, India took a series of steps to consolidate its occupation of IIOJK. Ever since, India has been trying to convince the world that Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of its territory. However, international law, historical facts, moral principles and the situation on ground deny India's baseless claims.

Today, in IIOJK, efforts are being made to silence the genuine leadership of the Kashmiri people and muzzle the media. The number of political prisoners remains in thousands, while 14 political organizations have been outlawed. Harassment of innocent people, arbitrary detentions, and the so-called 'cordon and search' operations have become a matter of routine. The Indian forces are operating with impunity, accorded to them under different draconian laws.

I, however, salute the indomitable courage of the Kashmiri people that has enabled them to withstand every Indian attempt to subjugate them. There is no doubt that India's coercive methods have failed to diminish their yearning for the realization of their inalienable right to self-determination.

History has proven, time and again, that durable peace in South Asia remains contingent upon the settlement of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute. In the interest of lasting peace and security in South Asia, India must move from dispute denial to dispute resolution.

The international community must urge India to halt its egregious human rights violations in IIOJK; reverse its unilateral and illegal actions of 5 August 2019; repeal the draconian laws; and implement the UN Security Council resolutions on Jammu and Kashmir.

Pakistan will continue to extend its strong moral, political and diplomatic support to the Kashmiri people till the realization of their inalienable right to self-determination.

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**Message from the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, on 'Youm-e-Istehsal'**  
**(5 August 2024)**

The Jammu and Kashmir dispute is one of the oldest unresolved international disputes. It has been on the agenda of the UN Security Council since 1948. The UN Security Council resolutions on Jammu and Kashmir affirm the right of the Kashmiri people to self-determination. Unfortunately, these resolutions have not been implemented despite lapse of over seven decades.

In the last 77 years, India has tried different methods to perpetuate its illegal rule on Jammu and Kashmir. However, an intensified campaign to 'Indianize' Kashmir, and transform Kashmiris into a disempowered community in their own land, has been in full swing since 5 August 2019. The Indian authorities have taken a number of steps, aimed at altering the demographic structure and political landscape of the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). These measures include gerrymandering of the electoral constituencies, allowing addition of non-Kashmiris to electoral rolls, issuance of domicile certificates to outsiders, and introduction of new laws on ownership of land and property.

India is also denying the Kashmiri people their fundamental rights and freedoms. To crush dissent, the Indian authorities have created an environment of fear and intimidation in IIOJK, with the number of political prisoners being in thousands. The UN human rights machinery and a large number of independent observers have already expressed concerns about different facets of the dismal human rights situation in IIOJK.

India's actions of 5 August 2019, and the subsequent steps ever since, constitute a breach of the UN Charter, UN Security Council resolutions, and international law, including 4th Geneva Convention. In the eyes of international law, any process, subservient to the Indian Constitution, cannot be invoked to determine the final status of Jammu and Kashmir, which is an internationally-recognized disputed territory. India will have to fulfill its obligations to the UN Security Council by granting the Kashmiri people their lawful and inalienable right to self-determination.

For its part, Pakistan will continue to extend all possible support to the people of IIOJK for the fullest realization of their legitimate rights. There is no doubt that durable peace and stability in South Asia can be achieved only through peaceful resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute, in accordance with the relevant UNSC resolutions and the wishes of the Kashmiri people.