

Right to Self-Determination Day (5 January 2026)
Message from the President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

On 5 January, the people of Pakistan join the people of Jammu and Kashmir in commemorating Right to Self-Determination Day. This date marks the adoption of a United Nations resolution in 1949 that affirmed the disputed nature of Jammu and Kashmir and recognised the right of its people to determine their own future through a free and impartial plebiscite.

More than seven decades later, that solemn commitment remains unfulfilled. The passage of time has neither diminished the validity of the United Nations resolutions nor weakened the legitimacy of the Kashmiri people's demand for self-determination. The continued denial of this right stands in clear contradiction to the principles of the UN Charter and international law.

The situation on the ground in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) remains deeply troubling. Widespread restrictions on political activity and freedom of speech, prolonged detentions and the use of coercive laws have created an atmosphere of fear and impunity. Civilians continue to bear the brunt of violence, while families are displaced and livelihoods disrupted.

In recent years, control over the rivers originating in Jammu and Kashmir has emerged as a grave additional challenge, with serious implications for the lives of Kashmiris and for regional stability. India's unilateral suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty, in disregard of its binding international obligations, represents a dangerous attempt to weaponise water, threatening livelihoods, food security and peace for millions who depend on these shared resources.

Pakistan firmly believes that the Jammu and Kashmir dispute is rooted in the aspirations of the Kashmiri people and cannot be resolved through force or unilateral measures. Lasting peace in South Asia is possible only through dialogue and through the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolutions, without prejudice to the recognised positions of the parties.

On this day, I call upon the international community and the United Nations in particular, to move beyond expressions of concern and to play an effective role in ensuring that the Kashmiri people are able to exercise their inalienable right to self-determination. Equally important is the need for credible steps to address ongoing human rights violations and to protect civilians.

Pakistan will continue to extend its consistent moral, political and diplomatic support to the people of IIOJK. We stand with them in their just and peaceful struggle for dignity, justice and a future of their own choosing.

Right to Self-Determination Day (5 January 2026)
Message from the Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan Shehbaz Sharif

Today, as we commemorate the “Right to Self-determination Day”, we solemnly reaffirm our unwavering support for the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) in their just struggle for the right to self-determination. The 5th of January serves as a powerful reminder of the historic commitment made by the international community, enshrined in the United Nations Security Council resolutions, to uphold the right to self-determination for the people of Occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

On 5 January 1949, the United Nations Commission for India and Pakistan (UNCIP) adopted the landmark resolution, which unequivocally stipulated that the final disposition of the State of Jammu and Kashmir, would be decided through a free and impartial plebiscite under the auspices of the United Nations. Sadly, this commitment remains unfulfilled to this day, as the resolution has never been implemented, due to India’s illegal occupation of Jammu and Kashmir.

The people of IIOJK have witnessed nearly eight decades of ordeal at the hands of Indian occupation forces. Their suffering has exacerbated manifold since 5 August 2019 when India undertook illegal and unilateral measures, as part of its systematic campaign to transform the demographic and political landscape of the IIOJK.

India has made consistent efforts to silence the genuine leadership of the Kashmiri people and muzzle the media. The number of Kashmiri political prisoners remains in thousands, while sixteen political outfits have been outlawed by occupation authorities. Meanwhile, profiling and harassment of innocent Kashmiris, arbitrary detentions, and the so-called ‘cordon and search’ operations have become a norm in the occupied territory.

Nevertheless, all Indian coercive measures have failed to subjugate the will of the people of IIOJK or suppress their quest for the right to self-determination. The people of Pakistan salute their indomitable courage, commitment and resilience, in the face of Indian atrocities.

The world must also recognize that a just resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute, is the only way to achieve durable peace in South Asia. We urge the international community to urgently call upon India to halt its widespread human rights violations in IIOJK, reverse its unilateral and illegal actions of 5 August 2019, repeal the draconian laws and give the right to self-determination to the Kashmiri people, as enshrined in the United Nations Security Council resolutions.

To our Kashmiri brothers and sisters, Pakistan will continue to extend its unwavering moral, political, and diplomatic support to your cause, and will continue to serve as your voice at every available platform.

Right to Self-Determination Day (5 January 2026)
Message from the Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister of Pakistan

On this “Right to Self-Determination Day”, the Government and people of Pakistan stand in unwavering solidarity with the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). We express our solemn commitment to their just struggle to achieve the inalienable right to self-determination.

This day commemorates the landmark adoption of the United Nations Commission for India and Pakistan (UNCIP) resolution on 5 January 1949, a pivotal document that formally guaranteed a free and impartial plebiscite for the people of Jammu & Kashmir.

This commitment is enshrined through multiple United Nations Security Council resolutions on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute, and is reaffirmed annually by the United Nations General Assembly in its resolutions upholding the right to self-determination.

The international law recognizes the right to self-determination as a cornerstone principle enshrined in the UN Charter. However, the people of IIOJK have been denied this right by India for over seven decades. The illegal occupation of Jammu and Kashmir by India stands as a stark tragedy of our times as the people of IIOJK continue to endure systematic repression, widespread human rights violations and denial of their fundamental rights and dignity.

In particular, India’s illegal and unilateral actions of 5 August 2019 represent a deliberate attempt to consolidate the illegal occupation through demographic engineering of IIOJK. These measures are designed to systematically transform the Kashmiri people into a disenfranchised community in their own homeland, in clear violation of international law and the principles of self-determination.

Despite enduring decades of oppression and countless sacrifices in IIOJK, the Kashmiri people have remained resolute in their just struggle to achieve the right to self-determination. We salute their unwavering resilience, courage and perseverance.

On this occasion, Pakistan reaffirms extending its moral, political, and diplomatic support to the people of IIOJK until the realization of their inalienable right to self-determination as stipulated in the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions.

Pakistan also calls upon the international community, particularly the United Nations, to honour its long-standing commitment with the Kashmiri people and play its mandated role in ensuring a just and peaceful resolution of the Jammu & Kashmir dispute.

Islamabad
January 5,2026