

## 28 years on: Families of Bijbehara massacre victims still await justice



Srinagar: The families of martyrs of Bijbehara massacre are still awaiting justice even after the passage of 28 years.

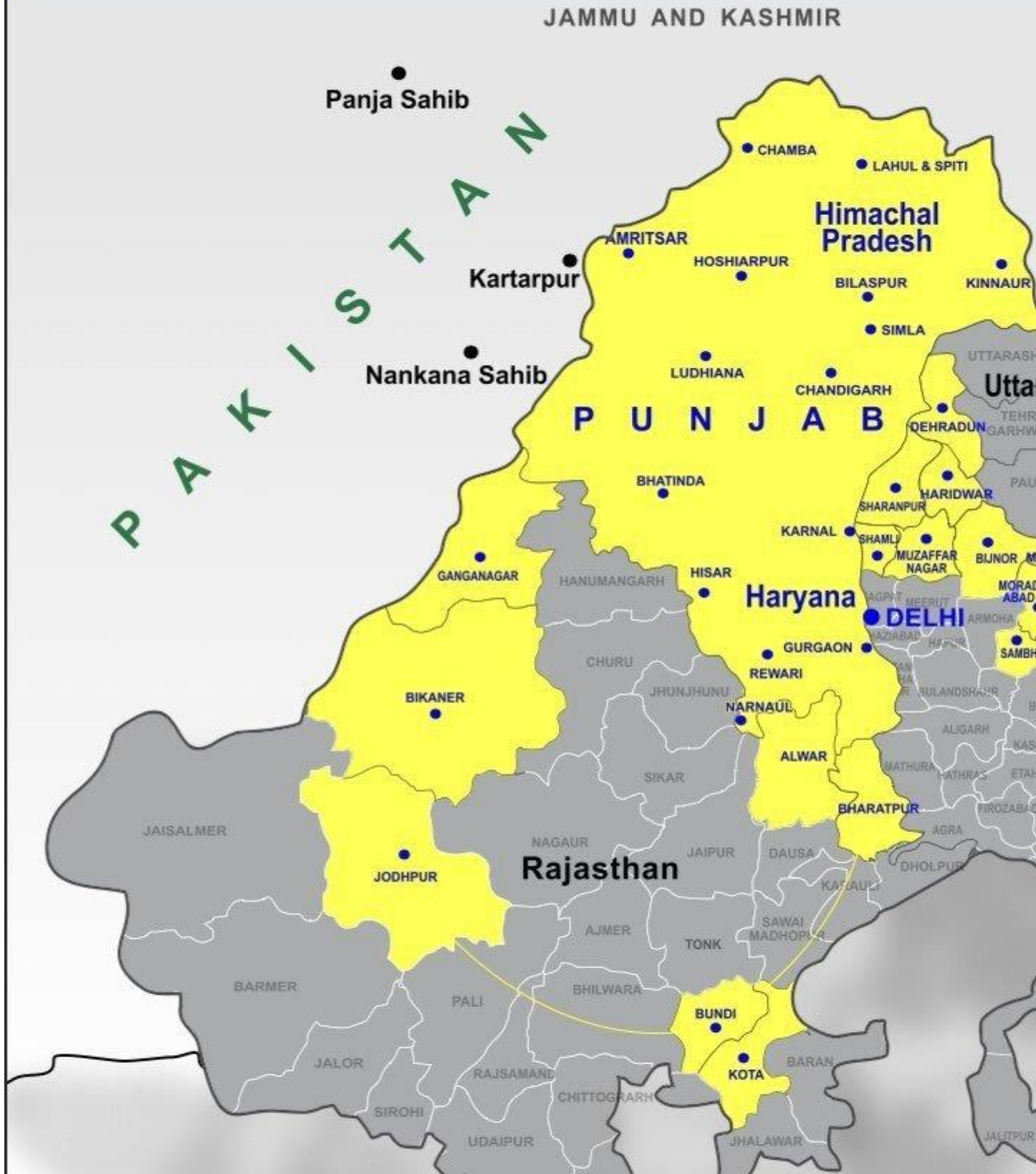
According to a research report, the Bijbehara tragedy is one of the most heinous crimes perpetrated by Indian troops in Indian Occupied Kashmir. Over 50 innocent Kashmiris were killed in Bijbehara on October 22, 1993, when the personnel of Indian Border Security Force opened fire on the peaceful demonstrators who were protesting against the Indian military siege of Srinagar's Hazratbal Shrine.

The report said memories of Bijbehara bloodbath are still fresh in the Kashmiris' minds. "History of Indian Occupied Kashmir is littered with several Bijbehara type carnages. Indian forces have carried out over 25 massacres in IIOJK. Massacres in Kashmir are ugly blots on so-called Indian democracy. Killers of Kashmiris have always been rewarded with promotions and monetary benefits," it said.  
Web Desk

## Sikhs for Justice releases new map of Khalistan

# Map Of The Area Marked For Secession

## KHALISTAN REF



Islamabad: An organisation Sikhs for Justice (SFJ) has released a new map of India showing not just Punjab but Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and several districts of Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh as part of Khalistan.

The Sikhs for Justice is a US-based organisation that supports the secession of Punjab from India for the creation of Khalistan.

It was founded and primarily headed by lawyer Gurpatwant Singh Pannun. It was banned in India in 2019 as an unlawful association. The ban came after it started campaigns for a Punjab independence referendum in 2019 to carve out a separate Khalistan.

The Sikhs For Justice have released a map of their vision of what Khalistan – a free Sikh homeland in India – would entail.

The group are holding a non-binding referendum to gauge support for Khalistan which begins next week (Oct 31st) in London, at the Queen Elizabeth Centre. [pic.twitter.com/DmPUHESBfh](https://pic.twitter.com/DmPUHESBfh)

The organisation has been fighting a long peaceful legal battle against the Indian government and politicians involved in the 1984 deadly operation against Sikhs since 2011. The Sikhs For Justice had filed criminal and human rights cases in the US courts against prominent leaders of the Congress Party (involved in Golden Temple Massacre). Web Desk

## Pakistan to observe Kashmir Black Day on October 27



Islamabad: Pakistan will observe Black Day against Indian atrocities in the Indian Occupied Kashmir (IOK) on October 27, the officials of the foreign ministry said on Monday.

The chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on Kashmir Shehryar Afridi chaired an in-camera session to review the preparations ahead of the observance of the Black Day on October 27 against the forced occupation of the valley by the Indian security forces.

During a briefing, the officials of the foreign ministry said that banners and hoardings have been installed in Islamabad's Red Zone and Pakistan embassies across the globe will expose the Indian atrocities against Kashmiris. Web Desk

# Indian military inroads into the Maldives facing organized resistance



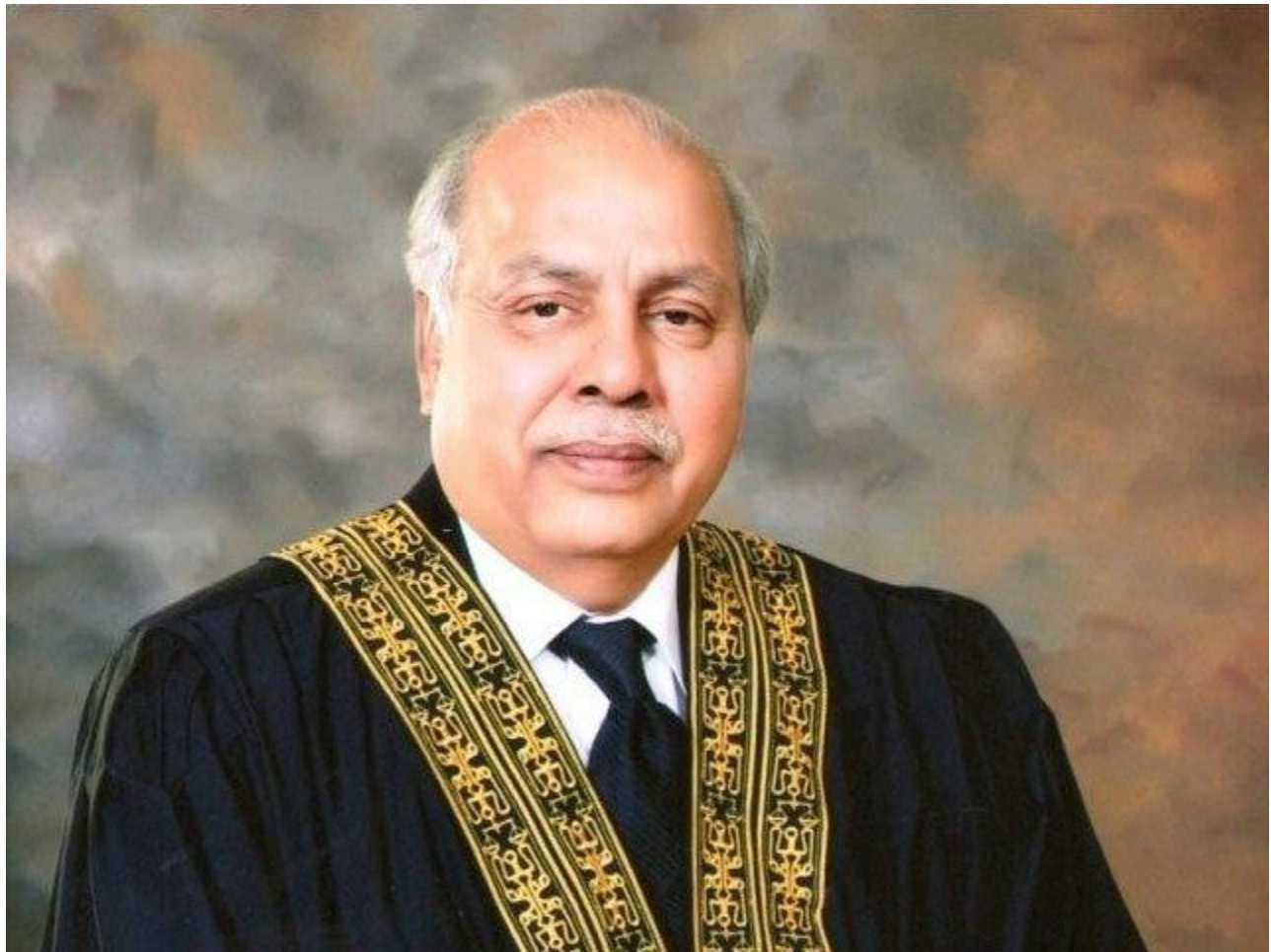
Demonstrations organized by the opposition and a breakaway faction from the ruling MDP are calling to end the Indian Military occupation in the Maldives. The current government authorized Indian forces to be stationed under a covert understanding with the Indian High Commissioner Sunjay Sudhir.

The opposition is calling it unconstitutional as according to the “Green Constitution of 2007” any such pact with any foreign power should first be approved by an overwhelming majority of the Parliament. The opposition claims that this document that was signed between the officials of the two countries was not discussed with the Peoples Majlis (Parliament) nor does it have the approval.

Multiple attempts by the fourth estate to delve into the issue was met with bureaucratic red tapes as the heads of the Maldives National Defence Force continue to reject transparency citing that the disclosure the document could constitute a “Threat to the National Security of the country”. A representative of the opposition coalition spoke to the Maldives News Network and stated questioned “How could the government in its right conscience sign a document that could be considered a “National Security Threat” and further conceal it from Parliament?”.

On October 22 the opposition and a breakaway faction from MDP that is calling for the Indian Military to be withdrawn from Maldives and disclosure of all covert and secret pacts between the two parties came out to the streets. It was a show of force never seen since the change of administration in 2018. The opposition claims thousands gathered and walked the streets chanting “Indian Military Out”. The Maldives News Network

## **Minorities in Pakistan free to practice their religion: CJP Gulzar Ahmad**



Hyderabad: The Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Justice Gulzar Ahmed has said all citizens of Pakistan, including minorities, are free to practice their religion.

He expressed these views while speaking as a chief guest at the Navratri festival of the Hindu community at Durga Shiv Mandir inside the Circuit House here the other day where the community presented traditional gifts to him.

The CJP said the rights of all the citizens were guaranteed in the constitution which would be abided by while the issues of several temples had come before him for justice. He added that all the temples which were under illegal occupation would be vacated and returned to the community.

The CJP observed that Quaid-e-Azam had categorically stated that the religious freedom of all the people would be ensured in Pakistan. Just as other Pakistanis, Hindus also enjoy constitutional protection, he added.

Last week, on the celebration of Holy Prophet's (Peace Be Upon Him) birth, Prime Minister Imran Khan said Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) laid the foundation of Riyasat-e-Madina which rose before the world as an example for others in terms of humanity, justice, and rule of law.

In this state system, minorities were protected, poor and needy were taken care of and rights and obligations of the state and citizens were determined, the PM added. APP

## **Climate change: Greenhouse gas concentrations reached new high in 2020**



London: The build-up of warming gases in the atmosphere rose to record levels in 2020 despite the pandemic, according to the World Meteorological Organization.

Concentrations of CO<sub>2</sub>, methane and nitrous oxide rose by more than the annual average over the past 10 years. The WMO says this will drive up temperatures in excess of the goals of the Paris agreement. They worry that our warmer world is, in turn, boosting emissions from natural sources.

The restrictions imposed around the world during the Covid pandemic saw an overall decline in emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> of 5.6%. So why hasn't that fall been echoed in atmospheric concentrations?

There are a number of factors involved.

Around half of emissions from human activity are taken up by trees, lands and oceans. But the absorbing ability of these sinks can vary hugely, depending on temperatures, rainfall and other factors. AFP

## China will stay committed to 'peaceful development': President Xi



Beijing: President Xi Jinping of China has stated that the country would stay “committed to the path of peaceful development” and will always be a builder of world peace.

The Chinese president's remarks came during his address marking the 50th anniversary of the restoration of the People's Republic of China's lawful seat in the United Nations (UN).

“China will remain committed to the path of reform and opening-up and always be a contributor to global development. China will stay committed to the path of multilateralism and always be a defender of the international order.”

Jinping further said the last five decades have witnessed China's peaceful development and its “commitment and dedication to the welfare of all humanity”. AFP

# In India, minorities face existential threat amidst rise of saffron terror



New Delhi: Persecution of Muslims, Sikhs, Christians and low-caste Hindus has increased manifold since BJP has come to power with a mission to purge India of minorities. Persecution and vilification of minorities in India has led to questions about the basic bedrock of India's democratic credentials and its secularism.

Religious persecution in India is currently at an all-time high, with Sikh minority being attacked at home by its own government which continues to perpetuate and ignore anti-Sikh violence and abroad.

Recently, Sikh Punjabi farmers gathered from across India to take part in the farmer's protest. They protested against new agriculture laws that were drafted, without consultation from the farmers, by the government. BJP tried to portray farmers as "Khalistani terrorists" in an effort to equate the protests with terrorism.

With the rise of saffron terror in India – motivated by Hindutva and backed by government's systematic discriminatory policies – around 260 million population of minorities in the so-called world's biggest democracy is facing the existential threat. Web Desk



