

India protests Pakistan's Gilgit-Baltistan order

India on Sunday summoned Pakistan's Deputy High Commissioner to protest Islamabad's order to integrate the region of Gilgit-Baltistan into the federal structure of the country.

An official press release from the External Affairs Ministry said the region belonged to India and that Pakistan's action had no legal support.

"It was clearly conveyed that the entire State of Jammu and Kashmir which also includes the so-called 'Gilgit-Baltistan' areas is an integral part of India by virtue of its accession in 1947. Any action to alter the status of any part of the territory under forcible and illegal occupation of Pakistan has no legal basis whatsoever, and is completely unacceptable," the official press release said.

Executive order

India's response came against the backdrop of Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi's speech to the Joint Session of the Gilgit-Baltistan Council and Legislative Assembly on Sunday. The executive order from Prime Minister Abbasi intends to begin legislative, judicial and administrative measures to integrate Gilgit-Baltistan with the rest of the federal structure of Pakistan. Mr Abbasi's announcement has sparked several protests in the region.

The idea of granting provincial status to Gilgit-Baltistan gained momentum since work on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) passing through the region, demanded greater coordination between local and central-level leaders.

India, which opposes the CPEC for reasons related to sovereignty, on Sunday reiterated its territorial claims over Gilgit-Baltistan, and said Mr. Abbasi's order will be against the position of the Indian Parliament, which, in 1994, passed a resolution in support of India's claims over the undivided Jammu and Kashmir.

END

Downloaded from **crackIAS.com**

© **Zuccess App** by crackIAS.com