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India Protests Pakistan's Gilgit-Baltistan Polls, Reaffirms Sovereignty

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Source: ujjari.com — Free UPSC & State PCS Current Affairs

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HOW

WHY IN NEWS

India's **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)** lodged a **strong protest on June 5, 2026** against Pakistan's plan to hold so-called elections in **Gilgit-Baltistan**, scheduled for June 7. India reiterated its consistent and unambiguous position: the **entire Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, including the areas of Gilgit-Baltistan, are an integral and inalienable part of India**, and Pakistan has no locus standi to hold any electoral exercise in territory it is illegally occupying.

INDIA'S OFFICIAL POSITION

The **Government of India's stand** is settled and is the position a UPSC answer must reflect:

- Jammu and Kashmir acceded to India fully, legally and irrevocably through the **Instrument of Accession in 1947**.
- The territories under Pakistan's illegal occupation, including **Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK)** and **Gilgit-Baltistan**, are integral parts of India.
- India rejects any attempt by Pakistan to bring **material change** to these occupied territories, and calls on Pakistan to **vacate** them.
- Any "election" or administrative measure by Pakistan there does not alter the legal status or India's sovereignty.

WHERE GILGIT-BALTISTAN FITS

ASPECT	DETAIL
Status	Part of Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK)
India's view	Integral part of India, illegally occupied by Pakistan
Strategic significance	The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) passes through it
Why India objects to CPEC	It runs through Indian territory under illegal occupation, violating sovereignty

Gilgit-Baltistan's location makes it strategically central: it borders China's Xinjiang and is the conduit for the **CPEC**, a flagship of China's Belt and Road Initiative. India's objection to CPEC rests precisely on its passage through territory India regards as its own.

WHY THIS MATTERS FOR UPSC

This is a recurring theme in **India-Pakistan relations** and **India's territorial sovereignty**:

- The accession of J&K (1947) and the legal basis of India's claim.
- The status of PoJK and Gilgit-Baltistan in India's official maps and diplomacy.
- The intersection with **CPEC** and **China-Pakistan strategic ties**.
- Human-rights and demographic concerns India raises about Pakistan's administration of the region.

UPSC RELEVANCE

Prelims

- MEA protested Pakistan's Gilgit-Baltistan polls on **June 5, 2026** (polls slated June 7)
- Gilgit-Baltistan is part of **Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK)**
- J&K acceded to India in **1947** (Instrument of Accession)
- **CPEC** passes through Gilgit-Baltistan; India objects on sovereignty grounds
- India's stand: the region is an **integral and inalienable part of India**

Mains Angles

- 1 **GS2 India-Pakistan:** Examine India's consistent position on PoJK and Gilgit-Baltistan, and the diplomatic instruments it uses to assert sovereignty.

- 2 **GS2 India-China:** Discuss how CPEC’s passage through Gilgit-Baltistan complicates India’s stance on the Belt and Road Initiative.
- 3 **GS2 Territorial Integrity:** Analyse the legal basis of India’s claim to PoJK and the challenges of asserting it.

FACTS CORNER

FACT	DETAIL
MEA protest	June 5, 2026
Pakistan’s GB polls	Scheduled June 7
Gilgit-Baltistan	Part of PoJK; integral part of India (GoI stand)
J&K accession	1947 (Instrument of Accession)
Strategic link	CPEC passes through Gilgit-Baltistan
India’s CPEC objection	Violates sovereignty over occupied territory

Sources: MEA, News On Air, The Hindu

Source: India Protests Pakistan's Gilgit-Baltistan Polls, Reaffirms Sovereignty — Ujjyari.com | Free UPSC & State PCS Current Affairs

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