

# Weekly POK News Digest

*(A weekly news digest on Pakistan Occupied Kashmir)*

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Gilgit Baltistan POK  
investment  
irrigation  
Special Technology Zone  
development projects  
employment  
Tourism  
agriculture



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## Political Developments

### **Seminar Chaired by AJK President on 'Creation of Pakistan: Quaid's decision is validated by Hindutva policy of Modi**

*Business Recorder, 07 September 2021*

President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), Sultan Mehmood Chaudhary, and Federal Minister for National Food and Security, Syed Fakhar Imam, chaired a seminar on Kashmir organized by Jammu Kashmir Self Determination Movement, International. The event was also attended by numerous Members of Parliaments (MPs) of the United Kingdom, Pakistan's parliamentarians and civil rights activists.

Federal minister Fakhar Imam reiterated that the decision of Quaid-i-Azam to create Pakistan has once again been validated by the Hindutva policy of Indian Prime Minister (PM), Narendra Modi with regard to Kashmir.

He said that PM Modi is trying to change the demographics of Kashmir and stressed that India's ethos has completely changed under the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangham (RSS) ideology of the Modi government. Fakhar said that the world has started to open its eyes to the human rights violations in Kashmir, which have been highlighted by international media such as the New York Times, the Washington Post, and The Wall Street Journal, etc.

He echoed that the United Nations (UN) has discussed the issue of

Kashmir numerous times including the developments in the aftermath of 5th August 2019, which proves that Kashmir is a disputed territory. Fakhar said that the emerging strategic partnership between America, Japan, Australia, and India has allowed India to expand its hegemonic designs in the region. He stressed that PM, Imran Khan has raised the plight of the Kashmiris on every forum and his party will continue to expose India as an oppressor and aggressor denying the Kashmiris their right to self-determination. Fakhar further said that India has the highest civilian to the military ratio (9:1) in Kashmir to suppress their freedom.

<https://www.brecorder.com/news/40118426>

### **PM of AJK held meeting with top officials of Pakistan: Urged International Community to provide safety protocol to Journalists**

*Daily Parliament Times, September 9 2021*

The Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) Prime Minister (PM), Sardar Abdul Qayyum Niazi in his meeting with the chairman of the Parliamentary Kashmir Committee, Shehryar Afridi among others have appealed to the international community to play their role in stopping the genocide of the Kashmiris by the Indian forces in occupied Kashmir. Addressing the 30th meeting of the parliamentary committee on Kashmir, AJK PM drew the attention of the international community towards the deteriorating situation in occupied Kashmir and called for providing protections to the Kashmiri journalists. While

appreciating the role of journalists in occupied Kashmir, despite a ban, he noted that the liberation of occupied Kashmir and the development of AJK will be the top priorities of his government.

AJK PM further appreciated the Kashmir Premier League (KPL) and Pakistan cricket Board for organizing an international event in AJK which helped in promoting tourism and generating economic activities in the state.

The Chairman of the Parliamentary Kashmir Committee, Shehryar Afridi who presided over the meeting said that India has failed to crush the freedom movement with the use of military force and now has imposed restrictions on the media to suppress the popular voice of the Kashmiri people. He regretted that international human rights organizations are not taking action against the Indian government and even not playing their role in stopping the genocide of the Kashmiri people.

The spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Asim Iftikhar briefed the participants about the steps taken by the foreign ministry in projecting the Kashmir issue at the international arena. He further noted that the death of Syed Ali Geelani and the harassment of his family by the Indian occupation authorities will also be raised at the international level.

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2021/09/09/pm-calls-international-community-for-providing-protocol-to-journalists/#.YTtYWZ0zbIU>

## Economic Developments

### **Major Agrarian Development projects launched in AJK with the financial support of the Pakistan Government**

*Daily Parliament Times, September 6 2021*

The National Projects Coordinator (NPC) of Pakistan, Muhammad Tahir Anwar meet the Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) secretary of agriculture and irrigation, Muhammad Bashir Butt, and discussed the progress of various ongoing developmental projects. Two mega developmental projects worth 3.30 billion were also launched in the AJK with the financial assistance of the Government of Pakistan.

AJK secretary of agriculture stressed that these projects are one of the biggest developmental projects in the history of AJK which would bring agricultural revolutions in AJK. He said the work on various developmental projects are underway in the state including the construction of water channels and setting up of water harvesting systems for the improvement of the irrigation system in the remote areas of the state. He further noted this will not only boost agriculture production in the state and benefit the local landowners but it will also be helpful to cater to their requirements at the local level.

While stressing the importance of these projects, the coordinator of NPC, said that the federal government has launched mega developmental projects of national importance all over Pakistan including AJK for the improvement of water reservoirs and to bring about socio-economic changes

in the lives of the people of Pakistan and Azad Kashmir.

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2021/09/06/192916/#.YTcno50zbIU>

### **Senior Minister Sardar Tanveer Ilyas meets the head of a Multinational company: Provision of employment to the youth of AJK settled**

*Daily Pakistan, September 6 2021*

Senior Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan met Mahmood-ul Haq, founder, and the Chairman of a multinational company, Medical Transcription Billing Corp (MTBC). Both the officials discussed the provision for creation of job opportunities in the private sector. Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan said that he had promised 5,000 jobs in the Central Bagh constituency during the elections and this promise would be fulfilled soon. He further noted that MTBS Chairman, Sardar Mahmudul Haq's group and its partners will invest in creating vast employment opportunities in the dairy farming, tourism and Information Technology (IT) sectors. He further stressed that Prime Minister (PM), Imran Khan has a vision and programme to ensure investment and employment in the private sector.

He noted that Sardar Mahmood-ul Haq is investing heavily in AJK to fulfil the vision of PM Imran Khan, which is to provide employment opportunities to the common man. He assured that the AJK government will fully support Sardar Mahmood-ul Haq and his business group and any kind of obstruction to his plans to invest would

not be tolerated. Sardar Mahmood-ul-Haq said that the employment of 1000 people in the staff of MTBC inside the Bagh district would be increased during the next six months. Sardar Mahmood-ul Haq, the head of MTBC, is one of the founders of the IT sector in Pakistan and his company MTBC in AJK is providing livelihood to thousands of people.

<https://dailypakistan.com.pk/06-Sep-2021/1337255>

### **PM Imran Khan emphasized to setting up 3 tourist cities in GB to promote Tourism**

*Urdu Point, September 07 2021*

Prime Minister (PM), Imran Khan in his discussion with the Chief Minister (CM) of Gilgit Baltistan (GB), Khalid Khurshid emphasized the establishment of 3 tourist cities in GB. PM Imran Khan reiterated that the government has already taken important steps to promote tourism. As a part of the plan, PM Imran Khan wants one tourist city in each of the three divisions of GB. CM of GB assured PM that practical steps are likely to be taken soon to identify places and provide facilities for the establishment of such tourist cities.

CM Khalid Khurshid informed PM that initially, Skardu city will be developed for tourism. He noted that Skardu will be developed as a planned city, which will include hotels, motels, and rooms that will be prepared for the accommodation keeping in view the needs of the tourists. He noted that giving Skardu Airport the status of an international airport is also one of his initiatives.

In this regard, recently, the Director of Air Transport has issued a letter to the Aviation Division regarding Skardu Airport. In which it was said that Skardu Airport is being given the status of an international airport. It was decided that to achieve this Skardu has to be connected to the routes of international flights in Pakistan. With this initiative, the arrival of international flights will also boost tourism and increase foreign exchange under which Skardu Airport may also be available for designated foreign airlines. According to a Pakistan International Airlines spokesperson, in light of the vision of the PM of Pakistan and the directives of the Minister of Aviation, Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) has significantly increased flights to the northern regions. The spokesman said that on July 24, for the first time in the history of the GB, six flights from Islamabad, Karachi, Lahore, Sialkot, and Faisalabad arrived at Skardu Airport and six departed.

<https://www.urdupoint.com/pakistan/news/gilgit/important-news/live-news-2900996.html>

### **AJK PM encouraged Business Community to invest in Tourism and Development Projects in AJK**

*Daily Parliament Times, September 08 2021*

Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), Prime Minister (PM), Sardar Abdul Qayyum Niazi in his meeting with various investors in different cities of Pakistan said that there is a great potential for investment opportunities in the AJK and ensured that his

government will not only provide all possible facilities but would also provide complete protection to the investors. He urged investors to invest their capital in particularly in sectors of Tourism and Hydropower generation.

The PM noted that the government is fully aware of the challenges being faced by the business community and assured that their problems including tax issues will be addressed. He said the accountability process would be made more effective under the vision of the PM of Pakistan. The PM of AJK further said that a new era of progress and development has started in AJK under the visionary leadership of the PM of Pakistan, Imran Khan. He emphasized that steps will be taken not only to bring AJK on the road of progress and prosperity but also to overcome the existing challenge of unemployment.

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2021/09/08/192986/#.YTnNzZ0zbIU>

### **Direction by PM Imran Khan to establish Special Technology Zone in GB**

*Dailyk2, September 10 2021*

Prime Minister (PM) Imran Khan in his meeting with Gilgit Baltistan (GB) Chief Minister (CM), Khalid Khurshid, and Chairman of Special Technology Zone Authority (STZA), Amer Hashmi, stressed on the need to establish Special Technology Zone in GB for the creation of employment opportunities. While talking to the CM, Khalid Khurshid, PM Imran Khan said that the creation of a technology zone in GB will provide

ample employment opportunities to the youths in the area.

He further stressed that his government is taking a special interest in the development of GB. During the meeting, tourism promotion and urban planning were also discussed. GB CM also briefed the PM on the overall infrastructure and development situation. The PM also directed CM, Khalid Khurshid to complete the ongoing development projects in the province to raise the living standards of the people and stabilize the economy. With the completion of important projects, the region will develop.

<https://www.dailyk2.com/Post/3382>

### **MTBC Chief Executive meets PM of AJK to brief on organization progress and promotion of Tourism**

*Daily Parliament Times, September 10 2021*

The Chairman and Chief Executive of Medical Transcription Billing Corp (MTBC) Mehmood-ul-Haq meet with the Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), Prime Minister (PM) Sardar Abdul Qayum Niazi at Jammu and Kashmir House and briefed the PM about the performance of his organization.

The Chairman of MTBC said that his organization is currently the largest private company in AJK, which is employing thousands of people and will extend one thousand more jobs in the next four months. He further stressed that the MTBC will shortly launch a comprehensive plan for Kashmir to boost tourism in the state. In this connection Helicopter and

Kashmir Airline would be set up to facilitate the tourists to visit different places of AJK which will help to boost the domestic and international tourism in the state. He also suggested to PM that an overseas division should be set up in the state to redress the problems of the overseas Kashmiri.

The PM of AJK assured him that his government is working on a comprehensive program to overcome unemployment and a policy for the promotion of tourism is also being prepared to boost tourism in the state. PM also assured that the problems of overseas Kashmir will be addressed and the government would provide protection to the investors for the setting up of industries in AJK.

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2021/09/10/mtbc-chief-executive-meets-pm-ajk-to-brief-on-organization-progress/#.YTjGXJozbIU>

### **From Vernacular Urdu Media**

#### **'Pakistan should hand over Kashmir to the Taliban'**

*Jasarat, editorial, September, 07 2021*

After the death of Syed Ali Shah Geelani, the Taliban sent a strong message to the world, conveying that wherever Muslims are oppressed, the Taliban will help Muslims in every possible way, not just morally. In this regard, former Ambassador of Pakistan Abdul Basit was asked if there has been a change in Pakistan's Kashmir policy which is having a positive impact on the international community. He said that due to Indian lobbying and conspiracy, the Kashmiris

independence movement have been thwarted. He further opined that our failure in Kashmir diplomacy has been due to our fear and lack of a strong policy.

It means what Pakistani diplomats are doing, is exaggeration; and exaggerating individual events is failure of diplomacy. Diplomacy is a continuous process, not a recurrence of an event. The whole world is silent on what happened after the death of Syed Ali Geelani. This is a great proof of Pakistan's diplomatic failure. Pakistan had set up some important institutions focused on Kashmir in the Western countries in 1990, which have not only been cut off from financial support but have been completely shut down. Though, over the years, Pakistan has given a new direction to its Kashmir policy at the diplomatic level to convey its position to the international community. This includes presenting evidence of Indian aggression in Kashmir and hiring reputed political experts to support the peaceful struggle of Kashmiris. But what has been achieved so far?

After 9/11, Pakistan stopped supporting the armed movement to avoid allegations of terrorism. But despite all this, India has not yet responded positively to Pakistan's offer. Even, under the Shimla Agreement, India has promised to resolve issues through dialogue. Geelani, the great Hurriyat leader, was the representative of Pakistan in Kashmir. Even when gun was pointed at him he used the slogan 'We are Pakistanis, Pakistan is ours'. Syed Ali

Geelani was the voice of Pakistan in Kashmir, who spent the last 12 years of his life in the captivity of a brutal enemy.

He spent the last few months in critical condition, being forcibly detained by the Indian government at a time when he needed intensive care. That is why the death of Mr. Geelani is also being blamed on the Indian government who is accused of murdering him. This is because he was deliberately kept away from medical facilities. Thanks to the late Syed Ali Geelani, today, at a time when Indian- Kashmir has become the largest prison in the world, the spirit of freedom is alive and well. The independence movement in Jammu and Kashmir has been going on for the last 70 years and lately, Pakistan's diplomatic activities are proving somewhat fruitful and many Western countries are beginning to support Pakistan's position. But such initiatives does not mean freedom of Kashmir. More than 100 countries around the world continue to criticize India's decision to confiscate Kashmir's internal sovereignty on August 5, 2019, by removing Articles 370 and 35A. India has stifled its constitution and its democracy. India's action cannot be challenged in any court, because in the era of Modi, the spirit of the Indian judiciary also seems to be wounded. The rise of religious fanaticism and the ongoing human rights violations in Kashmir are alarmingly bad. But Pakistan neither have close ties with India nor is it doing anything substantial for the movement of Kashmir. Therefore, it is now imperative that Pakistan "hands over

the task of Kashmir's independence" to the Taliban.

<https://www.jasarat.com/2021/09/07/210907-04-7/>

### **AJK PM Abdul Qayyum Niazi's meet with Governor of Lahore**

*Jammu and Kashmir Times, September 08 2021*

Prime Minister (PM) of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), Sardar Abdul Qayyum Niazi meet Governor of Punjab, Chaudhry Muhammad Sarwar at Governor House Lahore. Punjab Governor, Chaudhry Muhammad Sarwar expressed his sadness over the demise of Syed Ali Shah Geelani to the PM of AJK and said that India could not defeat the spirit of the Kashmiris. Governor stressed that Pakistan will continue to provide moral, political, and diplomatic support to the Kashmiris. The Governor of Punjab has assured full cooperation to AJK in fields ranging from health to tourism. During the meeting, the PM of AJK said that under the leadership of PM Imran Khan, we will make AJK strong and prosperous. He noted that PM Imran Khan has truly emerged as the ambassador of Kashmiris on both sides of the divide.

The PM of AJK emphasized that since the convening of the Kashmir Premier League (KPL), AJK has been regarded as a safe and prosperous region of the world. He further said that India's shameful character and role in the death of Syed Geelani has been exposed as the Indian Army insulted Syed Ali Geelani on his death. PM of AJK maintained that India could not silence the voice of Kashmiris with the

power of guns and bullets as India's brutality has been exposed to the international diplomatic community. The Governor of Punjab has further said that the Kashmiri people are peacefully engaged in their struggle for independence and until the Kashmir issue is resolved, the dream of peace cannot be fulfilled in the region. Governor of Punjab stressed that we stand with Kashmiris and Modi and Indian forces in Kashmir are committing the biggest terrorism in the world. The Governor of Punjab also reiterated that even the peace process in Afghanistan is not being tolerated by India, however, they have failed in their objectives.

<http://jammukashmirtimes.com/2021/09/08/>

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## Disclaimer

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