

Weekly POK News Digest

(A weekly news digest on Pakistan Occupied Kashmir)

Volume 4 | Issue 48

25 November - 01 December 2024

Chinese companies POK Climate
Gilgit-Baltistan Change
protests Local government
tax-money Kharpocho Fort
subsidy CPEC unemployment



MANOHAR PARRIKAR INSTITUTE FOR
DEFENCE STUDIES AND ANALYSES
मनोहर पर्रिकर रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान

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Political Developments

Local Governments and Gilgit-Baltistan: An Analysis

Pamir Times, 27 November 2024

Local government is a cornerstone of democracy, ensuring the public's vigilant participation in grass-roots decision-making. The famous philosopher Jean-Jacques Rousseau, in his work "Social Contract," emphasizes the medium of the involvement between the government and the people. This principle of Rousseau is embodied by local government in terms of participation, accountability, and inclusivity.

Gilgit Baltistan has always faced several challenges in terms of governance because of its diversity and ambiguous legal status. The absence of local governments, despite the clear legal framework given under "The Gilgit Baltistan Local Government Act 2014," has hindered the political nurturing and participation of the locals in decision-making. This lack of implementation has largely impacted on the political and social growth of the people.

Local government in Gilgit Baltistan has a profound history in the shape of customary laws, where the elders of the community used to address the issues in the localities based on customs and traditions. After 1947, Gilgit Baltistan remained under the governance of the federal where the administrators were appointed directly by the federal government. A benchmark step leading

to a structured governance structure was taken in 2009 in the shape of the Gilgit Baltistan Empowerment and Self Governance Order which despite having limited administrative powers, however, ensures an engaging decision-making process. Following the Order, a Bill was introduced in the Gilgit Baltistan Legislative Assembly in 2014 which later became an Act titled "The Gilgit Baltistan Local Government Act, 2014" which provided a clear framework of the local governments in the region. Later in 2018, another significant move was made by the federal government giving Gilgit Baltistan more administrative powers in the shape of Gilgit Baltistan Order 2018. However, the promise of democratic representation at the grassroots level remains unfulfilled due to delays in operationalizing local government institutions.

Gilgit Baltistan today has no functional local government in the region. The elected provincial governments have immensely failed to hold the elections despite clear provisions of the Gilgit Baltistan Local Government Act 2014 for district, union, and village councils. This failure of the government has hindered the socioeconomic development and political nurturing of the people. The district administrations and the elected MLAs are struggling to cope with the growing developmental needs in the absence of operational local government bodies in the region.

The elected government of Gilgit Baltistan is not only bound to implement the Gilgit Baltistan Local

Government Act 2014, but also provide adequate resources to hold local government elections and ensure division of power to the grass root level.

The lack of local government in Gilgit Baltistan not only has impacted the people socioeconomically but has also hindered the political nurturing of young leaders in the region. Who could have created a meaningful impact through their skills and services, if given a platform. This vacuum risks the political perspective of the youth in Gilgit Baltistan and if kept further deprived of political participation and resources, they can have an anti-state mind-set which is otherwise harmful to the state and the federation.

Moreover, the absence of local governments in Gilgit Baltistan leads the region to a governance crisis. The authorities both federal and provincial have always termed finance and logistics as the main hurdles for local governments, but the political and other challenges like bureaucracy play a pivotal role in hindering the implementation of local governments' framework in the region. The reluctance to empower local bodies may stem from fears of losing control or influence, particularly in a geopolitically sensitive region like Gilgit Baltistan. Moreover, the failure to implement the clear mandate of The Gilgit Baltistan Local Government Act 2014 has created a gap between policy and practice and also questions the credibility of the sitting elected government. For true progress, a paradigm shift is needed to prioritize

democratic empowerment over political pragmatism.

Local governments play a pivotal role in promoting democracy, efficient service delivery, and inclusive decision-making. The need for a robust local government is stressful in order to succeed in sustainable development and ensure political stability with political maturity in Gilgit Baltistan. Keeping in view the strategic importance of the region, the absence of local government institutions not only impacts socio-economic development but will also shape the political mind-set of young leaders of Gilgit Baltistan against the larger interest of the federation. So, to ensure political stability in the landscape and the operational local government, below are some recommendations that can help the government and the community at the same time:

Conduct local government elections as soon as possible under the given framework in the Gilgit Baltistan Local Government Act 2014.

Make necessary legislation/amendments to run the process smoothly and to ensure uninterrupted implementation of the Local government's framework.

Provide necessary resources and empower the local bodies to ensure inclusivity.

Engage the youth in the process of local government operations to bring innovation to the process.

<https://pamirtimes.net/2024/11/26/local-governments-and-gilgit-baltistan-an-analysis/>

Govt would continue to provide electricity and wheat flour to citizens on subsidized rates: PM 'AJK'

Daily Parliament Times, 1 December 2024

Prime Minister Ch. Anwarul Haq has, while rebutting rumours that subsidy on electricity and wheat flour was provisional, has made it clear that the government would continue to provide electricity and wheat flour to citizens on subsidized rates.

Addressing a function held at the residence of Khalid Awan the Deputy Mayor Municipal Corporation Muzaffarabad, the PM said government had no such plan to withdraw subsidy.

Commenting on the Peaceful Assembly and Public Order Ordinance, the PM said a broad-based consultative committee has been formed to develop consensus on the issue. "Due representation will be given to every section of society", the PM said, adding that opinion would be sought from scholars, civil society representatives and even people hailing from different walks of life in this regard.

Referring to the various initiatives the present government has taken during the past couple of years, the PM Haq stated that the exemplary steps taken by his government for the welfare of the people should be appreciated. In addition to completing development projects, the PM said that the drive to remove encroachments from the capital city Muzaffarabad would be completed soon to enhance its beauty. He said that

the development of the state and welfare of its people was his government's sole mission.

He, however, maintained that unnecessary protests lead to economic loss besides making the ordinary citizens' lives difficult. "The promotion of merit will bring revolution in the lives of the common man", the PM said, adding that merit has been given priority in recruitment process for public sector jobs. He said that the historic health package would be instrumental in bringing further improvement in health sector.

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2024/12/01/govt-would-continue-to-provide-electricity-and-wheat-flour-to-citizens-on-subsidized-rates-pm-ajk/>

Kharpocho Fort: A Construction Marvel with Lessons for Eternal Longevity of Structures

Pamir Times, 30 November 2024

In 16th century when Ali Sher Khan Anchan gave orders to build a strong defensive fort, Kharpocho fort – the king of forts – he very likely didn't envisage it standing tall and strong after centuries. Kharpocho fort overlooking Skardu city is a popular tourist attraction now a days. It is situated at an impressive elevation of 7310 feet above sea level. The fort was built to defend against Tibetan and Mughal Empire, the two superpowers at the time. Kharpocho fort with its unique architectural and structural features is a marvel that was well advanced of the existing building design knowledge of that time. The

original intent was to have it as a bastion of defense, the ancient wisdom also ensured its long-term structural stability and strength. The fort is located in a region which has always seen high seismic (earthquake) activity. It is hard to decipher whether the people who build this massive structure fully understood the science behind the seismic forces and the behavior of structure under seismic activity, however, it is safe to say that the structural material and the structural arrangement they have used has proven to be effective against this strong force of nature; evident by the centuries this structure has survived.

Earthquake forces are measured in terms of peak ground acceleration (PGA). Based on PGA, Pakistan is divided into five seismic zones namely: Zone 1, Zone 2A, Zone 2B, Zone C, and Zone D – ranking from the lowest PGA to the highest PGA. Kharpocho fort falls in Zone C, where the PGA can range from 0.24g to 0.32g; g refers to the gravitational acceleration. These gravitational acceleration ranges corresponds to intensity VII on European Macroseismic Scale (EMS-98). In intensity VII, 28% of the buildings in that particular seismic area will be damaged. This signifies the high seismic zone that this fort is located in, and the scale of forces that this structure has seen over the years. The integrity of this fort despite facing such high forces repeatedly over the centuries can be attributed to the unique structural arrangement of timber elements in the large solid stone walls of this fort.

Timber as a structural material provides ductility, the ability to bend without losing significant load carrying capacity, to the overall structure. Under earthquake forces, buildings tend to sway laterally (horizontally – perpendicular to their heights) and there is a need for them to be able to do that without failure of the materials. The stone arrangement without any timber will undergo a significant damage after a small lateral deflection but timber members installed in the stone walls provide additional ductility. The timber in the wall allow these walls to deflect farther without significant damage to the overall wall structure. Apart from the inherent ability of the timber members, the arrangement of these timber members in these thick walls is also highly important. The unique structural system used in this fort is known as Dhajji Dhewari.

Dhajji Dewari is a classical construction technique prevalent in the north of India and Pakistan. The word Dhajji originates from Persian and is used for quilt patchwork. Similar to a quilt, there is an arrangement of wooden members in small square, rectangular, and triangular shapes in the walls. The spaces in between these connected timber elements are filled with large stones and grout from locally available material. The structure of Kharpocho fort uses the same techniques with wooden members running full height in small square and rectangular shapes. These elements are especially visible at the corners where two walls are

meeting each other. The wooden lintels for the openings, in some cases, extend out and form part of the timber system in the wall. This unique arrangement allows for relatively higher lateral deflection in the wall thus performing better under seismic loadings.

The Kharpocho fort along with other forts and historical buildings in Pakistan embody a unique ancient wisdom that need to be understood better by modern structural engineers. The better understanding can then help preserve these important pieces of history and the reclaimed use of these structure can help generate further opportunities for income generation through tourism. The preservation efforts need to be in two steps, the first step will be understanding the current structure and the extense of damage to the existing structures, as exposure to environmental elements damages the material in the structure thus compromising the overall integrity of structures. The second step will be to work on rehabilitation and reclaimed use of these structures. The rehabilitation efforts need to be very intentional to make it complementary to the existing structure and preserve both the historical look and integrity of structure. Kharpocho fort itself is a great example of such efforts performed by the collaboration of Aga Khan Cultural Service, Pakistan. The fort along with other lesser known forts in the region represent the unique history and construction wisdom, which still needs to be understood and

preserved to both preserve the history and ancient structural design wisdom.

<https://pamirtimes.net/2024/11/30/kharpocho-fort-a-construction-marvel-with-lessons-for-eternal-longevity-of-structures/>

Every single penny of tax-money would be spent on the welfare of people: PM 'AJK'

Daily Parliament Times, 25 November 2024

Prime Minister 'Azad Kashmir' Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq has said that every single penny of tax-money would be spent on the welfare of people. He said this while talking to different delegations that called on him here today. Speaking on the occasion, the PM said that the present government was committed to improve the lives of economically less-privileged sections of society. He said that the recently announced health package would be instrumental in addressing health-related problems of the people. The present government, he said, has promoted a merit-based system and transparency in public affairs. "In addition to improving infrastructure, the government has chalked out a comprehensive policy to promote tourism in the state", he added.

The PM said that the provision of cheap electricity and cheap flour to citizens of the state were the major initiatives the present government has taken." Clean Muzaffarabad project worth 360 million rupees has been approved to make the capital city more attractive",

the PM said. "Recruitments in different departments have been made on merit through NTS", the PM said, adding that around 3000 youth have got jobs. The PM on the occasion reaffirmed his government's support to Kashmiris' ongoing struggle for right to self-determination. He said that it was high time that the United Nations should take effective notice of the worsening political and human rights situation in the 'Indian occupied' territory of Jammu and Kashmir and take practical measures to resolve the lingering Kashmir dispute which, he said, was the main cause of unrest and human rights violations in the region.

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2024/11/25/every-single-penny-of-tax-money-would-be-spent-on-the-welfare-of-people-pm-ajkl>

Special liaison committee of TJK visits Poonch Division

Daily Parliament Times, 26 November 2024

The special liaison committee of the Tehreek e Jawanan Kashmir visited Poonch Division. The liaison committee of the Tehreek e Jawanan Kashmir met with various delegations in Bagh district. The basic philosophy of the Tehreek e Jawanan Kashmir's manifesto is justice, guardianship, and protection. Dr. Raja Zahid Khan, Chief Organizer, Tehreek e Jawanan Kashmir.

Retired General Hamid Gul spent his entire life collecting the essence of his experiences and laid the foundation for the Tehreek e Jawanan Kashmir. Dr.

Raja Zahid Khan. People from all walks of life will be included in the Tehreek e Jawanan Kashmir to benefit from their capabilities.

Fazal Rehman Alvi, President of Sports and Culture Wing, Tehreek e Jawanan Kashmir. Sports and youth are interdependent and provide the basics for a healthy nation. President of Sports, Youth, and Culture Wing.

According to details, the special liaison committee of the Tehreek e Jawanan Kashmir visited Poonch Division to strengthen the movement. The committee included Chief Organizer Dr. Raja Zahid Khan and Fazal Rehman Alvi, President of Sports, Youth, and Culture Wing, among others.

During the visit, the committee met with various segments of society, including civil society, youth, traders, sportsmen, and lawyers, in Bagh district. Dr. Raja Zahid Khan discussed the basic philosophy of the Tehreek e Jawanan Kashmir, highlighting justice, guardianship, and protection.

He also shed light on the current situation in the context of this philosophy, explaining how Retired General Hamid Gul presented Pakistan's narrative globally through his military expertise and strategic capabilities. Dr. Raja Zahid Khan praised General Hamid Gul's association with Kashmir and its people, as well as his practical struggle for the Kashmir freedom movement.

Fazal Rehman Alvi emphasized that the Tehreek e Jawanan Kashmir is a

bouquet of individuals from all walks of life, with General Hamid Gul's son leading it successfully. He praised the movement's efforts to present the case for Islam, Pakistan, and Kashmir through comprehensive planning and wisdom.

The special liaison committee of the Tehreek e Jawanan Kashmir is in contact with all districts of 'Azad Kashmir', as well as the freedom leadership including APHC, to formulate a unified policy on Kashmir and the freedom movement.

During their visit to Bagh, the committee presented their viewpoint, which was met with great interest by the delegations they met. The delegations assured the committee of their support for the Tehreek e Jawanan Kashmir and their efforts to adopt and promote the system of justice, guardianship, and protection.

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2024/11/26/special-liaison-committee-of-tjk-visits-poonch-division/>

Ignoring Kashmiri Voices

Friday Times, 28 November 2024

Ruling elites in both Pakistan and India have been ignoring the saner elements of Kashmiri society and resorting to sledgehammer tactics to stifle them. The recent crackdown in Pakistan's 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK) clearly indicates that the authorities do not want to tolerate any dissenting voice or protest against the policy of the state. This is the second recent crackdown against protests in 'AJK'.

Just a few months ago, the authorities tried to use force against those who struggled for the restoration of subsidies.

The situation in 'Indian held Kashmir' is not rosy either, where democratic forces have been put behind bars while fanatical elements were extended support by the Indian state. Secular Kashmiri nationalist leaders claim that during the recent elections in the disputed territory, New Delhi released a few former militants to contest the state assembly elections. They assert that the move was to undermine the political popularity of the National Conference, but despite all machinations of the BJP-led government, Farooq Abdullah's party managed to secure a majority in the state assembly. It seems that their victory did not go down well with those sitting in the power corridors of the Indian capital.

The recent resolution of 'Indian-held Kashmir's' assembly clearly indicates as to why the Indian ruling elite is so uncomfortable with nationalist secular political parties. The resolution demanded of the BJP-led government to restore the special status of Jammu and Kashmir that had been granted to the disputed territory through the article A370 of the Indian constitution.

While many in Pakistan only point their finger towards India, accusing New Delhi of adding to the woes of Kashmiri people, some Kashmiri leaders believe that Islamabad is also responsible for the plight of Kashmiri people

The resolution, passed in the first week of the current month, sought a dialogue for “restoration of special status and constitutional guarantees” to the Union Territory and urged that “constitutional mechanisms” be worked out for the same. The resolution was passed by a voice vote, with all parties barring the BJP supporting it. Moved by Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary, the resolution said: “This Legislative Assembly reaffirms the importance of the special status and constitutional guarantees, which safeguarded the identity, culture, and rights of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, and expresses concern over their unilateral removal. This Assembly calls upon the government of India to initiate dialogue with elected representatives of the people of Jammu and Kashmir for restoration of special status, constitutional guarantees and to work out constitutional mechanisms for restoring these provisions.”

The abrogation of the article had even alienated those Kashmiri leaders who wanted greater autonomy for Jammu and Kashmir within the framework of the Indian constitution. It created an impression that the Modi-led government is hatching machinations to alter the demography of the region besides lending credence to the claims of Kashmiri militant groups that New Delhi only understands the might of guns.

It is encouraging to see that all Indian parties except the BJP threw their support behind the resolution. This

indicates that most of the parties are amenable to the idea of seeking a peaceful and democratic resolution of the Kashmir dispute that is said to have been a cause of at least three conflicts between the two arch rivals of South Asia. The dispute has also been used to fan anti-Muslims feelings in India while in Pakistan it was exploited by extremist forces who attempted to tear down the social fabric of the society in the name of Kashmir Jihad.

It is not only the National Conference or Srinagar-based parties that believe the restoration could create conducive environment for talks between New Delhi and Islamabad, but Kashmiri parties on the other side of the border also assert that the possible reversal of the August 2019’s decision could greatly help normalise ties between Pakistan and India besides allaying the apprehensions of the Kashmiri people towards BJP’s intention.

While many in Pakistan only point their finger towards India, accusing New Delhi of adding to the woes of Kashmiri people, some Kashmiri leaders believe that Islamabad is also responsible for the plight of Kashmiri people. United Kashmir People’s National Party chairman Sardar Shaukat Ali Kashmiri from ‘Azad Jammu & Kashmir’ asks what rights Kashmiri people have in what he calls Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. “A number of Kashmiri leaders cannot contest elections in ‘AJK’ without submitting an affidavit stating they believe in affiliation of the disputed territory with Pakistan.”

Kashmiri leaders also bemoan the sledgehammer tactics that the Pakistan state is employing in 'AJK' in a bid to control the region. Recently it undertook a number of measures to curb protests in the Pakistani side of Kashmir. The state is also coming hard on those who actively participate in the subsidy movement. Dr Tauqeer Gilani, President of Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front in 'AJK', had to flee the country after a concocted case of blasphemy was registered against him and fanatics in the region staged protests to intimidate Gilani, who was active during the subsidy movement.

It is time that both Pakistan and India listen to the Kashmiri political parties who have been seeking a peaceful solution to the inveterate dispute. Any effort to undermine JKLF and other nationalist parties on either side of the border will only strengthen the position of militant outfits whose attacks have created a spectre of nuclear war between the two South Asian rivals in the past.

New Delhi will have to engage Yasin Malik and other Kashmiri leaders in talks while Islamabad must abolish the condition of affiliation paving a way for all parties that want to contest elections in the 'AJK'. It is better to listen to saner voices of Kashmiri society before extremists start exploiting the issue again in the two countries. The environment of dialogues and respect for democratic norms might create conditions in the future for the leaderships of two arch rivals to sit together and hammer out an amicable

resolution. The sooner the two states understand it the better it will be for Kashmiris and the region.

<https://thefridaytimes.com/28-Nov-2024/ignoring-kashmiri-voices>

UAJK and PRCS 'AJK' Organize Seminar on Climate Change and Youth's Role in tackling its Impacts

Daily Parliament Times, 28 November 2024

The Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) 'Azad Jammu & Kashmir' (AJK) State Branch, in collaboration with the University of 'Azad Jammu & Kashmir' (UAJK), hosted a seminar titled "Climate Change and the Role of Youth in Addressing Its Impacts" at the UAJK Jhelum Valley Campus, Hattian. The event aimed to underscore the urgent need for youth-led climate action and to foster community resilience in 'AJK'.

Over 200 students from various university faculties actively participated in the seminar, reflecting a strong commitment to addressing the challenges posed by climate change.

Commissioner Muzaffarabad Division, Masood Ur Rehman, graced the event as the Chief Guest. Other notable attendees included Director Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Dr. Shafique Abbasi, Deputy Commissioner Jhelum Valley Ishfaq Gillani, Director Operations State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA) Saeed Ur Rehman Qureshi, Director UAJK Imtiaz Awan, Superintendent of Police Mirza Zahid,

and Assistant Commissioner Jhelum Valley.

In his address, Commissioner Masood Ur Rehman lauded PRCS 'AJK's' pivotal role in disaster management and humanitarian efforts, particularly its initiatives to engage and empower youth. Highlighting the urgency of climate change, he said, "Climate change is not just an environmental issue; it impacts our economy, health, and future generations. The youth hold the power to drive change. I commend PRCS 'AJK' for empowering young minds to take on this responsibility."

The Secretary of PRCS 'AJK' reinforced the organization's commitment to climate action, emphasizing that youth are key drivers of change. She added, "PRCS 'AJK' has always prioritized community resilience and disaster preparedness. Today's seminar underscores our belief in youth as catalysts for a sustainable future." She also acknowledged the collaborative efforts of UAJK in organizing the event and highlighted the existing Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between PRCS 'AJK' and UAJK on climate action.

Adding academic depth to the seminar, Dr. Shafique Abbasi, Director of EPA, provided a detailed session on the environmental challenges of climate change. Saeed Ur Rehman Qureshi, Director Operations SDMA, emphasized the importance of youth-led initiatives and strategic collaborations in building climate resilience. "Building resilience against

climate change requires a multi-sectoral approach. Youth-led initiatives, combined with strategic planning, can significantly reduce vulnerabilities," he said.

UAJK Director Imtiaz Awan welcomed the attendees in his opening remarks, reiterating the university's commitment to organizing collaborative events with PRCS 'AJK' to address pressing environmental and societal challenges.

The seminar was also attended by key PRCS staff, including Program and Disaster Management Manager Naveed Awan, Program Coordinator Yasir Josh, Spokesperson Adnan Qureshi, HR Manager Mokhtar Qureshi, and Youth and Volunteers Officer Tahira Kazmi.

The event concluded with a renewed commitment from all participants to prioritize youth engagement and collaborative efforts in combating climate change and strengthening community resilience.

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2024/11/28/uajk-and-prcs-ajk-organize-seminar-on-climate-change-and-youths-role-in-tackling-its-impacts/>

[Economic Developments](#)

Youth development: 'AJK' TEVTA chairman emphasizes importance of tech education

Business Recorder, 25 November 2024

Chairman of the 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' Technical Vocational Education Training Authority (TEVTA), Chaudhry Muhammad Farid

highlighted the necessity of equipping the youth with technical education to enhance the country's economy and prepare them for global development.

While addressing an awareness session at the Government College of Technology Mirpur, he stated, "Education of latest skills can be promoted through the delivery of quality education in various disciplines."

The event also featured remarks from local dignitaries, including Chairman District Council Raja Naveed Akhtar Goga and District Education Officer Muhammad Ishaq Mughal, who underscored the significance of vocational training. Students received certificates for their completion of various courses during the ceremony.

<https://www.brecorder.com/news/40334443/work-under-way-for-direct-air-link-to-moscow-minsk-aleem>

MCCI tables healthy strategic plan to state govt. for survival of 'AJK's' almost collapsed industrial sector

Daily Parliament Times, 27 November 2024

Mirpur 'AJK' Chamber of Commerce and Industries Umar Shehzad Jirral called upon the 'AJK' government to take immediate steps for the survival of the local industrial sector through correcting the collapsed infrastructure of the Industry Estates in industrial districts of 'AJK'.

He expressed these views while talking to a delegation of Kashmir Press Club Mirpur-'AJK' journalists team who met

him under the leadership of the club's President Syed Abid Hussain Shah.

Jirral said that MCCI has moved healthy strategic plan to chief secretary of 'AJK' state govt. for survival of 'AJK's' almost collapsed industrial sector in the recent past. "More than four hundred industrial units used to work in two industrial estates in Mirpur in the past which have shrunk down to only fifty to sixty by now because of the poor policies of the authorities", Jiraal underlined.

The MCCI President revealed that many more units are likely to stop working. "This is a very alarming situation and I have informed the 'AJK' Chief Secretary time and again but still the result is zero, he revealed.

The newly elected KPC president congratulated the newly elected office bearers of the MCCI and expressed his good wishes.

Arif Zia, member of the executive body of the chamber of commerce was also present on this occasion.

The MCCI President Umer Shehzad Jirral continued as saying "since the irony is that the FBR has been sitting on 'AJK' CBR, now local entrepreneurs have to pay double and even triple tax on the locally produced goods and as such why would anyone invest here", he asked.

"The inefficiency and non-cooperation of the related 'AJK' government departments to the existing and intending entrepreneurs were also the major factors of the rapid decline in the

industrial progress despite the creation of two industrial estates in Mirpur district, he underlined.

He said that the issues of fire brigade, water supply, security arrangements and electricity in the local industrial estates could not be resolved so far.

He further said that one window-type swift measures are indispensable to run the industry and attract investors. Individuals' jobs could be created through ensuring the survival of the existing operative units. But since the existing factories are getting closed down, unemployment will resultantly increase, he feared.

President MCCI said that the 'AJK' government should fix its institutions to prevent tax evasion and as such the evasion will end automatically. Jirral said that thousands of youth have become unemployed due to the closure of the industry.

Umar Shehzad Jaral said that the role of the media being the fourth pillar of the state has always been exemplary and significant. He further said that the local journalist community has always done an exemplary job by raising need of early solution of the Kashmir issue, local problems and the problems of traders and industrialists.

The MCCI President added that the consensus and unity of all factions of the local media could prove effective and pleasant gesture for the overall betterment and uplift of the society.

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2024/11/27/mcci-tables-healthy-strategic-plan-to-state-govt->

[for-survival-of-ajks-almost-collapsed-industrial-sector/](#)

2,300 Chinese companies operating in Pakistan: VP PCJCCI

Business Recorder, 27 November 2024

Zafar Iqbal Vice President Pakistan China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI), said during a meeting with the executive body that approximately 2300 small, medium and large scale Chinese companies are currently working in Pakistan investing in various sectors, including the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

He said that Chinese companies are interested in investing in sectors such as electronics, automotive, education exchange programmes, insurance, agriculture, textiles, shoe manufacturing, chemicals, battery recycling plant and real estate.

He said Pakistan's chemical industry, which provides inputs for many other sectors such as textiles, agriculture, food and beverages, leather, paper, pharmaceutical, plastics, printing and sugar, needs to build a global reputation of "made in Pakistan" from strength to brand. He further added that, Pakistan is the 8th largest exporter of textile products in Asia.

This sector contributes 9.5 percent to the GDP and provides employment to about 15 million people, i.e. 30 percent of the 49 million workforce of the country. He said that we should seek help from The All Pakistan Textile Mills Association and Punjab Board of

Investment and Trade for such joint ventures that would help local textile millers to upgrade their outdated technology.

Vice President PCJCCI stressed Pakistan can benefit from China's growing influence in the field of biochemical industry, which has injected new vitality into the traditional chemical industry and opened up new development directions and insights.

"With the rapid development of biotechnology, the biochemical industry has become a new engine of growth for the chemical industry," he said, adding that both countries can cooperate in this field to achieve mutual benefits.

In his concluding remarks he stressed that PCJCCI aims to serve as a bridge between business communities of Pakistan and China to explore and expand the opportunities in the commercial and industrial sector. The government should support various initiatives to open up new vistas of knowledge and technology for our young entrepreneurs and businessmen.

<https://www.brecorder.com/news/40334591/2300-chinese-companies-operating-in-pakistan-vp-pcjcci>

From Vernacular Urdu Media

Presidential Ordinance is a black law and must be called off: Traders Committee

Jammu and Kashmir Times, 26 November 2024

On 5 December, protests will be held. Presidential Ordinance is a black law and must be called off as soon as

possible, and until charter of demands are accepted, protests will continue to take place. For people's rights, we will hit the roads, and peaceful protest is our right. Such thoughts were shared by the traders committee of Khuiratta and Awami joint action Khuiratta's responsible persons such as Chaudhary Faesal, Abdul Raheem Bhat, Iqbal Ghazi, Raja Waseem Khan, Mujeeb Akbar Raja, Raja Ateeq Khan, Haji Abdul Azeez, among others, who went to the press club and shared such thoughts during a press conference. They said that on the orders of the National Awami Action Committee, protests will be held on 5 December in Khuiratta, and it will be a historic protest, and towards this end, we are reaching out to people. In other towns, traders union, transport union, and other unions, and other political and social organisations are being reached out for this purpose. They said that for people's rights, peaceful movement is underway and will continue to remain until charter of demands are fulfilled. On 5 December peaceful protest will be held and they don't accept the Presidential Ordinance black law, and this goes against the people's rights, and must be removed as soon as possible. The current government and ministers instead of resolving the matters end up adding more problems to the people. They are trying to snatch the people's rights and we won't let them to do this, and for our rights we will whole heartedly join the 5 December protests, they asserted.

<https://jammukashmirtimes.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/Resize-of-PAGE-03-1-15.jpg>

People of 'Azad Kashmir' reject Presidential Ordinance: Sheikh Jehanzaib

Jammu and Kashmir Times, 29 November 2024

Pakistan Muslim League N, 'Azad Kashmir' Kotli constituency's guide Sheikh Jehanzaib said that for taking away people's right, Presidential ordinance was implemented. The people are not cattle. As a result of black laws, fear has spread over the psyche of common people. The government's wrong decisions are creating a sense of fear and strange environment is gripping the peaceful environment of the 'AJK'. The Prime Minister of Pakistan and other departments must take notice of the developments in the region. These thoughts were shared by Sheikh Jehanzaib, in conversation with journalists.

<http://jammukashmirtimes.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/Resize-of-FRONT-PAGE-29.jpg>

Force is no solution to any problem: Raja Saqib Majeed

Jammu and Kashmir Times, 28 November 2024

Muslim Conference's central chief organizer, Raja Saqib Majeed said that through Presidential Ordinance, the freedom movement's base camp is put under strict restrictions, taking away fundamental rights, and we strongly

condemn such measures. Force is no solution to any problem. Muslim Conference is no part of any such law-making which results in further apprehension or chaos taking grip in the region. Through this ordinance, what message we give to the supporters of Kashmiri freedom in the world? The main base camp of the freedom movement is being restricted. The government should at its earliest call back this ordinance, which otherwise could have implications in other parts of the country, too. Our forefathers fought for this region and handed over to Islam and Pakistan, and we won't be remaining silent, if something bad is done to it. By the efforts of the militants, and by the support of Pakistan, this region gained independence and became part of Pakistan. For Jammu and Kashmir, Pakistan is the only and last safe resort for its people. The Muslim Conference will by no means allow the weakening or questioning of the accession of this region to Pakistan. He further said that the Presidential Ordinance is not any sacred document which can't be taken back. In these circumstances, Muslim Conference cannot remain silent. In these difficult circumstances, all stakeholders will have to play their essential role. The government seems to be busy in taking measures which is only generating hate among the public.

<http://jammukashmirtimes.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/Resize-of-FRONT-PAGE-28.jpg>

From Social Media

WAJAHAT ALI @wajahatgilgiti

27 November 2024

PTI leader and former Chief Minister Khalid Khurshid made an important announcement [#pti](#) [#FinalCall](#) [#ImranKhan](#) [#islamabad](#) [#exchiefminister](#) [#gilgitbaltistan](#)

Link to the tweet:

<https://x.com/wajahatgilgiti/status/1861773972876214576>

WAJAHAT ALI @wajahatgilgiti

28 November 2024

The Supreme Appellate Court has issued the schedule of annual holidays. November 1 will not be a holiday on Independence Day of Gilgit-Baltistan

[#gilgitbaltistan](#)

Link to the tweet:

<https://x.com/wajahatgilgiti/status/1862109264174633420>

PAMIR Times @pamirtimes

26 November 2024

Local Governments and Gilgit-Baltistan: An Analysis

Link to the tweet:

<https://x.com/pamirtimes>

Weekly POK News Digest

Volume 4 | Issue 48

25 November - 01 December 2024

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Disclaimer

PoK weekly News Digest is a collection of news reports and press releases published in various newspapers and local media related to Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK), referred to as 'Azad Kashmir' and 'Gilgit Baltistan' by the government of Pakistan. The news reports have been edited and abridged to provide clarity. MP-IDSA is not responsible for the accuracy and authenticity of the news items.



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