

Weekly POK News Digest

(A weekly news digest on Pakistan Occupied Kashmir)

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POK
Khalisa Sarkar
Land Reforms Act
Crackdown on Nationalist
Operation Banyan Marsous
land ownership laws
Awami Action Committee
Gilgit-Baltistan



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Political Developments

“Land Reforms Act” Tabled in Gilgit-Baltistan Assembly Amid Opposition Walkout and Activist Incarcerations

Pamir Times, 20 May 2025

The Gilgit-Baltistan government on Monday tabled the much-anticipated Land Reforms Act in the regional assembly, triggering a dramatic walkout by opposition lawmakers and drawing criticism from nationalist and civil society leaders, many of whom are currently incarcerated.

Defending the bill, Chief Minister Haji Gulbar Khan stated that the legislation had undergone an extensive process of review and consultation. He said feedback from political parties, religious leaders, legal experts, and civil society representatives had been incorporated. Khan emphasized that the bill would abolish the centuries-old “Khalisa Sarkar” system, a colonial-era policy that declared vast stretches of land as state property, restoring ownership of barren lands to local communities.

“This act ends an oppressive policy enforced during the Dogra regime and reclaims our people’s rights over their ancestral lands,” said the Chief Minister. Several members of the treasury benches echoed his sentiments and voiced strong support for the bill.

However, the opposition was quick to express its dissent. Opposition Leader Kazim Mesum led the walkout, accusing the government of pursuing

a “secret agenda” and bypassing meaningful consultation.

“The rivers, mountains, barren lands, and settlements belong to the people of Gilgit-Baltistan. We will not let anyone take them away from the indigenous communities,” Mesum declared.

Nationalist leader Nawaz Khan Naji of the Balawaristan National Front also voiced his disapproval. Highlighting the region’s reliance on customary land ownership laws for centuries, he warned against the bill’s passage and urged the public to mobilize in resistance. “We must be prepared to sacrifice for the protection of our ancestral land,” he said.

The bill was presented while several key leaders of the Awami Action Committee, along with prominent political activists from nationalist and progressive circles, remain behind bars—raising concerns about political suppression and the timing of the legislation.

The controversial bill now awaits further debate and voting, but it has already sparked a fierce battle over land rights, ownership, and the future of governance in Gilgit-Baltistan.

<https://pamirtimes.net/2025/05/19/land-reforms-act-tabled-in-gilgit-baltistan-assembly-amid-opposition-walkout-and-activist-incarcerations/>

Held in limbo

Dawn, 23 May 2025

The last few weeks have once again confirmed that the very people in

whose name the ‘Kashmir dispute’ has persisted for eight decades have little say in the conflicts which take place in their name. Exposed only to statist discourse, most of the subcontinent’s people have little awareness of the actual history, geography and politics of the areas that are all clumped together under the epithet of ‘Kashmir’.

Gilgit-Baltistan is one such region. Administered by Pakistan since 1948, GB’s two million people have been in limbo for almost 80 years under the pretext that their destiny will be decided when the Kashmir dispute is finally resolved. There is no mention of GB in the Constitution, leaving its administration at the discretion of the power wielders.

This is a travesty for many reasons, including the fact that GB is home to the thousands of glaciers that constitute the life source of the Indus river system. The region boasts rich deposits of minerals and other natural resources from which Pakistan benefits. And it is the gateway to China and the rest of Central Asia.

For down country Pakistanis, GB is only a beautiful, faraway place that functions as the perfect tourist destination. There is little understanding of how incessant road-building, luxury hotels and other ‘developmental’ interventions are causing irreversible damage to the region’s highly vulnerable ecologies. Indeed, GB’s constitutional vacuum is now giving rise to initiatives to

expropriate nature and dispossess local people.

Earlier this week, a new legislation entitled the Land Reform Act was promulgated to govern land and other natural resources in GB. By giving it this name, the authorities ostensibly want to make it sound like the law is progressive and will guarantee that local people are being given control over local resources. In fact, there is widespread trepidation amongst GB’s youth and seasoned political campaigners that they are being further disenfranchised.

GB was indirectly ruled under the British Raj under a Sikh-era colonial modality called the Khalisa Sarkar. This allowed the state to take possession and ownership of large swathes of land under the pretext that it was ‘barren’. Yet much of the land that the state declared ‘barren’ was in fact used by local communities as common property. What in local parlance is called ‘shamilat deh’ served agricultural, grazing and many other purposes, and remained somewhat immune to the capitalistic logics of private property.

This historic connection of GB’s people to the land has been gradually severed as private and state profiteers have extended their control over the region. Since 1974 non-locals have been permitted to buy up land — most of which has been used for mass tourism, or wanton mineral exploration and mining.

Approximately two-thirds of GB's total area is on the face of it 'protected area' that should preserve both local livelihoods and ecologies. Instead, exploitation and expropriation is commonplace even within so-called 'national parks'.

The Land Reform Act claims to create new legal modalities that benefit local communities by doing away with Khalisa Sarkar. But it is riddled with a host of ambiguities, and in some places, provides for the state to exercise colonial-style powers. There are many clauses that give arbitrary power to the authorities to determine whether or not a piece of land — and the minerals that it holds — belongs to a vaguely defined local stakeholder. Furthermore, there are numerous provisions within the Act for non-locals and state institutions to acquire and alienate land at will.

It is worth bearing in mind that the adjacent AJK continues to be governed by statutes such as the State Subject Act which protect against demographic change and the acquisition of resources by non-locals. Across the LoC in India-held Kashmir the revocation of Article 370 by the Modi regime in 2019 was highly controversial in large part because it changed residency and ownership rules to facilitate the buying up of land by non-locals. Yet in GB, there is no consideration at all for age-old concerns about demography, the rights of local people and the perils of ecocide.

There is considerable resistance to the unending encroachment of the state

into the lives, livelihoods and ecosystems of GB, particularly on the platform of the Awami Action Committee, a broad-based coalition of political workers and intellectuals from across the ideological spectrum. Recent arrests of AAC leaders confirm that GB is being steadily militarised like so many other peripheries. History will not be kind to those who usurped the rights and resources of GB's people.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1912771/held-in-limbo>

Exiling Dissent: India Bars Professor Nitasha Kaul

Daily Parliament Times, 20 May 2025

In a world increasingly threatened by authoritarian impulses, nations often reveal their true character not by how they treat their loyalists, but how they handle their critics. In the case of India, a country that once styled itself as the world's largest democracy, the treatment of dissenting voices is no longer just a domestic concern it's a global embarrassment. The recent revocation of Professor Nitasha Kaul's Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) status is not just a bureaucratic decision it's a loud and desperate signal from New Delhi that intellectual honesty is now incompatible with Indian citizenship. Her only crime? Speaking truth to power, exposing rights violations in Kashmir, and daring to critique a government increasingly uncomfortable with its reflection in the mirror of international law and human rights. Meanwhile, Pakistan, often

unfairly maligned in comparison, continues to offer space however contested for debate, dissent, and democratic evolution. While our democratic journey remains a work in progress, we are not deporting academics for writing articles or testifying in parliaments abroad. Professor Kaul, a Kashmiri Pandit and respected political thinker at the University of Westminster, has been a persistent critic of the Modi regime's authoritarian turn, especially after the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019. Her testimony before the U.S. Congress on the deteriorating situation in 'Indian-occupied' Kashmir made international headlines, and likely placed her squarely in the crosshairs of India's security establishment. The Indian Ministry of Home Affairs accused her vaguely of "anti-India activities," without specifying what exactly qualifies as anti-national in a democracy. Her OCI status was revoked for what amounts to academic dissent a move Professor Kaul rightly described as transnational repression, a tactic commonly used by regimes with something to hide. As she noted on X: "Punitive, cruel, and a textbook case of how insecure states punish ideas they cannot challenge intellectually." The OCI framework, once hailed as a bridge between India and its diaspora, has become a political weapon. The Citizenship Act amendments of recent years give the Indian government sweeping power to cancel cards on vaguely defined grounds such as "conduct unbecoming of a citizen" or

"anti-national activity." With no judicial oversight and no formal right of appeal, the law now acts more as a nationalist loyalty test than a citizenship policy. Legal experts have warned that this is part of a broader ideological purge, designed to render Indian citizenship and even heritage conditional on silence and submission. This is not an isolated incident. India's self-image as a rising global power stands increasingly at odds with its domestic behavior. Whether it's deporting foreign journalists like Angad Singh, blacklisting academics, or surveillance of dissidents abroad, India now uses tools typically associated with autocracies. As Freedom House and Human Rights Watch have both noted, India is "backsliding from democracy," and doing so openly. In contrast, Pakistan has seen difficult periods but continues to host fiery debates in Parliament, host dissenting political commentators on national TV, and even allow foreign journalists access to conflict zones like 'Azad Jammu & Kashmir' something unthinkable in BJP controlled Kashmir. Truth cannot be deported by exiling Professor Nitasha Kaul from her ancestral land, India has exposed the rot within its democratic facade. When an academic's passport becomes a political weapon, when truth is punished across borders, and when critique is equated with treason what remains of the republic? As India isolates its brightest voices and silences its conscience, Pakistan—despite all its imperfections—must continue to build

space for dialogue, dissent, and democratic resilience. This is not a moment for schadenfreude, but for reflection. The test of a nation's strength lies in how it handles discomfort—not how effectively it buries it. India may try to erase voices like Professor Kaul's from its soil, but it cannot erase the questions she poses. And as long as Pakistan remains committed to keeping the democratic conversation alive, it stands on firmer moral ground.

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2025/05/20/exiling-dissent-india-bars-professor-nitasha-kaul/>

Glorious victory in Operation Banyan Marsous stands out as a vivid manifestation of bravery and courage: President 'AJK'

Daily Parliament Times, May 19 2025

President 'Azad Kashmir' Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry has said that we bow our heads in gratitude to Allah the almighty for granting the Pakistani Armed Forces a remarkable victory in Operation "Banyan Marsous".

While addressing a function hosted by former President of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry Chaudhry Javed Iqbal here today, the president said that the recent clash between Pakistan and India was a battle of truth against falsehood, where Pakistan Army not only defeated the enemy ten times bigger in terms of numbers but also crushed its war madness and arrogance.

"We owe this victory to our great martyrs who shed their blood to protect the territorial sovereignty of the homeland", he remarked. The Pakistan Air Forces' tooth-crushing response to the enemy's aggression, he noted, has further cemented Pakistan's military position and its exceptional professional capabilities throughout the world.

"The glorious victory in Operation Banyan Marsous stands out as a vivid manifestation of bravery, courage and professionalism with which the armed forces fought", the president remarked.

He said that the entire Kashmiri and Pakistani nation was proud of the historic victory." We will celebrate a week of gratitude in 'Azad Kashmir' to mark the historic feat", he added.

Welcoming the recent ceasefire between Pakistan and India, he said that it provides a unique opportunity for both nuclear armed neighbors to resolve their differences peacefully to ensure peace in South Asia. He, however, maintained that lasting peace in the region was inescapably linked to the settlement of the longstanding Kashmir issue.

The president also stressed the need for holding tripartite talks and associating the Kashmiri leadership in the decision making process to find out a durable solution to the lingering dispute, which, he said, was the bone of contention between the two countries.

Terming the US President Donald Trump's mediation offer as a positive

development, Barrister Chaudhry said that Trump's offer to meditate on Kashmir has yet again brought global spotlight to this burning issue.

"Given the recent military standoff, an early and amicable settlement of the Kashmir conflict has become inevitable", Barrister Chaudhry said, adding that it was imperative that the Indian leadership must shun its jingoistic attitude, act and behave like a responsible nuclear state.

War, he said, was no solution to the challenges faced by India and Pakistan. Dialogue, he reiterated, was the only way forward to resolve all issues including the core issue of Kashmir that continues to bedevil the relationship between the two countries. The function was attended by former President of Mirpur Chamber of Commerce and Industry Chaudhry Javed Iqbal, Chairman District Council Raja Naveed Akhtar Goga, Mayor Mirpur Chaudhry Usman Khalid, President Mirpur Chamber of Commerce and Industry Umar Shahzad and others.

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2025/05/19/glorious-victory-in-operation-banyan-marsous-stands-out-as-a-vivid-manifestation-of-bravery-and-courage-president-ajk/>

Gilgit-Baltistan Government Launches Sweeping Crackdown on Nationalist and Progressive Groups

Pamir Times, 18 May 2025

The Gilgit-Baltistan government has launched a sweeping crackdown

against nationalist and socialist groups in the region, filing multiple cases against dozens of individuals on various charges.

In a forceful address to the regional assembly, Chief Minister Gulbar Khan stated that those who "speak against the state of Pakistan or its armed forces should be hanged." He warned that while the government had previously "adopted a lenient stance" toward nationalist and socialist groups, this approach would now change.

Echoing this hardline stance, the region's Interior Minister, Shams Lone, pledged to "punish" those he described as the "enemies of Pakistan", a pointed reference to activists and political groups demanding greater autonomy and control over local resources.

Special Assistant to the Chief Minister for Information, Eiman Shah also lashed out against the dissenters, suggesting that they have the "option to move to India and live under Modi's rule". He also highlighted the plight of Muslims in India under the Modi government where violence against Muslims on religious grounds has become a routine.

On the other hand, in recent days, several prominent political activists and leaders have been detained, with many more charged for protesting these arrests, in different parts of Gilgit-Baltistan.

First Information Reports (FIR) were filed in Aliabad (Hunza) and Jutial (Gilgit) on 15th of May, where groups

of people had gathered to demand the release of Awami Action Committee leader Ehsan Ali Advocate, Engineer Mehboob Wali, Masoodur Rehman, Waheedul Hasan, Asghar Shah, Ibrar Bagoro and others.

The crackdown began shortly after escalating Pakistan-India tensions, during which Pakistan carried out defensive strikes in response to Indian aggression, in the wake of the massacre of 25 tourists in Pehelgam area of Indian-Occupied Kashmir.

The Awami Action Committee had been actively mobilizing the public to convene a “Qaumi Jirga,” inviting representatives from across Gilgit-Baltistan to discuss the region’s fundamental issues, including land ownership and control over natural resources. This push comes amid growing concerns over a proposed bill in the GB Assembly related to mines and minerals, which many residents fear could strip them of the ownership of the region’s natural wealth and harm the local environment.

<https://pamirtimes.net/2025/05/17/gilgit-baltistan-government-launches-sweeping-crackdown-on-nationalist-and-progressive-forces/>

Federal Government Forms Committee to Review Gilgit-Baltistan’s Political Demands; PPP’s Amjad Hussain Named Member

Pamir Times, 22 May 2025

The Government of Pakistan has constituted a new committee to review the political and fiscal demands of

Gilgit-Baltistan (GB). According to an official notification issued by the Ministry of Inter-Provincial Coordination, the five-member committee will examine the current mechanism of federal grants for GB, recommend reforms for budget utilization, review procurement practices, and consider broader political and administrative issues.

Notably, Amjad Hussain Advocate, President of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Gilgit-Baltistan and a sitting member of the GB Assembly, has been appointed to the committee. He is the only representative from GB on the panel, which is otherwise composed of senior political figures from the federal level.

The committee will be chaired by Rana Sanaullah Khan, Advisor to the Prime Minister on Political and Public Affairs. Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs and GB, Engr. Amir Muqam, will serve as Co-Chair. Other members include Khawaja Saad Rafique and Barjees Tahir, both former federal ministers.

While the formation of such committees is not unprecedented, past efforts have often stalled without substantial outcomes, particularly on the question of GB’s constitutional status and its demand for treatment at par with Pakistan’s provinces.

The committee is scheduled to hold its preliminary meeting on May 21, 2025, in Islamabad. It remains to be seen whether this latest initiative will lead to tangible progress or follow the

trajectory of previous, inconclusive efforts.

<https://pamirtimes.net/2025/05/21/federal-government-forms-committee-to-review-gilgit-baltistans-political-demands-ppps-amjad-hussain-named-member/>

Land Reforms Act sails through Gilgit-Baltistan Assembly

Dawn, 22 May 2025

The much-awaited Gilgit-Baltistan Land Reforms Act, 2025 has finally sailed through the Gilgit-Baltistan Assembly, with a majority vote on Wednesday. Opposition members in the assembly opposed the act, describing it as an attempt to deprive local people of their common lands, mountains, pastures and natural resources.

GB Land Reforms Act, 2025 was moved by Chief Minister Haji Gulbar Khan in the assembly session, chaired by Speaker Nazir Ahmed, on Monday. After a two-day-long debate on various clauses of the act by the opposition members, GB Assembly members finally passed it with a majority vote as opposition members abstained from voting.

Speaking on the occasion, CM Khan said the GB government has formulated GB Land Reforms Act 2025 for the first time, in consultation with public representatives, lawyers, experts, civil society members, stakeholders to protect land ownership of local people. He added that under

“Khalisa Sarkar”, the barren lands in the region were not protected.

The chief minister said the assembly abolished the black law and introduced an act that would protect the ownership of local people of their lands, pastures, mountains and other natural resources. He said the act’s draft was also formulated during the PML-N and PTI terms, but the proposed bills couldn’t be tabled in the assembly.

He called it a success of the present GB government to pass the law after taking all the stakeholders into confidence. PPP’s GB chapter president and member of GB Assembly Amjad Hussain, who introduced the bill, said it was a historic day as locals had been given ownership rights.

He said that under the “Khalisa Sarkar 1979” law, lands of GB were declared as state land. “After the GB Land Reforms Act 2025, the region’s people have been declared owners of the land,” he said. According to the bill, “common land” refers to all lands, including forests, rivers, lakes, streams, rivers, glaciers, lakes, and such land will have ownership of local people.

The land cannot be allocated as property to any one individual or family and is indispensable for the collective use of the local community or environmental protection.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1912478/land-reforms-act-sails-through-gilgit-baltistan-assembly>

Rethinking the Kashmir dispute post-Pahalgam

The Express Tribune, 23 May 2025

The recent cross-border hostilities between Pakistan and India earlier this month has re-internationalise the Kashmir crisis. The current moment provides a unique opportunity for both sides to try and address this festering problem in a manner which is not only of mutual interest to both nations, but which also keeps in mind the welfare of Kashmiris themselves.

Struggles over Kashmir have sparked all-out wars, and a series of major skirmishes between India and Pakistan over these past 78 years. Yet, after Pakistan managed to gain control of nearly a third of the territory of the former princely state, including the western districts of Kashmir, and Gilgit and Baltistan back in 1948, no significant territorial gains have been made by either side despite repeated conflicts, including the 1965 war, or the more recent confrontation in Kargil.

Over the past several decades, however, India worked hard to convince the international community that there is no need for international arbitration to address the Kashmir imbroglio. After the 1971 war, Pakistan signed Simla Agreement whereby it also agreed to address all outstanding disagreements with India bilaterally.

Pakistan has sporadically been referring to a 1948 UNSC resolution

demanding a plebiscite in Kashmir. Yet, holding a plebiscite to decide the fate of Kashmiris seems a non-starter. The conditions for the UN proposal for a plebiscite in Kashmir require Pakistan to withdraw its forces from all parts of Kashmir on its side of the heavily militarised line of control. India, too, would need to reduce its forces to a minimum on its side of the restive region. It is unlikely that either side will be willing to do abide by such preconditions, or to even accept a new Kashmiri state being carved out from territories currently under their control.

Pakistan demanding that India should respect the UN resolution and hold a plebiscite in its side of Kashmir holds little weight. For its part, India needs to step back from nonsensical claims about trying to wrestle away the territories taken by Pakistan in the year following the bloody partition.

India has tried for years to discredit Pakistan for its use of proxies to inflame the restiveness in Kashmir. While Indian claims gained some traction within the post-9/11 era, its own support to militants in troubled areas of Pakistan, especially Balochistan, and its repressiveness within the Kashmir valley, have eroded the legitimacy of its claims. India's attempt to revoke the special status of Kashmir in 2019, and the subsequent use of increasingly draconian measures to quell separatist tendencies, have not won it much sympathy either.

The latest dangerous cross-border escalation on the heels of a terror attack on tourists in Pahalgam has been contained for now following hectic efforts by the current US administration, as well as several Arab states, Turkey and Iran. But the situation remains volatile given the disgruntlement within the 'Indian-held Kashmir', combined with India's increasingly aggressive posture which seeks to 'punish' Pakistan anytime there is a major act of violence in its side of the line of control. India's attempt to renege on the Indus Water Treaty is another serious issue, which could flare up into a more devastating conflict, if left unresolved.

One wonders if there is now going to be more serious debate within India and Pakistan concerning what can be done about this lingering problem. Maybe it is time to revisit the four-point formula put forth during the Musharraf era, which aimed to respect the principle of self-governance within Kashmir and allow Kashmiris freedom of movement across the line of control, without altering the existing borders.

Such an arrangement may also include a robust mechanism to contend with other thorny concerns such as the need for equitable water sharing and joint efforts to contend with climate threats posed to the Indus tributaries. It would be ideal if Pakistan and India could hammer out such an arrangement between themselves. Or else, maybe

someone can tweet this article to President Trump.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2547281/rethinking-the-kashmir-dispute-post-pahalgam>

Jammu Kashmir Joint Awami Action Committee reminds govt of deadline for demands

Dawn, 25 May 2025

Jammu Kashmir Joint Awami Action Committee (JKJAAC) leader Shaukat Nawaz Mir has said that the six-month deadline given to the government for the implementation of the charter of demands will complete on June 6.

"Morally, we are bound to wait until this period ends. However, we have now finalised the demands in accordance with the aspirations of the people across the entire state, and these will be announced from this stage today," he told reporters as thousands of people from across 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK) converged on Muzaffarabad to attend the grand rally organised by the Jammu Kashmir Joint Awami Action

Committee (JKJAAC) — a coalition of civil society groups — to pay tribute to the martyrs of a rights movement. Vehicular caravans adorned with colourful 'AJK' flags began arriving at the city's historic Upper Adda — popularly referred to as Lal Chowk due to its resemblance to Srinagar's iconic square — late in the afternoon, where they were warmly welcomed by

large crowds from all three districts of Muzaffarabad division amid thunderous sloganeering. Organisers had set up a large stage at the venue, with thousands of chairs arranged for participants.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1913188/jammu-kashmir-joint-awami-action-committee-reminds-govt-of-deadline-for-demands>

Economic Developments

Major milestones achieved during China visit: Dar

Dawn, 23 March 2025

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, while describing his recent three-day China visit as highly successful, said on Thursday that Pakistan had achieved significant progress on diplomatic, strategic and economic fronts during the engagements held in Beijing.

Giving details of the meetings also attended by Afghanistan here at a news conference, Mr Dar said a clear agreement was reached with both Beijing and Kabul that no terrorist organisation whether the banned TTP, BLA or any other would be allowed to use any country's soil against another. The deputy premier announced that discussions on CPEC 2.0 were promising. "We have successfully laid the groundwork for expanded cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative."

He confirmed that China had expressed its intent to finance the Pakistan – Afghanistan - Uzbekistan railway project, calling it a transformative step for regional connectivity.

"We have already sent a draft framework to Uzbekistan and Afghanistan. While the meeting is proposed for May 29-30, I am committed to finalising this by early June," he added.

He said the project, along with the Peshawar-Kabul Highway and ML-1 upgrades, would massively boost Pakistan's connectivity to Central Asian Republics and enhance the commercial potential of underutilised ports. He said his visit also marked substantive decisions with China and Afghanistan, especially on issues of refugees and counterterrorism.

Reflecting on security cooperation, the foreign minister stated that China had deep concerns over attacks on its personnel in Pakistan. "I assured them that we are addressing these threats seriously. We discussed a permanent mechanism to prevent cross-border terrorism, and I commend both China and Afghanistan for aligning with our zero-tolerance stance."

He emphasised that the Chinese leadership stood by Pakistan on all core issues, adding that they reiterated their support for "our sovereignty and territorial integrity and firmly backed

Pakistan's stance on Kashmir, calling for its resolution in line with UN Security Council resolutions. We reaffirmed our support for the One-China policy, including Tibet". He invited Chinese officials to Islamabad for the second round of Pakistan-China Strategic Dialogue.

Regional security

Addressing the regional security environment, the deputy PM stated, "We have successfully countered the Indian narrative, especially regarding the events of 2019. We offered an international investigation into the Pahalgam incident, which India declined. Our transparency strengthened Pakistan's credibility, and several international actors endorsed our position after verifying the facts."

He condemned the Indian attacks and shared that during the recent conflict, 75 Indian aircraft were launched, 24 payloads dropped, and multiple aircraft, including Rafales and a UAV, were downed by Pakistan. "We have never built our nukes and missiles to attack others, but to safeguard peace."

Mr Dar highlighted the government's commitment to improving ties with Afghanistan. "We have religious, cultural, historical, and geographical ties with Afghanistan. Our outreach was welcomed across Afghan society. We need to progress beyond the charge

d'affaires level and engage substantively."

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1912751/major-milestones-achieved-during-china-visit-dar>

Federal Government Forms Committee to Review Gilgit-Baltistan's Political Demands; PPP's Amjad Hussain Named Member

Pamir Times, 21 May 2025

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Notably, Amjad Hussain Advocate, President of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Gilgit-Baltistan and a sitting member of the GB Assembly, has been appointed to the committee. He is the only representative from GB on the panel, which is otherwise composed of senior political figures from the federal level.

The committee will be chaired by Rana Sanaullah Khan, Advisor to the Prime Minister on Political and Public Affairs. Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs and GB, Engr. Amir Muqam, will serve

as Co-Chair. Other members include Khawaja Saad Rafique and Barjees Tahir, both former federal ministers.

While the formation of such committees is not unprecedented, past efforts have often stalled without substantial outcomes, particularly on the question of GB's constitutional status and its demand for treatment at par with Pakistan's provinces.

The committee is scheduled to hold its preliminary meeting on May 21, 2025, in Islamabad. It remains to be seen whether this latest initiative will lead to tangible progress or follow the trajectory of previous, inconclusive efforts.

<https://pamirtimes.net/2025/05/21/federal-government-forms-committee-to-review-gilgit-baltistans-political-demands-ppps-amjad-hussain-named-member/>

From Vernacular Urdu Media

Sardar Atiq welcomes Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's Muzaffarabad Visit

Urdu point, 22 May 2025

All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference President Sardar Atiq Ahmed welcomed Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's visit of Muzaffarabad, and said that his visit have strengthened the courage among Kashmiris. He thanked the Prime Minister for announcing relief package for those who got killed or injured by the Indian firing. He lauded the Pakistan government's decision of

honoring the Army Chief, Syed Asim Munir with a title of Field Marshal for his exceptional display of leadership in deterring the enemy forces and success of the operation Banyun Marsoos. Such thoughts were shared by Sardar Atiq with media persons post meeting with Prime Minister Sharif. He further added that the people of Kashmir are proud of Asim Munir's leadership and strongly believe in Pakistan army. Pakistan gave a tough and an equal response to India and showcased that Pakistan can well protect its territories. Pakistan is in safe hands.

<https://www.urdupoint.com/pakistan/news/muzaffarabad/kashmir/live-news-4434793.html>

India's aggressive tactics have again made Kashmir a flashpoint: Information Minister

Jammu and Kashmir Times, 25 May 2025

Information minister 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' government Peer Mohammad Mazhar Sayeed Shah said that until the Kashmir issue is resolved, peace cannot be achieved in this region. Pakistan army gave befitting response to India, and this has made Narendra Modi uneasy. India resorted to forceful and aggressive means but this has resulted in making Kashmir again flashpoint. India is involved in worst form of human rights violations in 'occupied Kashmir' and Pakistan army is striving for achieving durable peace in the region.

<http://jammukashmirtimes.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/1-8.jpg>

From Social Media**JAMIL NAGRI @jamilnagri***22 May 2025*

The much-awaited #Gilgit_Baltistan Land Reforms Act, 2025 has finally sailed through the Gilgit-Baltistan Assembly, with a majority vote on Wednesday.

Link to the tweet:

<https://x.com/jamilnagri/status/1925441266768084996>

WAJAHAT ALI @wajahatgilgiti*24 May 2025*

The Central Imamia Association of Gilgit-Baltistan has clearly rejected the Land Reforms Act, calling it against public rights.

Link to the tweet:

<https://x.com/wajahatgilgiti/status/1926290264580067773>

BASHARAT ISA @BasharatIssa*21 May 2025*

Same drama with a new episode!!

What happened to the ducking Sartaj Aziz committee??

Link to the tweet:

<https://x.com/BasharatIssa/status/1924922553371422754>

PAMIR TIMES @pamirtimes*21 May 2025*

Federal Government Forms Committee to Review Gilgit-Baltistan's Political Demands; PPP's Amjad Hussain Named Member

Link to the tweet:

<https://x.com/pamirtimes/status/1924920910974156922>

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Disclaimer

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