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POK GB Election Customary Laws Gilgit-Baltistan Sustainable Livelihoods



No. 1, Development Enclave, Rao Tula Ram Marg
New Delhi-110 010

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Political Developments

Stage set for tabling no-trust against 'AJK' PM

The Nation, 13 October 2025

Amid the ongoing political turmoil in the state, now the stage has been set for a no-confidence motion against 'Azad Kashmir' Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwarul Haq.

According to details, the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) claims that it has secured the support of 33 Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) and now the no-confidence motion against Haq is likely to be presented in the assembly soon.

Reports said, Chaudhry Riaz of the PPP has been given the task of contacting MLAs. Efforts have been expedited to win as many as MLAs' support as possible and important developments on this front would be seen soon. Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwarul Haq, however, has also prepared a counter-strategy. The next prime minister will be from the PPP and consultations are under way within the party on the name for this position. Chaudhry Yasin and Raja Faisal Mumtaz Rathore's names are currently under consideration for the position of the Leader of the House. Chaudhry Yasin is most likely to be made the Leader of the House. The strength of the PPP in the assembly is 17 while at least 27 MLAs are required for a no-confidence motion. The 'AJK' Assembly has a 53-member house. The PML-N, with 9

MLAs' support, has decided to sit in the opposition.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/21-Oct-2025/stage-set-tabling-no-trust-ajk-pm>

GB election commission freezes financial, administrative powers of regional govt citing 'concern' over pre-poll manipulation

Dawn, 21 October 2025

The Gilgit-Baltistan Election Commission on Tuesday froze the regional government's financial and administrative powers, citing 'growing public concern' over pre-poll manipulation, ahead of the assembly's term ending next month

A notification issued by the commission today said the assembly's tenure was to expire on November 24 and it was the commission's constitutional duty to organise and conduct general elections and local government elections in GB, along with making all necessary arrangements to ensure that they were conducted honestly, justly, fairly and in accordance with law, while safeguarding the process from corrupt practices.

"The general public has expressed genuine concerns about appointments, upgradations, and transfers of government officers and officials across various departments during this sensitive pre-election period. These actions have given rise to apprehensions that they may be politically motivated, potentially

weakening public trust in the fairness and integrity of the election process.”

“After careful consideration of these concerns, the GB Election Commission believes that such appointments, upgradations, and posting/transfers carried out during the election period risk being viewed as attempts to gain political advantage. This perception could weaken public trust in the neutrality, impartiality, and overall integrity of the electoral process,” the election commission added.

“The commission has also observed growing public concern, regarding the diversion of development funds from approved projects to politically motivated schemes, which clearly constitutes another form of pre-poll influence and has the potential to distort the level playing field among candidates,” the notification said.

It added that it became necessary for the commission to exercise its lawful powers to maintain neutrality and fairness in governance affairs in order to uphold public confidence in the electoral process, to ensure equal opportunity for all candidates, to protect the sanctity and impartiality of the forthcoming general elections, and to prevent abuse of state resources for electoral advantage.

The GB chief election commissioner (CEC) thus ordered that all forms of recruitment or appointment in any regional department, organisation or institution were banned with immediate effect except recruitments

made through the Federal Public Service Commission and cases where tests/interviews were already completed by today or where recruitment was urgently needed in the public interest.

The GB CEC further ordered that no new development scheme, community-based initiative or announcement-based project should be awarded, processed or initiated in any form until the next elections were held and a new government assumed office.

Furthermore, any diversion of funds already allocated to development projects in GB was strictly prohibited, with all diverted funds to remain frozen with immediate effect.

“No transfer or posting of government officers/officials shall be made except in cases of genuine public interest, and only after obtaining prior approval/NOC (no-objection certificate) from the GB Election Commission upon submission of a formal proposal.

“No government functionary or elected representative shall announce or inaugurate any new development scheme or project during the election period.

“All development funds relating to local government institutions in GB shall stand frozen with immediate effect until the official announcement of election results. However, in exceptional cases involving extreme urgency or matters of overriding public importance, utilisation of such funds

may be permitted strictly upon obtaining prior approval/NOC from the GB Election Commission,” the notification further ordered.

It directed that funds allocated to ongoing schemes should continue to be utilised strictly in accordance with the approved Planning Manual and Public Procurement Regulatory Authority Rules without any alteration or modification.

The notification further stated that no creation, alteration or announcement of new administrative units, subdivisions or similar territorial entities should be made during the election period under any circumstances.

Listing off more directions, the commission further ordered: “No proposal for the creation of new posts shall be submitted to the GB Finance Department. Likewise, no case of re-designation, up-gradation, concurrence or conveyance of new creation shall be processed by the GB Finance Department or the Services & General Administration Department. However, genuine cases duly justified may be considered only upon obtaining prior approval/NOC from the GB Election Commission.”

“Release of additional funds for new maintenance works is prohibited except in cases of extreme emergency in the public interest, duly justified to and only after obtaining NOC/approval from the GB Election Commission.”

“No new policy, directive, rule or regulation shall be issued or

implemented after the issuance of this notification until the formation of the next provincial government.”

The notification said it would come into force with immediate effect and would remain operative until the conclusion of the forthcoming GB general elections and local government elections.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1950383/gb-election-commission-freezes-financial-administrative-powers-of-regional-govt-citing-concern-over-pre-poll-manipulation>

Election Commission curtails GB govt's powers

Dawn, 22 October 2025

The Gilgit-Baltistan Election Commission on Tuesday curtailed the powers of the Gilgit-Baltistan government ahead of the upcoming general elections in the region.

GB Chief Election Commissioner Raja Shehbaz Khan told Dawn that the arrangements had been made to ensure free and fair elections in the region. He warned that anyone found violating the election code of conduct would be sent to jail under Section 10 of the Election Act.

According to a notification issued by GB Election Commission on Tuesday, the tenure of the GB Assembly is set to expire on November 24. It stated that it is the commission's constitutional duty to organise and conduct general and local government elections in GB, and to make all necessary arrangements to ensure that these elections are conducted honestly, justly, fairly, and

in accordance with the law, while safeguarding the process from corrupt practices.

“The general public has expressed genuine concerns about appointments, upgradations, and transfers of government officers and officials across various departments during this sensitive pre-election period. These actions have given rise to apprehensions that they may be politically motivated, potentially undermining public trust in the fairness and integrity of the election process,” the notification said.

“After careful consideration of these concerns, the GB Election Commission believes that such appointments, upgradations, and transfers carried out during the election period risk being perceived as attempts to gain political advantage. This perception could weaken public trust in the neutrality, impartiality, and overall integrity of the electoral process,” it added.

The commission further ordered: “No proposal for the creation of new posts shall be submitted to the GB Finance Department. Likewise, no case of re-designation, up-gradation, concurrence, or new post creation shall be processed by the GB Finance Department or the Services & General Administration Department. However, genuine cases duly justified may be considered only after obtaining prior approval/NOC from the GB Election Commission.”

It also stated: “The release of additional funds for new or maintenance works is prohibited, except in cases of extreme emergency in the public interest, duly justified to and approved by the GB Election Commission. “No new policy, directive, rule or regulation shall be issued or implemented after the issuance of this notification until the formation of the next provincial government.”

The notification said it would take immediate effect and remain operative until the conclusion of the forthcoming polls.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1950489/election-commission-curtails-gb-govts-powers>

PML-N quits ‘AJK’ govt, vows to sit in opposition

Business Recorder, 22 October 2025

The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) announced on Tuesday its decision to part ways with the ‘Azad Jammu and Kashmir’ (AJK) government, saying the party would not support any “unnatural” process of government formation.

According to details, the announcement came from the PML-N ‘AJK’ chapter president, Shah Ghulam Qadir in Islamabad on Tuesday. Shah Ghulam Qadir stated that while the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) has the democratic right to move a no-confidence motion, PML-N will not be part of any new government. However, he reaffirmed that the PML-N would

not support any move that went against its principles.

“We will not support any ‘unnatural’ coalition and will now sit in the opposition,” he remarked. He warned that any deviation from party policy will result in disciplinary action. Qadir added that only transparent general elections can pave the way for a legitimate new government. He reaffirmed PML-N ‘Azad Kashmir’s commitment to the welfare of refugees and overseas Kashmiris, and its emergence as an organized and popular party.

<https://www.brecorder.com/news/40388631/pml-n-quits-ajk-govt-vows-to-sit-in-opposition>

Senate body reviews forest protection, climate measures in GB

The Nation, 22 October 2025

The Senate Standing Committee on Kashmir Affairs, Gilgit-Baltistan, and SAFRON visited Baltistan Division to review forest conservation and climate resilience efforts.

The meeting, chaired by Senator Asad Qasim, was informed that over 1.1 million CFT of illegal timber has been seized under the GB Forest Act 2019, and a comprehensive plan is being prepared for its regulated use.

Commissioner Baltistan Division informed the committee that 100 MW solar and 60 MW hydropower projects will help reduce pressure on forests by providing alternative energy sources.

The committee directed the GB government to share its forest working plan soon and keep the committee informed of any related legislation or initiatives. Members also planted saplings at the Administration Complex. Later, the committee reviewed the GLOF-II Project and Early Warning System (EWS) and emphasized stronger coordination among relevant departments for effective disaster response.

The meeting was attended by Senators Nadeem Ahmed Bhutto, Nasir Mahmood, Ata-ul-Haq, Additional Chief Secretary (Development) Syed Waheed Shah, Joint Secretary Kashmir Affairs, DG Disaster Management Zakir Hussain, Commissioner Baltistan Division Kamal Khan, DC Skardu Hamza Murad, and other departmental heads.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/22-Oct-2025/senate-body-reviews-forest-protection-climate-measures-gb>

Negotiating Change: Revalidating the Customary Laws for Sustainable Development in Nasir Abad (Hini) Hunza

Pamir Times, 22 October 2025

A meaningful and thought-provoking two-day seminar and workshop was held on October 18–19 in Nasirabad (Hini), Hunza, under the theme “Negotiating Change: Recognizing the Role of Customary Laws for Sustainable Livelihoods and Development.”

The event, jointly organized by the Nasirabad Students Helping Association Karachi (NASHAK) and Nasirabad Youth, marked a milestone for the community, the first-ever grassroots initiative to discuss governance and sustainability through the lens of the community's own indigenous wisdom.

In his context-setting remarks, Jahan Zeb, representing NASHAK, elaborated on the purpose of the two-day event. He highlighted a series of ongoing conflicts within the community, neighboring villages, and external groups that require attention for an amicable resolution. These protracted disputes are believed to be triggered by existing gaps and ambiguities within the multi-layered yet disjointed governance framework. Mr. Zeb emphasized that neither customary laws nor contemporary laws alone can provide a comprehensive solution. The complexity is further compounded by the fact that multiple generations coexist, each with its own distinct expectations. Different generations prioritize different aspects, such as financial solutions, customary laws, or modern approaches. Given the diversity of perspectives, finding a unified solution is challenging. Nonetheless, the aim of this event was to initiate a debate and discussion that would enable the community to address these issues, recommend solutions, and design their own model for community governance based on consensus and local ownership.

As someone deeply involved in this process, I had the privilege of serving as both the moderator of the panel discussion and the facilitator of the workshop sessions. My role was to guide the dialogue, help extract local insights, and connect traditional knowledge with contemporary governance challenges. The seminar was chaired by Mr. Sultan Madad, Chairman of the Karakoram Area Development Organization (KADO).

In his opening remarks, he reminded participants that customary laws have long served as the backbone of communal life in Hunza and across Gilgit-Baltistan. Mr. Madad emphasized the urgent need to revive, update, and institutionalize these laws in a way that aligns with modern realities. His words set a reflective tone, calling on the community to rediscover its own systems of governance and justice. Two distinguished researchers presented insightful papers that anchored the discussion in historical and analytical contexts.

Mr. Jafar Nazir, a renowned researcher and educationist, shared a detailed case study on the customary laws of Punial, a former princely state of Gilgit-Baltistan. His work illustrated how traditional governance systems had maintained social order and balance for centuries, providing lessons for present-day Hunza. Mr. Aziz Ali Dad, an eminent researcher and columnist, presented his paper titled "Negotiating Change: Recognizing the Role of Customary Laws for Sustainable

Livelihoods and Development in Hunza.” He argued that indigenous governance systems, if updated democratically, could serve as strong frameworks for sustainable development and social justice, such as the concept of land banking. Both presentations laid the groundwork for deep reflection on how traditional legal and moral systems might be integrated into contemporary village management and policymaking.

In the second session, I had the honor of moderating a diverse panel discussion that featured experts from different backgrounds, including Mr. Sultan Madad, Chairman of KADO; Ms. Yasmin Karim, a well-known gender specialist and development expert; and Mr. Baba Jan, a political activist and respected elder of Nasirabad.

The discussion explored the roles of various stakeholders, identified major governance challenges, and highlighted the importance of revitalizing customary laws to meet today’s environmental and social needs. A powerful consensus emerged; women must be included in all village-level decision-making bodies, including the Numberdars, Jirga, and Water and other Local Resource Management Committees. This inclusivity, participants agreed, is essential for achieving social balance and sustainable community development.

It was agreed that all discussions would be transcribed and compiled into a

Village Model Development Plan, rooted in local needs and endorsed by the wider community. The model will adapt customary laws to address emerging challenges, from responsible tourism and environmental protection to land management and external investments, ensuring community ownership and accountability.

Steps will be taken to empower women in decision-making, income generation, and conflict resolution, and to ensure the inclusion of vulnerable groups, including persons with disabilities, elders, and children, in all community institutions. One of the most pressing concerns expressed by participants was the absence of local government bodies in Gilgit-Baltistan. Since no local elections have been held since 2004, communities have been left without formal representation or mechanisms to resolve local disputes.

Participants also criticized the GB Assembly for misusing development funds and failing to legislate on key regional issues such as tourism regulation, environmental protection, and land rights. It was widely acknowledged that the abolition of the Frontier Crimes Regulation (FCR) created a legal vacuum that has yet to be filled by any effective governance system. Customary laws, once central to community order, were left neglected. Participants agreed that reviving and democratizing these traditional systems is crucial for restoring accountability and stability at the grassroots level.

This seminar represented a turning point for Nasirabad, as it brought together the entire community, elders, youth, women, and professionals, to discuss their collective future.

For the first time, such a conversation was held by the people in GB, for the people, ensuring that every stakeholder's voice was heard. Unlike previous externally imposed models, this initiative emerged organically from within the community. As the facilitator, I witnessed how deeply our people still value their ancestral wisdom and how eager they are to adapt it to today's challenges. The energy, clarity, and commitment shown by participants were truly inspiring.

The seminar concluded with a strong call to action: local body elections must be held without delay, and development powers must be devolved to local institutions that reflect community realities. Participants reaffirmed their belief that the GB Assembly should focus solely on legislation, while local governance should remain in the hands of the people, guided by time-tested customary principles and inclusive practices.

I personally commend NASHAK for spearheading this visionary effort and urge other communities across Gilgit-Baltistan to follow this model. Reviving and modernizing our customary laws is not a step backward; it is a return to the sustainable, participatory, and self-reliant systems that once made our villages thrive.

If we can harmonize our ancestral wisdom with democratic practices, I reflected at the close of the workshop, we can rebuild governance from the ground up, ensuring that our people remain the rightful stewards of their land, resources, and destiny.

<https://pamirtimes.net/2025/10/22/negotiating-change-revalidating-the-customary-laws-for-sustainable-development-in-nasir-abad-hini-hunza/>

PPP begins politicking for in-house change in 'AJK' assembly

Daily Times, 23 October 2025

The PPP has intensified efforts for an in-house change in the 'AJK' Assembly, party sources revealed. According to insiders, the PPP leadership has decided to reach out to the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) to discuss the evolving political situation in 'AJK'. The party also plans to seek assurances from the federal government regarding development funding for the region.

Sources said the PPP intends to request inclusion in the 'AJK' cabinet, arguing that PML-N's participation would help ensure the release of federal funds. However, PPP leaders reportedly remain concerned that they have not yet received a clear commitment from the federal government about funding for the remainder of the 'AJK' government's tenure.

Party insiders warned that without federal financial support, the 'Azad Kashmir' government would struggle to deliver on its promises and

development projects. The move comes a day after the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) announced its departure from the 'Azad Kashmir' government.

President of the PML-N 'AJK', Shah Ghulam Qadir, said that if the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) brings a no-confidence motion, it is their democratic right. Shah Ghulam Qadir categorically said that the PML-N would not become a part of any new government. The PML-N President warned that anyone who deviated from the party policy would face party action. He said that they continued playing a positive role in the resolution of a constitutional and political crisis. A strong government in 'AJK' can only be formed through a general election, he emphasized.

Earlier this month, the federal government's high-level negotiation committee and the JAAC of 'AJK' signed a landmark agreement in Muzaffarabad to resolve ongoing disputes and restore peace in the region.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1388107/ppp-begins-politicking-for-in-house-change-in-ajk-assembly/>

'AJK' Founding Day today

Business Recorder, 24 October 2025

The 78th Founding Day of the state of 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' will be celebrated on 24 October. It will be a public holiday throughout the state. The day will dawn with 21 gun salutes at the state capital Muzaffarabad.

The Founding Day is celebrated in commemoration of freedom from the Dogra regime on the 24th of October in 1947. Special prayers will be offered in mosques for the integrity and prosperity of Pakistan and the early liberation of Indian 'Illegally Occupied' Jammu and Kashmir. Simple but impressive flag hoisting ceremonies will be held at district level.

In the state capital Muzaffarabad, the main function of the Founding Day will be held at parade ground wherein President 'AJK' Barrister Sultan Mehmood Chaudhary and Prime Minister Chaudhary Anwar-ul-Haq will hoist the national flag at 9:00 am. The 'AJK' government's Founding Day is observed every year to celebrate the founding anniversary of 'Azad Jammu Kashmir' government formed this day 78 years ago on October 24, 1947 after the 'AJK' territory was got liberated by the valiant sons of the soil from the clutches of the India-backed despotic Dogra rule.

Special ceremonies would be held in all ten districts of the 'liberated state' to celebrate the day. The speakers will highlight the historic significance of the founding day. Besides "Fateha" will be offered for the Kashmiri martyrs besides offering special prayers for the early success of the Jammu & Kashmir freedom movement as well as progress and prosperity of 'AJK' state.

Since the Kashmiris struggle for freedom in 'occupied' Jammu and Kashmir has reached at climax amidst the pro-freedom and anti-India street

agitation across the bleeding ‘occupied Jammu and Kashmir’ state for past over six years and the reign of state terrorism unleashed by the Indian ‘occupational forces’ for the last 78 years.

<https://www.brecorder.com/news/40389013/ajk-founding-day-today>

‘AJK’ High Court strikes down appointments, promotions order in its own establishment

Dawn, 24 October 2025

The ‘Azad Jammu and Kashmir’ (AJK) High Court on Thursday annulled dozens of appointment, promotion, and transfer orders or notifications made in its own establishment — mostly during the tenure of former Chief Justice Sadaqat Hussain Raja — declaring that they had been carried out in violation of law, service rules, and transparency requirements. In a detailed judgment authored by Justice Chaudhary Khalid Rasheed, the court accepted two writ petitions after hearing them together.

In the first petition, filed in May, the petitioners had challenged amendments made to the ‘AJK’ High Court Establishment (Appointment and Conditions of Employment) Rules, 2020, in July 2023 and February 2025. The second petition, filed in August, assailed various appointments, promotions, and transfers of private respondents through different notifications issued over the past few years.

The petitioners contended that the amendments were never published in the official gazette and therefore had no legal force. While the petitioners were represented by Waheed Arif, Khawaja Mohammad Akbar, and Imranul Haq Khan, as many as 16 lawyers appeared on behalf of the respondents.

The court held that the recruitment and promotion processes were marred by irregularities, including excess appointments, improper constitution of selection committees, withdrawal of posts from the National Testing Service (NTS) without justification, and alteration of advertised qualifications to favour certain candidates.

Justice Rasheed observed that the High Court had engaged the NTS for recruitment under a Memorandum of Understanding requiring 30 days’ prior notice for revocation. However, the High Court administration selected candidates internally “without assigning any reason to withdraw selection through NTS”, in an act that the judgment described as “malevolent and unjust.”

The court found that while ten posts of IT Assistants were advertised, 14 appointments were made. Similarly, nine clerical posts were re-designated as Office Coordinators and upgraded from grade-11 to grade-14 without re-advertisement. It further noted that the appointing authority chaired its own selection committee, which “amounts to being a judge of his own cause.”

Regarding stenographers, Justice Rasheed recorded that five posts had been advertised but ten appointments were made. During proceedings, a test for stenographers was conducted in the judge's chamber on October 16, where "only one candidate could qualify as per requirements of relevant rules," while eight others were "found unaware of shorthand," leading the court to conclude that "the selection for the posts of stenographers was not transparent."

The court also set aside several promotions, including those of the Secretary to Chief Justice, the Additional Registrar, and the Assistant Registrar (Record), terming them *coram non iudice* or void *ab initio*. It observed that some promotions had been granted despite the absence of rules for those posts, or apparently in favour of relatives of serving officers, calling such decisions "a glaring pick and choose."

The court dismissed objections raised by several respondents that the petitions were time-barred or motivated by mala fide intent, noting that the petitioners had acted promptly after obtaining certified copies of the disputed orders. It also rejected arguments that the High Court's internal rules did not require publication.

In a significant passage, Justice Rasheed referred to a "regrettable" incident on October 9, noting that former Chief Justice Sadaqat Hussain Raja, who had acted as the authority

during the disputed appointments and promotions, "approached the office of the Registrar, shouted upon him and other staff, and used abusive language and gestures towards the Hon'ble Chief Justice and Judges of this Court... in order to influence the process of the Court hearing."

The Judge directed that all illegal appointments and promotions stand annulled and ordered the sitting Chief Justice to constitute inquiry committees to fix responsibility for misconduct and misuse of authority within 90 days. "It is inevitable to observe that a High Court is among the sacred establishments that stand as a beacon of justice," Justice Rasheed wrote, adding that an institution expected to administer justice could not itself act in disregard of the law. "Only transparent and rule-based recruitment can sustain public confidence in the judiciary."

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1950812/ajk-high-court-strikes-down-appointments-promotions-order-in-its-own-establishment>

'AJK' government shake-up on cards as PPP eyes premier slot

Dawn, 26 October 2025

As the PPP plans to install its own prime minister in 'Azad Jammu Kashmir', the party lawmakers from the region separately met party chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari and President Asif Ali Zardari to mull options for the removal of the incumbent PM Chaudhry Anwarul Haq.

Only a picture of Mr Zardari's meeting with the lawmakers was issued by Saturday night, while a handout issued by the PPP regarding the meeting with Mr Bhutto-Zardari also did not mention the possibility of a no-confidence motion against the 'AJK' premier. The party leaders discussed the 'AJK's "political situation" in the meeting, said the official statement.

Sources, however, claimed the party meeting considered names for Mr Haq's successor. They said the PPP had "almost finalised" the decision to oust the 'AJK' prime minister through a no-trust motion. A formal decision, according to sources, is likely in a day or two. The insiders said the party leaders deliberated upon all possible options, including giving some time to the 'AJK' prime minister for "an honourable exit", before making any move to remove the premier through a no-trust vote.

According to the sources, the meeting also explored potential successors, with Chaudhry Yaseen, Chaudhry Latif Akbar and Sardar Yaqoob emerging as strong contenders for the coveted post. In the 'AJK' assembly, the PPP, with the support of the PML-N, has the support of more than 27 lawmakers — a magic number required to form the government. The PPP has 17 members in the house, 10 of whom are ministers and two are advisers, while 'AJK' Legislative Assembly Speaker Chaudhry Latif Akbar also hails from the PPP.

It may be noted that the PPP had already decided it would not remain a part of the government, but it remained undecided about whether to sit on the opposition benches or form its own government in the region. Meanwhile, the official statement by the party said that Mr Bhutto-Zardari presided over the PPP 'AJK' Parliamentary group meeting and "discussed the political situation" in 'AJK'.

The statement added that the PPP leaders of the 'AJK' chapter discussed improving the organisational structure of the party in the region and the current political situation in 'AJK'. The meeting was also attended by former prime minister Raja Pervez Ashraf and former Kashmir affairs minister Qamar Zaman Kaira, who had recently led a federal government delegation to talk to the protesters in 'AJK' and remained successful in ending the protest after an agreement was signed in the first week of October. At least 10 had been killed while scores were injured in clashes between the law enforcers and the protesters that lasted for days. PPP Women Wing's Central President Faryal Talpur was also present in the meeting.

Others who attended the meeting included Chaudhry Muhammad Yasin, Faisal Mumtaz, Chaudhry Latif Akbar, Sardar Javed Ayub, Sardar Muhammad Yaqub Khan, Mian Abdul Waheed, Javed Iqbal Bandhanvi, Syed Bazil Naqvi, Syed Zia Qamar, Chaudhry Qasim Majeed, Chaudhry Aamir Yasin, Aamir Ghaffar Lone,

Javed Butt, Rafiq Nayyar, Nabila Ayub, Chaudhry Muhammad Riaz, and Sardar Tanveer Ilyas.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1951299/ajk-government-shake-up-on-cards-as-ppp-eyes-premier-slot>

Economic Developments

Imperative Measures for Socio-Economic Development of Gilgit-Baltistan

Pamir Times, 24 October 2025

To ensure the socio-economic development of Gilgit-Baltistan (GB), a region with vast untapped potential but facing historical neglect, a comprehensive set of imperative measures must be adopted. These measures should target core areas such as infrastructure, education, healthcare, governance, and economic diversification.

Infrastructure Development

Upgrade and maintain the existing road network and construct all-weather roads linking remote valleys. Establish reliable public transport and consider regional air connectivity (e.g., expanding Skardu and Gilgit airports). Ensure high-speed internet and mobile connectivity in all districts. Ensuring the security and safety of travelers by complying with road safety standards is another vital factor that should be taken into account.

Educational Reform

Build and upgrade primary, secondary, and vocational schools in rural areas.

For higher education, establish more universities diversified in various fields, with research capacity. Introduce IT, AI, and local history/environment in the curriculum. Furthermore, regular teacher training programs should be conducted to improve teaching quality. Building mechanisms with performance-based rewards in the teaching sector would potentially improve performance and results.

Healthcare Improvement

Build and equip hospitals with quality standards to ensure better healthcare services. Recruit and incentivize doctors and nurses to serve in remote regions. Introduce mobile clinics and telemedicine facilities. Promote public health campaigns focusing on hygiene, maternal care, and vaccination.

Tourism Development

Introduce eco-tourism, thereby promoting sustainable tourism focusing on natural beauty, cultural heritage, and adventure sports. Improve lodging, waste management, rescue services, and visitor centers. Furthermore, train locals as guides, hospitality workers, and entrepreneurs, and establish a tourism regulatory authority to manage environmental impact.

Agriculture and Livestock Development

Introduce modern irrigation, storage, and farming technologies to promote

the cultivation of high-value crops like fruits, nuts, and medicinal plants. Support livestock health and dairy production through veterinary services and training.

Hydropower and Energy Access

GB, with its mountains, glacial meltwaters, and many small rivers with steep terrain, has a very large hydropower potential (tens of thousands of MW by some estimates), but most remains untapped. Hydropower is the region's best bet for clean, local, renewable energy, but many technical, institutional, and financial hurdles remain, which require attention to make this region a major power generation hub.

Economic Diversification and Job Creation

Promote local crafts, gemstones, and textile products. Establish microfinance schemes and business training for youth and women. Provide focused training in IT, tourism, agriculture, and trade. Maximizing benefits from the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) through the inclusion of GB in economic zones could change the socio-economic history of this region.

Governance and Legal Reforms

Strengthen local government institutions and administrative autonomy. Introduce e-governance and anti-corruption mechanisms. Ensuring law and order across GB is

vitaly important for the region's growth.

Environmental Sustainability

Monitor and protect against glacier melting through climate action. Expand tree-planting campaigns and ban illegal logging. Establish early warning systems for floods, earthquakes, and landslides.

Cultural Preservation and Social Inclusion

Support local languages, music, traditions, and festivals. Promote religious and ethnic tolerance. Encourage equal participation in education, employment, and politics. The development of Gilgit-Baltistan requires an inclusive and sustainable approach. While Gilgit-Baltistan has made strides in socio-economic development through initiatives in agriculture, energy, and tourism, it continues to grapple with infrastructural deficits, political unrest, and environmental vulnerabilities. Addressing these challenges requires a balanced approach that includes sustainable development practices, political inclusivity, and environmental conservation. If these are addressed, undoubtedly, the region could record the highest levels of development in its history.

<https://pamirtimes.net/2025/10/24/imperative-measures-for-socio-economic-development-of-gilgit-baltistan/>

From Vernacular Urdu Media

Kashmiris' destination is Pakistan: Minister for Environment

Urdu Point, 23 October 2025

The Minister for Environment 'Azad Kashmir' government, Aamir Abdul Ghaffar Lone, has said that 78 years ago, the people of Jammu and Kashmir had started a political struggle for accession to Pakistan, while Indian forces attacked Kashmir, in response to which this region was liberated from India through armed resistance. We assure our brothers across the Line of Control on this day that their struggle will surely be crowned with success.

He expressed these views in a special message issued on the occasion of the 78th Foundation Day of 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir'. He further said that the destination of Kashmiris is Pakistan and Kashmiris are fighting the war for the completion of Pakistan.

We assure our Kashmiri brothers, sisters, mothers, daughters, and the residents of 'occupied Kashmir' who are victims of Indian atrocities that the people of 'Azad Kashmir' stand shoulder to shoulder with them in the freedom movement. India, by abolishing Article 370 and 35A on 5 August 2019, has turned Kashmir into the world's largest prison.

He said that the international community is turning a blind eye to the deteriorating situation in 'occupied' Jammu and Kashmir. Due to India's stubbornness, there are thousands of

unmarked graves in 'occupied' Jammu and Kashmir. Thousands of women are raped every year, freedom leaders are in chains, and thousands of Kashmiri youth are becoming victims of the atrocities of the 'occupying' Indian forces in India's torture cells. We demand from the international community that it play its role in granting the people of 'occupied' Jammu and Kashmir their right to self-determination.

<https://www.urdupoint.com/pakistan/news/muzaffarabad/kashmir/live-news-4593897.html>

Kashmir Policy Research Institute organizes Seminar on 'occupied' Jammu & Kashmir

Urdu Point, 25 October 2025

A seminar on "India's 'occupation' of Jammu & Kashmir and Kashmiris' Right to Resistance" was held under the auspices of the Kashmir Policy Research Institute. It was attended by prominent Kashmiri leaders, Kashmir affairs experts, intellectuals, professors, male and female students, and individuals from various schools of thought.

The seminar was addressed by Ghulam Muhammad Safi, Convener All Parties Hurriyat Conference, Altaf Hussain Wani, Chairman, Kashmir Institute of International Relations, and Dr. Raja Muhammad Sajjad Khan, Director Kashmir Policy Research Institute. Also present were Hurriyat leader Mushtaq-ul-Islam, Zahid Safi, and several other prominent Kashmiri personalities.

The speakers emphasized that Kashmir is an international dispute, the resolution of which is possible only and exclusively in accordance with United Nations resolutions.

<https://www.urdupoint.com/pakistan/news/muzaffarabad/national-news/live-news-4596551.html>

78th Foundation Day of 'Azad Kashmir' held in Muzaffarabad

Urdu Point, 24 October 2025

On the occasion of the 78th Foundation Day of 'Azad Kashmir', a grand ceremony was held at the Parade Ground in Muzaffarabad. The chief guest of the event was Prime Minister of 'Azad Kashmir', Chaudhry Anwar-ul-Haq, who hoisted the flag during the central ceremony. Other dignitaries who attended the event was most senior minister Colonel (Retd) Waqar Ahmad Noor, leader of the opposition, senior military officers, government secretaries, political leaders and representatives from all walks of life.

Students from government schools presented Kashmiri patriotic songs, paying tribute to the resilient freedom-loving people of 'occupied' Jammu and Kashmir. The ceremony reaffirmed the unwavering resolve that the Kashmir freedom movement will continue until 'occupied' Jammu and Kashmir is liberated from India's unconstitutional, illegal, and immoral occupation and becomes part of Pakistan.

<https://www.urdupoint.com/pakistan/news/muzaffarabad/national-news/live-news-4595377.html>

From Social Media

MANZAR SHIGRI @ManzarShigri

20 October 2025

This is not the fiefdom of any Punjabi or Balochi, it did not come as part of any Sindhi's dowry, this is my Gilgit-Baltistan. Leader of the Opposition Meesum Kazim's strong criticism of the government in the assembly session regarding green tourism.

Link to the tweet:

<https://x.com/ManzarShigri/status/1980316815676043690>

WAJAHAT ALI @wajahatgilgiti

23 October 2025

Have the rare minerals of Gilgit-Baltistan been given to the Americans? Revelations by the opposition leader
##gilgitbaltistan #Minerals #USA #Trump

Link to the tweet:

<https://x.com/wajahatgilgiti/status/1981381380467806642>

PAMIR TIMES @pamirtimes

22 October 2025

Negotiating Change: Revalidating the Customary Laws for Sustainable Development in Nasir Abad (Hini) Hunza

Link to the tweet:

<https://x.com/pamirtimes/status/1980860899847266554>

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Compiled by

Mohd. Usman Bhatti and Muneeb Yousuf

Edited By

Dr. Smruti S Pattanaik

Disclaimer

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MANOHAR PARRIKAR INSTITUTE FOR DEFENCE STUDIES AND ANALYSES

No. 1, Development Enclave, Rao Tula Ram Marg
New Delhi-110 010

Telephone: 91-11-26717983; Fax: 91-11-26154191

Website: www.idsa.in; Email: pokdigest@gmail.com