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News Digest

A MONTHLY NEWS DIGEST ON PAKISTAN OCCUPIED KASHMIR

• **Political Developments**

Baba Jan's release

Khursheed takes oath as GB chief minister

PM orders swift work on GB's provisional provincial status

AJK PM seeks EU attention towards Indian atrocities in IIOJK

AJK Election Commission issues registration of 24 political parties

Detention of two KIU students condemned

• **Economic Developments**

GB Health Minister assures provision of all missing facilities at DHQ hospital Chilas

PM launches health insurance scheme for Azad Kashmir

GBRSP, BF joins hands for GB development

• **Urdu Media**

New government in GB

Corrupt officers would be dismissed

First national assembly then national interest

New Gilgit Baltistan



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DEFENCE STUDIES AND ANALYSES

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In this Edition

This issue of the PoK Digest focuses on the election in Gilgit Baltistan (GB) in which 24 political parties participated. Mohammad Khalid Khursheed Khan took oath as the Chief Minister of Gilgit Baltistan. People continue to feel uncertain of their political future. They point to various promises made by political parties over the years which are yet to be fulfilled. A major grievance of the people is that the region is yet to be recognized as a province and they should enjoy all the rights like other provinces of the country. The economy of the region is stagnating and many of the approved projects remain incomplete due to lack of funds. The Government is trying to provide better health facilities in the region by improving the conditions in the Divisional Headquarter Hospital in Chilas. Baba Jan and the other activists who were languishing in jail for ten long years were released. Political leaders from Pakistan People's Party and the Awami Workers' Party have condemned the detention of two students of the Karakoram International University (KIU), Gilgit who were protesting against the sexual misconduct of a University official.

Coordinator, PoK Project

Political Developments

Baba Jan's release

Editorial, *Dawn*, 01 December 2020

After nearly 10 years of incarceration and an incredible struggle for justice, political activist Baba Jan, along with other activists, has been released from the jail in Gilgit. His party, the Awami Workers Party, said, Baba Jan and the other activists were “punished for speaking up for the affectees of the Attabad Lake disaster and for the rights of the working people of GB over their own resources”. In any civilised society, his fight for a justified cause would have been welcomed. ***Instead, he was labelled as a terrorist and left to languish in a jail. Although he is a free man today, his time in prison has come at a huge cost to him and his family, and indeed to the wider community.*** Activists like him provide an essential service to communities during crises. They also give people hope when the authorities have forsaken them. To reward his struggle with a prison sentence was sheer cruelty.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1593371/baba-jans-release>

Khursheed takes oath as GB chief minister

Dawn, 02 December 2020

Mohammad Khalid Khursheed Khan was sworn in as the Chief Minister of Gilgit-Baltistan. GB Governor Raja Jalal Hussain Maqpoon administered the oath at a ceremony held in the Governor House. ***Members of the GB Assembly and senior government officials attended the ceremony.*** Prime Minister Imran Khan took part in the oath-taking ceremony of a 14-member GB cabinet.

Retired Col Obaid Ullah Beg Senior is expected to be sworn in as minister for industries, labour and commerce, Raja Zakaria as minister for forests, wildlife and environment, Fateh Ullah Khan as minister for planning and development and

information, Shams Lone as minister for food, Haji Hameed as minister for local government and rural development, Mushtaq Hussain as minister for water and power, Raja Nasir as minister of tourism, culture, youth affairs and sports, Raja Azam as minister for education, Jawed Manwa as minister for finance, Haji Gulbar as minister for health, Wazir Saleem as minister of works, Mesam Kazim as minister of agriculture and Shah Baig as minister for excise, zakat and ushr.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1593532>

'Saudi Arabia fully supported Kashmir cause from OIC platform'

The Express Tribune, 02 December 2020

Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) President Sardar Masood Khan, while rejecting the impression of withdrawal of support by Saudi Arabia to Pakistan's stand on the Kashmir issue, has said that Riyadh from the platforms of Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and its Kashmir Contact Group always supports Islamabad's stance. He said in the recent meeting of the OIC Foreign Ministers Council in Niamey town of Niger that Saudi Arabia has once again robustly explained its stand on the Kashmir issue and helped us highlighting the decades-long dispute on the global level.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2274268/saudi-arabia-fully-supported-kashmir-cause-from-oic-platform>

PM orders swift work on GB's provisional provincial status

Daily Times, 03 December 2020

Prime Minister Imran Khan has pledged that the federal government will work on fast track basis to grant the provincial status to Gilgit-Baltistan in order to address the sense of deprivation of the

people of the region. Addressing the oath-taking ceremony of the new cabinet member of Gilgit-Baltistan, the Prime Minister said that a committee to this effect will be constituted and it will work under a time frame. Unveiling his plan for development and welfare of the people of GB, Imran Khan said the present government's Ehsaas Programme, which is the largest poverty alleviation programme in Pakistan's history, will be introduced in GB as well. ***He said that 300MW hydro electricity will be generated, which will be more than sufficient for the region. He said that two hydroelectricity power stations are being constructed; two others are in the pipeline while two more have been approved.*** Besides, he said, micro hydro power stations will also be set up. The Prime Minister said that a special economic zone (SEZ) will also be constructed in GB where industries will be relocated.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/696939/pm-orders-swift-work-on-gbs-provisional-provincial-status/>

Launch of new GB govt

Editorial, *Daily Times*, 04 December 2020

It was a heady brew of religion and politics. Prime Minister Imran Khan went all the way to Gilgit-Baltistan where his Pakistan Tahreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has recently clinched victory in a tumultuous election. On the other hand, the PPP and the PML-N have recently held big protest rallies and did not accept the election results. But what is encouraging is the fact that he (the prime Minister) said that the government is committed to give provincial status to the GB. He said this will counter a sense of deprivation among the people of the area. ***However, there is a need to look into the apprehensions the Azad Jammu and Kashmir government is having about this idea. The resistance is also found in different groups in the GB who think that it will curb their liberties and change the status of the region.*** The area has already had experienced enough of state apathy, and now no change should be forced upon it. The prime minister was right in identifying that this area has lagged behind than other parts of the country and should be uplifted.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/697237/launch-of-new-gb-govt/>

Nuclear war between India and Pakistan ‘a visible reality’: AJK president

The Express Tribune, 11 December 2020

Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) President Sardar Masood Khan has said that nuclear clash between Pakistan and India on the Kashmir dispute is “not merely an apprehension but a visible reality”. “If the international community does not come forward to resolve the Kashmir issue and end human rights violations, not only South Asia but the entire world will have to pay a heavy price,” he said. In a first-ever interactive session with the UK MP and Labour Friends of Kashmir chairman Andrew Gwynne, through video link, he said that the human rights violations in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) and the frequent aggression along the Line of Control (LoC) are further aggravating the already deteriorated situation of the region which would have adverse effects on the peace and security of the whole world.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2275585/nuclear-war-between-india-and-pakistan-a-visible-reality-ajk-president>

AJK PM seeks EU attention towards Indian atrocities in IIOJK

The Nation, 13 December 2020

Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) Prime Minister Raja Muhammad Farooq Haider Khan highly appreciated the vibrant role of Kashmir council Europe for effectively projecting the voice of the oppressed Kashmiri people and exposing the worst human rights violations and atrocities by the Indian forces in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. Talking to the chairman Kashmir Council Europe Ali Raza Syed and a renowned European Journalists and Photographer Cedric Garibay here, the prime minister said a planned network launched by the Indian government against Pakistan and Kashmiri people had been exposed and now it was the responsibility of the international community and the European countries to take notice of the heinous designs of the Indian government. ... The prime minister called upon the international human rights

organizations, United Nations and civilized nations of the world to take notice of the Indian heinous designs against Pakistan and Kashmiri people and added that Indian had been involved in conspiracy against Pakistan to destabilize it.

<https://nation.com.pk/13-Dec-2020/ajk-pm-seeks-eu-attention-towards-indian-atrocities-in-iiobjk>

AJK Election Commission issues registration of 24 political parties

Urdu Point, 16 December 2020

The Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) Election Commission Wednesday issued registration of 24 political parties here in view of forthcoming general elections. According to a notification issued by the Election Commission, 24 political parties in AJK have registered to participate in the forthcoming General elections for AJK legislative Assembly expected to be held in April 2021.

As per the notification, the parties registered by the election commission and declared to be eligible for contesting the forthcoming election included ***The Azad Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference, Pakistan Muslim League-N, Pakistan People's party Shaheed Bhutto, Pakistan People's party Azad Kashmir, All Kashmir Party, Allah Tawakal Party, Nizam e Mustafa Conference, Jaffria Supreme Council, Jammat Fallah e Insaniat, Jamiat e Ulma e Islam Jammu and Kashmir, Jammu and Kashmir Democratic Party, Jammu and Kashmir National Liberation League, Jammu and Kashmir Qomi Movement, Jammu and Kashmir Liberation League, Jammu and Kashmir People's Party, Jammu and Kashmir United Movement, Majlis Wahdatul Muslimeen, Markaz e Jamiat Ahle Hadeeth, Mission Kashmir Taskforce, Muthida Qomi Movement Pakistan, Sada e Haque Party, Tehreek Tahfuz Insani Haqoq Party and Tehreek Labaik Pakistan Azad Kashmir.***

<https://www.urdupoint.com/en/pakistan/ajk-election-commission-issues-registration-o-1116042.html>

AJK President slams establishing Indian Army settlement in Badgam

The Nation, 19 December 2020

The Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) President Sardar Masood Khan has expressed serious concern over Indian government's move to build the first military settlement in Budgam district of the occupied Kashmir where ex-servicemen who massacred Kashmiris would be settled. In a statement issued on Saturday, he said that India had already constructed two military settlements in Jammu region, but it had so far failed to build such settlements in Kashmir valley because of opposition by the political parties and the freedom groups. However, he maintained that now the revenue department of occupied Kashmir had expedited the process to transfer 200 kanals (25 acres) agricultural land to the military officials for purpose.

<https://nation.com.pk/20-Dec-2020/ajk-president-slams-establishing-indian-army-settlement-in-badgam>

Refugees of Jammu and Kashmir rejects Indian occupation, demands UN to conduct Plebiscite

Daily Times, 28 December 2020

Jammu and Kashmir Refugees appealed to the United Nations for help in finding a just solution to the Kashmir issue. According to the details, a meeting of the representatives of the refugees who migrated from Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir after 1990 was held in which the presidents of the refugee settlements participated. Refugee leaders categorically rejected the laws imposed by the Indian government in the occupied state on August 5, 2019, saying that Jammu and Kashmir is a state and India has no authority to divide Jammu and Kashmir and impose military occupation on the state.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/706960/refugees-of-jammu-and-kashmir-rejects-indian-occupation-demands-un-to-conduct-plebiscite/>

Detention of two KIU students condemned

Pamir Times, 29 December 2020

Political leaders from Pakistan Peoples Party and the Awami Workers' Party have condemned the detention of two students of the Karakoram International University(KIU), Gilgit. The two students, identified as Taugeer and Faisal, were detained for a couple of days. They were reportedly involved in organizing protest demonstrations after students of KIU accused an official of sexual misconduct and harassment. Hundreds of students had protested at the KIU Gilgit campus, and also in Skardu and Hunza, demanding action against the accused official.

GB Assembly's member Said Danish, spokesperson of the PPP, has described the detention of the students a 'shameless' act, accusing the university of trying to protect officials involved in sexual harassment of students. She has also demanded installation of the cameras in all offices and classes rooms of KIU to ensure safety of the students. She has also expressed concerns over the 'constant reports' of sexual harassment emerging from KIU, the only center of higher learning in the Gilgit Division of GB.

<https://pamirtimes.net/2020/12/29/detention-of-two-kiu-students-condemned/>

AJK president slams world's silence over Indian repression in IOJK

Daily Times, 29 December 2020

The Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) President Sardar Masood Khan has regretted the silence of the so-called human rights champion even after the Indian occupation army itself has confessed that it had killed ordinary civilians in fake encounters in occupied Kashmir and declared them terrorists. While reacting over the confession of the Indian authorities that three Kashmiri youth who were martyred in a fake encounter in Shopian district of occupied Kashmir in July this year, were not terrorists

but the common civilians, the state president said that we already knew that most of the encounters taking place in the held territory were fake and staged in which the Kashmiri youth and the common civilians are killed by declaring them terrorists.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/707077/ajk-president-slams-worlds-silence-over-indian-repression-in-iojk/>

Committee set up on provincial status for GB

Dawn, 30 December 2020

Prime Minister Imran Khan has constituted a 12-member committee to make recommendations for granting Gilgit-Baltistan the status of a provisional province of Pakistan. Federal minister for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit- Baltistan, Ali Amin Gandapur heads the committee, which also comprises of GB Chief Minister Mohammad Khalid Khurshid, the attorney general of Pakistan, federal secretaries for finance, defence, foreign affairs, parliamentary affairs, GB chief secretary, joint secretary of the GB Council and representatives of security agencies as members.

The committee is tasked with making the recommendations keeping in view the United Nations resolutions on the disputed region of Kashmir and a judgment of the Supreme Court of Pakistan on determining the GB status. The committee will complete the task within two months. According to official sources, the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf government will table a bill in the National Assembly to amend the constitution to declare GB as constitutional part of Pakistan.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1598654/committee-set-up-on-provincial-status-for-gb>

GB CJ orders release of 3 minors

Urdu Point, 30 December 2020

Chief Justice of Chief Court Gilgit Baltistan (GB), Malik Haq Nawaz on Tuesday took notice of the arrest of three minors accused of insulting him (chief justice) on the social media and ordered to

release them. The three accused, Sajjad Iqbal son of Iqbal Naseer, Amanatullah son of Musharraf and Rashid Jan son of Ahmed Jan hailing from Diamer district, were arrested on the charge of defaming the GB CJ.

<https://www.urdupoint.com/en/pakistan/gb-cj-orders-release-of-3-minors-1127647.html>

PTI to allot tickets only to party people in AJK elections: Saifullah Nyazee

Urdu Point, 31 December 2020

Pakistan Tehreek Insaf (PTI) has decided that tickets for the elections of Azad Jammu Kashmir (AJK) Legislative Assembly would be given only to the party people. The decision was taken in a

meeting between Chief Organizer of PTI, Saifullah Khan Nyazee and Former Prime Minister and President PTI AJK Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry. A statement issued after the meeting said that a steering committee was constituted for candidates with good reputation willing to join PTI. The statement said that the Steering Committee would ensure fair nominations and ensure that no corrupt or candidate with bad reputation should get party ticket.

<https://www.urdupoint.com/en/pakistan/pti-to-allot-tickets-only-to-party-people-in-1129017.html>

Economic Developments

GB Health Minister assures provision of all missing facilities at DHQ hospital Chilas

Urdu Point, 11 December 2020

Gilgit Baltistan Health Minister Haji Gulbar announced to establish a nursing school in Chilas and assured for providing all facilities that have been missing at the Divisional Headquarter Hospital in Chilas. *During his visit to divisional headquarter hospital Diamer Chilas along with the elected member of Gilgit Baltistan Assembly from GBA-2 Chilas, Muhammad Anwar, the health minister said that the health policy would be made as early as possible in consultations with the doctors and paramedical staffs.* Earlier, the DHQ MS and the District Health Officer DHO district Diamer briefed the health minister on the current situation of hospital.

<https://www.urdupoint.com/en/pakistan/gb-health-minister-assures-provision-of-all-m-1111555.html>

PM launches health insurance scheme for Azad Kashmir

Dawn, 19 December 2020

Prime Minister Imran Khan on Friday launched the health card facility for 1.2 million families in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK). “By launching this facility we want people on the other side of Kashmir to know how we treat our people,” the prime minister said while addressing a ceremony held to launch the Sehat Sahulat Programme’s Universal Health Coverage for Azad Kashmir. “By introducing health insurance in AJK, I want to send a message to the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, who are facing severe hardships at the hands of fascist Indian regime, how Pakistan treats its people in Azad Kashmir,” he added. PM Khan said the present government was striving to

make the country a true Islamic welfare state in line with the vision of Riasat-i-Madina and as per the Objective Resolution adopted by the Constituent Assembly of Pakistan in 1949.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1596591>

GBRSP, BF joins hands for GB development

Urdu Point, 22 December 2020

Gilgit Baltistan Rural Support Program (GBRSP) on Tuesday signed a memorandum of understanding with BF Technologies for initiating development projects in Gilgit-Baltistan. Under the agreement both the organizations would jointly initiate development projects and work on policies for improving living standard of people of Gilgit Baltistan. They would impart e-Commerce training to the area by conducting series of workshops to help people. On the occasion, GBRSP official Abdul Latef talked to the media and said Pakistan was in dire need to revive economy for promoting equal growth opportunities for both men and women enabling them to generate income. He hoped that this collaboration would be capable enough to eliminate poverty and generate e-jobs by optimizing technical skills.

<https://www.urdupoint.com/en/pakistan/gbrsp-bf-joins-hands-for-gb-development-1120989.html>

Previous governments responsible for power crisis in GB: Power Minister

Urdu Point, 29 December 2020

Gilgit Baltistan Minister for Power, Mushtaq Hussain said that the previous governments were responsible for the power crisis in the province. Talking to media, he said there was a potential to generate more than 60,000 MW of electricity from the rivers and canals of Gilgit-Baltistan. He said

that the progress on PSDP approved projects in Gilgit-Baltistan which includes Henzel 20 MW, Shagar Thing 26 MW, Thak Chilas 4 MW, Harpo 34 MW and Naltar Phase-III 16 MW PSDP was not satisfactory. He said that after completing the survey of 32 MW project in Ghawari and 32 MW project in Hunza, PC-1 was ready and work would start soon by including it in PSDP.

<https://www.urdupoint.com/en/pakistan/previous-governments-responsible-for-power-cr-1127514.html>

Extracts From Urdu Media

New government in GB

Editorial, *Roznama92news*, 03 December 2020

Addressing the newly formed GB government, PM Imran Khan observed that the new government will set new standards. He promised free treatment up to 10 lakh people, establishment of special economic zones, a 250-bed hospital, and other developmental projects to promote tourism. At present, GB is in dire need of employment opportunities and improvement of infrastructure to promote tourism. At the local level, GB is facing a shortage of power and inadequate infrastructure for education and health. The newly formed government needs to set its priorities and concentrate on addressing the above issues.

https://www.roznama92news.com/efrontend/web/index.php?station_id=2&page_id=7&is_common=Y&x

Corrupt officers would be dismissed

Editorial, *Daily Salam*, 5 December 2020

Prime Minister Imran Khan has said that the local government would be an agent of change in GB. **He said that now the government in the provinces would be like cities. Reforms would be introduced in civil service. If the institutions know about the performances of its employees, it would be easy to reward and punish, the Prime Minister added.** He said that there were some issues with the citizen portal. They have been addressed now and over 3 million have already used it. He said that the citizen portal would increase the authorities of the people. Grievances received through the portal were addressed. He said that out of 2,760,000 grievances received in the country, 3,421 were received from Gilgit Baltistan and 619 from “Azad” Jammu and Kashmir.

<https://www.dailysalam.com/index.php>

Projects of public interest should be approved

Editorial, *Baad-e-Shimal*, 05 December 2020

The issue of the annual fund for GB and its delayed release has been in the news constantly. Complaints about the lapse of the fund have been normal. Delay in salary payment to people working in different departments in GB is not new. Several projects have been abandoned due to shortage of funds.

On the contrary, there was no shortage of funds or delay in its release from the Centre during the PML-N rule. Every year, the funds have been increased for developmental and non-developmental projects. PML-N rule has been very good in GB. Several mega projects were started during the PML-N rule. According to outgoing CM of GB and president of PML-N GB, GB has a handsome amount in Federal government’s budget. Assembly members should pressurize the federal government to transfer this amount to GB. PTI fought this election on the basis of transparency and to uproot corruption. It is the responsibility of the newly elected CM to be extra cautious while using government funds and try to avoid unnecessary usage.

<http://dailybaadeshimal.com/epaper/?page=cGFnZS00&dt=MTItMDU0MjAyMA==>

First national assembly then national interest

Shaikh Mirza Ali, *Baad-e-Shimal*, 10 December 2020

With the hope to end their sense of deprivation, the people of GB always counted on the ruling party in the Centre. **All major parties which ruled on Centre generated hope among the public. But very soon their hopes were shattered.** PPP, PML-N and PML-Q ruled for more than 22-23 years. During their rule, a sense of deprivation started to get expressed in the

speeches of locals and in private conversations of the people of GB. This was especially true after the first council election that was held in 1994 in northern areas which was on party basis. Rising to the occasion Tahreek-e- Jafria Pakistan presented its election manifesto based on the constitutional status of the area. This was later adopted by all political parties. Now it works like a dream for every loyal citizen of the area. It also gained currency during the last five years due to statements by political and military institutions.

When we analyze the ground situation we feel every citizen is confused. Every political activist is a victim of uncertainty. Earlier, people were standing with PPP, then PML-Q and now they are behind PTI. But the constitutional status of GB is still not clear.

<http://dailybaadeshimal.com/eaper/?page=cGFnZS00&dt=MTItMTAtMjAyMA==>

New Gilgit Baltistan

Alam Noor Haider, *Daily Salaam*, 15 December 2020

Supporting Imran Khan's narrative, the people of Gilgit-Baltistan sided with PTI. Its leader Khalid Khurshid Khan became the fifth Chief Minister of GB. ***People of GB rejected Nawaz Sharif's narrative***

and all the effort of Maryam Nawaz went in vain. Bilawal Bhutto's tireless effort also did not yield any result. Newly elected leader of the house Khalid Khurshid Khan in his first speech reiterated his promise to develop the entire region. ***He also said that PTI will implement the constitutional status of GB, keeping in mind long standing demand of the people of the region. This change will not impact the Kashmir issue.*** CM is himself is a qualified lawyer. Therefore, he will ensure justice in the region. We hope that the current government will not repeat the previous government's record of loot, corruption, and nepotism. The opposition should become part of development and construction, not anarchy and lawlessness. CM and his team have a grand resolve. People are very hopeful from CM.

<https://www.dailysalam.com/index.php>

Fact Sheet on Pakistan Occupied Kashmir

Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (PoK)

Administrative Divisions: Two, namely Mirpur-Muzaffarabad (referred to as Azad Jammu & Kashmir or AJK by Pakistan) and Federally Administered Gilgit-Baltistan (FAGB).

Area ceded to China by Pakistan: 5180 sq. kilometres (Area of Shaksgam Valley)

(Source: Jammu & Kashmir Government website at <http://www.jammukashmir.nic.in/>, accessed on November 14, 2010)

Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK)

Area: 13,297 square km

Population: 2017 Census: 4,045,367 (Male: 1,980,794; Female: 2,064,421)

Capital: Muzaffarabad

Divisions: 3

Districts: 10

Sub Divisions (Tehsils): 32

Constituencies in AJK: 29

Kashmir (Muzaffarabad Division) comprises of 3 districts: Bagh, Muzaffarabad and Neelum, Hattian

Jammu (Mirpur Division) comprising of 5 districts: Bhimber, Kotli, Mirpur, Sudhnati/Pallandari and Rawalakot/Poonch, Haveli

President: Sardar Masood Khan

Prime Minister: Raja Farooq Haider Khan

AJK Council: Total 17 members

AJK Legislative Assembly: Total seats are 41

Ethnic Groups: Gujjars, Jats, Mughal, Rajputs, Sudhan, Awan, Qureshi, Pashtuns, Shins, Ladakhi, Baltis etc.

Religious Groups: Sunni, Ahlehadith, Shia, Nurbakhshi, Christians, Qadianis, Hindus

Languages: Punjabi, Hindko, Pahari, Kashmiri, Balti, Puriki, Shina

Political Parties and Groups: United Jammu and Kashmir Peoples' National Party, AJK Muslim Conference, International Kashmir Alliance, JK National Party, Jammu & Kashmir Liberation Front (Amanullah), Peoples United Action Committee, All Parties National Alliance (APNA)

(Source: <https://pnda.jk.gov.pk/statyearbook.php?page=AJK%20at%20a%20Glance> accessed November 2020)

Gilgit-Baltistan

Area: 72,496 sq. kilometers

Population: 1.4 million (2017 census)

Capital: Gilgit

Districts: Fourteen

Baltistan Region (part of Ladakh) is divided into Ghanche, Skardu, Shigar, Kharmang, Rondu

Gilgit Region is divided into Astore, Ghizer, Diamer, Hunza, Nagar, Gilgit, Darel, Tangir, Yaseen

Ethnic Groups: Shin, Balti, Puriki, Ladakhi, Wakhi, Yashkun, Tibetan, Mongol, Tatar, Mon, Pashtun, Khowar, Dom, Gujjar, Rajput and Kashmiri

Religious Groups: Shia (Twelvers), Nurbakhshi (Twelvers), Ismaili, Sunni, and Ahlehadith

Languages: Shina, Balti, Wakhi, Khowar, Gujjari, Burushaski, Puriki, Kashmiri, Pashto

Gilgit-Baltistan Council: Total 15 members

Gilgit-Baltistan Legislative Assembly: 33 (3 reserved for technocrats and 6 for woman)

Governor of G-B: Raja Jalal Hussain Maqpoon

Chief Minister G-B: Khalid Khurshid Khan

Political Parties and Groups: Balwaristan National Front (BNF), Gilgit-Baltistan Thinkers Forum, Gilgit-Baltistan, United Movement (GBUM), Baltistan National Movement, Karakoram National Movement, Gilgit Baltistan Democratic Alliance (GBDA), Gilgit Baltistan

National Alliance (GBNA), All Parties National Alliance (APNA)

(Sources: <https://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2019/06/17/gb-notifies-four-more-districts-total-number-of-districts-now-14/>)

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Disclaimer

PoK 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.

POK NEWS DIGEST



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