

# Weekly POK News Digest

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

Volume 6 | Issue 6

09 February - 15 February 2026

**POK**  
**Counter - Terrorism**  
**Law Enforcement**  
**Environmental Security**  
**Tax Exemption Certificates**  
**Gilgit-Baltistan**  
**Climate Literacy**  
**Thermal Power**  
**Tourism**



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

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

## Contents

### Political Developments

- GB cabinet rejects thermal power proposal
- Senate body reviews repatriation of Afghan refugees, issues of 'AJK', G-B
- IED Targets FWO Vehicle on Tangir–Bushidas Road; One Civilian Martyred, Two Militants Killed
- Interim GB CM condemns Tangir attack
- PML-N launches process to award party tickets in 'AJK'
- Education: A Catalyst for Climate Action in Gilgit-Baltistan, Pakistan
- 'AJK' cabinet cancels 'State Subject certificate' of refugee lawmaker
- CTD unit activated in Gilgit Baltistan

### Economic Developments

- 'Azad Kashmir' welcomes over 1.5 million tourists
- GB govt launches online portal for TECs on imports via Khunjerab Border

### Vernacular Urdu Media

- Pakistan Muslim League (N) will form the Government in Gilgit-Baltistan with a two-thirds majority: Farooq Mir
- Former Governor, former Chief Minister, and other Gilgit-Baltistan Political Leaders Join Istehkam-i-Pakistan Party
- Environmental and legal concerns over proposed tire pyrolysis plant in Bhimber
- Processions and Rallies across different cities of Gilgit-Baltistan

## Political Developments

### **GB cabinet rejects thermal power proposal**

*Dawn, 10 February 2026*

The Gilgit-Baltistan caretaker cabinet on Monday rejected a proposal to allocate Rs22 million for thermal power generation to provide electricity during the month of Ramazan.

The decision was taken during a caretaker cabinet meeting chaired by Gilgit-Baltistan Caretaker Chief Minister retired Justice Yar Muhammad, held at the Chief Minister's Secretariat in Gilgit. The meeting discussed a 22-point agenda.

Addressing a press conference after the meeting, Information Minister Ghulam Abbas, accompanied by Home Minister Sajid Ali Baig and others announced the cabinet's decisions.

Mr Abbas said the proposal aimed to allocate Rs22m for operating thermal power generation during Ramazan. However, it was observed that the proposed expenditure would add only about 40 minutes of electricity in a 24-hour period. "The cabinet noted that spending Rs22m to generate merely 40 minutes of additional electricity was not justified and would amount to a waste of public funds," he said, adding that the proposal was therefore rejected.

He said it had been a long-standing practice to operate diesel generators in Gilgit-Baltistan during Ramazan.

However, after reviewing their output, the cabinet concluded that the minimal electricity gained did not justify the heavy financial burden on the national exchequer.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1972179/gb-cabinet-rejects-thermal-power-proposal>

### **Senate body reviews repatriation of Afghan refugees, issues of 'AJK', G-B**

*Business Recorder, 10 February 2026*

The Senate Standing Committee on Kashmir Affairs, Gilgit-Baltistan and States and Frontier Regions (SAFRON) held a meeting on Monday to review key governance, humanitarian, environmental and security-related issues concerning 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir', Gilgit-Baltistan and the repatriation of Afghan refugees.

The meeting was chaired by Senator Asad Qasim and attended by Senator Nadeem Ahmed Bhutto, Senator Faisal Saleem Rehman, Senator Nasir Mehmood and Senator Atta-ul-Haq.

The panel carried out a detailed review of the post-flood situation in Gilgit-Baltistan. Members raised questions regarding the deteriorating condition of early warning systems in the region. It was apprised during the briefing that a Rs 336 million project proposed by the Directorate General of Meteorology had been sent to the Ministry of Climate Change, but no response had been received so far.

Additional Chief Secretary Gilgit-Baltistan Mushtaq Ahmed informed

the Senate body that screens and dashboards had been installed in Deputy Commissioner Offices and that real-time data was now being received. The Committee was further briefed that 115 early warning systems were currently operational across Gilgit-Baltistan.

The meeting was also informed about forest conservation initiatives in Gilgit-Baltistan, including the establishment of Forest Conservation Committees at the village level. Authorities stated that approximately 30 Forest Conservation Committees were active with the support of the Forest Department, while 54 committees were engaged in protecting more than 30,000 hectares of land in collaboration with the department.

During the meeting, the Committee discussed the prevailing situation in 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir', including the recent unrest manifested through the demands of the Awami Action Committee, which members observed could pose challenges to national unity. However, the discussion on this critical issue could not proceed due to the continued non-participation of the Chief Secretary of 'Azad Kashmir', who failed to attend the meeting for the second consecutive time. The panel subsequently deferred this agenda with the direction that Chief Secretary would ensure his participation in the next meeting.

The Ministry of Interior and the Chief Commissionerate for Afghan Refugees

regarding the repatriation of Afghan nationals. It was informed that the Ministry of Interior and Narcotics Control issued an SRO on 31st July 2025 declaring Afghan refugees holding Proof of Registration cards illegal and directing their immediate deportation. Following a meeting held on 4th August 2025, a one-month grace period was granted for voluntary return until 1st September 2025, after which deportations commenced....

<https://www.brecorder.com/news/40406448/senate-body-reviews-repatriation-of-afghan-refugees-issues-of-ajk-g-b>

### **IED Targets FWO Vehicle on Tangir-Bushidas Road; One Civilian Martyred, Two Militants Killed**

*Pamir Times, 13 February 2026*

An improvised explosive device (IED) targeted a vehicle of the Frontier Works Organization (FWO) on the Tangir-Bushidas Road during a routine visit by an officer in charge (OIC), the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said in a statement.

According to the military's media wing, the blast resulted in the martyrdom of a local civilian driver. Three individuals, including a serving Major, sustained minor injuries.

Security forces swiftly cordoned off the area and launched a search and clearance operation. During an ensuing exchange of fire with the assailants, two militants were killed while four others were apprehended, the statement added.

The cordon and clearance operation remains ongoing to eliminate any remaining threats in the vicinity.

Describing the incident as a cowardly attempt to undermine the region's peaceful environment, security officials reaffirmed their resolve to thwart such acts and ensure stability.

<https://pamirtimes.net/2026/02/12/ied-targets-fwo-vehicle-on-tangir-bushidas-road-one-civilian-martyred-two-militants-killed/>

### **'AJK' PM announces measures to strengthen police force**

*Dawn, 13 February 2026*

'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' ('AJK') Prime Minister Raja Faisal Mumtaz Rathore on Thursday announced a series of measures to strengthen the police force, including doubling the budget for essential equipment, reviewing the martyrs' package for families of fallen personnel, increasing manpower where required, and upgrading infrastructure at police lines.

The measures also encompassed constructing barracks for women police, paving of the march ground, bringing salaries and allowances of police personnel and officers at par with Punjab, and holding police darbars in all three divisions after Ramzan.

The prime minister made the announcements while addressing the 61st recruits' passing-out parade at the Police Training School (PTS) in

Muzaffarabad. Paying tribute to the force, he said the police uniform was "a symbol of dignity" and that the force had confronted every challenge with courage.

"The police and armed forces of Pakistan have rendered countless sacrifices to ensure peace and protect citizens," he said, adding that the police's rescue role during earthquakes, floods, and other natural disasters was a shining chapter in the state's history.

Referring to recent uncertain times in 'AJK', Mr Rathore said the police had written a new chapter of resolve and bravery. "Police martyrs are the pride of our forehead," he said, assuring that the government was aware of the force's problems and would take effective steps to address them.

He said the state's culture was rooted in "love and modesty" and asserted that the government was taking concrete steps to resolve the force's issues and further enhance its professional capacity. "The people are at the centre of our system," he added, saying the government remained focused on public welfare and would continue its mission of service. He urged the passing-out recruits to discharge their responsibilities with dedication, reminding them that the protection of citizens' lives and property rested on their shoulders.

Earlier, IGP Mohammad Yasin Qureshi noted that the 'AJK' police had been

providing vital services alongside other national institutions in the fight against terrorism, sacrificing their lives to maintain peace. He pointed out that, unlike other provinces, the 'AJK' police operated without paramilitary support but remained at the forefront of law enforcement, elections, major events, VVIP security, and disaster response.

The IGP underscored the need for modern training, improved technology, and better incentives, including an enhanced martyrs' package.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1972746/ajk-pm-announces-measures-to-strengthen-police-force>

### **Interim GB CM condemns Tangir attack**

*Daily Times, 13 February 2026*

Caretaker Chief Minister Gilgit Baltistan (CMGB) Justice (Retd.) Yar Muhammad has strongly condemned the terrorist attack on a Frontier Works Organization (FWO) vehicle in Tangir district Diamer. In a statement issued here, the Caretaker CM said that Fitna al-Khawarij elements are carrying out cowardly acts of violence to create unrest and destabilize the country. He reiterated that the government will take decisive action against the terrorists and ensure that they are brought to justice. He further stated that law enforcement agencies will make the terrorists an example and thwart their nefarious designs. Justice (Retd.) Yar Muhammad also prayed for the elevation of ranks of the driver who

embraced martyrdom in the incident and for the speedy recovery of those injured in the attack.

[https://dailytimes.com.pk/1450364/interim-gb-cm-condemns-tangir-attack/#google\\_vignette](https://dailytimes.com.pk/1450364/interim-gb-cm-condemns-tangir-attack/#google_vignette)

### **PML-N launches process to award party tickets in 'AJK'**

*Dawn, 14 February 2026*

The 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' ('AJK') chapter of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) on Friday launched its preliminary campaign for the forthcoming general elections, beginning a consultative process for the award of party tickets.

The exercise commenced in Muzaffarabad under the leadership of regional president Shah Ghulam Qadir, assisted by former prime minister Raja Farooq Haider, senior vice president Raja Mushtaq Minhas and secretary information Barrister Iftikhar Gillani. Regional secretary general Chaudhry Tariq Farooq and vice president Dr Najeeb Naqi could not attend due to personal commitments.

The committee held consultations and interviews with party workers aspiring to contest from the nine constituencies in the Muzaffarabad division and reviewed the political situation in each constituency.

The process will continue on Saturday in Rawalakot for the Poonch division and on Sunday in Mirpur for the Mirpur division. On Monday, consultations will be held in

Rawalpindi for the six constituencies reserved for refugees from the 'Indian occupied Kashmir Valley' and six for refugees from the 'occupied Jammu region' settled in Pakistan.

According to a statement issued by the regional secretary general, the process was being carried out in line with the political strategy and directives of party supremo Nawaz Sharif.

The party claimed that its 2016-21 tenure in 'AJK' marked a "golden chapter", citing improved governance, merit-based administration, institutional strengthening and accelerated development, along with enhanced financial and administrative autonomy.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1973041/pml-n-launches-process-to-award-party-tickets-in-ajk>

### **Education: A Catalyst for Climate Action in Gilgit-Baltistan, Pakistan**

*Pamir Times, 14 February 2026*

In recent years, the increasing frequency and severity of natural calamities has caused widespread devastation across Gilgit-Baltistan, with 2025 being particularly impactful on the region's socio-economic conditions, disrupting livelihoods, infrastructure, and public services. This situation has compelled all development sectors, including government, civil society, and humanitarian agencies to reassess their roles and adopt coordinated strategies focused on disaster risk reduction,

resilience-building, and sustainable recovery. Failure to act promptly and collaboratively may result in severe and lasting consequences, including deepening socio-economic instability, environmental degradation, and weakened prospects for long-term development.

Gilgit-Baltistan, characterized by some of the world's highest mountain ranges and the largest concentration of glaciers outside the Polar Regions, is increasingly recognized as one of the most climate-vulnerable regions in South Asia. The impacts of climate change, rising temperatures, accelerated glacial retreat, erratic precipitation patterns, glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs), landslides, and growing water insecurity are no longer hypothetical projections but observable realities affecting local communities. In this context of heightened environmental risk, the role of education emerges as a critical and strategic response mechanism.

Envisioning education beyond the conventional transmission of knowledge, it can be understood as a transformative instrument for fostering awareness, innovation, critical inquiry, and collective action. In Gilgit-Baltistan, where livelihoods are closely linked to natural resources, particularly in agriculture, livestock rearing, and tourism, the integration of climate education within formal schooling has significant potential to strengthen adaptive capacity and promote sustainable development pathways.

The mountainous topography of the region renders it particularly sensitive to climatic variability. Rapid glacial melting has heightened flood risks, while shifting precipitation regimes threaten water availability and food security. Rural households, largely dependent on subsistence agriculture, face increasing socio-economic stress as environmental conditions become less predictable. Within such a setting, climate literacy constitutes a developmental imperative rather than a supplementary educational component. An environmentally informed population is better positioned to anticipate risks, adopt adaptive practices, and participate in mitigation efforts. Embedding climate science, environmental ethics, and disaster risk reduction within the curriculum can equip students with the analytical tools necessary to comprehend both the scientific dimensions and socio-economic implications of climate change.

The education sector in Gilgit-Baltistan therefore holds considerable scope to mainstream climate education across primary, secondary, and tertiary levels. Pedagogical approaches should extend beyond abstract theoretical instruction and incorporate localized case studies, such as glacial retreat in Hunza or recurrent flooding in Ghizer and other districts during 2025, to contextualize global climate phenomena within students' lived experiences. Experiential and activity-based learning strategies can enhance

engagement and practical understanding. School-based initiatives, including afforestation campaigns, waste management programs, water conservation projects, and renewable energy demonstrations, can institutionalize environmental responsibility. Science education may foster experimentation in climate-smart agricultural techniques, while social sciences can critically examine the socio-economic vulnerabilities associated with environmental degradation.

Teacher capacity remains a pivotal determinant of successful implementation. Professional development programs are necessary to update educators' subject knowledge and to promote pedagogical practices that encourage critical thinking, problem-solving, and interdisciplinary analysis. Well-trained teachers can serve not only as instructors but also as role models and facilitators of climate-conscious behavior.

Gilgit-Baltistan's youthful demographic profile presents an additional opportunity. With appropriate institutional support, young people can act as agents of environmental stewardship and community resilience. Educational institutions can facilitate environmental clubs, climate awareness campaigns, and student participation in community-based adaptation initiatives. Training in disaster risk reduction can further

enable students to contribute constructively during emergencies. Engagement in local doings, such as monitoring water resources, documenting biodiversity shifts, or collecting climate-related data can simultaneously enhance scientific literacy and generate locally relevant evidence. At the tertiary level, universities and technical training centers can prioritize research and innovation in renewable energy technologies, sustainable tourism models, and climate-resilient infrastructure, thereby encouraging context-specific solutions and reducing external dependency.

Climate education must also extend beyond formal institutional settings. Community-based learning initiatives are essential to disseminate climate literacy among farmers, women, and marginalized populations. Workshops on climate-smart agriculture, water harvesting, and sustainable land management can enhance adaptive practices at the grassroots level. Schools can function as community knowledge hubs, hosting seminars, exhibitions, and consultative forums on environmental sustainability. The intergenerational transfer of knowledge where students communicate climate-conscious practices within their households can reinforce behavioral change. Given women's central role in household resource management, gender-responsive climate education and the empowerment of girls are particularly

important for strengthening long-term community resilience.

Effective realization of these objectives necessitates supportive public policy and institutional commitment. The Government of Gilgit-Baltistan can prioritize climate education within broader educational reforms by allocating resources for curriculum development, teacher training, and environmentally sustainable school infrastructure. Initiatives such as solar-powered educational facilities, rainwater harvesting systems, and eco-friendly construction can provide practical demonstrations of sustainable technologies. Partnerships with non-governmental organizations, research institutions, and the private sector can further enhance programmatic reach and innovation. Moreover, systematic monitoring and evaluation frameworks are required to assess outcomes and ensure that climate education initiatives are evidence-based, scalable, and contextually relevant.

In sum, climate change presents multifaceted and long-term challenges for Gilgit-Baltistan, yet it also creates an opportunity to re-envision development through the lens of sustainability and resilience. Positioning education as a catalyst for climate action can cultivate environmentally responsible citizens, informed decision-makers, and innovative leaders. By embedding climate consciousness within the educational system and fostering

collective commitment, Gilgit-Baltistan can strengthen its adaptive capacity and safeguard its unique ecological heritage. In an era of environmental uncertainty, education remains a foundational instrument for enabling informed action and securing a resilient future for the region.

<https://pamirtimes.net/2026/02/14/education-a-catalyst-for-climate-action-in-gilgit-baltistan-pakistan/>

### **‘AJK’ cabinet cancels ‘State Subject certificate’ of refugee lawmaker**

*Dawn, 14 February 2026*

The ‘Azad Jammu and Kashmir’ cabinet on Friday approved the cancellation of the ‘State Subject certificate’ of a Legislative Assembly member from one of the 12 refugee constituencies in Pakistan. “The cabinet has approved the agenda item titled ‘cancellation of State Subject certificate in favour of Muhammad Asim Sharif Butt, son of Muhammad Sharif Butt, resident of Androon Haram Gate, Mohalla Tillanwali, Multan,” read an official handout on proceedings of the cabinet meeting, presided over by Prime Minister Raja Faisal Mumtaz Rathore.

Mr. Butt was elected on a PTI ticket in the July 2021 elections from LA-42 (Kashmir Valley-III), one of the six seats reserved for Pakistan-based refugees from the ‘India-held Kashmir valley’. Six similar constituencies are reserved for refugees from the ‘occupied Jammu region’.

In April 2023, he parted ways with the PTI and joined the forward bloc led by then prime minister Chaudhry Anwarul Haq, later serving as a minister until Nov 17, when the present PPP government assumed office. He also supported the formation of the PPP-led government.

The validity of his State Subject certificate had long been challenged by PML-N leader Syed Shoukat Ali Shah, who alleged that it was obtained fraudulently. An inquiry, ordered by the ‘AJK’ Supreme Court and conducted by the deputy commissioner (rehabilitation), concluded that the certificate issued to Mr. Butt on Dec 9, 2004, under Rule 4 of the State Subject Act, 1980, was invalid and recommended its cancellation.

The State Subject certificate — introduced during the Dogra rule — is issued by deputy commissioners in ‘AJK’ to local residents and by the deputy commissioner (rehabilitation) to Pakistan-based refugees. It serves as proof of domicile and guarantees rights to property ownership and public employment to bona fide residents of the former princely state.

However, the previous government had delayed action on the inquiry report, shielding the minister despite clear directives from the apex court, and had referred the matter back to the Board of Revenue. The board later endorsed the deputy commissioner’s observations, confirming the certificate’s invalidity.

Following the recent Supreme Court's warning over delays, the matter was placed before the cabinet, which approved the revocation.

Among other decisions, the cabinet approved the 'AJK' Service Tribunals (Amendment) Act, 2026, the revised budget for 2024-25, and the estimated budget for 2025-26 of the Bagh Development Authority, and the provision of state land for the establishment of a police station in Sharda. It also constituted a committee headed by the finance minister to review the 'AJK' Grant of Khalisa Sarkar (Ground Rent and Lease) (Amendment) Rules, 2025.

The meeting also held a discussion on the proposed Overseas Convention, which it believed would provide a platform for expatriate Kashmiris to contribute to the territory's development.

Prime Minister Rathore described overseas Kashmiris as a valuable asset and said the government was facilitating their participation in investment, tourism, and welfare initiatives.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1973094/ajk-cabinet-cancels-state-subject-certificate-of-refugee-lawmaker>

### **CTD unit activated in Gilgit Baltistan**

*Dawn, 14 February 2026*

The Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) has been made operational in Gilgit-Baltistan and a dedicated CTD

police station has been formally established in Gilgit.

In a statement, GB Police said the CTD had begun work with 250 officers and personnel, while recruitment for another 600 posts would be completed during the current year to strengthen the unit's capacity.

The statement said assistance would be sought from Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for basic training and professional skills development of CTD personnel in GB. SSP Tanveerul Hassan has been appointed head of CTD Gilgit-Baltistan. All counterterrorism-related FIRs registered so far have been transferred to the CTD police station in Gilgit.

Mr. Hassan said the CTD had four wings, including investigation, intelligence and operations, and would handle terrorism-related cases across the region. He said the case relating to Thursday's attack on a Frontier Works Organisation (FWO) vehicle in the Tangir valley of Diamer had been registered with the CTD.

The federal government had approved the establishment of a CTD unit in Gilgit-Baltistan in September last year, authorising the creation of 613 new posts to combat terrorism and violent incidents, particularly along the strategic Karakoram Highway (KKH).

However, federal and regional officials were facing funding challenges, with recurring expenditure for the new posts placed on the resource-strapped

Gilgit-Baltistan government and uplift funds for construction deferred until the next fiscal year.

A Central Development Working Party (CDWP) meeting on July 25, 2025, reviewed the GB government-sponsored project, titled “Raising of CTD police in GB”, estimated to cost over Rs1.5 billion. The initiative followed a directive by the prime minister to establish the CTD in GB within six months.

According to official documents, the project aims to enhance the capacity of GB Police by addressing “critical gaps in human and technical resources” to enable effective responses to terrorist incidents and comprehensive investigations. The Ministry of Kashmir Affairs, Gilgit-Baltistan and States and Frontier Regions is to sponsor the project.

The Ministry of Planning had cited “reduced fiscal space in PSDP” and a “substantial” existing financial commitment to GB as reasons for delays.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1973128/ctd-unit-activated-in-gilgit-baltistan>

## **Economic Developments**

### **‘Azad Kashmir’ welcomes over 1.5 million tourists**

*Daily Times, 11 February 2026*

‘Azad Kashmir’ recorded a historic milestone in 2025, with more than 1.5 million tourists visiting the region,

highlighting its growing popularity as a top domestic and international travel destination.

Known for its lush green mountains, flowing rivers, dense forests, and historic sites, the area continues to attract visitors seeking natural beauty, adventure, and cultural experiences throughout the year. Tourists explored both plains and mountainous regions, with popular winter destinations such as Leepa, Neelum Valley, and Ganga Choti drawing adventure lovers to snow-covered landscapes, boosting local tourism activities significantly.

Officials emphasized that improving infrastructure, enhancing tourist facilities, and promoting sustainable tourism will ensure visitors enjoy safe and comfortable experiences, while the rising tourist influx strengthens employment and local business opportunities.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1423066/azad-kashmir-welcomes-over-1-5-million-tourists/>

### **GB govt launches online portal for TECs on imports via Khunjerab Border**

*Daily Times, 13 February 2026*

The Government of Gilgit-Baltistan has formally launched an online portal for the issuance of Tax Exemption Certificates (TECs) for imports made through the Khunjerab Border, offering up to Rs4 billion in federal tax relief to eligible local traders and importers. The initiative has been implemented in

compliance with the directives of the Prime Minister of Pakistan and aims to facilitate local residents engaged in cross-border trade between Pakistan and China. With the portal now operational, the registration process for eligible applicants has officially commenced. According to official sources, the exemption certificates will be issued on a “first-come, first-served” basis, subject to scrutiny and fulfilment of eligibility criteria.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1450369/gb-govt-launches-online-portal-for-tecs-on-imports-via-khunjerab-border/>

### **From Vernacular Urdu Media**

**Pakistan Muslim League (N) will form the Government in Gilgit-Baltistan with a two-thirds majority: Farooq Mir**

*Urdu Point, 8 February 2026*

Farooq Mir, Secretary Information of the Pakistan Muslim League (N) Gilgit-Baltistan, has said that the people of the region, including the business community and transporters, have clearly rejected fake narratives and the politics of hatred. He stated that this has proven that development, performance, and prosperity are the real narrative of the people of Gilgit-Baltistan.

He said that the people of Gilgit-Baltistan have witnessed the worst performance and massive corruption during the tenure of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), whereas the previous tenure of Pakistan Muslim League (N)

was marked by continuous development and prosperity. Even today, he added, the people want to see the same governance style and development model of the current Punjab Government implemented in Gilgit-Baltistan.

Mir said that the comparison of political parties and their periods of government by the people of Gilgit-Baltistan reflects mature political awareness and is a harbinger of real change. He stated that PTI is facing the consequences of its actions and is heading toward its political end, while PML-N’s clean sweep in all by-elections held in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab has further strengthened the narrative of performance-based politics.

Mir said that Gilgit-Baltistan is an educated region. He added that no political party except Pakistan Muslim League (N) has taken serious steps to secure a better future for the youth of Gilgit-Baltistan. This is why today’s youth is looking toward PML-N for a brighter future. Mir assured that PML (N) will not disappoint the people and youth of Gilgit-Baltistan. He said the party will provide more employment opportunities and better serve the people.

He emphasized that development and prosperity are the rightful demands of the people of Gilgit-Baltistan, and Pakistan Muslim League (N) has a clear agenda of construction, development, and prosperity.

He further stated that very soon PML (N) will approach the people of Gilgit-Baltistan with a clear roadmap and manifesto for development, elimination of unemployment, and resolution of long-standing public issues. By gaining the trust of the people and securing a two-thirds majority, the party aims to form a people's government.

<https://www.urdupoint.com/pakistan/news/gilgit/national-news/live-news-4710044.html>

### **Former Governor, former Chief Minister, and other Gilgit-Baltistan Political Leaders Join Istehkam-i-Pakistan Party**

*Urdu Point, 11 February 2026*

Various political leaders from Gilgit-Baltistan region have joined the Istehkam-i-Pakistan Party (IPP). Former Governor of Gilgit-Baltistan Raja Jalal, former Chief Minister Haji Gulbar Khan, former Leader of the Opposition Captain (Retd.) Shafi, former ministers Fateh Ullah Khan, Haji Shah Beg, Shams Ullah Haq, Maulana Sultan Rais, and former minister Dilshad Bano have joined the party.

President of the IPP, Abdul Aleem Khan, welcomed them by presenting party flags and congratulated them on joining the party. On this occasion, he said that this marks the first time the IPP is entering the politics of Gilgit-Baltistan. He stated that the IPP will work vigorously for development in the region.

He said that development, prosperity, and the provision of employment form the core of the party's manifesto. He added that he has been in contact with various political parties and, InshaAllah, details will be shared soon.

Abdul Aleem Khan further said that the entire party stands with its brothers in Gilgit-Baltistan and that people from all over Pakistan will take part in the Gilgit-Baltistan election campaign. He emphasized that Gilgit-Baltistan is rich in natural resources and has the potential to significantly support the federation. He added that billions of dollars can be generated through tourism alone.

<https://www.urdupoint.com/pakistan/news/gilgit/national-news/live-news-4712778.html>

### **Environmental and legal concerns over proposed tire pyrolysis plant in Bhimber**

*Urdu Point, 12 February 2026*

Environmental and legal concerns have emerged regarding the proposed establishment of a tire pyrolysis plant in District Bhimber of 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' ('AJK'), prompting experts and various circles to demand that the government impose a ban on such projects.

According to an official letter issued by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) of 'AJK' on 6 February 2026, Ms. Zeeba Enterprises has applied for environmental clearance to establish a

pyrolysis plant for processing used vehicle tires at Mouza Machhiya, Tehsil and District Bhimber.

The project is proposed to be set up on four kanals of land, with a daily processing capacity of approximately 100 tons of waste tires. Through this process, products such as pyrolysis oil, carbon black, steel wire, and other by-products will be obtained.

Prior to granting environmental approval, the EPA has sought opinions from relevant departments—including Agriculture, Wildlife, Industries, District Administration, and the Electricity Department—on the Initial Environmental Examination (IEE).

Supporters of the project describe it as an important step toward recycling and industrial development. However, environmental experts warn that such plants can cause air pollution, generate hazardous waste, pose risks of fire and explosions, and negatively impact public health. According to experts, harmful gases and fine particulate matter emitted during the pyrolysis process can be damaging to nearby populations.

Sources indicate that in some provinces of Pakistan, tire pyrolysis plants have already been banned or subjected to strict conditions due to environmental and health concerns. Furthermore, questions are being raised about whether the 'AJK' government has the authority to allow the import or export of used tires, as this falls under federal

trade and customs jurisdiction. This raises doubts about the project's long-term legal status and the availability of raw materials.

According to details in the Initial Environmental Examination, the proposed site is located near populated areas, which has caused concern at the local level. Experts state that 'AJKs' mountainous and environmentally sensitive ecosystem is more vulnerable to the effects of industrial pollution. Therefore, a comprehensive environmental and legal review is essential before approving any such project.

<https://www.urdupoint.com/pakistan/news/bhimbar/kashmir/live-news-4714145.html>

### **Processions and Rallies across different cities of Gilgit-Baltistan**

*Daily K2, 14 February 2026*

Following the terrorist incident in Islamabad, residents from across districts of Gilgit-Baltistan staged rallies in strong condemnation of the attack. In Gilgit, a large protest demonstration was organized after Friday prayers by the Shia Ulema Council Gilgit chapter, drawing significant participation from members of Anjuman-i Imamia and Majlis Wahdat-i-Muslimeen (MWM).

Prominent leaders who addressed the rally included Ghulam Abbas, General Secretary of Anjuman-i-Imamia Gilgit Baltistan; Sheikh Ghulam Asgar Shamsi of MWM; Sheikh Ali Mohd

Abidi, General Secretary of Shia Ulema Council District Gilgit; Agha Syed Agha Baqir Kazmi, General Secretary of Shia Ulema Council Tehsil Gilgit; and former President of Shia Ulema Council, Sheikh Shaadhat Hussain.

Speakers urged the government and security agencies to take concrete steps to curb terrorism and eliminate sectarian ideologies. They emphasized the need for law enforcement agencies to ensure lasting peace and stability in the country and demanded that those responsible for such attacks be identified and brought to justice.

<https://epaper.dailyk2.com/story/3620>

### From Social Media

**PAMIR TIMES @pamirtimes**

12 February 2026

CTD Begins Operations in Gilgit-Baltistan, 600 More Posts to Be Added

**Link to the tweet:**

<https://x.com/pamirtimes/status/2021814481832358205>

**JAMIL NAGRI @jamilnagri**

12 February 2026

Two terrorists killed three injured in exchange of firing after an ambush on FWO vehicle in which driver martyred and three including major were injured in Tangir valley of Diamer.

**Link to the tweet:**

<https://x.com/jamilnagri/status/2021944204294074524>

**WAJAHAT ALI @wajahatgilgiti**

13 February 2025

In all the terrorist acts that have occurred until now, the individuals involved have consistently had state sponsorship in the past: Allama Ameen Shahidi #IslamabadBlast

**Link to the tweet:**

<https://x.com/wajahatgilgiti/status/2022369767697592636>

**JAMIL NAGRI @jamilnagri**

14 February 2026

A young man was shot dead in police custody outside the premises of the Gilgit-Baltistan Chief Court in the name of honour. Lawyers protested against the killing of a civilian in police custody within the court premises.

**Link to the tweet:**

<https://x.com/jamilnagri/status/2022504647437799540>

# Weekly POK News Digest

Volume 6 | Issue 6

09 February - 15 February 2026

**Compiled by**

Dr. Mohd. Usman Bhatti and Mr. Muneeb Yousuf

**Edited By**

Ms. Sumita Kumar, Coordinator, POK News Digest

**Disclaimer**

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



**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](http://www.idsa.in); Email: [pokdigest@gmail.com](mailto:pokdigest@gmail.com)