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Editorial

Dear Readers!

The Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services (PIPS) offers legislative, research, training and public outreach services on demand and anticipatedly in the spirit of PIPS Act 2008. Accordingly, this month PIPS hosted pre promotion course and tests for BS17 officers as well as three days training of Ministerial Council officers from various federal ministries on working of Parliament and responsibilities of said officials in compliance of respective business on the floor of the House. PIPS also organized a training of AI in parliamentary work for officials of the Provincial Assembly of Punjab. Last but not the least, PIPS commenced a landmark National Course on Advanced Legislative Drafting on October, 28, 2025 with senior officials from National Parliament and Provincial Assemblies.

The Institute is steering the parliamentary studies initiative of the National Parliament. In this context, PIPS hosted a day-long seminar on Parliament, Constitution and Policy Research Process on October 23, 2025, for over 100 students led by faculty members of NUST department of public administration. GCU Faisalabad has introduced tradition of Youth Parliament and SZABIST leadership also met PIPS team to consolidate institutionalization of parliamentary studies at their campuses.

This Issue of the PIPS Parliamentary Research Digest includes an update on Gaza tragedy and Palestine Issue, and articles on gender empowerment and tourism in Chitral. Marking the illegal occupation of Kashmir by Indian forces on October 27, 1947, the digest also covers resolutions passed on the issue by the Majlis e Shoora (Parliament) as well as the Provincial Assemblies. Do please send your feedback or contact for any of our articles published and services offered to MPs at research@pips.gov.pk

Muhammad Rashid Mafzool Zaka
Director General (Research)



Parliamentary Studies Initiative: PIPS Seminar on Constitution, Parliament and Public Policy
Research: Group Photo of Hon. Dr Shaista Khan, Member, National Assembly & Young
Parliamentarians Forum (YPF) with faculty members & students of NUST, on October 23, 2025



Mr Asim Khan Goraya, Executive Director PIPS meeting Ms. Nora Babic Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) on the sidelines of the 151st IPU Assembly in Geneva, Wednesday, October 22, 2025



Team PIPS virtual participation in the IPU webinar on Working of Parliamentary Training Institutes on, Monday, October 06, 2025



National Advanced Legislative Drafting Course by PIPS and MuP EU, October 28-31, 2025

ANALYSIS

Israeli Genocide in Gaza: October 2023-25 and beyond

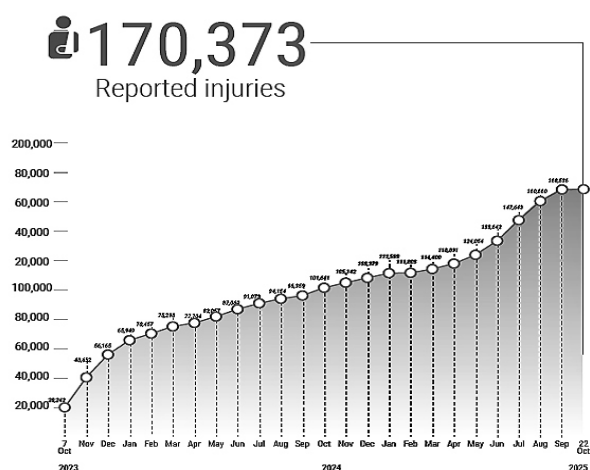
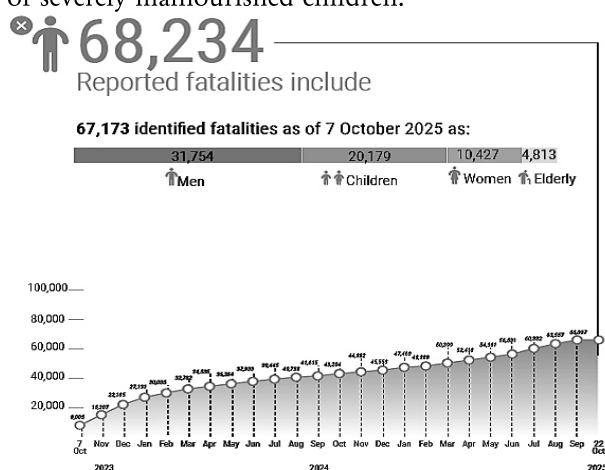
Fakiha Mahmood

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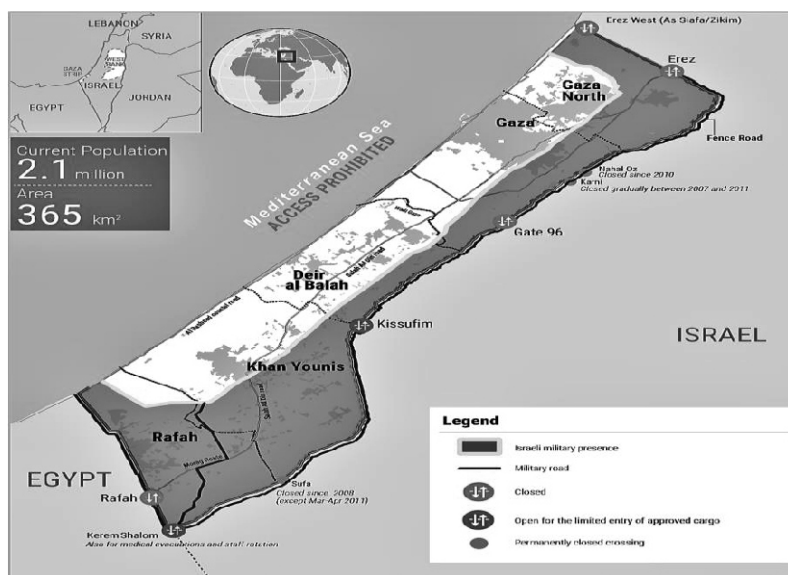
1. Introduction

October 2025 marks two years of the darkest chapter of the twenty-first century, Israeli genocide in the besieged Palestinian enclave of Gaza where the Zionist regime committed worst atrocities against unarmed and later on forcefully starved Palestinians with complete impunity. The carnage which began on 07 October 2023 continues with varying degree and intensity. The systematic extermination of not only the individuals but the entire cultures, antiquity, economy, and society has created new history in depth of lows human can go when it goes wild. Entire generations of families wiped out of the surface of Earth in moments of airstrikes. Hospitals packed with severely injured patients and unarmed innocent civilians attacked with complete impunity. Journalists wearing jackets carrying clear marks for their professional identity killed with utmost impertinence. Famine and hunger imposed on women, children and vulnerable communities while loads of trucks sent from all corners of the world wait outside the enclave ready to provide formula milk for malnourished children and other basic necessities. Brazen and deliberate assaults on United Nations personnel and infrastructure, even direct military attacks on the very mediators engaged in hectic efforts to secure ceasefire.

The list of Israeli crimes in Gaza is so long and deep that the same cannot be covered comprehensively in such a short space, this section provides only a brief snapshot for context setting. Since the beginning of the genocide (i.e. 07 October 2024 and the declaration of war) till 22 October 2025, Israeli has killed 68,234 and injured 170,373 Palestinians in Gaza, while more than 10,000 remain under the rubble without access. Around 575 aid workers, including 388 men and 187 women, have been killed. The organizational breakup is as follows; ICRC-4, PRCS-54, NGOs/INGOs-133, UN including UNRWA-378. More than 1700 health workers, 140 civil defense staff, and 252 journalists and media workers killed. Almost 78% of all structures are destroyed or damages, 88% of the 48,987 commerce and industry sector infrastructure has been damaged or destroyed, and 77% of total road network has been damaged. Around 1.5 million people are in need of emergency shelter items. Almost 132,000 Children aged 6 to 59 months and 55,500 pregnant and lactating women are estimated to suffer from acute malnutrition till June 2026, these include 41,000 cases of severely malnourished children.¹



¹ United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, "Humanitarian Situation Update #334, Gaza Strip," 23 October 2025, <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/humanitarian-situation-update-334-gaza-strip>.



Images Source: United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, “Reported Impact Snapshot: Gaza Strip,” 22 October 2025, https://www.ochaopt.org/sites/default/files/Gaza_Reported_Impact_Snapshot_22_October_2025_0.pdf

2. “Gaza Genocide: a collective crime”

Article-II of the Genocide Convention defines the term genocide as follows:

“Genocide means any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group, as such:

- Killing members of the group;
- Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group;
- Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part;
- Imposing measures intended to prevent births with the group;
- Forcibly transferring children of the group to another group.”²

The report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, published on 20 October 2025 defines Gaza genocide in terms of collective crime. The report highlights that Israel received direct military and diplomatic support which was often complemented with active participation of third countries. It was the complicity as well as unhindered support from third countries which enabled Israel to carryout genocide of Palestinians in Gaza with such impunity. The United States exercised the veto power at the United Nations Security Council seven times after October 2023 to block the call for ceasefire in Gaza. The United Kingdom remained aligned with US till November 2024. Some western states such as Australia, Canada, Germany, Netherlands, and New Zealand, did call for ceasefire, however, many of them suspended funding for UNRWA at a time when it was desirable the most. In the aftermath of the war on Gaza, only four states (i.e. Belize, Bolivia, Colombia, and Nicaragua)

² Article-II, Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, 1948.

suspended diplomatic relations with Israel and six states downgraded relations with Israel, these included Bahrain, Chad, Chile, Honduras, Jordan, Turkiye, and South Africa.³

The United Nations has imposed an arms embargo on Israel as far back as 1976. However, Israel continued to receive large sums of weapons from outside the world despite evidence of genocide being committed in the besieged enclave. The largest suppliers of weapons to Israel include US, Germany and Italy. Only few states such as Spain and Slovenia have suspended agreements and enforced arms embargo. While US supported Israel militarily since proclaimed creation, the military support has accelerated significantly since the onset of the genocide. Israel is the largest recipient of US Foreign Military Financing (FMF) which currently stands at \$3.3 billion annually. US also provides \$500 million for missile defense annually. Israel benefits out of the US military sales as well as through access to US weapons stockpile (WRSA-I) in Israel. Israel is accorded special permission to purchase Israeli-made weapons by utilizing FMF. The Biden Administration declared provision of additional \$14.3 billion for Israel on 20 October 2023. On the eve of Rafah invasion, US Congressed gave green light to \$26.4 billion package for Israeli defense. No less than 742 consignments of military equipment flowed from US to Israel. There are also reports of reduced transparency in arms transfers as hundreds of sales were authorized out of the congressional approval benchmark besides repeated emergency approvals. As of September 2024, US had provided Israel with 57,000 artillery shells, 36,000 rounds of cannon ammunition, 20,000 M4A1 rifles, 13,981 anti-tank missiles and 8,700 MK-82 500lb bombs. As of April 2025, active US sales towards Israel were recorded worth \$39.2 billion.⁴

As second largest arms exporter to Israel, Germany has met its post-Holocaust obligations to Israel while the Zionist continued genocide in Gaza. From October 2023 to July 2025, Germany set aside ethical and legal assessments of the Israeli occupation and released individual export licenses worth €489 million, which is 15 percent of all licenses to Israel in 22 years. United Kingdom's military support to Israel during the genocide emerged in the form of 600 surveillance mission over Gaza providing intelligence to Israel. UK also provided support for US supply line to Tel Aviv through its bases in Cyprus. Almost 26 other states sent 10 arms and ammunitions consignments to Israel during the genocide, most frequent among them included China, India, Italy, Austria, Spain, Czechia, Romania and France. Similarly, 19 states i.e. Australia, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Greece, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, South Korea, Romania, Singapore, Switzerland, UK and US provided components and parts of crucial F-35 stealth strike fighter program to Israel augmenting the military capabilities of the Zionist regime to carry out genocide in Gaza.⁵

3. Trump Peace Plan 2025

On 13 October 2025, the President of the United States of America signed the peace agreement together with Egypt, Qatar, and Turkiye to declare ceasefire in Gaza. Dozens of leaders from across the world gathered in Egyptian resort of Sharm-el-Sheikh to witness the signing ceremony of the so-called Trump Declaration for Enduring Peace and Prosperity. The momentum for Gaza ceasefire generated out of the meetings of US President with eight Arab-Muslim states including Pakistan on the sidelines of 2025 meetings of the United Nations General Assembly culminated into the ceasefire reached early October 2025. The 20-Point Plan issued by US President provided the blueprint for ceasefire. The most crucial part of the Plan was as follows:

³ United Nations, "Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967," 20 October 2025.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

“3. If both sides agree to this proposal, the war will immediately end. Israeli forces will withdraw to the agreed upon line to prepare for a hostage release. During this time, all military operations, including aerial and artillery bombardment, will be suspended, and battle lines will remain frozen until conditions are met for the complete staged withdrawal.

4. Within 72 hours of Israel publicly accepting this agreement, all hostages, alive and deceased, will be returned.

5. Once all hostages are released, Israel will release 250 life sentence prisoners plus 1,700 Gazans who were detained after 7 October 2023, including all women and children detained in that context. For every Israeli hostage whose remains are released, Israel will release the remains of 15 deceased Gazans.”⁶

Furthermore, the document stipulates following:

- i. **Palestinian self-determination:** the plan acknowledges the Palestinians’ right to self-determination and envisages recognition of Palestinian statehood in Point 19. Once Gaza rebuilds itself and the Palestinian Authority reforms itself to meet the required criteria.
- ii. **Humanitarian aid:** Gaza will start receiving humanitarian aid as soon as the agreement is accepted. The aid quantities will be consistent at least with those agreed in January 2025 agreement. This includes providing essential equipment for hospitals, bakeries, and for removing rubble and opening roads. Point 8 gives UN and its agencies together with the Red Crescent lead role for humanitarian work and bars the two parties to the conflict from interference in this regard. It also reiterates the mechanism agreed in January 2025 agreement for the opening of Rafah crossing.
- iii. **The future of Hamas:** the Plan offers amnesty for Hamas members, upon successful return of hostages, who pledge demilitarization for peaceful coexistence. Safe passage will be provided to those members of Hamas who would like to leave the enclave. Hamas together with other Palestinian factions will be barred from taking on governance role in Gaza at any level or in any form. Militant outfits will be de-militarized under supervision of independent monitors. It will include elimination of network of tunnels, weapons production facilities as well as offensive infrastructure. Regional partner countries will guarantee compliance from the side of Hamas and other Palestinian factions.
- iv. **Rebuilding and rehabilitating Gaza:** point one of the Plan envisages making Gaza terror-free zone that do not pose security threat to the neighboring regions. Point two pledges redevelopment of the besieged enclave for people of Gaza. Point 12 states that “*no one will be forced to leave Gaza.*”⁷ It also encourages them to stay there and play role in reconstruction of Gaza, though there will be no bar on entering or leaving the enclave. Similarly, Point 16 rubbishes the possibility of Israel annexing Gaza. It envisages the gradual withdrawal of Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) paving way for the International Stabilization Force (ISF) to control and provide stability building upon “*standards, milestones, and timeframes linked to demilitarization*”⁸ as per agreement among the stakeholders. Point 10 of the Plan coins the idea of Trump economic development plan for restoration of Gaza to be carried out by a panel of experts having proven experience of cities’ development in the Middle East. Point 11 recommends creation of special economic zone to give tariff and rates concessions to the Gazans during the economic development phase.
- v. **Gaza governance:** Point 9 of the Plan envisions the establishment of a technocratic and apolitical Palestinian committee supervised by a new international transitional body termed as the “Board of Peace” headed by the President of the US, Donald J. Trump.

⁶ Text of the Trump Peace Plan retrieved from: <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c70155nked7o>.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Ibid.

- vi. **International Stabilization Force (ISF) to ensure law and order in Gaza:** Point 15 defines the contours of this force which is supposed to be a long-term solution for the challenges faced in terms of internal security.
- vii. **Interfaith dialogue:** the Plan also envisions furthering the agenda of interfaith dialogue for promoting peace and tolerance among the contending parties for peaceful and prosperous co-existence.⁹

In the aftermath of the Trump Peace Plan, from 13 to 21 October 2025, Hamas returned 20 live and 15 deceased Israeli hostages and Israel released 1,968 live and 195 deceased Palestinian prisoners. The released prisoners gave evidence to severe mental, physical and psychological torture and inhumane conditions in Israeli jails. The dead bodies of returned Palestinians exhibited signs of torture including hand-cuff, blindfolded and bruises, while others showed signs that Israeli military vehicle were run over them rendering the body mutilated even beyond recognition. Even after the declaration of ceasefire, Israeli has not stopped its killing machine besides other violations of the agreement. Between 15 and 22 October 2025, Israel killed 151 Palestinians in Gaza and injured 204 people.¹⁰ While Israel has succeeded in getting all the hostages live or dead, thousands of Palestinians are still languishing in Israeli jails as the prisoners released are very few of them. Moreover, the implementation of the peace plan is neither that simple nor promising. Guarantors from both sides would have to work hard to get things done as envisioned.

4. Conclusion

The Israeli genocide in besieged Gaza enclave has threatened the peace and security of the entire region and of the world at large for more than two years. The notions like international law, customs, norms, multilateralism, regionalism, and humanitarian affairs seem more of non-existent ideals in the face of Israeli conduct and the complicity of third states in this regard. Despite all the shortcomings and criticism with regard to the change in the draft originally shared with the Arab-Muslim states, the Trump Peace Plan has been embraced openheartedly probably in order to satisfy the thirst for ceasefire and the need to break the humanitarian blockade which has emaciated thousands of people in Gaza who suffer from hunger and malnutrition with signs of obliteration all around. The fragility of the ceasefire and Peace Plan is well understood, however it was badly needed even in such a fragile form. The enforcement of the Peace Plan has already exposed the challenges, one can only hope that the war will not resume any time soon. The lost generations of Gaza have already left indelible marks on human conscience which will continue to echo through decades or even centuries.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, "Humanitarian Situation Update #334, Gaza Strip," 23 October 2025, <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/humanitarian-situation-update-334-gaza-strip>.

OPINION

Breaking Barriers: Empowering Women with Disabilities in Politics**Zonia Yousuf**

Social Science Researcher

1. Introduction

The passing of centuries has led to this world and over the years, societies have made progress in overcoming segregation based on the race, ethnicity, gender and religion. International frameworks, such as the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities¹, and global agendas like the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), embody this transition with their core pledge to “leave no one behind².” These instruments have transformed how participation in public life is understood, recognizing it as a universal right and not a reward. This vision calls for the political, social, and economic inclusion of all people, especially marginalized groups such as women with disabilities, who continue to face multiple layers of discrimination.

From slavery to suffrage, inclusion has always been a struggle.

According to estimates by the World Health Organization (WHO), around 1.3 billion people (16 percent of the global population) live with a significant disability.³ Data from the World Bank’s Disability Data Hub further disaggregates estimates to highlight their gendered dimension, noting that one in every five women, or 20 percent of the female population, lives with a disability.⁴ In Pakistan, the most recent statistic from NADRA states that in 2025, 724,767 persons with disabilities were registered in Pakistan, of which 228,427 are women.⁵ The 1998 census showed that of the total population with disabilities, 41.6% were women.⁶ More recently, the 2017 census showed that 0.44% of Pakistan’s population lives with a disability, and of that, 37.1% is women with disabilities.⁷

2. Intersectional discrimination faced by women with disabilities

It is a common observation that persons with disabilities have remained a vulnerable and marginalized section of societies across the world. However, it is important to recognize that even within the wider disability community; women and girls with disabilities are disproportionately vulnerable due to gender inequality. They face intersectional discrimination based on both gender and impairment,

¹ United Nations. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Adopted December 13, 2006, entered into force May 3, 2008. Treaty Series, vol. 2515, p. 3. <https://www.un.org/disabilities/documents/convention/convoptprot-e.pdf>

² United Nations Sustainable Development Group, *Universal Values Principle Two: Leave No One Behind*, <https://unsdg.un.org/2030-agenda/universal-values/leave-no-one-behind>.

³ World Health Organization, *Disability: Key Facts*, March 07, 2023, <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/disability-and-health>.

⁴ World Bank, *Disability Data Hub: Gender*, <https://disabilitydata.worldbank.org/en/topics/gender>.

⁵ Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, *Disability Details from NADRA (Till 27-02-2025)*, (Islamabad: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, 2025).

⁶ United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), *Addressing Stigma, Discrimination, and Violence against Women with Disabilities* (2023), August 9, 2023, <https://www.undp.org/pakistan/blog/addressing-stigma-discrimination-and-violence-against-women-disabilities>.

⁷ Gallup Pakistan, *Big Data Analysis of Census 2017*, December 22, 2021, <https://gallup.com.pk/post/32625>.

which often marginalizes them within families, communities, and society at large.⁸ Globally, women with disabilities struggle at multiple, and almost always intersecting, levels: they must fight against discrimination, the violation of fundamental rights, and the denial of opportunities to participate fully in public life. Despite these challenges, women with disabilities remain mostly unnoticed in research, state policies, the disability movement, the women's movement, and rehabilitation programs.⁹ This marginalization and intersectionality is further compounded by aspects such as age, ethnicity, poverty, and geography, with women with disabilities facing particularly severe barriers to education and empowerment. In many cultural settings, where women are primarily valued as wives and mothers, women with disabilities face double the disadvantage and are often excluded from positions of leadership and decision-making.¹⁰ This “double discrimination” translates into women with disabilities being barred from decision-making spaces and political representation, making it even harder for them to be acknowledged as legitimate political actors. Addressing their exclusion, therefore, requires policies and practices that are both gender-sensitive and disability-inclusive.

3. Women with Disabilities: The Underrepresentation Crisis

Women with disabilities remain severely underrepresented in leadership and decision-making roles:

- i. **Politics:** Evidence from 19 countries (2017) reveals that only 2.3% of women with disabilities, compared to 2.8% of men with disabilities, held positions as legislators, senior officials, or managers. In Asia and the Pacific, 14 out of 18 countries had no women parliamentarians with disabilities in their national legislative bodies. In the remaining four, representation ranged from only 0.3% to 6.3%.¹¹
- ii. **Disability mechanisms:** Across 17 countries in Asia and the Pacific (2017), women made up just 12% of national coordination mechanisms on disability matters, compared to 21% for men.¹²
- iii. **Gender equality institutions:** Of those same 17 countries, 7 had no women with disabilities represented in national gender equality institutions, while in the others, their participation was as low as 9%.¹³
- iv. **Leadership of organizations:** Social media data (2017) from Spanish-speaking disability organizations revealed that only 42% of leadership positions were held by women, compared to 58% by men.¹⁴

4. Key Barriers to Political Participation and Election

According to the Centenary Action Group, many women with disabilities rely heavily on activism and local campaigning before considering a career in formal politics. However, when they attempt to take on this career pursuit, they are faced with various barriers that hinder their complete and equal

⁸ K. R. Mallavarapu, S. P. Nambura, and S. R. Iyer, “Violence against Women with Disabilities,” *Glacier Journal of Scientific Research* 1, no.1 (2016) <https://doi.org/2016>.

⁹ M.J. Deegan and N. A. Brooks, eds., *Women with Disability: The Double Handicap* (New York: Routledge, 2017).

¹⁰ Kathryn F. Guzmán, “The Intersectional Perspective on Women and Girls with Disabilities: A Comparative Analysis” (2021).

¹¹ UN Women, *Leadership and Political Participation of Women with Disabilities*, <https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/Headquarters/Attachments/Sections/Library/Publications/2019/Brief-Leadership-and-political-participation-of-women-with-disabilities-en.pdf>.

¹² Ibid.

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ Ibid.

participation. These barriers are multidimensional and include aspects that are cultural, attitudinal and institutional; which also often intersect, further exacerbating their already marginalized position.¹⁵

- i. **Financial Barrier:** Equal access to financial resources is one of the most significant hurdles faced by women with disabilities in formal politics. Participation in political roles and public offices requires substantial funding for campaigning, outreach activities, communication, transportation and visibility in digital/social media platforms. Women with disabilities are more disproportionately disadvantaged on the basis of various pre-existing systemic economic disadvantages like lower employment opportunities and the additional costs associated with living with a disability. The report highlights a case of a Deaf candidate whose costs for the election campaigning increased because they had to hire a Sign Language Interpreter.¹⁶ These additional costs associated with various forms of disabilities have a huge impact on not just the actual participation of women with disabilities in politics, but also their motivation to do so.
- ii. **Perceptions and Prejudices:** Beyond financial constraints, women with disabilities have to face deep-seated stereotypes and biases that challenge their political aspirations. Negative perceptions from within political parties and public offices discourage women with disabilities from participating and contesting elections. The “double discrimination” that comes from being a woman and being disabled at the same time, leads to skepticism about their capabilities and electability. According to the report, some party members overtly questioned whether voters would support a disabled candidate, while others failed to provide such candidates from their party adequate support. Some went on to remove such candidates from their campaign literature, while there were a few instances of women with visible disabilities being included in campaign imagery as a token, but they remained excluded from any meaningful roles within the party.¹⁷ Such attitudes illustrate the idea of women with disabilities as not being welcome as equal political participants and actors. These behaviors from colleagues and elected members may act as a powerful deterrent to women with disabilities, severely limiting their career progression within formal politics.
- iii. **Exclusion through Inaccessibility:** Another significant obstacle is the persistent failure of governments and political parties to ensure accessibility. In the absence of reasonable adjustments, like a ramp, even the most basic activities associated with political participation (e.g. traveling to campaign events, entering public buildings, monitoring ballots etc., become a colossal challenge. Physical barriers often restrict the participation of women with disabilities and leads them not being anticipated as participants in political life. For example, Pam Duncan-Glancy MSP, the first wheelchair user elected to the Scottish Parliament in May 2021, reported being barred from entering a building on election night because it was not wheelchair accessible, and the staff did not believe she was a candidate.¹⁸ Such instances highlight the fact

¹⁵ Centenary Action Group, *Overcoming the Barriers to Disabled Women's Involvement in Politics* May, 2022 <https://centenaryaction.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/CAG-Overcoming-the-barriers-to-womens-involvement-in-politics.pdf>.

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ Sara Paciaroni, “Pam Duncan-Glancy Becomes First Wheelchair User Elected to Holyrood”, *The National*, May 08, 2021.

that accessibility failures are not only logistical but systemic exclusions that challenge and undermine the legitimacy of women with disabilities in politics.

- iv. **Inaccessible Campaign Methods:** Campaigning methods can themselves be exclusionary. Traditional practices, such as door knocking, late-night counts, nationwide traveling, and outreach, can be physically exhausting, challenging, and in some cases impossible for candidates with disabilities who have mobility or energy-limited conditions. Rather than adjusting campaign strategies to include candidates with diverse needs, most political parties have standard targets and methods. For example, in many cases, candidates are required to commit to meeting specific benchmarks, such as a certain number of outreach activities like door knocks or other forms of community engagement. Women with disabilities, like wheelchair users, may find it challenging or even impossible to meet these targets, which may reflect poorly on their competence and leadership potential. However, in reality this rigid approach reflects on the lack of understanding regarding the importance of accessibility in political participation.
- v. **Institutional and Structural Barriers:** Parliamentary systems are often designed without considering accessibility, which poses a challenge and threat of exclusion for women with disabilities. For example, the structure of parliamentary proceedings in itself can be seen as exclusionary. Elected members are often required to spend unpredictable long hours in the chamber for sessions and proceedings, during which they are not certain of when they will be called to speak. Such uncertainty for those with disabilities can pose serious health risks. Institutional culture presents further challenges. The report by Centenary Action Group states instances in which a candidate was not allowed to bring a water bottle inside the chamber due to her hidden disability or when a Sign Language Interpreter was not provided.¹⁹ Furthermore, the lack of accessible toilets and inclusive facilities also highlights structural ableism within parliaments and public office buildings. Within structural barriers, there is also the aspect of “pigeonholing” women with disabilities. Women with disabilities are often considered as experts on only “disability-related” topics and issues, limiting their opportunities to participate and contribute to larger policy debates. This limits their chances of being considered for cabinets, hence barricading their career progression.

5. Pakistan: Progress and Gaps

As a signatory to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities²⁰, Pakistan has taken some notable steps to strengthen disability rights and promote inclusive participation within formal spaces, including politics.

i. Legal and Policy Frameworks:

Pakistan’s first key legal mechanism for persons with disabilities was the Disabled Persons (Employment and Rehabilitation) Ordinance of 1981, which introduced a 2% employment quota for

¹⁹ Centenary Action Group, *Overcoming the Barriers to Disabled Women’s Involvement in Politics* May, 2022 <https://centenaryaction.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/CAG-Overcoming-the-barriers-to-womens-involvement-in-politics.pdf>.

²⁰ Ministry of Human Rights, *Pakistan Parliament Passes Landmark Law to Protect Rights of People with Disabilities*, (Islamabad: Ministry of Human Rights, 2020).

people with disabilities in organizations employing more than 100 workers. However, weak monitoring and enforcement limited its effectiveness.²¹

A landmark step was the passage of the ICT Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act (2020), after nationwide advocacy campaigns and petitions by civil society organizations such as Sightsavers and the National Forum of Women with Disabilities. This law covers equality before the law, political participation, education, employment, accessibility, and protection against discrimination.²²

The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has taken a few critical steps to develop the participation of women with disabilities in the political process. Firstly, it established the 'Gender and Social Inclusion Wing' to focus primarily on the participation of women, people with disabilities, transgender persons, and religious minorities within the political and electoral process. Secondly, all buildings of the ECP were made accessible and friendly for the differently abled population. It also offers people with disability the option of postal ballots, ensuring they are not left behind due to mobility or logistical issues. Throughout ECP's grassroots activities, such as awareness meetings, mock polls, and capacity building programs, a special focus is maintained on both women and people with disability.²³ Highlighting the efforts made to include women and persons with disability in the electoral process is important, since this is the first step towards understanding, and participating in the formal political system.

ii. Parliamentary Initiatives:

The Parliament of Pakistan has also taken initiatives to enhance accessibility and encourage the inclusion of persons with disabilities. The Parliament House building was made accessible in 2021, along with the National Assembly website, which has a special accessibility menu to assist both visually and hearing-impaired persons. In 2021, a complete Braille version of the Constitution of Pakistan was also launched.²⁴

In 2020, the first-ever Special Parliamentary Committee on Persons with Disabilities was established in the National Assembly. This was later followed by the creation of a sub-committee tasked with reviewing existing legislation, proposing new legal measures, and aligning domestic frameworks associated with persons with disabilities, with international best practices.²⁵

Despite these developments, challenges persist. Legislation regarding disability rights in Pakistan often suffers from institutional limitations and weak implementation. While employment quotas exist on paper, compliance remains uncertain and the lack of an implementation mechanism also means there is no accountability. Political participation of persons with disabilities, especially women, is still marginal, and their voices are often absent from mainstream political discourse. Women with

²¹ Disability:IN, Global Directory – Pakistan, accessed October 27, 2025, <https://disabilityin.org/global-directory/pakistan>

²² Ministry of Human Rights, *Pakistan Parliament Passes Landmark Law to Protect Rights of People with Disabilities*, (Islamabad: Ministry of Human Rights, 2020).

²³ Election Commission of Pakistan, *Initiative by Gender and Social Inclusion Wing*, (Islamabad: Election Commission of Pakistan, 2017).

²⁴ "Parliament House, NA Official Website Made Accessible to Special Persons," *Dawn*, December 04, 2021.

²⁵ National Assembly of Pakistan, *NA Speaker Constitutes Sub-Committee of the Special Parliamentary Committee on Disabled Persons*, (Islamabad: National Assembly of Pakistan, 2020).

disabilities continue to face multiple barriers due to both gender and disability, and still remain underrepresented in party structures, leadership, and decision-making platforms.

6. Policy Recommendations

Despite recent progress, women with disabilities continue to endure intersecting barriers that hinder their ability to participate on an equal footing in political and public life. Addressing these challenges requires a holistic approach that involves legal reform, institutional change, and a transition in cultural attitudes. Policy responses need to evolve ahead of tokenistic measures and emphasize creating sustainable structures that ensure accessibility, representation, and meaningful participation.

The following recommendations are applicable across contexts and highlight the need for inclusive political systems, investment in accessibility, stronger accountability, and targeted support for women with disabilities aspiring to enter and thrive in political spaces.

- i. **Strengthen Legal and Policy Frameworks:** There should be strong and well-defined legislation that explicitly prohibits the discrimination of people, especially women with disabilities, in formal political participation. This legislation should align with international commitments such as the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- ii. **Improve Accessibility in Political Processes:** All political parties should be mandated to adjust their campaigning strategies to reasonably make space for women with disabilities. This should include providing accessible campaign venues, transportation, information (including Braille, easy-read, and sign language interpretation), and assistive technologies.
- iii. **Ensure Financial Support and Equity:** Political parties should be encouraged to provide targeted financial support to women with disabilities who are seeking full and equal participation for candidacy. Dedicated grants or subsidies should also be established to fund such candidates, enabling them to overcome their financial barriers to campaigning.
- iv. **Reform Political Party Practices:** Political institutions should be reformed to adopt internal quotas/ reserved seats for women with disabilities at both provincial and national levels.
- v. **Institutionalize Inclusive Parliamentary Practices:** There should be an introduction of hybrid and flexible working models (e.g., call lists, remote voting) that have proven effective in reducing exclusion. Accessibility of parliamentary buildings, procedures, and documentation, including interpretation services and accessible toilets, should be ensured and prioritized to the highest.
- vi. **Promote Leadership and Career Progression:** Women with disabilities should be recognized as experts in fields other than disability issues. Frameworks, like mentorship or leadership programs, can be established to strengthen representation and ensure fair consideration for cabinet and committee positions.
- vii. **Address Cultural and Attitudinal Barriers:** Awareness campaigns should be initiated to challenge stereotypes and normalize the political participation of women with disabilities. This can be done by building partnerships with civil society, disability rights groups, and international parliaments.
- viii. **Strengthen Data and Accountability Mechanisms:** A national mechanism, like a commission, should be set up to collect disaggregated data on the political participation of women, women with disability, and the diversity of their conditions. This will act as evidence

to bring about more informed changes to the structures in place. Monitoring systems should be set up to ensure that there is compliance with accessibility and inclusion standards.

7. Conclusion

Women with disabilities face significant barriers to becoming elected representatives. Even after being appointed in leadership positions, they remain vulnerable within the political sphere. They experience discrimination, not just for being disabled individuals but also for being women, which makes it essential to recognize the barriers they face from the very beginning: being involved in local politics, navigating the party selection process, campaigning, elections and then career progression. However, it is also important to mention that addressing these barriers cannot be the sole job of political parties, especially keeping in mind smaller parties and independent candidates, who do not have the same resources at their disposal. Hence, it is the larger body, the Government that needs to take the lead in creating spaces and systems that are more inclusive and accessible for women with disabilities to fully participate in.²⁶

Overcoming these barriers, whether financial, institutional, cultural, or attitudinal, is essential to upholding democracy, strengthening representation, and ensuring that parliaments reflect the diversity of the people they serve. By creating an enabling environment for women with disabilities to engage in politics, countries can advance not only gender equality and disability rights but also the broader principles of inclusiveness, fairness, and shared prosperity. Ultimately, the participation of women with disabilities in politics is a core measure of democratic inclusiveness.

²⁶ Centenary Action, *Breaking Down Barriers: Empowering Disabled Women in Politics*, April, 2025 <https://centenaryaction.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/Breaking-down-barriers-1.pdf>.

OPINION

Harnessing Economic Potential of Chitral through Tourism**Tanzil Ur Rahman**

Assistant Director (Research)

1. Introduction

Tourism is a multidimensional source of cultural exchange, socio-economic growth and globalization. In many countries including the developing world and particularly in places that are geographically distant, tourism is advocated as not only a livelihood supporting venture but also as a means of promotion of the local and indigenous cultural heritage. Mountains are amongst popular travel destinations across the globe because of their natural beauty, adventure opportunities and rich cultural legacy. In remotely located and isolated rural mountain areas, tourism offers economic prospects, different sources for revenue generation and has the potential to contribute to the revitalization of local cultures and traditions.

Pakistan is one of the most popular tourist destinations in South Asia with the mixture of natural mountains, historical sites and its cultural heritage. In Pakistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province particularly its districts of Malakand, Swat and Chitral are among the biggest tourist destinations.¹ Surrounded by the Hindu Kush Mountains and with Afghanistan Wakhan in the North, Chitral has always been a region of strategic importance as well as cultural fusion. The combination of snowcapped mountains and alpine meadows with deep river valleys draws a steady flow of local and foreign tourists. Like many other parts of the country, tourism is increasingly emerging among prominent activities in Chitral where it contributes to livelihoods, diversification of local economic opportunities, cultural exchange and development of the region. Nevertheless, the continuous growth of tourism along with socio-economic changes, environmental impacts and limited policy structures has posed a number of challenges as well.

This study includes an overview of the historical and contemporary drivers of tourism and its interaction with the local culture and economy. Since the geography,² climate,³ demography⁴ and the cultural heritage⁵ of a region all have significant relationship and impact on tourism and its promotion, the study attempts to provide a brief description of these details of the valley as well.

2. An Overview of Demography, Historical Context and Socio-Cultural Landscape

The people in Chitral are ethnically diverse, although most of them are Kho. The globally famous unique ethno religious minority of Kalash Community are partially settled in the three valleys only namely, Bumburet, Rumbur and Birir. Among other communities, Pashtuns, Gujars and few number of traders and craftsmen from other regions of Pakistan also reside in some areas of the valley.

¹ Naila Alam, Zahid Anwar, and Farmanullah, "Impact of Tourism in Districts of Malakand Division (Swat, Dir, Chitral, Buner, Shangla, Malakand), Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan: Interviews Narrative of Local People," *Global Regional Review* VII, no. II (June 30, 2022): 232–45, [https://doi.org/10.31703/grr.2022\(vii-ii\).22](https://doi.org/10.31703/grr.2022(vii-ii).22)

² Kanika Lakhanpal, "Exploring the Relationship between Geography and Tourism," *International Research Journal of Human Resource and Social Sciences* 9, no. 07 (2022).

³ Daniel Scott and Christopher Lemieux, "Weather and Climate Information for Tourism," *Procedia Environmental Sciences* 1 (2010): 146–83, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.proenv.2010.09.011>

⁴ Ian Yeoman et al., *Tourism and Demography* (Oxford: Goodfellow, 2011).

⁵ Edi Dragoş Beserman, "Cultural Heritage as a Driver for Sustainable Tourism Development in Jiu Valley," *Annals of the University of Petroşani, Economics* 24, no. 1 (January 1, 2024): 215–22.

As per the 7th Population and Housing Census 2023, the first-ever digital census of Pakistan, Chitral has a population of 577,935.⁶ The population is unevenly distributed, with the population centres concentrated in the main Chitral town and along the Chitral River Valley and remote high-altitude valleys which have few even dispersed settlements. The availability of education and health are not equally accessible in all regions as the institutions offering degree programmes and main DHQ and THQ hospitals in the urban centers compared to the remote valleys. The gender roles in the region are traditionally defined, however tourism and economic changes are influencing the participation of women in public life.

With a history shaped by geographical inaccessibility, the historically independent princely state located at the crossroads of Central and South Asia remained under semi-autonomous status until it became part of Pakistan in 1969 through Dir, Chitral and Swat (Administration) Regulation, 1969.⁷ Chitral region's exposure to the colonialism of Persians, Afghans and British together with the strategic position on significant trade and migration route made it a place of cultural exchange, with Khowar incorporating linguistic influences and region embracing their cultural and political imprints.

Kalash community forms the core of the cultural uniqueness of the Chitral region. With a population of around 4000,⁸ they form one of Pakistan's smallest religious minorities and are characterized by a polytheistic belief system with nature, ancestors, seasonal rituals, their wooden buildings, colorful dress, oral culture and festivals. In 2018, Kalash culture's "Suri Jagek" tradition was recognized as intangible cultural heritage by UNESCO.⁹

In addition to the Kalash, Chitral is rich in other traditions as well. Folk music forms a unique cultural heritage for the majority, Kho people, with the dominant language Khowar, especially sitar and jerrykan. The unique free-style polo, which has been termed as the Game of Kings in Chitral is played throughout the region, most notably at Shandur Polo Festival, world's highest and most unique sports festival¹⁰ held annually is not only a magnet to a large number of tourists but also serves as avenues for the promotion and marketing of tangible and intangible cultural assets of Chitral.

Among other elements of local culture local foods, folktales, poems written in Khowar, architecture made of wood and stone, handicrafts, woolen wear, embroidered hats, Chitrali Pakol and carved woods are revitalized through the young generation taking the lead in large part as well as tourists' engagement. For instance, the popularity of the genuine Chitrali food in local guesthouses and restaurants is growing not only boosting the local economy but also leading to revitalization of local traditional food.

3. Tourism in Chitral

i. Historical Context, Major Attractions and Infrastructure

The phenomenon of tourism in Chitral is not new. Since colonial times, British officials and explorers have travelled around the region, even describing the landscapes and inhabitants in a sort of romanticized way, particularly focusing the Kalash Community, with continued remarks about their existence as a

⁶ Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, "7th Population and Housing Census - Detailed Results" Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, 2023.

⁷ "KP CODE," Kp.gov.pk, 2025, <https://kpcode.kp.gov.pk/>

⁸ Alveena Rahim, "Architectural Features and Construction Techniques of Kalash Houses in Guru Village, Birir, Chitral" (M.Arch. thesis, Middle East Technical University, 2019).

⁹ UNESCO, "UNESCO - Browse the Lists of Intangible Cultural Heritage and the Register of Good Safeguarding Practices," Unesco.org, 2024, <https://ich.unesco.org/en/lists>

¹⁰ Umair Asif, "Shandur Polo Festival — the World's Highest and Most Unique Sports Festival," *SportAndDev.org*, July 8, 2025, <https://www.sportanddev.org/latest/news/shandur-polo-festival-world%E2%80%99s-highest-and-most-unique-sports-festival>

culture trapped in time as a living museum¹¹ of pre-Islamic culture. After independence, tourism in Chitral was irregular until the late 20th century when North Pakistan experienced the boom of adventure tourism, which gave this region renewed interest. Disturbances in Malakand region during 1990s¹² negatively impacted not only Swat but also Chitral and it caused a disruption in the regular influx of tourists in the area. The uncertainty and crisis in the neighboring Afghanistan also painted long shadows to the tourism business in Pakistan that led to an atmosphere of uncertainty and insecurity. The last and most disastrous blow was the post-9/11 situation that was characterized by drastic change in the perception of the region making tourist arrivals in northern regions especially in Chitral sharply decline.¹³ In the 21st century, there has been significant increase of the number of domestic and international tourists.

Tourism attraction of Chitral is due to magnificent combination of natural beauty, the diversity of cultures, and history. The Kalash Community, renowned by its own unique practices of polytheism, colorful ceremonies and wooden houses is among the indigenous communities inscribed on UNESCO's List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.¹⁴ Chitral Gol National Park is also a fascinating and guarded sanctuary containing a number of wildlife species such as the endangered Markhor, elusive snow leopards and rich alpine plants. The Shandur pass which is famously known as the Roof of the World¹⁵ is a sight to behold as thousands of people annually visit to witness the famous Shandur Polo Festival attracting admirers coming from different parts of Pakistan as well as other countries of the world. History lovers have a lot of their interest like the old Shahi Mosque, the Chitral Fort and the palaces of the Mehtars and extensively excavated archeological sites. To adventure lovers there is thrilling treks to the base camp of Tirich Mir, trekking, river rafting, camping at a very high altitude and to say that it is a place that has everything to offer.

Tourism character of Chitral is to a great extent seasonal with the highest activity being around May-September due to the appropriate weather. However, in winter, tourism activity is restricted to a few tourism activities like snow treks and cultural studies and limited adventure tourism, all of which contributes to very little use of the potential of the region during the winter months.

Despite being under developed with many limiting factors at the moment, the tourism infrastructure in Chitral is slowly growing. Accommodation is diverse with small family guesthouses and mid-tier hotels available in the town and the Kalash Valleys, but very little luxury accommodation, restricting options available to luxury travellers. The Lowari Tunnel has enhanced transport and made the journey shorter between Dir and Peshawar, but much of the most beautiful high-altitude areas still demand off-road vehicles, which makes them inaccessible. Locally, there are tour operators, trekking guides, cultural interpreters but their training and the level of professionalism especially in terms of language ability in different languages vary which has an impact on the overall experience of the visitor. Moreover, the increased popularity of social media platforms has contributed to promoting the attraction spots of different remote areas of the valley to more people, yet the quality of internet access in the deep valleys is still inconsistent, disturbing the promotion of tourism and convenience locals in daily travels as well.

¹¹ Taj Khan, "Kalash Valleys: A Call For Indigenous Cultural Survival Religious Hegemony In Recognition Of Indigenous Rights in the Islamic Republic Of Pakistan," 2009, https://www.etd.ceu.edu/2010/khan_taj.pdf

¹² Navid Iqbal Khan, "Tehreek-i-Nifaz-i-Shariat-i-Muhammadi in Malakand Division (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa): A Case Study of the Process of 'State Inversion,'" *Pakistan Journal of History and Culture* 31, no. 1 (2010): 130–58, https://nihcr.edu.pk/Latest_English_Journal/6.%20Tehreek-e-Nifaz-e-Shariat-e-%20Muhammadi

¹³ Mumtaz Hussain, "Historical Background of Tourism in Karakoram–Hindukush Region," *History of Tourism in Chitral*, Mahraka.com, 2025, <https://www.mahraka.com/tourism/index.html>

¹⁴ "UNESCO - Browse the Lists of Intangible Cultural Heritage and the Register of Good Safeguarding Practices," *Unesco*, 2024, <https://ich.unesco.org/en/lists>.

¹⁵ Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, "Festivals," *KP.gov.pk*, 2025, <https://upperchitral.kp.gov.pk/page/festival>

ii. Recent Trends and Growth Patterns of Tourism in Chitral

In recent years tourism related activities in Chitral have experienced a steady rise in tourists visiting the valley as a result of a couple of factors including improved conditions of roads, increasing trend of local operators, growing social media exposure as well as government efforts to promote northern Pakistan as a safe travel destination. The completion of the Lowari Tunnel for regular traffic in 2017¹⁶ marked a big turning point, significantly transforming Chitral's accessibility, as it helped it stay connected to the rest of the country throughout the year. Cultural festivals such as the Shandur Polo Festival, Qaqlasht Festival and Boroghil Festivals are organized and marketed by the provincial government to a larger scale. These festivals mark sports tourism as a prominent place in Chitral,¹⁷ with freestyle polo standing out as a decades old native sport deeply rooted in local tradition. Thousands of tourists visit Chitral annually, particularly during these festivals and especially for Kalash festivals of Chilam Joshi celebrated in spring; Uchal, during harvest; and Chaumos, in winters. Alongside this cultural tourism, eco-tourism based on mountaineering and trekking as well as wildlife associated attraction of locals from other parts of Pakistan and foreigners has expanded, given Chitral's closeness to the Hindukush peaks and its biodiversity.

4. Tourism driven Economic Activities in Chitral

The economic contribution of tourism in Chitral is high since the district does not have many industries and the local agriculture is a subsistence type. Tourism sector offers direct and indirect jobs, as local people operate and work in restaurants, hotels, guesthouses and other ancillary services like guiding, transportation and selling handicrafts. Tourism has become of great importance in maintaining local traditions including the Kalash. The traditional dresses, cultural activities and Indigenous handicrafts have also boosted local artists to keep on practicing their art.

i. Source of Income and Livelihood Diversification

In numerous families, tourism has a positive impact on livelihood of households directly involved in tourism and it has appeared as the best alternative for forest dependent households for the betterment of their livelihood.¹⁸ Tourism has the potential to provide alternative source of income in comparison with agricultural production, hence lessening the risk to crop failure and climatic change. The increase in demand for Chitrali fresh fruits, dry fruits as well as locally produced handicrafts¹⁹ shows significant impact of tourism related revenue opportunities.

ii. Development of Local Infrastructure and Market

Although previously neglected and still not fully developed in comparison to other parts of the province, tourism has also played a significant role in the improvement of infrastructure in Chitral.²⁰ Telecommunications, electricity and roads have been developed in tourist dominated valleys, not only to boost tourism but also to promote access to markets as well as health and educational institutes by the

¹⁶ Press Information Department, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Government of Pakistan, "PM Muhammad Nawaz Sharif to Inaugurate Lowari Tunnel Project Today Lowari Tunnel to Provide All Weather Connectivity to Chitral with Rest of the Country," [Pid.gov.pk](https://pid.gov.pk/site/press_detail/291), 2017, https://pid.gov.pk/site/press_detail/291.

¹⁷ Alam, "Impact of Tourism," (2022).

¹⁸ Waqas Awan, "Impact of Tourism on Local Livelihood: A Case Study of Kalash Valley, Pakistan," Academia.edu, March 31, 2014.

¹⁹ Amir Azam, Shafiq Ahmad Maqsood, Junaid Ahmad, and Muhammad Azhar Ud Din, "Economical and Societal Benefits of Tourism (A Case Study of Bomborat [sic] Chital)," MPRA Paper No. 97490 (Munich Personal RePEc Archive, 2018), <https://mpra.ub.uni-muenchen.de/97490/>

²⁰ Ibid.

residents. Moreover, the local markets have developed because of tourism as a means of selling agricultural products and local craft.

iii. Prominent Local Festivals as Economic Hubs

The popularity of major local festivals such as Jashn e Chitral, Jashn e Qaqlasht, Boroghil Festival and most dominant the Shandur polo festival and the resultant tourism driven economic activities bring substantial revenue generation opportunities for local vendors, transporters and hospitality related service providers. In addition, the advent of winter sports festivals in the recent years has also opened up another avenue of economic activities for the local communities in particular areas, during the otherwise harsh winter months when many businesses but tourism dependent activities traditionally decline or remain dormant.

5. Tourism and the Challenges of Cultural and Heritage Preservation in Chitral

Despite the fact that the tourism is becoming an influential sector, in terms of economic activities in Chitral generating newer trades, business ventures and employment opportunities to the local people, as well as offering the local culture popularity and worldwide exposure. Nonetheless, it also poses a number of challenges, and it becomes difficult to strike a balance between preservation of unique culture of the region and exploitation of economic opportunities. The traditions and environment that make up the initial appeal of tourism might in fact be disruptive, without a proper regulation of the tourism. Without carefully managing the tourism, it may become detrimental to the very traditions and environment that attract visitors in the first place.

Commodification of culture is evident in the case of Chitral, for instance in Kalash valley the residents come across issues associated to privacy violations, disturbances, pollution, desecration of sacred sites, impropriety, religious beliefs, social pressure, alterations in cultural practices, absence of communal economic advantages, and the commodification of culture, while a minority of capitalists derive benefits from selling Kalash cultural artefacts to tourists.²¹ In other parts as well, the practice has potentially exposed the real essences of local cultures and has made them to be viewed as entertainment shows instead of being an actual representation of culture. This could lead over the years, to a watering down of the cultural richness that makes Chitral distinctive. Another impact of tourism in Chitral is the pressure that it has on the natural environment in the form of increase in resources demand and environmental degradation. As an example, the picturesque landscape of Qaqlasht attracts a substantial number of tourists annually. Nevertheless, the sports festival contributes to significant environmental pressures, including soil erosion from vegetation loss, noise pollution, air pollution caused by uncontrolled traffic, habitat degradation for birds, and the overuse of local pastures to sustain livestock.²² On the other hand, the exposure of youth particularly people in remote valleys makes them vulnerable to issues such as cultural assimilation where dress, language and customs that are traditional are discarded in favor of other more modern or mainstream lifestyles.

Cultural preservation is not only important to preserve cultural diversity but also to empower people with the feeling of identity and to ensure that traditions, languages and knowledge that ought to be important pass down to future generations. It is not only an obligation of one generation to another, but a recognized right of communities to secure and safeguard their distinct style of life. In Pakistan, this principle is supported by article 28 of the Constitution. Although, the government, the local communities,

²¹ Zulfiqar Ali Kalhoro and Saif Uddin, "Cultural Commodification and Tourism in Kalash Valley: A Case Study of Bumburet Village, District Chitral," *Journal of Asian Civilizations* 44, no. 2 (December 2021)

²² Somia Baig, Zia Ullah, and Sher Khan, "Environmental Impacts of Spring Sport Tourism in Chitral, Pakistan," *Indian Journal of Economics and Business* 20, no. 2 (2021).

international organizations and various other institutions have been taking a number of initiatives to conserve the distinct culture and heritage of Chitral, more concentrated efforts are becoming the need of the hour amid the evolving nature of opportunities and challenges. For instance, the provincial government, through its Directorate of Archaeology & Museums, has taken steps to safeguard important cultural and historical sites in Chitral, including the Chitral Museum in order to preserve and protect the rich cultural heritage of district Chitral. This includes documenting heritage sites, recording cultural practices, and occasionally funding the restoration of old monuments or religious structures.

Local communities, for example members of Kalash community through their elders and local organizations, often arrange language classes to teach younger generations the Kalash language, which is at risk of fading away, besides providing training in traditional crafts, which not only preserve skills but also give people an additional source of income. Among others, Chitral Gol Community Development and Conservation Association under the auspices of provincial Wildlife Department and WWF Nature Pakistan been striving with good success to conserve and ensure sustainable use of available natural resources since 1992.²³ Several international organizations have been extending both financial and technical support for cultural preservation in Chitral. UNESCO is actively supporting indigenous communities by working to integrate the intangible cultural heritage of the Kalasha community into higher education curricula. Moreover, promotion of indigenous languages and cultural expressions is implemented through comprehensive programmes, notably International Decade of Indigenous Languages.²⁴ The Endangered Material Knowledge Programme have been working to document the endangered knowledge of making Chitrali Shu, aiming to ensure that key technical and cultural aspects of this woven cloth be preserved and made available for future generations of Chitral, Tehreek Tahafuz Haqooq-e-Chitral. A reasonable number of local initiatives have also been emerging with focus on promoting and preserving different aspects of Chitrali Culture, including literary organization such as Anjuman-i-Taraqi Khovar (ATK) working for promotion of local literary traditions, Khovar Folk Band to promote Khovar songs, particularly Khovar folk songs and Khovar music, Chitral Youth Forum (CYF), Terichmir Backpackers Club Pakistan to promote Ecotourism in the region and many others.

6. Way Forward

- i. **Improve Local Infrastructure and Diversify Seasonal Tourism:** The government along with provincial departments needs to oversee the up gradation and maintenance of key road networks, particularly in the major tourist destinations, festival venues and heritage sites including Kalash Valleys, Shandur Pass and Chitral Gol National Park. Besides roads, government must introduce reliable public transport options during peak seasons to manage the excessive traffic particularly private vehicles. Moreover, installation of directional signage in different languages can also enhance accessibility for both domestic and foreign visitors. As most of the areas lack dedicated safe pedestrian walkways and rest areas, so working on these facilities along the main routes can be expected to improve the experience of tourists and also ensure safety. Although provincial government has started work on holding winter sports festivals in a few places, however development of other winter tourism ventures such as snow trekking, ice climbing and winter wildlife photography tours is essential. Other initiatives may include different events for handicraft workshops and storytelling gatherings under cultural immersion programmes. Through these novel initiatives and marketing them as unique off-season experiences the seasonal income flows can be balanced and the overcrowding in summers can be reduced to some extent.

²³ Equator Initiative, "Chitral Gol Community Development and Conservation Association – Equator Initiative," Equatorinitiative.org, 2024, <https://www.equatorinitiative.org/2024/11/12/chitral-gol-community-development-and-conservation-association/>.

²⁴ "UNESCO Pakistan on Instagram: "Celebrating World Indigenous Peoples Day | 9 August," <https://www.instagram.com/p/DNDDOHjsS8k/>

- ii. **Standardize Hospitality Facilities and Improve Marketing Strategies:** Tourism authorities including provincial tourism department should work on strengthening tourism accreditation facilities locally for ease of certification of accommodation facilities, local guides and tourism operators with defined quality benchmarks. This would involve hygiene training, customer service, first aid training and cross-cultural communication training. Additionally, other measures such as certification of operators can be encouraged through promotional and advertising support and listing them in official directories. Further, specific promotional activities to brand Chitral based on the cultural diversity of the area, its unique landscapes and covering major heritage sites can make a wider outreach. Developing association with other institutions and organizations in the form of digital partnerships like creating a series of storytelling, short film-making, virtual tours and engaging influencers can improve marketing and outreach. Besides, collaborations with other stakeholders in the tourism sector (airlines, travel agencies, and online booking platforms) will be useful in expanding the market.
- iii. **Promote Skill Development and Value-adding Activities of Tourism:** Government and NGOs can establish a professional force to support the varied needs of tourism development via diversification of vocational training in hospitality management, ecotourism business models, foreign language instruction and environmental-oriented guiding. The remote valleys should also be covered with mobile training units to make such professional development opportunities equally available to people. In addition to this, the tourism value chain should be reinforced by encouraging connections between tourism-related business entities, local farms and livestock breeders. Also, farm-to-table experiences, where local restaurants and lodges use locally sourced ingredients can improve authenticity and economic value. Artisans should be empowered to sell their crafts through e-commerce platforms and decrease the reliance on seasonal tourist visits to buy their products.
- iv. **Facilitate Economic empowerment through Microfinance:** In order to realize development of tourism that brings wider benefits to the local communities, access to finance and business development prospects needs to be enhanced. Low-interest loans and small grants offered by the government and development organizations/ financial institutions should allow local people to start or expand their businesses. These funds can be utilized to develop tourism related facilities such as guesthouses, small food outlets, shops and services related to adventure tourism like guiding, trekking and transport services. This kind of supports can help local communities in converting their talents and cultural resources to generate income. Moreover, cooperative business models should be encouraged to a larger extent, where by consolidating their resources, small producers or service providers becomes able to cut their costs, market their products much better, and make them accessible to a larger number of people. Such measures would not only reinforce the local economy, but also empowers the marginal groups, particularly women and youth as a tourism value chain participant.
- v. **Consolidate Efforts to Promote Sustainable Tourism:** The government, through the relevant departments and authorities need to collaborate for streamlining and strengthening the currently fragmented efforts undertaken for preserving the authenticity of local culture and the environment. In this regard, the initiatives embarked on by various stakeholders can be seen as valuable reference points to formulate more comprehensive and systematic interventions in future, in order to harness the Chitral's economic potential via promoting tourism while ensuring that the authentic cultural heritage and natural environment is protected.

PARLIAMENTARY BUSINESS-Marking Black Day 27th October
Resolutions on the National Solidarity on Kashmir by
All Pakistani Legislatures

Compiled by: Wajid Aslam¹ and Danish Ali²

¹Assistant Coordination Officer, ²Assistant Research Officer

House	Resolution No.	Text	Date of Adoption
National Assembly of Pakistan	29	The National Assembly of Pakistan: Condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations; Emphasizes that the killing of innocent civilians is contrary to the values upheld by Pakistan; Rejects all frivolous and baseless attempts to link Pakistan with the Pahalgam Attack of 22nd April 2025 in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir; Condemns the orchestrated and mala fide campaign by the Indian government to malign Pakistan, which follows a familiar pattern of exploiting the issue of terrorism for narrow political goals; Condemns India's unlawful and unilateral declaration to hold the Indus Waters Treaty in abeyance, in blatant violation of the Treaty, which clearly amounts to an act of war; Warns that Pakistan remains fully capable and prepared to defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity against any aggression, including water terrorism or military provocation as clearly demonstrated by its robust and valiant response to India's reckless actions in February 2019; and any misadventure by India will be met with a firm, swift, and decisive response; Emphasizes that the people of Pakistan remain committed to peace, but will never allow anyone to transgress the country's sovereignty, security, and interests; Demands that India should be held accountable for its involvement in different acts of terrorism and targeted assassinations on the soil of other countries, including Pakistan; and Reaffirms Pakistan's unwavering moral, political and diplomatic support for and commitment to the Kashmiri people's just struggle for realization of their inalienable right to self-determination.	05-05-2025
Senate of Pakistan	587	WHEREAS the Armed Forces of Pakistan - the Army, Air Force, and Navy - have once again demonstrated unwavering resolve, unparalleled professionalism, and steadfast dedication in the successful execution of Operation Bunyan-un-Marsoos, launched in response to unprovoked and unjustified Indian aggression; AND WHEREAS this measured and resolute operation reaffirmed Pakistan's sovereignty and safeguarded the territorial integrity of the Motherland. It was carried out with exceptional restraint and maturity, reflecting the conduct of a responsible nuclear state; NOW, therefore, be it resolved that this August House: HUMBLY BOWS in gratitude to Almighty Allah for bestowing upon our nation the strength, courage, and unity in defending our territorial integrity and accomplishing a decisive, moral, and strategic victory against naked Indian aggression with dignity and honour; CONGRATULATES the people of Pakistan for rising above all political, ethnic, and ideological divides and differences, and demonstrating unwavering unity in support of national leadership across the political spectrum and speaking with one voice and one purpose to defend the people, sovereignty, territorial integrity, and dignity of Pakistan; PAYS GLORIOUS TRIBUTE to the Armed Forces of Pakistan for their exceptional bravery, strategic foresight, discipline, exemplary skills, and	15-05-2025

		supreme sacrifices in the service of the nation. They upheld the highest traditions of professionalism, loyalty, and patriotism, responding to security challenges with proportionate and resolute military action; SPECIFICALLY COMMENDS the exceptional professionalism and combat excellence of the Pakistan Air Force for effectively repelling aggression and decisively shattering the myth of the enemy's military prowess - thereby restoring strategic balance, reaffirming crucial red lines, and strengthening confidence in Pakistan's defence capabilities, which have been widely acknowledged and praised; HONOURS THE SACRIFICES of the valiant martyrs who laid down their lives in the defence of Pakistan's sovereignty and national honour. Their unmatched heroism and profound selflessness shall remain eternally engraved in the heart of the nation; STRONGLY CONDEMNS the brutal and unprovoked Indian attacks on innocent civilians, including women, children and mosques; SHARES THE GRIEF of the bereaved families of the civilian martyrs who lost their lives in these inhumane attacks; EXPRESSES HEARTFELT GRATITUDE to Pakistan's brotherly and friendly countries for their unwavering and principled support during this critical time; REITERATES Pakistan's resolute commitment to regional and global peace and stability, and supports the resolution of all disputes through sincere, structured, and comprehensive dialogue, including on the core issue of Jammu and Kashmir; URGES the Government of Pakistan to proactively engage the international community for the peaceful, just and lasting resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions and aspirations of the Kashmiris; STRESSES the critical importance of strict adherence to the Indus Waters Treaty and reaffirms Pakistan's unwavering resolve to protect its rightful share of water as a fundamental component of national security, international agreements, economic stability, and sovereignty; REMINDS India that any unilateral or illegal, holding in abeyance or other illegal violations of the Indus Waters Treaty, including attempts to divert or obstruct Pakistan's water by any means whatsoever, constitutes a serious breach of international humanitarian law, and amounts not only to a war crime but also a crime against humanity, with grave regional and global repercussions and confirms that Pakistan will treat any such misadventure by India as an act of war; RESOLVES that this House shall continue to fulfil its constitutional and democratic responsibilities in safeguarding Pakistan's national interest, promoting internal unity, and advancing peace, prosperity, security, and sustainable stability for the people of Pakistan and the wider region.	
National Assembly of Pakistan	34	This House, representing the will of the people of Pakistan, Strongly condemns India's illegal, unilateral, and morally indefensible actions of 5 August 2019, which aimed to alter the internationally recognized status of Jammu and Kashmir in violation of international law and United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions; Declares that no unilateral action by India can change the disputed nature of Jammu and Kashmir, which remains on the agenda of the United Nations; Affirms that the Jammu and Kashmir dispute is not an internal matter of India but a global issue requiring a just resolution in accordance with UNSC resolutions and the aspirations of the Kashmiri people; Calls upon the international community to stand for justice, not silence, in the face of Indian oppression and human rights abuses in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK); Reiterates that Pakistan will never compromise on the right of the Kashmiri	05-08-2025

	people to self-determination as guaranteed under international law and UN resolutions; Affirms that Pakistan's moral, political, and diplomatic support for the Kashmiri people remains unshakable and enduring; Acknowledges that Kashmir is the unfinished agenda of the partition of the Indian subcontinent, and this House commits to continue raising the Kashmir issue at every regional and international forum; Condemns all forms of Indian state violence and coercive tactics aimed at erasing the identity, culture, and political aspirations of the Kashmiri people, which have failed and will continue to fail; Observes 5th August as a Black Day that marks the beginning of an illegal siege, gross human rights violations, and the denial of fundamental freedoms to the people of IIOJK; Rejects India's attempts at demographic engineering and political persecution in the region, which violate the Geneva Conventions and all norms of international conduct; Demands that India be held accountable for the systematic human rights abuses being committed in IIOJK, including arbitrary detentions, torture, media blackouts, and collective punishment; Declares that silencing the voices of Kashmiris through force, censorship, and occupation cannot be defined as peace, it is tyranny; Asserts that peace and stability in South Asia are impossible without the just and final resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute; Urges the international community, especially the United Nations, to break its silence and fulfill its long-standing promise to the people of Kashmir; Demands the immediate implementation of all relevant UN Security Council resolutions, which call for a free and impartial plebiscite in Jammu and Kashmir; Insists that the people of Jammu and Kashmir must be allowed to determine their own future, freely, fairly, and under the supervision of the United Nations; Affirms that while laws can be changed and imposed, the will of a people cannot be revoked by decree or force; Declares that from Srinagar to Islamabad, the heart beats as one for the freedom and dignity of Kashmir; Recognizes that 5th August is not merely a date in history, it is a continuing reminder of the need for global conscience and moral clarity on Kashmir; Resolves that Kashmiris have not surrendered and neither will Pakistan, in its principled support for their cause.	
Provincial Assembly of Balochistan	ہر گاہ کہ یہ ایوان گزشتہ شب رات کی تاریکی میں بزدل بھارت کی جانب سے پاکستان کی خود مختاری اور علاقائی سالمیت اور فضائی حدود کی سنگین خلاف ورزی کرتے ہوئے ملک کے مختلف مقامات جن میں مرید کے، احمد پور ریسٹ، مظفر آباد اور کوٹلی میں مساجد، سیالکوٹ کے گاؤں کوٹلی لوہاراں اور شکر گڑھ کے قریب ڈسپنری پر بلا اشتعال بزدلانہ حملے کئے گئے جس کے نتیجے میں معصوم اور سہتے متعدد عام پاکستانی شہری شہید اور زخمی ہوئے ہیں۔ کی شدید الفاظ میں مذمت کرتا ہے۔ یہ کہ بھارت کی جانب سے یہ کارروائی ان کی اندرونی سیاسی مشکلات اور انتہا پسندانہ بیانیے کو علاقائی تناؤ میں رکھنے کی شعوری مزموم کوشش ہے جو بین الاقوامی قوانین، اقوام متحدہ کے چارٹر اور دوطرفہ معاہدوں کی کھلی خلاف ورزی ہے۔ مزید برآں یہ حملہ خطے کے امن کو سپوتاؤ اور پاکستان کو غیر مستحکم کرنے کی سازش کا حصہ ہے۔ یہ ایوان پاک افوج کو دشمن کے اس قسم کے بزدلانہ، وحشیانہ، بلا اشتعال اور بلا جواز جارحیت کا فوری مکمل اور بھرپور منہ توڑ جواب دینے پر خراج تحسین پیش کرتا ہے۔ جہنوں نے نہایت ہی پیشہ ورانہ مہارت سے دشمن کی جارحیت کو ناکام بنایا۔ جس کی بدولت دشمن کے کئی قیمتی جنگی طیارے مار گرائے گئے اور لائن آف کنٹرول پر متعدد پوسٹیں تباہ کی گئیں۔ یہ ایوان اور بلوچستان کے غیور عوام مادر وطن کے چپے چپے کی حفاظت کے لئے ہر قربانی دینے کو تیار ہیں اور اپنی بہادر افواج کے شانہ بشانہ کھڑے ہیں۔ واضح رہے کہ پاکستان ایک پرامن ملک ہے۔ مگر اپنی خود مختاری، سالمیت اور اپنے شہریوں کے تحفظ کے لئے ہر سطح	07-05-2025

		پر مکمل دفاعی جواب دینے کی صلاحیت رکھتا ہے۔ یہ ایوان شہداء کے لواحقین سے دلی ہمدردی اور زخمیوں کی جلد صحت یابی کے لئے دعا گو ہے۔ مذکورہ بالا حقائق کو مد نظر رکھ کر یہ ایوان وفاقی حکومت سے مطالبہ کرتا ہے کہ وہ بھارت کی جانب سے حالیہ انسانی حقوق کی سنگین پامالی اور شہری علاقوں پر بلاوجہ حملے کرنے کے ثبوت فوری طور پر اقوام متحدہ، او آئی سی اور عالمی برادری کے سامنے پیش اور بھارت کے خطرناک عزائم اور مکروہ چہرہ دنیا کے سامنے اجاگر کرے۔	
Provincial Assembly of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	194	ہم خیر پختونخواہ کی صوبائی اسمبلی کے منتخب نمائندے، جموں و کشمیر کے عوام کے جائز مقصد کی غیر متزلزل حمایت میں متحد کھڑے ہیں۔ اور اقوام متحدہ کی سلامتی کونسل کی قرارداد 47 میں درج ان کے ناقابل متنبیخ حق خود ارادیت کی دوبارہ توثیق کرتے ہیں۔ ہم آرٹیکل 370 اور A-35 کی مقبومی، جاری انسانی حقوق کی خلاف ورزیوں، جعلی انتخابات اور کشمیریوں کے ساتھ ہونے والی نا انصافیوں اور بربریت کی شدید مذمت کرتے ہیں۔ یہ اقدامات جمہوری اصولوں اور بین الاقوامی قوانین کے خلاف ورزی ہیں۔ یہ ایوان تمام جابرانہ اقدامات کے فوری خاتمے کا مطالبہ کرتے ہیں اور جموں و کشمیر کے عوام کے لیے بنیادی حقوق اور آزادیوں کی مکمل بحالی کا مطالبہ کرتا ہے۔ عالمی برادری، خاص طور پر اقوام متحدہ سے اپیل کرتے ہیں کہ وہ مداخلت کرے اور جموں و کشمیر کے مستقبل کے تعین کے لیے اقوام متحدہ کی نگرانی میں آزاد، منصفانہ اور غیر جانبدارانہ ریفرنڈم کو یقینی بنائے۔ یہ ایوان اقوام متحدہ سے یہ بھی مطالبہ کرتا ہے کہ وہ انسانی حقوق کی خلاف ورزیوں کی تحقیقات کے لیے ایک آزاد کمیشن قائم کرے تاکہ متاثرہ آبادیوں کو انسانی امداد فراہم کرنے کے ساتھ سفارتی بات چیت کے ذریعے پرامن حل کے لیے راہ ہموار کی جاسکے۔ مزید یہ کہ یہ ایوان جموں و کشمیر کے عوام کے ساتھ یکجہتی کا اظہار کرتی ہے اور ان کے حقوق، آزادی اور وقار کے لیے اپنی حمایت جاری رکھنے کا عہد کرتی ہے۔	01-08-2025
Provincial Assembly of the Punjab	80	آج سے چھ سال قبل 5 اگست 2019 کو بھارت نے یکطرفہ اور غیر قانونی طور پر مقبوضہ جموں و کشمیر کی حیثیت کو تبدیل کر دیا۔ اس دن کی مناسبت سے صوبائی اسمبلی پنجاب کا یہ ایوان مقبوضہ جموں و کشمیر کے عوام کے ساتھ پاکستان کی غیر متزلزل سیاسی، سفارتی اور اخلاقی حمایت کی توثیق اور اعادہ کرتا ہے تاکہ کشمیری عوام اقوام متحدہ کی سلامتی کونسل کی متعلقہ قراردادوں میں مندرج اپنے حق خود ارادیت کے حصول کے لیے اپنی منصفانہ جدوجہد جاری رکھ سکیں۔ یہ ایوان مقبوضہ جموں و کشمیر پر اپنا قبضہ مستحکم کرنے اور اس کی بین الاقوامی سطح پر تسلیم شدہ متنازعہ حیثیت کو تبدیل کرنے کے لیے گزشتہ چھ سالوں کے دوران بھارت کی جانب سے متعارف کرائے گئے تمام اقدامات اور غیر قانونی طور پر مقبوضہ جموں و کشمیر کے آبادیائی ڈھانچے اور سیاسی منظر نامے کو تبدیل کرنے کے مقصد کیلئے بھارت کے قوانین اور پالیسیوں کو مسترد کرتا ہے۔ اس ایوان کی رائے ہے کہ یہ اقدامات اقوام متحدہ کی سلامتی کونسل کی متعلقہ قراردادوں اور بین الاقوامی قانون بشمول چوتھے جنیوا کنونشن کی سنگین خلاف ورزی ہیں۔ یہ ایوان کشمیری عوام کی بہادری، جرات اور قربانیوں کو خراج تحسین پیش کرتا ہے جو وقار اور ثابت قدمی کے ساتھ بھارتی قبضے کے خلاف مزاحمت جاری رکھے ہوئے ہیں۔ یہ ایوان مقبوضہ جموں و کشمیر میں بھارتی افواج کی جانب سے بڑے پیمانے پر ہونے والی انسانی حقوق کی خلاف ورزیوں کی مذمت کرتا ہے اور بھارت کے جارحانہ رویے پر شدید تشویش کا اظہار کرتا ہے، جو جنوبی ایشیا کی سلامتی کے لیے عدم استحکام کا باعث ہے۔ یہ ایوان آزاد جموں و کشمیر اور گلگت بلتستان کے حوالے سے بھارت کے اشتغال انگیز بیانات اور بے بنیاد دعویٰ کو دو ٹوک مسترد کرتے ہوئے اس امر پر زور دیتا ہے کہ مقبوضہ جموں و کشمیر تنازعے کو اقوام متحدہ کی سلامتی کونسل کی متعلقہ قراردادوں اور کشمیری عوام کی امنگوں کے مطابق حل کیا جائے۔ یہ ایوان مطالبہ کرتا ہے کہ بھارت 5 اگست 2019 کے اپنے غیر قانونی اور یکطرفہ اقدامات کو فوری طور پر واپس لے، انسانی حقوق کی صورت حال کو بہتر بنائے، کشمیری سیاسی قیدیوں کو رہا کرے، ظالمانہ قوانین کو منسوخ کرے، اور آزاد انسانی حقوق کے مبصرین، صحافیوں اور انسانی حقوق کے محافظوں کو مقبوضہ جموں و کشمیر تک بلا روک ٹوک رسائی کی اجازت دے۔	05-08-2025

Provincial Assembly of Sindh		WHEREAS the 5th August marks the sixth anniversary of India's illegal and unilateral actions of 5th August 2019 vis-à-vis Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK); AND WHEREAS this House - reaffirms Pakistan's unwavering political, diplomatic and moral support to the Kashmiri people in their just struggle for the rationalization of their inalienable right to self-determination as enshrined in the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions; rejects all Indian measures, introduced during last six years, to consolidate its occupation of IIOJK and to undermine its internationally recognized disputed status; further rejects India's laws and policies aimed at altering the demographic structure and political landscape of IIOJK; underscores that these measures constitute a flagrant violation of the relevant United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Resolutions, and the International Law, including 4th Geneva Convention; pays rich tribute to the valor, courage and sacrifices of the Kashmiri people, who continue to resist Indian occupation with dignity and steadfastness; condemns the widespread human rights violations being committed by the Indian occupation with dignity and steadfastness; condemns the widespread human rights violations being committed by the Indian forces in IIOJK; expresses grave concern over India's aggressive posture, which remains a destabilizing factor in the security environment of South Asia; rejects unequivocally India's provocative statements and unfounded claims regarding Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan; emphasizes that the Jammu and Kashmir dispute must be resolved in accordance with the relevant United National Security Council Resolutions and aspirations of the Kashmiri people. NOW, THEREFORE, this House resolves and demands that India should immediately reverse its illegal and unilateral actions of 5th August, 2019, improve human rights situation, release the Kashmiri political prisoners, repel draconian laws and allow the independent human rights observers, journalists, and human rights defenders unrestricted access to the IIOJK.	05-08-2025
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Group Photo of participants of PIPS Pre-Promotion Training Course or Section Officers of the National Assembly Secretariat, Islamabad, Wednesday, October 15, 2025



President of SZABIST, Ms. Shehnaz Wazir Ali, calls on Mr. Asim Khan Goraya, Executive Director PIPS, on Monday, October 6, 2025.



Lahore: Group Photo of the Participants of three-day Hands-On Training on Artificial Intelligence (AI) for the Officers of the Provincial Assembly of the Punjab Assembly Secretariat, October 1-3, 2025



Group Photo of Participants attending training program on “Parliamentary Business: Role and Functions of Council Officers” from all Federal Ministries and Divisions, October 8-9, 2025



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