

Over 95 percent of charter of demands of JAAC implemented by AJK Govt. sofar: PM Faisal Rathore:



ملفتر آباد، وزیر اعظم آزاد کشمیر فضل متناز راٹھورا آزاد جموں و کشمیر کا بین الاقوامی اجلاس کے بعد میڈیا کو بریفنگ دے رہے ہیں۔ وزیراعلیٰ حکومت دیوان علی خان چغتائی، چوہدری قاسم مجید، چوہدری رفیق نیر، چیف سیکرٹری خوشحال خان، پرنسپل سیکرٹری ظفر محمود خان، سیکرٹری اطلاعات عدنان خورشید بھی موجود ہیں۔

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MIRPUR (AJK), January 2: Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) Prime Minister Faisal Mumtaz Rathore

on Friday announced that over 95 percent of the charter of demands of the Joint Awami Action

Committee (JAAC) has been implemented in letter and spirit by the AJK government.

Briefing the media after a cabinet meeting in the state capital, PM Rathore said his government prioritized resolving public grievances, noting that the people's concerns, which had led to protests last year, were addressed promptly. "During the past two and a half years, a gap existed between the government and the people, which has now been effectively bridged," he said. The Prime Minister reiterated that dialogue and consultation remain the key approaches for resolving even the most complex issues and emphasized that the welfare of citizens and development of the state are the government's foremost priorities.

PM Rathore also confirmed plans to hold an investment conference aimed at promoting economic opportunities and reaffirmed the government's commitment to ensuring free and fair elections in the state. He stressed that protecting the state's vital interests takes precedence over political considerations or individual egos.

Finance Minister Chaudhry Qasim Majeed provided a detailed, clause-wise update on the implementation of the 39-point JAAC agreement:

- **FIRs and Justice:** Out of 192 FIRs, 177 have been withdrawn. The remaining 15 FIRs related to deaths have been referred to the cabinet. Judicial commissions are being appointed to review these FIRs, demonstrating the government's commitment to justice and public trust.

- **Compensation & Employment:** Families of those killed or injured in October 1–2, 2025 incidents have received compensation. Employment has been provided to one member of each deceased family in the Electricity Department. Notably, the brothers of the late Fayyaz and late Azhar have been provided jobs in the Electrical Department.
- **Education:** Two new intermediate and secondary education boards have been approved for Muzaffarabad and Poonch divisions. Admissions to all higher education institutions under the Department of Higher Education will be strictly on open merit.
- **Healthcare:** Health cards will be issued starting January 20. PC-1 for Rs. 5.5 billion has been approved for the installation of MRI and CT scan machines in all district hospitals, with federal government funding requested.
- **Infrastructure & Water Projects:** The Gulpur Bridge in Kotli district has been included in the ADP. The Central Design Office has assessed Rehman Bridge as satisfactory, with the approach road being rebuilt. Feasibility studies and construction of water supply projects in ten districts, including Jhelum Valley, Haveli, Muzaffarabad, Kotli, and Sidhnoti, are ongoing. The Muzaffarabad–Mansehra Expressway is under review for potential Saudi funding. The Kahuta–Azad Pattan Road is being realigned and reconditioned. Tunnels in Neelum Valley have been reassessed.

- **Electricity & Energy:** The federal government has assured Rs. 10 billion for electricity system upgrades. Electricity tariffs have been fixed for commercial consumers at Rs. 25 per unit for consumption up to 1,500 units and Rs. 35 for higher usage. E-tendering has been adopted for meter procurement, and measures are being taken to prevent electricity theft.
- **Hydropower & Water Projects:** The draft agreement for the Neelum-Jhelum Hydropower Project has been submitted to the federal government. Several water supply schemes are under construction or design phase, with feasibility studies in progress for remaining districts.
- **Governance & Administration:** Cabinet size has been maintained at 20 members with 20 secretaries plus the Chief Secretary. The Local Government Act has been replaced with the 1990 Act, pending High Court approval. The Accountability Bureau and Anti-Corruption Bureau have been merged, with amendments to take effect after the next assembly session. A constitutional committee on refugee seats has been formed, currently meeting in Islamabad. A transport policy has been approved to ensure proper use of government vehicles and appoint a transport officer in each department. Only government departments will use green number plates.
- **Public Welfare:** A garbage segregation scheme has been included in the ADP. The CEO of the Universal Service Fund has been appointed to improve cellular and internet services. A committee comprising ministers and student representatives has been formed to revive student unions and

propose a code of conduct. Electricity tariffs for private schools have been revised, and steps are being taken to ensure accountability in billing and service provision.

- Finance & Banking: Rs. 2.9 billion has been allocated for scheduling the Bank of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, with the application process underway. Scrapping of advance tax under Article 20 is under review due to projected budgetary shortfalls.

A Monitoring and Implementation Committee has been established to oversee the execution of the agreement, with its next meeting scheduled for January 5, 2026.

Finance Minister Chaudhry Qasim Majeed expressed gratitude to the Government of Pakistan, including the President and Prime Minister, the PPP Chairman, and national institutions for their cooperation in successfully implementing the agreement. Government ministers Diwan Ali Khan Chughtai, Chaudhry Rafique Nayyar, Chief Secretary Khushal Khan, Principal Secretary Zafar Mahmood Khan, and Information Secretary Adnan Khurshid were present at the briefing.

Summary: The AJK government has largely fulfilled the JAAC's demands, addressing public grievances through compensation, FIR review, education reforms, healthcare expansion, infrastructure and water projects, electricity upgrades, governance reforms, and public welfare initiatives. The Monitoring and Implementation Committee continues to oversee progress, ensuring that remaining measures are executed efficiently.

