SENATE OF PAKISTAN

REPORT OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INTER PROVINCIAL COORDINATION

REPORT OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INTER PROVINCIAL COORDINATION ON "THE MATTER RAISED BY SENATOR MUHAMMAD TALHA MEHMOOD ON 23RD JANUARY, 2026, PERTAINING TO COORDINATION, FACILITATION, POLICY INTEGRATION AND INTERNATIONAL PROMOTION OF TOURISM IN CHITRAL"

PRESENTED BY

SENATOR DILAWAR KHAN

CHAIRMAN

SENATE SECRETARIAT

REPORT OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INTER PROVINCIAL COORDINATION ON "THE MATTER RAISED BY SENATOR MUHAMMAD TALHA MEHMOOD ON 23RD JANUARY, 2026, PERTAINING TO COORDINATION, FACILITATION, POLICY INTEGRATION AND INTERNATIONAL PROMOTION OF TOURISM IN CHITRAL"

I, Senator Dilawar Khan, Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Inter Provincial Coordination have the honor to present the report of the Committee on "The matter raised by Senator Muhammad Talha Mehmood on 23rd January, 2026, pertaining to coordination, facilitation, policy integration and international promotion of tourism in Chitral". The Committee comprises of the following honorable Members:-

1.	**Senator Dilawar Khan**	**Chairman**
2.	Senator Gurdeep Singh	Member
3.	Senator Mirza Muhammad Afridi	Member
4.	Senator Noor-ul-Haq Qadri	Member
5.	Senator Aimal Wali Khan	Member
6.	Senator Rubina Qaim Khani	Member
7.	Senator Syed Kazim Ali Shah	Member
8.	Senator Rubina Khalid	Member
9.	Senator Musadik Masood Malik	Member
10.	Senator Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi	Member
11.	Senator Zamir Hussain Ghumro	Member
12.	Senator Saeed Ahmed Hashmi	Member
13.	Minister In-Charge, IPC	Ex -Officio Member

2. The Committee considered the matter in its meetings held on 8th April and 5th May, 2nd July and 7th August 2026. The meeting held on 8th April, 2026, was held at 2:00 p.m. in Committee Room No. 04, Parliament House, Islamabad. It was attended by the following Members. The agenda was deferred on request of the mover.

1.	Senator Dilawar Khan	Chairman
2.	Senator Rubina Khalid	Member

3. The meeting held on 5th May, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. in the Old PIPS Hall, Parliament Lodges, Islamabad. It was attended by the following Members.

1.	Senator Dilawar Khan	Chairman
2.	Senator Aimal Wali Khan	Member
3.	Senator Rubina Qaim Khani	Member
4.	Senator Syed Kazim Ali Shah	Member
5.	Senator Muhammad Talha Mehmood	Mover

4. The MD PTDC briefed the Committee that, following the 18th Amendment, tourism became a provincial subject, while PTDC's role is now limited to coordination, international tourism promotion, marketing, branding, stakeholder engagement, investment facilitation, and Federal-provincial coordination. In 2022, PTDC properties were transferred to the provinces, with KP receiving 19 properties, including five motels in Chitral. These were subsequently leased to Green Tourism under SIFC, with the Federal Government entitled to 10% of profits under the Revenue Sharing Agreement. PTDC also highlighted its promotional activities through digital platforms, maps and brochures, UNESCO collaboration, and engagement with Saudi and Qatari investors. The Committee questioned PTDC's role after the transfer of its properties and was apprised of its revised functions.

5. Senator Talha Mehmood highlighted key tourism challenges in Chitral, including poor roads and access to tourist sites, Lowari Tunnel's safety concerns and winter closures, inadequate air connectivity, internet, health and emergency services, security-related NOCs for foreign tourists, electricity and fuel shortages, and concerns regarding the Kalash Valley Development Authority. Senator Aimal Wali Khan noted similar infrastructure gaps across KP; from Malakand to Waziristan, despite significant tourism and foreign-exchange potential. The Committee decided to hold a dedicated meeting on Chitral tourism with all relevant departments and stakeholders.

6. The meeting held on 2nd July, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. in the Committee Room No. 4, Parliament House, Islamabad. It was attended by the following Members:

1.	Senator Dilawar Khan	Chairman
2.	Senator Aimal Wali Khan	Member
3.	Senator Rubina Qaim Khani	Member
4.	Senator Syed Kazim Ali Shah	Member
5.	Senator Rubina Khalid	Member
6.	Senator Muhammad Talha Mehmood	Mover
7.	Senator Nasir Mehmood Butt	Special Invitee
8.	Senator Naseema Ehsan	Special Invitee
9.	Senator Muhammad Abdul Qadir	Special Invitee
10.	Senator Ahmed Khan	Special Invitee

7. The DG, Kalash Valleys Development Authority, briefed the Committee on the cultural significance and development needs of the Kalash Valleys, noting their inclusion in UNESCO's Tentative World Heritage List, a population of 17,957 with the Kalash community comprising 23%, and the unique heritage of Birir, Rumbur, Bumburate and Jingjiret Kuh. The Committee expressed concern over unplanned concrete construction, poor roads, long travel times and frequent landslides. Members proposed extending the Swat Expressway through Dir, Chitral, Ghizer and Gilgit as a safer northern route. NHA informed that technical evaluation of the N-45 project, financed by Korean Exim Bank, was complete and financing-agency concurrence awaited. Members opposed cancellation of the procurement process, citing seven years of preparatory work and likely cost escalation. Regarding Lowari Tunnel, the Committee was informed that the Rs.33 billion PC-I for electro-mechanical systems had been approved, 540 lights restored, 1,175 additional lights were being installed, and four backup generators provided, with completion expected within three months.

8. The Committee reviewed deteriorated roads in Chitral, Malakand and adjoining tourist areas, including potholes, inadequate retaining walls and drainage, landslides and flood damage, and directed NHA to provide comparative tender details and complete project documentation. NHA reported that work from Chui Bridge to Chitral University had commenced, asphalt works were expected within a month, and interim maintenance had started on the Kalkatak section. Members raised concerns over load shedding, inadequate transformers, limited local benefit from Golen Gol and Singoor hydropower projects, high electricity bills and PEDO-PESCO tariff disparities. The Committee also noted inadequate FIA, NADRA and passport services in Chitral, with the Ministry of Interior assuring necessary action. Members criticized weak feasibility studies, fragmented and delayed funding, prolonged implementation and cost escalation, and recommended completing essential ongoing projects before initiating new schemes. The Chair endorsed the recommendation for raising the matter before the Senate.

9. The meeting held on 7th August, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. in the Committee Room No. 1, Parliament House, Islamabad. It was attended by the following Members:

1.	Senator Dilawar Khan	Chairman
2.	Senator Aimal Wali Khan	Member
3.	Senator Syed Kazim Ali Shah	Member
4.	Senator Zamir Hussain Ghumro	Member
5.	Senator Naseema Ehsan	Special Invitee
6.	Senator Muhammad Abdul Qadir	Special Invitee

7.	Senator Hidayatullah Khan	Special Invitee
8.	Senator Saifullah Abro	Special Invitee

10. The Committee was informed that 19 PTDC properties were transferred to KP following the 18th Amendment, with subletting through open bidding and 10% annual revenue payable to PTDC. KP cleared liabilities of its domiciled employees, while Green Tourism took over most properties for renovation and upgradation; Buni, Mastuj, Bumburate, Chitral Town and Birir properties are being operationalized. The Secretary IPC clarified PTDC's post-18th Amendment role as a national body for policy, coordination, marketing, branding, international tourism promotion and security vetting. Members sought a progress report, including photographs, to ensure properties do not deteriorate during renovation. NHA reported progress on Lowari Tunnel lighting and generators, reopening of flood-damaged Garam Chashma Road, and estimated Rs.9 billion requirement for the Chitral-Shandur section. The Committee expressed concern over inadequate funding, noting that only Rs.500 million was allocated against the approved Rs.33 billion PC-I for the tunnel's complete electro-mechanical systems.

11. The Committee was briefed that the 130-km Chakdara–Chitral project, financed by Korean Exim Bank, is divided into three sections, with the Kalkatak–Chitral section retendered in 2026 and awaiting final financing-agency clearance. Members raised concerns over delays and frequent accidents due to heavy traffic. PTA reported that 60–70% of mobile sites in Chitral are supported through USF and operate on generators/solar power due to 12–13 hours of daily load shedding. The Committee called for coordinated PTA-USF action on new sites, quality surveys, redundant fibre links and fiberization. PEDO informed that the 4.8 MW Reshun HPP, destroyed in the 2015 floods, was replaced by supply from Golen Gol HPP through PESCO, resulting in a Rs.3.2 billion commercial-tariff bill to PEDO. NEPRA directed asset transfer to PESCO, but the Business Transfer Agreement remains pending. Members also raised concerns over the inadequate original design of Reshun HPP against flood risks.

12. After detailed discussions and deliberations the Committee recommends to the House that:

a. Instead of thinning out PSDP funds across multiple concurrent projects. The focus should be on fully funding and completing prioritized projects one by one to prevent material cost escalations.
b. There should be active coordination between the Senate Standing Committees on Communications and the Economic Affairs Division (EAD) to remove the current bureaucratic logjam halting the Korean Exim Bank sponsored procurements for N-45 project.
c. NHA should expand the Swat Expressway network from Chakdara through Upper Dir and Chitral straight to Gilgit via Ghizer to form a highly lucrative, alternative tourism corridor.

d. A letter should be dispatched to the provincial Communication and Works (C&W) Department to repair the completely ruined, flood eroded roads of Madaklasht and Shishi Koh.
e. NHA should engage with the concerned Ministry to resolve the deadlock regarding the Korean Exim Bank-funded N-45 Highway project and avoid cancellation of the procurement process.
f. NHA should complete installation of lighting and backup systems in the Lowari Tunnel within the committed three month timeframe.
g. NHA should submit to the Standing Committee:
    i. Comparative statement of bids.
    ii. Tender evaluation summary.
    iii. Details regarding drainage omissions and engineering decisions for affected road sections.
h. The Ministry of Interior should coordinate with the Director General FIA for establishment of FIA presence in Chitral and submit a compliance report to the Committee.
i. The concerned authorities should examine the need for additional NADRA and Passport offices in Upper and Lower Chitral.
j. PESCO should review electricity infrastructure in Chitral, including transformer capacity, tariff issues and local power distribution.
k. The Committee directed PTDC, KP Tourism, and leased entities to submit a detailed progress report, including lease evaluations, approval records, asset lists, revenue details, employment data, and photographic proof of ongoing renovations by the provinces.
l. NHA shall submit a formal written commissioning report and completion certificate for Lowari Tunnel lighting and safety works within two months.
m. The Committee unanimously recommended that EAD, the Ministry of Communications, and NHA take up the matter with Korean Exim Bank to expedite technical concurrence, open financial bids, and award Section-3 (Kalkatak to Chitral) to the lowest bidder immediately.
n. Telecom operators must maintain backup generators and solar systems rather than relying solely on grid power or citing fuel delivery obstacles. USF is to present its full execution plan for under served areas.

13. The Committee also gave approval for presentation of this report to the House.

(SHAGUFTA SHAUKAT)
Secretary Committee

(SENATOR DILAWAR KHAN)
Chairman Committee