

PMDC Embarks on the Next Phase of Mineral Exploration in Gilgit Baltistan

PMDC's exploration footprint in Gilgit Baltistan (GB) dates back to the early 1970s. In collaboration with international partners, PMDC's Exploration Cell has undertaken several key projects across the region. Notably, the *Indus Gold and Heavy Mineral Project* was executed in partnership with Austromineral (an Austrian state-owned enterprise) to explore placer gold across GB.

Additionally, a regional-scale geochemical prospection project for gold and base metals was conducted with support from AusAID. Phase I of this project covered approximately 50,000 sq. km and generated world-class exploration data. A total of 4,096 stream sediment samples and 736 rock samples were collected, leading to the identification of numerous anomalies and several promising targets for further investigation.

Recognizing the strategic value of this data and the need to advance to the next phase of exploration, the Managing Director of PMDC held a high-level meeting with the Chief Secretary of GB on July 8, 2025, in Gilgit city. The meeting proved highly productive. The Chief Secretary acknowledged PMDC's extensive technical work and longstanding experience in mineral exploration and expressed strong support for PMDC to take the lead in future initiatives.

Both parties agreed to collaborate closely on advancing exploration efforts in the region. The GB government also extended its support for the issuance of Exploration Licenses (ELs) and Mining Leases (MLs) to PMDC. The meeting concluded with consensus that both parties will establish a joint venture company, which will be allocated exploration blocks, where future exploration activities will be carried out collaboratively.

Following the meeting, the MD-PMDC, accompanied by the GB Exploration Team, conducted a field visit to key identified prospects. The visit aimed to assess ground conditions, accessibility, and logistical requirements in preparation for Phase II exploration activities.

This strategic engagement and response from GB marks a significant step towards establishing PMDC as the lead agency in the development of GB's mineral sector—advancing the national vision under the directives of the Mineral Wing, Ministry of Energy (Petroleum Division), and the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC).

(Please scrolldown for pictures)

