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Each week, significant economic activities and developments occur across various sectors in Afghanistan. The Afghanistan's Economic Development Newsletter covers these important and latest economic activities and advancements.

In this issue:

WORK BEGINS ON THREE INDUSTRIAL PARKS COVERING 33,679 JERIBS OF LAND IN THE NORTHERN PROVINCES

In Afghanistan's northern provinces of Kunduz, Baghlan, and Balkh, work has commenced on the construction of three major industrial parks under the direction of the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund. The three industrial parks collectively cover an area of 33,679 jeribs. The development of these industrial areas will create significant economic potential for expanding domestic production capacity, processing raw materials, creating investment opportunities, producing alternatives to imports, and expanding exports.

In Kunduz province, the Abdul Rahman bin Sumrah (RA) Industrial Park covers an area of 10,000 jeribs. The industrial park will provide investment opportunities in textiles, pharmaceuticals, food products, construction materials, iron and steel, and other productive sectors. In addition, administrative and commercial areas, a bank, hospital, school, madrasa, mosque, and other essential services have been planned to support industrial activities.

In Baghlan province, the Qutaybah ibn Saeed al-Baghlani (RA) Industrial Park covers an area of 1,679 jeribs. Its development will provide industrialists with organized areas for productive activities and create opportunities for processing domestic raw materials and expanding production. The expansion of activities in this industrial park will also create employment opportunities for thousands of citizens.

In Balkh province, the Imam Shaqiq Balkhi (RA) Industrial Township covers an area of 22,000 jeribs. The industrial township will provide opportunities for processing raw materials, producing standardized products, and expanding exports. Its location near the Hairatan Roundabout also gives it economic significance in terms of trade and transit, as Hairatan is one of Afghanistan's major trade routes and can facilitate the development of transit facilities for exporting domestically produced goods.

The fundamental economic significance of these industrial parks lies in their ability to facilitate the processing of raw materials from different parts of the country. Large quantities of raw materials are produced through Afghanistan's agriculture, livestock, mining, and other economic sectors; however, the shortage of processing and production infrastructure creates challenges. The development of industrial parks can strengthen the linkages between raw-material processing, production, and markets.

Strengthening productive capacity will also contribute to increasing the production of goods needed by the domestic market and reducing reliance on imported products. At the same time, the production of standardized goods will create opportunities for domestic products to move beyond the Afghan market into regional and global markets, thereby expanding economic activity through exports.

Another important outcome of developing the three industrial parks is the creation of an organized environment for private investors and industrialists to conduct their activities. Providing essential services and infrastructure alongside the industrial parks will create a suitable environment for investors to undertake long-term operations.

Overall, the development of these three industrial parks and townships in Kunduz, Baghlan, and Balkh, covering a total of 33,679 jeribs of land, represents an important component of the expansion of Afghanistan's industrial infrastructure. The completion of these projects and the commencement of productive activities by investors and industrialists will create opportunities to increase domestic production, add value to raw materials, create employment opportunities, produce alternatives to imports, and expand exports.