



# ISLAMABAD HIGH COURT, ISLAMABAD

## Annual Report

### Expeditious Disposal of Tax & Revenue Cases

In line with the policy directions of the National Judicial (Policy Making) Committee (NJPMC), the Hon'ble Chief Justice undertook a series of well-considered, decisive, and result-oriented administrative reforms aimed at ensuring the timely, effective, and meaningful disposal of cases. These measures were designed not only to address systemic delays but also to reinforce public confidence in the justice delivery system, recognizing the public as the ultimate stakeholder and beneficiary of judicial competence.

One of the most significant initiatives under this reform agenda was the constitution of Specialized Benches to address matters which, at the national level, had remained a persistent source of concern due to prolonged pendency and its adverse impact on revenue realization and economic circulation. Judicial delay in such matters had resulted in substantial public revenue remaining locked in litigation, underscoring the need for focused and specialized judicial attention. Through this proactive and strategically coordinated administrative intervention, the Hon'ble Chief Justice demonstrated effective judicial leadership by adopting a targeted approach to case management. The initiative reflects a clear understanding that purposeful administrative reforms, when aligned with institutional priorities, are capable of delivering tangible and measurable outcomes within a comparatively short span of time.

Accordingly, two dedicated Division Benches were constituted exclusively to hear and decide pending tax references. One Division Bench comprised Hon'ble Mr. Justice Babar Sattar and Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sardar Ejaz Ishaq Khan, while the other comprised Hon'ble Mr. Justice Muhammad Azam Khan and Hon'ble Mr. Justice Inaam Ameen Minhas. These Benches were entrusted solely with the adjudication of tax matters, ensuring focused hearings, consistency in approach, and expeditious disposal. As a result of this targeted judicial arrangement, a substantial reduction in the pendency of tax cases was achieved. The Specialized Division Benches adjudicated tax matters involving approximately **Rs. 506 billion**, facilitating the early release of revenue previously tied up in litigation and making a positive contribution to the national fiscal stream. The outcomes of this initiative clearly validate the decision to constitute Specialized Benches and underscore its effectiveness as a best-practice model for addressing complex and high-impact categories of cases. The details of cases decided by the dedicated/Specialized Tax Benches during 01.04.2025 to 04.02.2026 along with the revenue involved is mentioned as under: -

Hon'ble Special Division Bench (Tax & Revenue)	Numbers of Decided Cases	Revenue Involved
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Babar Sattar and Mr. Justice Sardar Ejaz Ishaq Khan	306	16,020,050,985/-
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Babar Sattar and Ms. Justice Saman Rafat Imtiaz	304	33,923,686,509/-
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Muhammad Azam	178	456,187,000,000/-

Khan and Mr. Justice Inaam Ameen Minhas		
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>788</b>	<b>506,130,737,494/-</b>

The data demonstrates that the constitution of Specialized Tax Benches proved to be a timely and effective administrative measure. By introducing judicial specialization and disciplined case management, the initiative not only reduced pendency but also facilitated early realization of public revenue. The outcomes underscore the Court's institutional capacity to respond proactively to complex and high-value litigation and affirm that well-planned administrative reforms, implemented in consonance with NJPMC policy objectives, can meaningfully enhance judicial efficiency while reinforcing public trust in the justice delivery system.

Further, under the vision of the Hon'ble Chief Justice, the Court has leveraged modern information technology as a primary tool to ensure the expeditious disposal of tax and revenue cases. Dedicated focal persons have been appointed from the respective revenue departments to oversee and facilitate the timely service of notices, thereby ensuring close coordination between the Court and departmental offices. Notices are now issued through advanced communication channels, including WhatsApp, email, and other electronic means, in addition to conventional methods. This technologically enabled approach has not only guaranteed effective and prompt service of notices but has also significantly accelerated the adjudication process, enabling the timely disposal of tax and revenue matters while optimizing institutional resources.

In addition, the following Specialized Benches were Constituted by the Hon'ble Chief Justice for expeditious disposal of cases: -

Sr#	Hon'ble Division Bench	Matter
01	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Arbab Muhammad Tahir	Matters pertaining to Educational Institutions but not limited to Medical Colleges.
02	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Khadim Hussain Soomro & Hon'ble Mr. Muhammad Azam Khan	Cases filed Under Financial Institution (Recovery of Finance) Ordinance, 2001 in exercise of original civil jurisdiction, Privatization Commission (Amendment Act), 2020.
03	Hon'ble Chief Justice Mr. Justice Sardar Muhammad Sarfraz Dogar, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani & Hon'ble Mr. Justice Khadim Hussain Soomro	Case filed under Section 5(4) of the Companies Act, 2017, Under Section 8(B) of the Corporate Restructuring Companies (Amendment) Act, 2021 and SECP Act, 1997

### **Expeditious Disposal of Bail Matters**

In bailable cases, grant of bail is a statutory right of the accused. That's why, in accordance with the directions of the National Judicial (Policy Making) Committee (NJPMC), the Islamabad High Court has implemented decisive and result-oriented measures to expedite the disposal of bail applications and enhance overall procedural adeptness. Historically, delays in bail proceedings were frequently caused by the time required for service of notices. Acting on the directions of the Hon'ble Chief Justice, a dedicated police cell was established within the Court premises, operating in close

coordination with the wider police department. This intervention has leveraged modern administrative mechanisms to ensure that notices are now served within minutes and records summoned by the Court are received well in advance of subsequent hearings. As a result, approximately 3,000+ bail applications have been disposed of during the past year, demonstrating the effectiveness of this targeted administrative initiative and the Court's commitment to timely and meaningful justice.

Building upon this initiative, the Hon'ble Chief Justice has further approved Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for video-link proceedings, incorporating modern technology to streamline judicial processes. Under these SOPs, Under Trial Prisoners (UTPs) may participate remotely in routine remand hearings, pre-trial formalities, bail applications, case management matters, and other non-substantive proceedings, while physical attendance remains mandatory for framing of charges and recording of statements under Section 342 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898. Adequate provisions ensure confidential consultation between UTPs and their counsel through secure digital channels, and multi-point video conferencing is employed when UTPs cannot personally appear for recording statements of official witnesses. All proceedings conducted via video link are recorded, preserved as part of the official Court record, and maintained digitally to ensure transparency and accountability. Coordination with jail authorities, including advance sharing of daily schedules, facilitates seamless execution of these proceedings.

Similarly, official witnesses including government officers, police personnel, medical professionals, and technical experts from agencies such as NADRA, FSL, FIA, and PTA may appear via video link from their offices, nearest district courts, or designated government facilities. Witness identity and credentials are verified in advance, and strict procedural safeguards are enforced to maintain decorum, confidentiality, and security. Registers or logs are maintained to document all appearances, and participation by unauthorized persons is strictly prohibited without Court approval. By integrating technology with streamlined administrative procedures, these reforms have substantially reduced procedural delays, enhanced transparency, and strengthened the Court's capacity to deliver timely and effective justice across a wide spectrum of cases, thereby reinforcing and public confidence in the judicial system.

Further, the Court is actively working to integrate its digital systems with those of key law enforcement agencies, including the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) and designated Police Stations across Islamabad. This integration will provide the Court with direct, real-time access to FIRs, investigation reports, case files, and other relevant records, thereby minimizing delays caused by manual communication and physical transfer of documents. By streamlining the flow of information between the judiciary and investigative authorities, this initiative is expected to significantly expedite the adjudication of criminal cases, improve procedural effectiveness, and reduce case pendency. These measures form part of the Court's broader commitment to leveraging modern technology, enhancing administrative transparency, and strengthening the overall effectiveness of the justice delivery system.

### **Bench-Wise Disposal of Cases**

In continuation of the administrative and judicial reforms undertaken during the reporting period, particular emphasis was placed on enhancing bench-wise case management to

ensure balanced workload distribution and sustained disposal efficiency across the Court. The bench-wise monitoring of case disposal from 01.04.2025 to 04.02.2026 was adopted as a key performance mechanism to objectively assess judicial output, identify trends in case flow, and facilitate informed administrative decision-making.

This structured approach enabled the Court to maintain consistency in disposal rates while preserving judicial independence and procedural fairness. By analyzing disposal figures on a bench-wise basis, the Court ensured transparency, accountability, and effective utilization of judicial time, thereby reinforcing institutional competence. The data presented below reflects the collective contribution of various Benches during the stated period and demonstrates the Court's sustained commitment to timely justice through coordinated judicial functioning.

BENCH	OLD	URGENT	MOTION	NOTICE	OTHER	CM	TOTAL
The Honourable Chief Justice	0	79	3	21	4	0	1115
Honourable Mr. Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani	2	16	3	32	5	1	961
Honourable Mr. Justice Babar Sattar	0	24	3	17	1	1	235
Honourable Mr. Justice Sardar Ejaz Ishaq Khan	0	0	0	1	0	0	244
Honourable Mr. Justice Arbab Muhammad Tahir	5	22	12	27	8	5	774
Honourable Ms. Justice Saman Rafat Imtiaz	0	18	12	14	4	1	511
Honourable Mr. Justice Khadim Hussain Soomro	0	9	2	16	0	4	568
Honourable Mr. Justice Muhammad Azam Khan	2	26	14	234	48	4	1977
Honourable Mr. Justice Muhammad Asif	1	15	3	129	10	4	1495
Honourable Mr. Justice Inaam Ameen Minhas	5	43	11	161	21	7	2176

### **Judges Confirmation**

During the reporting period, the following Hon'ble Judges were appointed as Additional Judges of the Islamabad High Court on 20 January 2025:

1. Hon'ble Mr. Justice Muhammad Azam Khan

2. Hon'ble Mr. Justice Muhammad Asif
3. Hon'ble Mr. Justice Inaam Ameen Minhas

Throughout their tenure as Additional Judges, the above-named Hon'ble Judges performed their judicial responsibilities with sustained diligence, consistency, and a high sense of professional responsibility. They remained actively engaged in the adjudication of a wide range of matters encompassing diverse jurisdictions, including but not limited to tax and financial recovery cases, service-related disputes, family and rent matters, constitutional petitions, and habeas corpus proceedings. Many of these cases involved complex legal questions and urgent issues affecting fundamental rights, public revenue, and personal liberty, requiring prompt attention and careful judicial scrutiny. Their continued judicial engagement contributed meaningfully to the overall reduction of case pendency and improved case flow management, particularly in categories requiring expeditious disposal. While ensuring timely adjudication, the Hon'ble Judges consistently adhered to constitutional mandates, statutory requirements, and settled legal principles, thereby balancing efficiency with fairness and due process.

During the reporting period, the Hon'ble Additional Judges demonstrated exceptional judicial output and professional commitment. Hon'ble Mr. Justice Muhammad Azam Khan decided a total of 1,977 cases, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Inaam Ameen Minhas disposed of 2,176 cases, while Hon'ble Mr. Justice Muhammad Asif decided 1,495 cases. Their substantial case disposal across diverse jurisdictions significantly contributed to reducing pendency and enhancing the overall progress of the Court.

Upon completion of the prescribed tenure and following an objective assessment of their judicial performance, integrity, and conduct, the Hon'ble Judges were confirmed by the Judicial Commission of Pakistan in accordance with the Constitution and applicable law. Their confirmation reflects institutional recognition of their competence, commitment, and ability to contribute effectively to the administration of justice on a sustained basis, and reinforces continuity and stability within the judicial framework of the Islamabad High Court.

Notably, this confirmation represents a historic milestone for the Islamabad High Court, as it marks the first instance since the establishment of the Court where all Hon'ble Additional Judges were confirmed simultaneously and without any extension of tenure. This unprecedented development underscores the exceptional performance of the Hon'ble Judges and reinforces the effectiveness of the Court's institutional evaluation and judicial strengthening mechanisms.

### **Landmark Administrative Reforms and Institutional Strengthening Initiatives**

During the reporting period, the Islamabad High Court undertook a series of landmark administrative reforms aimed at addressing long-standing institutional gaps and completing foundational tasks that had remained pending since the establishment of the Court. These initiatives reflect a sustained commitment to strengthening the judicial framework, enhancing procedural clarity, improving service delivery, and aligning court administration with contemporary judicial needs.

## **1. Framing and Enforcement of Practice and Procedure Rules**

A major milestone achieved during the period was the formulation and enforcement of comprehensive Practice and Procedure Rules governing the functioning of the Islamabad High Court and the subordinate judiciary. These rules came into force with effect from 04.02.2025 and provide a consolidated, structured, and uniform procedural framework. The following volumes were finalized and notified:

- i. **The Civil Courts Rules, Islamabad High Court, Islamabad (Volumes I & II);**
- ii. **Instructions to Criminal Courts (Volume III);**
- iii. **The Islamabad High Court Superintendence and Control (Subordinate Judiciary) Rules (Volume IV); and**
- iv. **The Islamabad High Court Practice and Procedure Rules (Volume V).**

These instruments collectively streamline judicial procedures, reinforce supervisory mechanisms, and ensure consistency in court practices across all tiers.

## **2. Establishment Rules for High Court Employees**

The Islamabad High Court Establishment (Appointment and Conditions of Service) Rules, 2025 were framed and notified, providing a clear statutory framework governing recruitment, service conditions, and career progression of Court employees. This long-awaited reform has strengthened administrative transparency and institutional governance.

## **3. Standard Operating Procedures for Video Link Proceedings**

In order to modernize judicial proceedings and facilitate effective remote hearings, the Islamabad High Court formulated and implemented comprehensive Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for Video Link Proceedings. These SOPs establish a structured framework for conducting hearings through secure and reliable digital platforms, ensuring procedural integrity, confidentiality, and judicial decorum. The introduction of video link mechanisms has significantly reduced logistical and geographical constraints, minimized unnecessary adjournments, and enhanced access to justice, particularly for litigants, witnesses, and counsel located outside the territorial jurisdiction of the Court. This initiative has contributed to greater procedural competence, timely disposal of cases, and the adoption of technology-driven judicial practices in line with contemporary standards.

## **4. E-Filing Framework and Specialized Bench for Overseas Pakistanis**

In recognition of the unique challenges faced by Overseas Pakistanis in accessing judicial forums, the Islamabad High Court introduced specialized E-Filing Rules for Overseas Pakistanis to facilitate seamless and remote access to judicial processes. These rules enable litigants residing abroad to institute proceedings, submit pleadings, and pursue legal remedies electronically without the necessity of physical presence, thereby significantly reducing procedural and logistical barriers. Complementing this technological initiative, the Court also nominated Specialized Bench exclusively to hear

cases of Overseas Pakistanis, ensuring focused adjudication, procedural consistency, and expeditious disposal of such matters. Collectively, these measures have enhanced inclusivity, strengthened institutional responsiveness, and reinforced the Court's commitment to equitable access to justice for the global Pakistani diaspora through modern, citizen-centric judicial reforms.

#### **5. Digital Transformation of the Copying Branch for Expeditious Supply of Certified Copies**

A comprehensive digital transformation of the Copying Branch was undertaken to modernize workflows and ensure the expeditious issuance of certified copies. Through the integration of information technology, automation of record management, and streamlining of verification processes, the turnaround time for issuance of certified copies has been substantially reduced. This technology-driven approach streamlines delivery by ensuring that certified copies are now provided same day within hours, offering swift, reliable, and efficient support to advocates and litigants alike. The initiative reflects the Islamabad High Court's commitment to adoption of modern technology, and strengthening of public confidence in judicial administration.

#### **6. Issuance of Fitness Certificates for Supreme Court Enrollment**

During the year 2025, this Court issued 240 fitness certificates to advocates for their enrollment in the Hon'ble Supreme Court, enabling them to advance their practice at the highest level, while 457 advocates were enrolled as Advocate High Court. This process was carried out in accordance with applicable rules and prescribed criteria, reflecting the Islamabad High Court's active role in supporting professional advancement, maintaining high standards within the legal profession, and ensuring institutional facilitation for advocates aspiring to practice before the apex Court.

#### **7. Approval of Leave Rules, 2025**

The Leave Rules, 2025 were finalized and approved, standardizing leave entitlements and procedures for judicial officers and court staff. This measure has contributed to improved administrative discipline and uniformity.

### **Welfare and Service-Related Initiatives for Judicial Officers and Court Staff**

In recognition of the dedication, hard work, and indispensable role of judicial officers and court staff, the Hon'ble Chief Justice accorded high priority to measures aimed at improving service conditions and welfare of employees of the Islamabad High Court as well as the subordinate judiciary. These initiatives were undertaken with the objective of enhancing morale, ensuring administrative fairness, and acknowledging sustained professional commitment across all tiers of the judicial system.

One of the most significant initiatives undertaken in this regard is the redressal of long-standing stagnation in service progression. In this regard, formulation of a policy is under consideration for the employees of the Islamabad High Court and the District Courts who have remained in the same post for a period of ten years eligible for time-scale advancement as per the applicable regulations. This reform will not only acknowledges and rewards long-standing dedication and sustained service but also facilitates career

growth, boosts employee morale, and underscores the Court's commitment to ensuring fair and equitable treatment across its entire workforce.

To acknowledge the sustained efforts of court staff, employees of the Islamabad High Court as well as District Courts were granted honorarium twice during the year. This initiative served as a tangible recognition of their devotion and performance, particularly in the context of increasing workload and expanding administrative and judicial responsibilities. Further, the Court also facilitated promotions of deserving judicial officers in recognition of their competence, dedication, and contribution to the administration of justice. During the reporting period, Ms. Zeba Chaudhary, Mr. Abdul Ghafoor, and Mr. Humayun Dilawar were promoted from the position of Additional District Judge to District & Sessions Judge. These promotions not only reflect acknowledgment of their sustained professional performance but also reinforce merit-based career progression within the judiciary, fostering motivation and setting a precedent for excellence in judicial service.

Furthermore, long-pending disciplinary and administrative inquiries were taken up for expeditious resolution. Several inquiries that had remained unresolved for years were finalized and disposed of. Notably, the inquiry relating to Mr. Kausar Abbas Zaidi, retired District & Sessions Judge, which had remained pending since 2020 and had resulted in the withholding of his pensionary benefits, was concluded on the special directions of the Hon'ble Chief Justice. Upon finalization of the inquiry, the impediment to the release of his pension was removed, reflecting the Court's commitment to procedural fairness, timely resolution of administrative matters, and protection of lawful entitlements.

These welfare-oriented initiatives reflect the vision of the Hon'ble Chief Justice to foster a motivated, secure, and professionally satisfied judicial workforce, recognizing that an efficient and responsive justice system is intrinsically linked to the well-being and morale of those who serve within it.

Public Relations Officer  
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