

ISLAMABAD HIGH COURT, ISLAMABAD

Press Release

Upon assuming the office as Acting Chief Justice of the Islamabad High Court on 12.02.2025, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sardar Muhammad Sarfraz Dogar, driven by a strong resolve to address systemic delays, mounting pendency, and lack of case sensitivity in judicial handling, initiated a series of well-conceived, decisive, and impactful administrative reforms. These measures were aimed at achieving timely, effective, and meaningful disposal of cases, thereby restoring and strengthening public trust—the true stakeholder and beneficiary of the judicial system.

2. At the time of taking oath, the total pendency before the High Court stood at 17,756 cases. As of 30.09.2025, the pendency has been successfully brought down to 14,590 cases, despite a fresh institution of 7,735 cases during this period. This downward trajectory clearly reflects that the pendency curve has been reversed, moving closer to the ideal of a responsive and efficient judicial system.

The administrative initiatives undertaken covered the entire spectrum of case management, in line with the policy directions of the National Judicial (Policy Making) Committee (NJPMC). Key measures include:

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- Constitution of specialized time-bound benches to hear matters pertaining to overseas Pakistanis, senior citizens, persons of unsound mind, and pauper litigants, ensuring that such sensitive cases are attended to promptly.
 - Same-day fixation of Habeas Corpus petitions, guaranteeing urgent judicial response in matters involving personal liberty.
 - Regular listing and expeditious hearing of family, rent, and police cases, ensuring that no case in these categories remains unattended without a fixed date.
 - Formation of subject-specific benches dealing with education, revenue, tax, commercial, and environmental matters, which has significantly optimized disposal rates across specialized domains.

3. Particular emphasis was placed on tax matters, which at the national level have long been a source of concern due to judicial delays affecting revenue collection and circulation. To address this, two dedicated Division Benches were periodically constituted exclusively to hear and decide pending tax references. This targeted measure has resulted in a substantial reduction in pending tax cases, thereby facilitating the early release of revenue tied up in litigation and contributing positively to the fiscal stream.

4. Through these strategic and well-coordinated administrative interventions, the Hon'ble Chief Justice has set a clear precedent of proactive judicial leadership, demonstrating that focused administrative reforms can yield tangible and measurable results within a relatively short span of time.

Division Bench (Hon'ble Mr. Justice Muhammad Azam Khan & Hon'ble Mr. Justice Inaam Ameen Minhas)		Division Bench (Hon'ble Mr. Justice Babar Sattar & Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sardar Ejaz Ishaq Khan)	
Special Division Bench for Tax Matters		Regular Division Bench for Tax Matters	
DB Working Period	References Disposed	DB Working Period	References Disposed
05.05.2025 to 09.06.2025	179	Feb–Sept 2025	175

5. During the period from 1st September 2025 to 30th September 2025, the Hon'ble Single Benches of this Court have demonstrated commendable disposal performance. The details of cases disposed of during this period are as under:

BENCH	OLD	URGENT	MOTION	NOTICE	OTHER	CM	TOTAL
The Honourable Chief Justice	0	79	3	21	4	0	107
Honourable Mr. Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani	2	16	3	32	5	1	54
Honourable Mr. Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri	0	24	3	17	1	1	45
Honourable Mr. Justice Sardar Ejaz Ishaq Khan	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Honourable Mr. Justice Arbab Muhammad Tahir	5	22	12	27	8	5	66
Honourable Ms. Justice Saman Rafat Imtiaz	0	18	12	14	4	1	49
Honourable Mr. Justice Khadim Hussain Soomro	0	9	2	16	0	4	31
Honourable Mr. Justice Muhammad Azam Khan	2	26	14	234	48	4	328
Honourable Mr. Justice Muhammad Asif	1	15	3	129	10	4	162
Honourable Mr. Justice Inaam Ameen Minhas	5	43	11	161	21	7	248

6. Whereas during the period commencing from 12th February 2025 to 30th September 2025, this Court has disposed of a total of 10,780 cases, comprising 3,264 cases decided by the Hon'ble Division Benches and 7,516 cases decided by the Hon'ble Single Benches. In addition, 700 cases have been filed in an incomplete manner and are presently lying under objection. The total number of cases, along with their breakup, is as under:

BENCH	OLD	URGENT	MOTION	NOTICE	OTHER	CM	TOTAL
The Honourable Chief Justice	0	421	76	261	5	0	789
Honourable Mr. Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani	3	69	16	506	41	34	672
Honourable Mr. Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri	0	59	70	214	0	27	377
Honourable Mr. Justice Babar Sattar	0	25	42	203	20	2	292
Honourable Mr. Justice Sardar Ejaz Ishaq Khan	1	36	11	172	27	9	270
Honourable Mr. Justice Arbab Muhammad Tahir	5	67	49	222	93	9	463
Honourable Ms. Justice Saman Rafat Imtiaz	9	60	101	164	44	15	404
Honourable Mr. Justice Khadim Hussain Soomro	1	98	21	198	27	10	360
Honourable Mr. Justice Muhammad Azam Khan	10	219	106	692	206	17	1299
Honourable Mr. Justice Muhammad Asif	1	93	54	711	76	13	970
Honourable Mr. Justice Inaam Ameen Minhas	16	229	125	865	232	20	1511

7. It is further pointed out that during the last year, for the same period i.e., 14.02.2024 to 30.09.2024, the disposal was 8254.

Public Relations Officer

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02/10/2025