

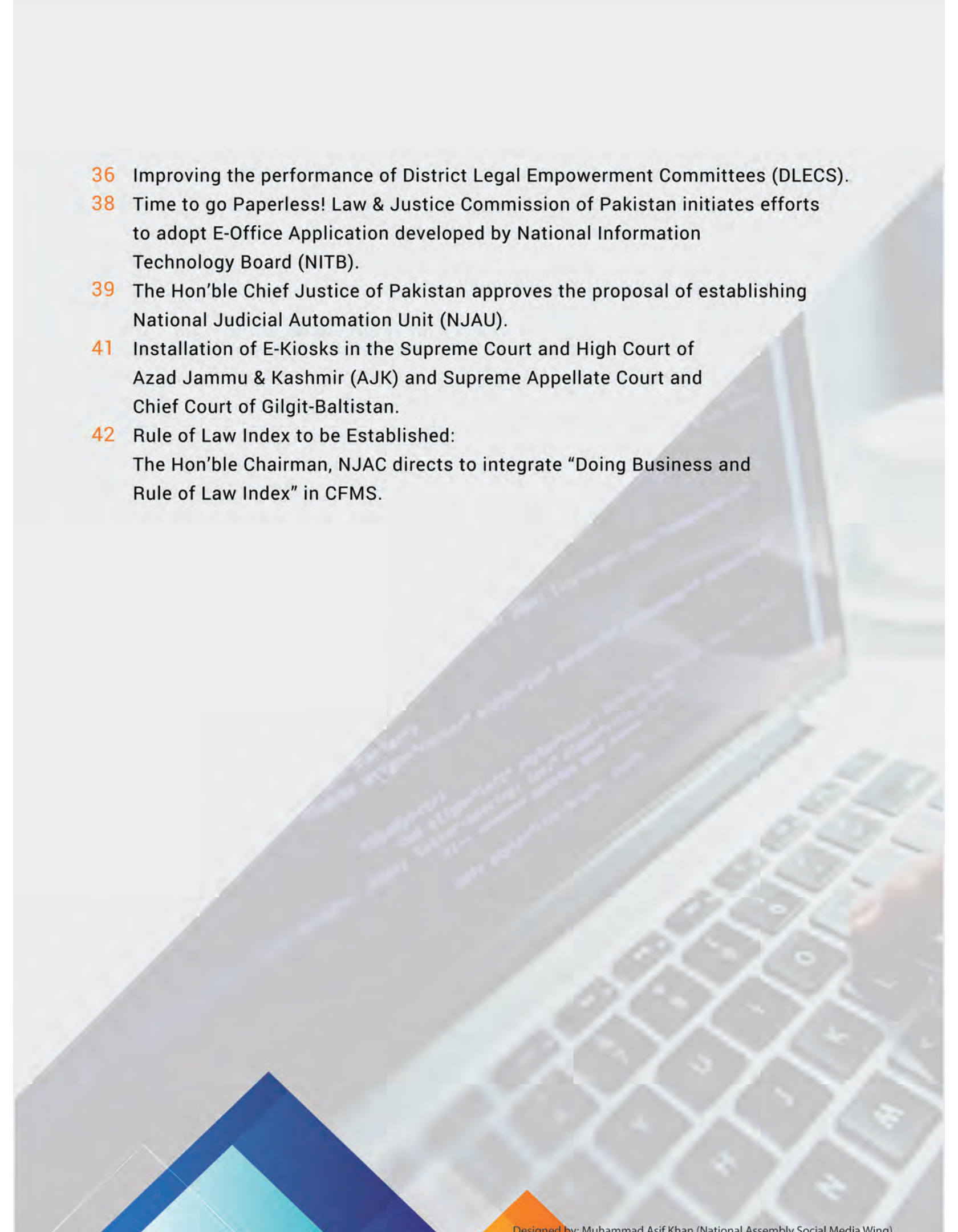


Law & Justice Commission
of
Pakistan

January - June
2020
NEWSLETTER

Contents

- 1 Composition of Law & Justice Commission of Pakistan.
- 8 Hon'ble Mr. Justice Gulzar Ahmed takes oath as 27th Chief Justice of Pakistan.
- 9 LJCP and representatives of European Union (EU) meet under the aegis of Rule of Law Programme, and explore potential areas for Technical Assistance and Information Exchange (TAIEX) Programme.
- 10 Trainees from Shahri'ah Academy, International Islamic University visit LJCP.
- 11 National Judicial (Policy Making) Committee meets to discuss the issues related to administration of Justice in the country.
- 13 Katchi Abadi Case: LJCP holds meeting to bring uniformity in relevant laws.
- 14 LJCP Continues to Work Despite COVID-19 outbreak.
- 17 National Judicial Policy Making Committee meets to devise mechanism for access to justice during Covid-19 Pandemic.
- 19 Lahore: Meeting held at Lahore High Court on 22nd April, 2020 to discuss the Utilization Plan for funds released under AJDF for District Judiciary in Punjab.
- 21 Meeting held at Peshawar High Court to finalize the Fund Utilization Plan for subordinate Courts.
- 22 Representatives of World Bank visit Supreme Court of Pakistan to explore potential areas of support for Pakistan Judiciary.
- 23 Representatives of LJCP from Research and NJPMC Brief the Federal Minister for Law & Justice on recent developments on research and policy areas.
- 24 LJCP employees bid farewell to the retiring officials.
- 25 Meetings held at Lahore High Court and Rawalpindi to discuss the Utilization Plan Under Funding from Access to Justice Development Fund (AJDF).
- 27 Meeting with UNDP Representatives on Rule of Law Project held on 17th June 2020 in the Office of Secretary of Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan (LJCP).
- 32 Multan: Meeting held to discuss AJDF Work Plans for Multan, DG Khan and Bahawalpur Divisions: 24th June, 2020.
- 34 The Secretariat of LJCP releases performance report of AJDF containing its brief introduction, regulatory framework, functioning and achievements since inception.

- 
- 36 Improving the performance of District Legal Empowerment Committees (DLECS).
 - 38 Time to go Paperless! Law & Justice Commission of Pakistan initiates efforts to adopt E-Office Application developed by National Information Technology Board (NITB).
 - 39 The Hon'ble Chief Justice of Pakistan approves the proposal of establishing National Judicial Automation Unit (NJAU).
 - 41 Installation of E-Kiosks in the Supreme Court and High Court of Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJK) and Supreme Appellate Court and Chief Court of Gilgit-Baltistan.
 - 42 Rule of Law Index to be Established:
The Hon'ble Chairman, NJAC directs to integrate "Doing Business and Rule of Law Index" in CFMS.

Law and Commission of Pakistan

The Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan (LJCP) is a Federal Government institution established under the Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan Ordinance, 1979 for a systematic development and reform of laws and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto; the core statutory function of LJCP is to suggest legislative reforms. The Secretariat since its inception is indulged in the process of legislative reforms and it has suggested various remarkable reforms to the legislative body of the country through arranging the codification and unification of laws in order to eliminate multiplicity of laws on same subjects and through removing the anomalies in the laws.

LJCP is a research-based institution and has contributed a lot towards legal reforms in the country. It is also entrusted with the responsibility of introducing reforms in administration of Justice in fulfilling its mandated responsibility. The Secretariat of LJCP is working as a bridge between the executive and the judiciary in a multi-dimensional manner.

LJCP is a research-based institution and has contributed a lot towards legal reforms in the country. It is also entrusted with the responsibility of introducing reforms in administration of Justice.

Composition of Law & Justice Commission of Pakistan:

The Governing Structure of the Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan is given herein below:



*Hon'ble Mr. Justice Gulzar Ahmed
Chief Justice of Pakistan / Chairman LJCP*

Ex-Officio Members



Mr. Khalid Javed Khan
The Attorney-General for Pakistan



Hon'ble Mr. Justice
Ahmed Ali M. Sheikh
Chief Justice,
High Court of Sindh



Hon'ble Mr. Justice
Muhammad Noor Meskanzai
Chief Justice,
Federal Shariat Court



Hon'ble Mr. Justice
Waqar Ahmad Seth
Chief Justice,
Peshawar High Court



Hon'ble Mr. Justice
Athar Minallah
Chief Justice,
Islamabad High Court



Hon'ble Mr. Justice
Muhammad Qasim Khan
Chief Justice,
Lahore High Court



Hon'ble Mr. Justice
Jamal Khan Mandokhail
Chief Justice,
High Court of Balochistan



Mr. Muhammad Khashih-ur-Rehman
Secretary,
Ministry of Law & Justice



Chairperson,
National Commission on the Status of Women

Notified Members



Hon'ble Mr. Justice (R)
Mian Shakirullah Jan
Former Judge,
Supreme Court of Pakistan



Hon'ble Mr. Justice (R)
Khilji Arif Hussain
Former Judge,
Supreme Court of Pakistan



Hon'ble Mr. Justice (R)
Sair Ali
Former Judge,
Supreme Court of Pakistan



Mian Abdul Rauf
Advocate, Supreme Court of Pakistan



Syed Ayaz Zahoor
Advocate,
Supreme Court of Pakistan



Dr. Muhammad Raheem Awan
Secretary,
Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan



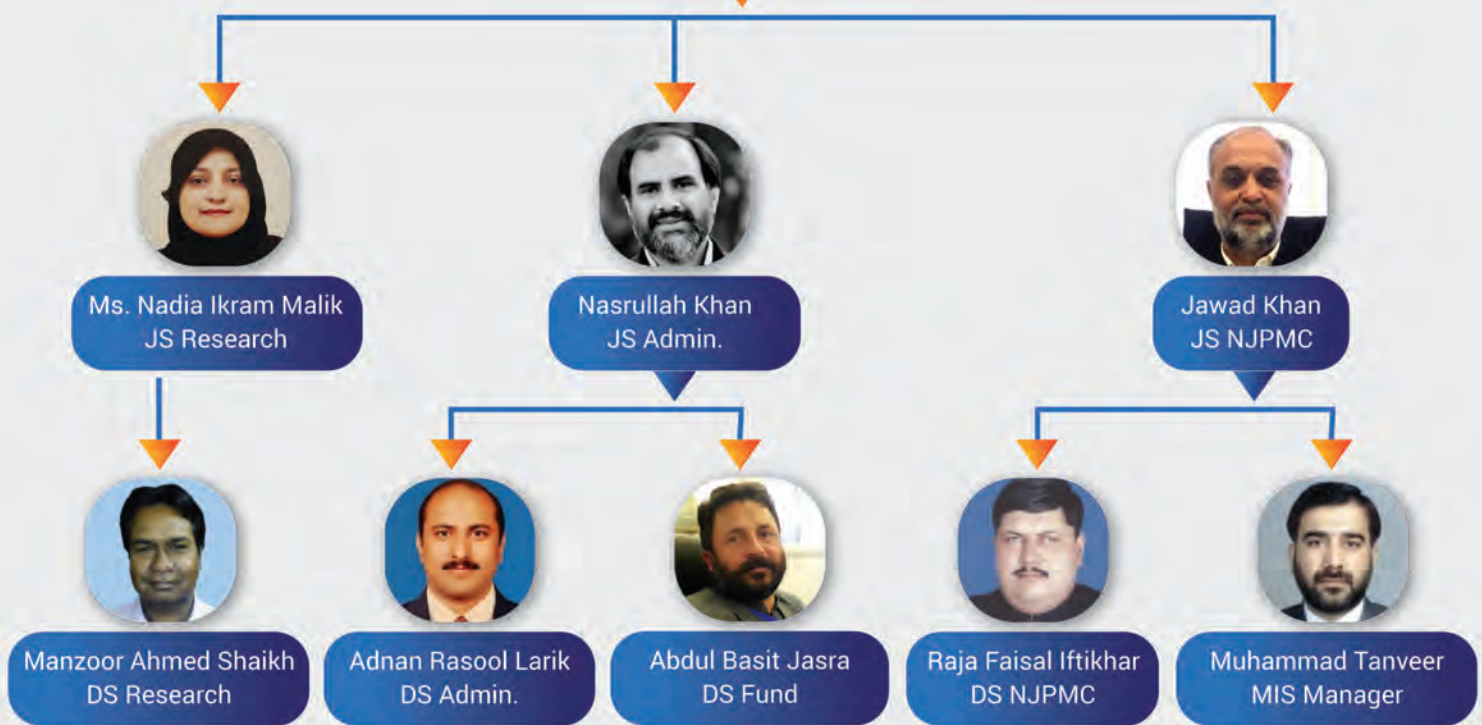
Secretary, Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan

DR. MUHAMMAD RAHEEM AWAN

- Secretary, Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan, w.e.f. 3rd January, 2018.
- Ph.D in Law: Protection of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Pakistan and Investment Treaty Arbitration, 'Protection of FDI in Pakistan: Is it Time to Address the Deterring Factors?' University of Bedfordshire, UK (2016).
- LLM in International Commercial Law from University of Bedfordshire, UK.
- Visiting Lecturer for Research and Thesis writing to LLM and Law in Action to LLB students in the University of Bedfordshire, UK.
- Visiting Lecturer for LLB courses at University of London and BPP University of London at their partner centers in Pakistan.
- Taught Constitutional Law, Public Law, EU law, Contract Law, Islamic Law, Professional Skills in Practice to students of LLB at aforementioned universities.
- More than 16 years of experience as practicing lawyer including District and High Courts of Pakistan and in-house lawyer in UK and UAE.



Dr. Muhammad Raheem Awan
Secretary, LJCP



The Deputy Secretaries are supported by officers and staff.

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Gulzar Ahmed takes oath on 21st December 2019 as 27th Chief Justice of Pakistan

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Gulzar Ahmed took oath as the 27th Chief Justice of Pakistan.

President of Pakistan, Dr. Arif Alvi administered the oath of office to Hon'ble Mr. Justice Gulzar Ahmed in a ceremony held at the Aiwan-i-Sadr, Islamabad.

Prime Minister of Pakistan, Mr. Imran Khan, cabinet members, First Lady Samina Alvi, Chairman Senate, Mr. Sadiq Sanjrani, Speaker National Assembly, Mr. Asad Qaiser, Governors of Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Services Chiefs, Chief Justices of provincial High Courts, Federal Ombudspersons, Dr. Muhammad Raheem Awan, Secretary LJCP, former Chief Justices and senior members of the legal fraternity were present.

The family members of the new Chief Justice, including Mother Sartaj Begum and spouse Begum Fauzia Gulzar, also attended the ceremony.

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Gulzar Ahmed was born on February 2, 1957 in Karachi. He got his early education from Gulistan School, Karachi, graduated from Government National College, Karachi and did his LLB from SM Law College, Karachi.

Enrolled as Advocate of High Court in 1988, he was elected as Honorary Secretary of the Sindh High Court Bar Association for the year 1999-2000. He was enrolled as Advocate of the Supreme Court of Pakistan in 2001.

In 2002, he was appointed as Judge of the High Court of Sindh. On August 27, 2002, he was notified as Senior Puisne Judge of the same Court and was later elevated as a Judge of the Supreme Court of Pakistan on November 16, 2011.



LJCP and representatives of European Union (EU) meet under the aegis of Rule of Law Programme, and explore potential areas for Technical Assistance and Information Exchange (TAIEX) Programme.



In continuation of the meeting of Ms. Ingeborg Zorn, First Secretary Development, Human Rights and Gender, European Union (EU) Delegation to Pakistan, held on 18th February, 2020 in the office of worthy Registrar, Supreme Court of Pakistan, Ms. Ingeborg Zorn communicated complete schedule of Technical Assistance and Information Exchange (TAIEX) Programme, as an outline of the proposed TAIEX intervention. The secretary, LJCP, Dr. Muhammad Raheem Awan has been nominated as Focal Person for TAIEX Programme. Technical Assistance & Information Exchange (TAIEX) provides tailor-made expertise of experts from EU Member States through short-term expert missions, workshops or seminars and study visits. However, partnership activities

with TAIEX are triggered by a direct request sent by partner country administrations. Under the current partnership between Supreme Court of Pakistan and TAIEX, the envisaged programme covers a series of events with European experts to study the European informal systems for settlement of disputes in the field of commercial law and family law as well as free legal aid with a view to see which elements could be integrated into the Pakistani system to make it more transparent and efficient. The technical support contains the following:

- i) An expert mission of Pakistani experts to two selected member states;
- ii) A visit of specialized European experts to Pakistan; and
- iii) A conference to present and discuss the models and the way forward in Pakistan in March 2021.

Pakistan has special interest on topics linked to the administration of justice, digitalization and data exchange and data management.

In view of COVID-19 travel restrictions to Europe, the timing of the study visits may be switched. TAIEX requires submission of application by the partner institution to proceed further in the aforementioned exchange programme.



Trainees from Shahri'ah Academy, International Islamic University visit LJCP

ment, Shari'ah Academy, International Islamic University, Islamabad. The participants, including judges, prosecutors, attorneys and law officers from all over the country were briefed by the Secretary, LJCP on the functioning, mandate and performance of LJCP.



A delegation of participants of 61st Regular Shariah (Islamic Law) course visited the Law and Justice Commission Pakistan on 26th February, 2020. The delegation was led by Dr. Habib ur Rehman, Chairman Training Depart-

The group leader lauded the performance of LJCP and its pivotal role towards the legal reforms and administration of Justice. The participants of delegation also visited the Museum housed in the building of Supreme Court of Pakistan and presented honorary shield of Shariah Academy, International Islamic University, to the Secretary, LJCP and other senior officers of Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan.



National Judicial (Policy Making) Committee meets to discuss the issues related to administration of Justice in the country.

A meeting of the National Judicial (Policy Making) Committee (NJPMC), was held under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Mr. Justice Gulzar Ahmed, Chief Justice of Pakistan/ Chairman, NJPMC in the Supreme Court of Pakistan, Lahore Branch Registry.

The meeting was attended by all the Hon'ble Members of NJPMC. Further, on special invitation, the Senior Puisne Judges of all the Superior Courts also attended the meeting. The Hon'ble Chief Justice of Pakistan/Chairman, NJPMC in his opening remarks said that NJPMC, in order to provide speedy and expeditious justice to the deserving litigants, had done substantial work under its mandate, however, there was still room for further progress. He further remarked that the

vacancies in all cadres of Judiciary and Administrative Tribunals and Special Courts needed to be immediately filled for timely clearance of backlog.

After deliberations on the issues of vacant positions in the Judiciary, the Committee resolved that all the vacant posts in the judiciary were required to be filled up within six months and in case the posts were not filled in response to advertisement then the posts would be re-advertised. The Committee desired that the High Courts should maintain a calendar whereby the process of appointment could be initiated in advance against posts to fall vacant. NJPMC expressed concern over non-filling of vacant posts in Administrative Tribunals and Special Courts and decided that the High Courts should take up the issue with the respective Federal and Provincial Governments for resolution of the issue which increased the backlog compromising

trust of the public in the judiciary.

The Committee discussed that use of modern technology is the solution arrangement for putting in place Case Follow Management Systems in all the Administrative Tribunals and Special Courts to clear backlog of old appeals and writ petitions.

NJPMC also reviewed performance of Gender Based Violence Courts (GBV Courts) and Juvenile Justice and Child Courts. It was apprised that two phases of training were completed successfully in which 233 judicial officers and 108 prosecutors were imparted training at the Punjab Judicial Academy, Lahore in July and December, 2019 and 73 Courts all over Pakistan were designated and cases transferred for adjudication.

As regard, Juvenile justice and Child Rights Courts, the Committee was informed that the training of 188 judicial officers, prosecutors and government officials had been conducted at various judicial academies. Similarly, the judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of Pakistan regarding Gender Based Violence/- Juvenile Justice cases had been disseminated to the judicial officers entrusted with GBV and juvenile justice and child related cases (Tayyaba torture case, reported at PLD 2020 S.C 146).

Further the Committee was briefed about the performance of cells established in the High Courts for Eradication of Corruption. The Committee resolved that policy of zero tolerance should be adopted against corruption.

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Mushir Alam, Senior Puisne, Judge, Supreme Court of Pakistan remarked that the installation of office management systems would be effective in bringing transparency and accuracy in the system. While contemplating upon the progress of the Justice Committees in the provinces and Islamabad Capital Territory, the Chair desired that the meetings of the Justice Committees should be held regularly so that issues pertaining to the judiciary, including infrastructure requirements, could be effectively dealt with.

While discussing the status of National Judicial Automation Unit (NJAU), the Committee approved the recommendations of the National Judicial Automation Committee (NJAC) regarding establishment of core team of NJAU to be located at the old building of Federal Judicial Academy and developing central and provincial dash-boards for monitoring of cases.



Katchi Abadi Case: LJCP holds meeting to bring uniformity in relevant laws.

Hon'ble Supreme Court of Pakistan vide order dated 30-11-2018 passed in the Constitution Petition No. 41 of 2015 titled, Mr. Aasim Sajjad Akhtar & others vs. Federation of Pakistan & others, constituted a Committee under the auspices of the Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan with the mandate to consider the sufficiency of newly enacted law of the Province of Balochistan on Katchi Abadis. Basic purpose of the order was that a uniform law for the country could be made with regard to regularization of katchi abadis or the provision of shelter to the poor and needy occupants. The meeting of Committee constituted in compliance with court orders was held on 10th March, 2020.

The Committee unanimously resolved that:

i. All provinces have their own laws on Katchi Abadis and they would consider the existing legislation in pursuance of Balochistan to bring uniformity in legislation.

The Committee was informed that the draft law had been proposed by LJCP and the provinces would submit their report within one month.

ii. After receiving the reports, the next meeting would be held to examine the received reports and to finalize the recommendations. Thereafter, the report containing recommendations would be submitted in the Supreme Court of Pakistan in compliance of order of the august Court.

iii. In the next meeting the members of the Committee would approach the provincial governments to ensure participation of Secretaries of the relevant departments e.g. Housing, Local Government and Social Welfare Departments, etc. along with field experts.

LJCP Continues to Work Despite COVID-19 outbreak.

The Corona Virus, or COVID-19, started inciting panic for a number of reasons. It's a new virus, meaning no one has immunity, and there is no vaccine available till yet. Scientists aren't sure yet how it behaves and they have little history to go on.

However, with the spread of COVID-19, governments have adopted precautionary measures, like wash hands for 20 seconds, cover nose and mouth when sneezing, using face mask, use of sanitizer, avoid crowded places, social distancing, and avoiding contact with people having such symptoms.

During COVID-19 almost all the business activities including government offices went on remote working under lock down restrictions and precautionary measures adopted by the government. The Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination issued following guidelines on 26th March, 2020 on Social Distancing during COVID-19:-

(i) Stay home when there is no urgent

need to go out.

(ii) Avoid physical contact with others as much as possible e.g. handshakes.

(iii) Do not give your mobile to any of the household member. In case there is a need to share it someone, clean it with a disinfectant.

(iv) If going out is necessary, keep a distance of two arm's length (about 6 feet) from others.

(v) Do not leave home even when you are sick and first call your doctor and follow his advice.

(vi) Stay in contact with others by phone or email.

(vii) Keep away from others when you or they are sick.

(viii) If you decide to stay home and one or more of the following symptoms appear, immediately report to your doctor.

(ix) Make sure you have access to several weeks of medication and supplies in case you need to stay home.

(x) Closely monitor your symptoms, if they prolong, immediately reach out to your health care provider for guidance.

(xi) If you become suspected for COVID 19, ensure home quarantine till there is a confirmed lab diagnosis.

(xii) Avoid large and small gatherings in public spaces like restaurants, parks, libraries and other such venues to reduce the occurrence of transmission.

- (xiii) Avoid gatherings with friends and family within the home premises. Avoid having any unnecessary visitors.
- (xiv) Avoid unnecessary use of public transport.
- (xv) Work from home using digital media sources.
- (xvi) Take care of the emotional health of your household members, including yourself.
- (xvii) Home quarantine during COVID-19 and should stay segregated in a separate room if possible.

Similarly on 7th June, 2020, the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination issued following guidelines for Government Employees and Organizations in the wake of COVID-19 Pandemic: -

- (i) All employees must wear surgical/-medical masks at all times.
- (ii) Sanitisers and dispensers to be placed at prominent places. Ensure these dispensers are regularly refilled
- (iii) There should be designated entry points for any office building having trained personnel for "Thermal screening" of all who enter the building (staff or visitors). Those exhibiting fever should not be allowed access into the office.
- (iv) Provide employees with instructions on hygiene measures and behavioural conduct
- (v) Every office shall have at least one notified staff member dedicated to ensuring that safety precautions and hygiene recommendations are implemented
- (vi) Posters should be pasted at prominent places on the cough and sneeze actions (respiratory etiquettes)
- (vii) Surfaces that are frequently touched with hands should be cleaned often. This would include (but would not be limited to): Doors in entrance/exiting areas, counters and shelves, desk surfaces, chairs (e.g. arm rests), tables, phones, computer keyboards (especially if shared), counters, light switches, copy machines, staplers, scissors
- (viii) Social distancing of 2 meters must be observed at workplaces and must adjust the seating arrangements accordingly
- (ix) Encourage virtual meetings
- (x) Limit use and occupancy of elevators to maintain social distancing of at least 2 meters
- (xi) Every government office should have contact details of all employees for tracking in case of any positive COVID-19 infection
- (xii) Elderly employees (age 50) or with weaker immune systems and people with conditions such as diabetes, heart and lung disease should be encouraged to work from home.

LJCP Secretariat adopts precautionary measures in compliance with government instructions





National Judicial Policy Making Committee meets to devise mechanism for access to justice during Covid-19 Pandemic.

“We shall not compromise on our judicial system and not let it be derailed by getting panicked. People of Pakistan have great deal of confidence on judicial system so we will never disappoint them”
– Hon’ble Chief Justice of Pakistan

The Hon’ble Chief Justice of Pakistan remarked that we would not compromise on our judicial system and not let it be derailed by getting panicked. He added that the people of Pakistan have great deal of confidence on judicial system so the Judiciary would never disappoint them and the apex judiciary of the country would ensure and take all the necessary preventive measures for health and safety of judges, court staff, lawyers, litigants and other justice sector stake holders up to the district and tehsil level. The Hon’ble Chair was apprised that

detailed instructions had been issued to all High Courts to take all possible preventive measures by way of case management to avoid crowding in the Court Rooms and physical contact between individuals attending Courts. It was informed that the Supreme Court of Pakistan would continue to monitor implementation of such measures. Instructions and guidelines issued by the Supreme Court of Pakistan, would also be followed by the Federal Shariat Court and High Courts upto the District and Tehsil Courts and to superior judiciary of Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan. All SoPs issued by the Supreme Court of Pakistan, would be complied with by all the Courts. Moreover, the courts will remain open at all levels by reducing the judicial work load, so that the people working in the courts or visiting the area should not be exposed to any risk of getting affected by virus. It was directed

that awareness would be created so that people do not unnecessarily visit court premises unless specifically required by any court and protocol of health and hygiene would be ensured and adopted in letter and spirit and all the High Courts and District Courts would also limit the work by hearing urgent matters and discouraging the entry of general public. No adverse order against any party would be passed in the courts in default i.e. non-prosecution or ex-parte order, etc.



The Crisis Management Committees would be formed by the respective High Courts to liaise with the authorities concerned for devising mechanism for safeguarding general public, litigants, lawyers, etc., from the spread of Corona Virus in the Federal Shariat Court and respective High Court premises. The Hon'ble Chief Justices, High Courts would devise uniform plan and SoPs after consulting with the respective Administrative Committees, the District Judiciary and Bars. Besides, the High Courts would decide suitable protocol for categories of urgent cases to be fixed for hearing, the number of Judges to hold Court, the duration of their sessions held on rotation and the corresponding number of

judges and the staff that would remain on leave during such sessions. Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ijaz ul Ahsan, Judge Supreme Court of Pakistan was nominated as Focal Judge being Chairman of the Supreme Court Health and Safety Committee to ensure the implementation of the directions and the Federal Shariat Court and High Courts would also nominate Focal Persons to maintain the liaison among the Judiciary, Government Departments and relevant authorities. The Hon'ble Chief Justice of respective High Courts would take such additional steps including administrative measures in consultation with Provincial Health Authorities as may be deemed necessary. In order to ensure uniformity, the Hon'ble Focal Judge of the Supreme Court of Pakistan would be kept in loop before implementing such additional steps and measures.

The jail inmates (prisoners) would be protected from being exposed to the risk of coronavirus infection without denial of their right of family meetings, and authorities concerned would make sure to adopt precautionary measures and regulate the procedure of meetings. Visitors in jail premises should be examined and properly screened to avoid any risk of infection of coronavirus to the prisoners and in case any prisoner is found infected, he would be quarantined within jail premises without any delay.



Lahore: Meeting held at Lahore High Court on 22nd April, 2020 to discuss the Utilization Plan for funds released under AJDF for District Judiciary in Punjab.

A meeting was held in the Office of Registrar, Lahore High Court in which the Director General District Judiciary, Punjab and MIT, Lahore High Court also participated and discussed plans under AJDF funding. The Secretary, Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan (LJCP), Dr. Muhammad Raheem Awan, later on, briefed the Hon'ble Chief Justice, Lahore High Court in His Lordship's Chamber. The Registrar, Lahore High Court, Project Director, PJDF, Lahore High Court and Joint Secretary (Admin), LJCP also attended the briefing session.

The Secretary, LJCP informed that millions of rupees were released to the Lahore High Court for District Judiciary under PJDF, UDR and Legal Empowerment Windows.

However, the utilization trend was not so encouraging.

The Hon'ble Chief Justice was informed that the Office of the Auditor General of Pakistan during Audit of the accounts of AJDF for the period from FY 2011-12 to FY 2018-19 noticed non-utilization of released funds by the Lahore High Court seriously and observed that had this amount been invested, a handsome profit would have been earned and accordingly asked for seeking reasons for non-utilization. The Secretary, LJCP also shared the performance of DLECs with the Hon'ble Chief Justice.

After thorough discussion, the Hon'ble Chief Justice, Lahore High Court desired that this important source of funding be utilized efficiently and effectively to achieve the intended objectives. His Lordship discussed

various options for utilization of funds related to infrastructure development. The Secretary, LJCP explained that since the funds released under AJDF were subject to external audit by the Auditor General of Pakistan, therefore, to avoid audit objections, the same should be spent in accordance with AJDF Rules. Accordingly, the Chair directed the Registrar, Lahore High Court to advise the District & Sessions Judges to submit infrastructural development projects on the basis of their need assessment. On receipt of project proposals, the same may be prioritized with the assistance of LJCP.

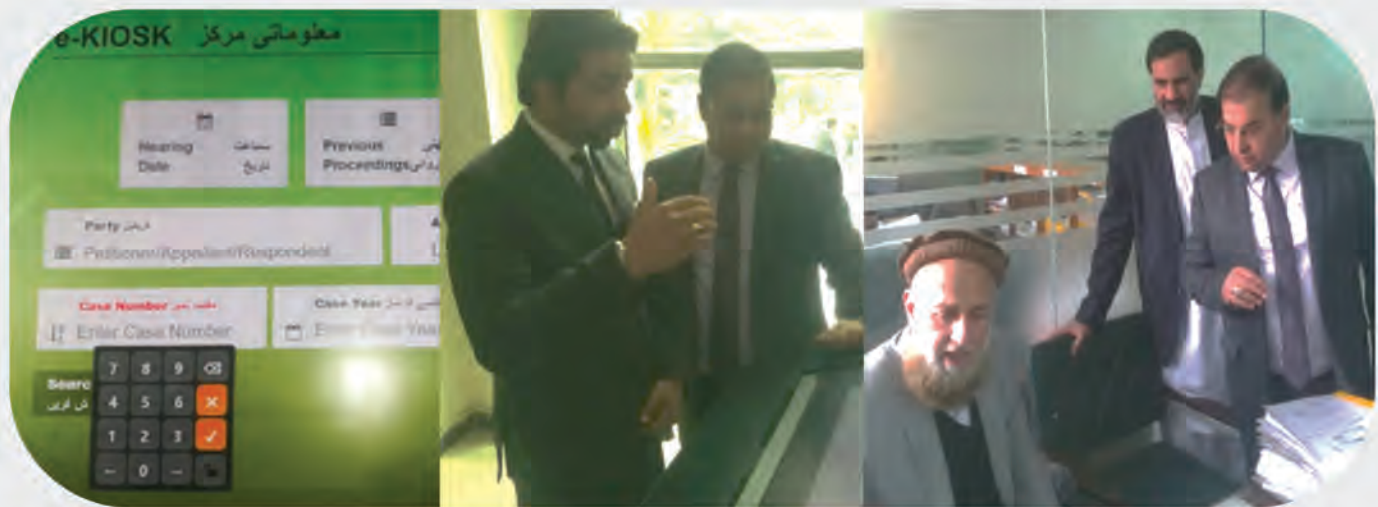
The Chair also directed to ensure effective and efficient utilization of funds by DLECs to extend the benefit to the deserving litigants.

The Hon'ble Chief Justice informed that the Lahore High Court had drafted a Bench book on Civil Law and Criminal Law for assistance and capacity building of judges which was

under final review. Aside, His Lordship shared the idea of launching online mandatory training program for judicial officers of the district judiciary and desired assistance from the Secretary, LJCP in developing a blue print of the proposed training, and stressed that special training programs may be arranged at the Punjab Judicial Academy to inculcate critical thinking in the judges and updating their professional and practical knowledge and skills.

During the visit, the Secretary, LJCP also met with the Hon'ble Senior Puisne Judge, Lahore High Court and the Director General, Punjab Judicial Academy to discuss various training options from AJDF funding.

The Secretary, LJCP assured that technical support to the Lahore High Court and Punjab Judicial Academy would be extended by LJCP in developing and arranging training programs for judges and other stakeholders of the justice sector.



Peshawar: The Secretary LJCP visiting sites with modern facilities for litigants available at Peshawar High Court

Meeting held at Peshawar High Court to finalize the Fund Utilization Plan for Sub-ordinate courts.

The Peshawar High Court has envisaged to establishing new standardized court rooms in six Districts identified on the basis of workload and need assessment.

Prior to this, the Governing Body, AJDF in its meeting held on 29th April 2019 had approved share of Rs. 131.546 Million up to FY 2017-18 for Sub-ordinate Courts in the Province of KPK and directed to release the allocated funds subject to sharing of time bound work plans. To analyze the need assessment on the basis of work load and existing facilities, the Registrar, Peshawar High Court convened a meeting of relevant staff on 6th February, 2020 in the Conference Room of Peshawar High Court in which the Secretary

LJCP, Dr. Muhammad Raheem Awan, participated on special invitation to help finalize the work plan. During the meeting, the Registrar, Peshawar High Court shared the study carried out to identify issues causing delay in litigation and increasing backlog; the study highlighted shortage of judicial officers and court rooms as one of the main reasons in this context.

The management strategized to divert extra human resources to clear the backlog in the top six Districts having highest pendency

in the province

Member Inspection Team (MIT) and the Director P&D, Peshawar High Court explained that the existing infrastructure in Peshawar, Mardan, Banu, D.I.Khan, Kohat and Abbottabad was not sufficient to accommodate the required judicial officers and con-

establishment of additional courts had been included in works under funding from AJDF.

Dr. Muhammad Raheem Awan, the Secretary, LJCP while discussing the scope of Sub-ordinate Courts Window desired that the prioritized areas of the window should also be proportionately included in the work plan within the available share i.e. Rs.131.546 Million. The Registrar, Peshawar High Court and MIT briefed that projects related to automation and provision of court related amenities to the litigants were being implemented from the regular budget. They shared the initiatives taken for upgrading and improving the working environment of the Courts in various districts. Further, informed

that the Peshawar High Court in consultation with relevant authorities had approved standardized court rooms having necessary facilities for court staff, litigants, lawyers and other visitors. The Registrar requested that if funds were provided from AJDF, then P&D Wing could execute the planned activities in the said districts effectively.

The Peshawar High Court in consultation with relevant authorities has envisaged standardized court rooms having necessary facilities for court staff, litigants, lawyers and other visitors from AJDF funding.

Representatives of World Bank visit Supreme Court of Pakistan to explore potential areas of support for Pakistan Judiciary.

Representatives of World Bank visit Supreme Court of Pakistan to explore potential areas of support for Pakistan Judiciary. Meeting with the representatives of the World Bank was held on 21st May,

2020 at Supreme Court of Pakistan, Islamabad to contemplate upon the potential support for Pakistan Judiciary. Meeting was chaired by Hon'ble Mr. Justice Mushir Alam, Senior Puisne Judge, Supreme Court of Pakistan and Hon'ble Mr. Justice Yahya Afridi, Judge Supreme Court of Pakistan graced the meeting on special invitation.

Automation plan for the judiciary and its scope, tentative plan of LJCP for Establishment of Regional & Commercial Dispute Resolution Center for amicable settlement of CPEC related disputes and Establishment of Mediation Centers in Pakistan at local level for amicable settlement of disputes through mediation were thoroughly discussed. The Hon'ble Chair and participants appreciated the proposals and Hon'ble Chair directed the participants/stakeholders to nominate focal persons and form a WhatsApp group within the focal persons for effective communication. Online meeting on the agenda was held on 23rd June

2020 to discuss and follow up the decisions taken during previous meeting that was held on 21st May, 2020.



Online meeting of World Bank representatives and Pakistan Judiciary held on 23rd June, 2020. The Secretary LJCP along with Joint Secretary (Research) represented LJCP.

Representatives of LJCP from Research and NJPMC brief the Federal Minister for Law & Justice on recent developments in research and policy areas:

Dr. Muhammad Farogh Naseem, Federal Minister of Law & Justice sought material relating to the legislative reforms and directives/recommendations for the criminal justice system from LJCP for onward briefing to the Prime Minister of Pakistan and Federal Cabinet. Accordingly,

LJCP representatives thoroughly briefed the Federal Minister on recent developments in the areas of Legal Research and National Judicial Policy. Barrister, Ms. Maleeka Ali Bokhari, Parliamentary Secretary for Ministry of Law & Justice was also present during the briefing.



Mr. Ferozh Nasim,
Federal Minister,
Law and Justice.

LJCP employees bid farewell to the retiring officials:

On the eve of superannuation of Mr. Muhammad Khatab, Assistant Personal Secretary, LJCP, a farewell party was organized by the Secretariat on

15th June, 2020. The Secretary, LJCP graced the occasion along with other senior officers of LJCP. The Secretary, LJCP and participants appreciated the performance, dedication and sincerity of Mr. Muhammad Khatab during his service, he was seen-off with best wishes from the LJCP team.





Meetings held at Lahore High Court and again at Rawalpindi to discuss the Utilization Plan Under Funding from Access to Justice Development Fund (AJDF).

In continuation of the meeting with the Hon'ble Chief Justice, Lahore High Court held on 22nd April, 2020, a follow-up meeting was held on 3rd June, 2020 in Lahore High Court. During the meeting, a team comprising the Project Director (AJDF, Lahore High Court), District & Sessions Judge and Senior Civil Judge, Lahore briefed the Committee regarding project plans relating to improvement of court rooms, automation of records and works relating to piping and renovation of old buildings.

The Registrar, Lahore High Court, Secretary, Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan (LJCP) and Joint Secretary (Admin), LJCP briefed the Hon'ble Chief Justice, Lahore

High Court and apprised him of the availability of funds for utilization and the project proposals in process. Considering the relevance, effectiveness and satisfactory outcome of the meetings, the Hon'ble Chief Justice, Lahore High Court directed the Registrar to arrange similar meetings in Rawalpindi Divisions on 13th June, 2020 and in Multan on 24-25th June, 2020, and discuss the project proposals with respective District & Sessions Judges from Rawalpindi, Multan, D.G. Khan and Bahawalpur Divisions.



AJDF Meeting at Rawalpindi: 13th June, 2020.



Rawalpindi: Participants of meeting held at District Courts Complex, Rawalpindi to discuss AJDF work plans relating to Districts in Rawalpindi Division

Accordingly, a meeting was held in the office of District & Sessions Judge, Rawalpindi on 13th June, 2020. The District & Sessions Judges of Rawalpindi, Jhelum, Chakwal and Attock briefed the committee regarding their project plans proposing establishment of eleven E-Courts in Rawalpindi Division, provision of water facilities, construction of waiting areas for litigants, consultation rooms for lawyers, toilets, facilities day care centers, sitting areas for litigants, up-gradation of judicial lock-ups, etc.

The Secretary, LJCP discussed the status of utilization of funds provided to DLECs in

Rawalpindi Division and shared that suggestions were sought from Chairpersons of respective DLECs with a view to improving the effectiveness of DLECs and simplification of funding procedure. It was further informed that a consolidated document on simplification of procedure would be prepared and shared with all the stakeholders to review the DLECs Rules accordingly. The Registrar, Lahore High Court advised all the District & Sessions Judges to prepare detailed plans in accordance with AJDF Rules and submit the same for prioritization of projects and final approval of the Hon'ble Chief Justice, Lahore High Court.



Meeting with UNDP Representatives on Rule of Law Project held on 17th June 2020 in the Office of Secretary of Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan (LJCP)

In continuation of the meeting of Ms. Ingeborg Zorn, First Secretary Development Human Rights and Gender, European Union (EU) Delegation to Pakistan, held on 18th February, 2020 in the office of Registrar, Supreme Court of Pakistan, a meeting of UNDP representative, Mr. Arshad Jan with the Secretary, LJCP was held in LJCP Secretariat on 17th June 2020. The other representative of UNDP, Mr. Jakhongir Khydarove, Head UNDP Peshawar also participated via video conferencing from

Turkey and explained the context and scope of Rule of Law Project for Pakistan. Mr. Arshad Jan explained that with the support of European Union, UNDP was planning for a Rule of Law Project for KPK (along with its merged areas), Balochistan and Islamabad, and the other UN agencies, UN Women and UNODC, were partners in this project.

UNDP representative Mr. Arshad Jan explained that the overall objectives of the program include strengthening of Rule of Law in KPK (including its newly merged Districts) and Balochistan, and to ensure equitable access to justice. Further, the specific objectives of the program include:-

- (i) Support reform processes (People- Centered Justice).

- (ii) Enhance Access to Justice for all, particularly, women and less privileged groups; and
- (iii) Improve service delivery of security sector in line with constitutional safeguards and international standards.

Participants observed that aforementioned areas had broader scope and involved other stakeholders of Justice Sector whereas for collaboration with Supreme Court of Pakistan, it would be appropriate to explore exclusive areas of cooperation, falling under independent domain of Supreme Court of Pakistan, for improvement in overall justice sector and justice service delivery in Pakistan.

The Secretary, LJCP explained the statutory mandate and role of LJCP, National Judicial Policy Making Committee (NJPMC) and various committees established under the auspices of LJCP such as National Judicial Automation Committee

The Secretary, LJCP further explained that NJPMC had established Provincial Justice Committees (PJC's) in each province having unique composition which had a pivotal role in dispensation of speedy and inexpensive justice by improving coordination between executive and other stakeholders of the justice

sector. Therefore, it was imperative to activate the PJC's so that goals of NJPMC could be achieved. The representative of UNDP, keeping in view the statutory mandate of the Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan (LJCP) enshrined in Section 6(2)(b) of LJCP Ordinance, 1979 and as per Section 4(a) of National Judicial Policy Making Committee (NJPMC) Ordinance, 2002, proposed that LJCP should be a key partner in the envisaged project with an over-arching role for proper coordination between Supreme Court of Pakistan and other partners of the envisaged project, UNDP and the European Union.

During the meeting following areas of collaboration were discussed: -

- (a) **Digital services and adoption of technology to improve access to justice and justice service delivery and to reduce dependency on manual systems;**
- partnership on E-Courts:**

The representative of UNDP, Mr. Arshad Jan informed that the envisaged project intended to explore all the avenues of adopting digital services and technology in courts and establishment of E-Courts equipped with advancing technologies in KPK (including its newly merged areas), Balochistan and Islamabad. The Secretary, LJCP suggested

that the project should focus on planning activities in close coordination with National Judicial Automation Unit (NJAU) proposed to be established by the National Judicial Automation Committee (NJAC) chaired by Hon'ble Mr. Justice Mushir Alam, Senior Puisne Judge, Supreme Court of Pakistan. In addition, it would be appropriate to launch a separate project for establishment of E-Courts in other provinces under UNDP funding.

(b) Reforming the formal and informal justice systems and creating linkages between the two:

The project envisaged the establishment of Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) Center and provision of funding for experts for research work and training of lawyers, judicial officers and prosecutors.

The Secretary, LJCP informed that the Hon'ble Chief Justice of Pakistan has already accorded approval for establishment of National Judicial Automation Unit (NJAU) in the old building of Federal Judicial Academy (FJA), Islamabad. Therefore for efficient utilization of human and financial resources, and better coordination between different sections working under the aegis of LJCP, it would be appropriate to place the Center at old building of FJA along with Judicial and Legal Reforms Unit. It was proposed that UNDP would provide funding for salary, equipment, training activities and logistics.

(c) Establishment of Commercial & Investment Arbitration Center (CIAC):

The proposal of LJCP regarding establishment of Commercial & Investment Arbitration Center was also discussed and it was proposed that for establishment of the said Center (CIAC), it would be vital to conduct a study to prepare a proposal. In this regard UNDP would provide HR support, equipment and logistics. It would also provide funding for holding of convention of ambassadors, investors, Government representatives and other stakeholders to generate a debate, propose a draft and provide a forum for commercial dispute resolution.

(d) Establishment of mediation centers under supervision of Judiciary:

It was informed that Peshawar High Court was working on a proposal to establish mediation centers to be headed by a senior civil judge in each district, and on the same pattern, a proposal to establish a model mediation center as a pilot project in Islamabad was prepared by LJCP. It was, therefore, proposed that LJCP and UNDP could work in collaboration to bring uniformity in both ADR models. It was resolved that under the model proposed by LJCP, along with judicial officers, the role of lawyers and the bar would also be explored.

(e) **Compilation and Publication of Bench Book:**

The Secretary, LJCP informed that District Assessment Committees, constituted upon the directions of Police Reforms Committee, had examined approximately 9000 cases of acquittal in murder and narcotics related cases and, in continuation of this process, the Committees were examining more cases of similar nature. Therefore, it was proposed that LJCP and UNDP could critically analyze the said data and work on its compilation for publication of Bench Book which would serve as a reference source for judges, prosecution and lawyers.

(f) **Activation of Provincial Justice Committees:**

It was suggested that under EU Rule of Law Project Pakistan, joint efforts would be made to activate the Provincial Justice Committees to improve coordination amongst Rule of Law and justice sector institutions.

(g) **Reporting on Sustainable Development Goal 16 and 16+:**

It was suggested that as LJCP receives data from all justice sector institutions across Pakistan, i.e., police, prosecution, prisons, judiciary and other agencies,

therefore, with UNDP support, every year an Annual SDG 16 Report Pakistan could be got published in coordination with SDGs Unit already established with the support of UNDP.

(h) **Reforming the Legal Education:**

It was suggested during the meeting that the curriculum for law degrees would be reviewed under the envisaged project to update the contents and syllabi as per requirements of the legal and judicial profession taking all the stakeholders on board (LJCP, Pakistan Bar Council, HEC and Law Schools).

(i) **Standardization and capacity building of justice sector actors, i.e. lawyers, prosecutors, judges, court staff, etc. to enhance their skills and capacities according to the changing needs:**

Mr. Arshad Jan suggested that for capacity building of justice sector actors, the project could identify priority areas and plan activities accordingly which would also cover institutional support and capacity building of LJCP employees.

(j) **Creation of linkages with the international judicial academies, like Singapore Judicial College, European Judicial Academies, etc.**

Mr. Arshad Jan informed that UNDP would provide funding to create linkages with international judicial academies and law schools and it would also provide funding for participation in conferences, events and seminars for exchange of experiences and presentation of research papers in conferences, etc. In this context, LJCP would act as focal point.

(k) **Establishment of Judicial and Legal Reforms Unit at LJCP:**

It has been envisaged that the Unit would work on reforms in criminal and civil laws; UNDP would provide initial funding for establishment of Unit along with HR support for one year. The funding would also cover necessary equipment, furniture and logistics. Similarly, for promotion of judicial and legal research, a dedicated Research Center would also be established in Islamabad. The funding proposed would cover provision of equipment, library books and

journals, access to digital libraries, etc. for the Center.

(l) **Activation of the District Legal Empowerment Committees (DLECs) and simplification of DLECs Rules:**

It was proposed that UNDP and EU may work in collaboration with LJCP for simplification of DLECs rules to ensure easy access to free legal aid. Moreover, the donor will explore options of funding to DLECs (selective districts, matching grant, endowment funding or funding in selective categories of cases e.g., women, juvenile, special persons, senior citizens, etc.).

It was observed that the current rules of Access to Justice Development Fund (AJDF) do not cover funding and financial support for establishing DLECs in Gilgit-Baltistan and AJK whereas the Courts concerned have time and again requested for extending financial support for establishing DLECs in relevant districts. It was, therefore, proposed that UNDP will provide funding for establishment of DLECs in GB and AJK.



Multan: Meeting held to discuss AJDF work plans for Multan, DG Khan and Bahawalpur Divisions: 24th June, 2020.

AJDF Facilitates discussions on envisaged projects: The meetings held at Lahore High Court, Multan Bench to discuss project proposals with District and Sessions Judges of Multan, DG Khan and Bahawalpur Divisions.

In continuation of the meeting of Secretary, LJCP and the Registrar, Lahore High Court with the Hon'ble Chief Justice, Lahore High Court, on 22nd April, 2020, a follow-up meeting was held on 3rd June, 2020 in Lahore High Court in which the Hon'ble Chief Justice directed the Registrar to

convene meetings for need assessment within the available budget and evaluation of project proposals from the respective District & Sessions Judges. The Hon'ble Chief Justice directed to arrange meetings with District & Sessions Judges in Multan, Dera Ghazi Khan and Bahawalpur Divisions in June 2020 and to invite Secretary LJCP to assist in timely finalization of work plans.

Projects for provision of drinking water facilities, construction of waiting areas for litigants, consultation rooms for lawyers, toilets, facilities day care centers, up-gradation of judicial lock-ups, etc. are under consideration for districts in Multan, D.G. Khan and Bahawalpur Divisions.

Accordingly, the Secretary, LJCP visited Multan for attending the meetings on 24th & 25th June, 2020 in the office of Senior Additional Registrar, Lahore High Court, Multan Bench, Multan to discuss the project proposals with the District & Sessions Judges of Multan, D.G. Khan and Bahawalpur Divisions. The District & Sessions Judges from relevant Districts shared their project plans including proposals for establishment of new *Court Rooms and Bakhshikhana* in Multan; and provision of drinking water facilities, construction of waiting areas for litigants, consultation rooms for lawyers, toilets, facilities day care centers, up-gradation of judicial lock-ups, etc. in other Districts in the aforementioned Divisions. However, the Registrar, Lahore High Court, after discussion with Secretary, LJCP, advised all the District & Sessions Judges to prepare detailed work plans as per AJDF Rules, giving cost estimates and timelines, and submit the same for prioritization of projects and final approval of Hon'ble Chief Justice, Lahore High Court.

In the end, the Secretary, LJCP discussed the status of utilization of funds provided to DLECs in Multan, DG Khan and Bahawalpur Divisions and shared that suggestions were sought from Chairpersons DLECs with a view to improving the effectiveness of DLECs and simplification of funding procedure. It was further informed that a consolidated document on simplification of procedure would be prepared by LJCP and shared with all the stakeholders to review the DLECs rules accordingly.

The schedule for similar meetings in the remaining Divisions (Sargodha, Faisalabad, Sahiwal and Gujranwala) would be decided later on.

District & Sessions Judges to prepare detailed work plans as per AJDF Rules, giving cost estimates and timelines, and submit the same for prioritization of projects.

The Secretariat of LJCP releases performance report of AJDF containing its brief introduction, regulatory framework, functioning and achievements since inception:



LJCP has issued performance report of AJDF covering its introduction, purpose and achievements since its establishment. Investment objective of the Fund remains to generate long-term returns to secure an independent and flexible extra, budgetary support for under resourced judiciary and

implement activities aimed at legal empowerment by creating awareness, provision of free legal aid, capacity building of legal professionals and improving the quality of legal education in the country. The report reveals that during the past several years, significant amount has been spent for infrastructure development of district courts, automation and provision of court related amenities to the litigants with additional funding for courts in designated under-developed areas across the country. Report further says that funds are provided to judicial academies for training of judges, lawyers and other stakeholders of the justice system. In addition, LJCP through Not-for-Profit-Organizations has executed 50 projects designed for creating awareness and legal empowerment.

It would be a matter of interest for the readers that the Fund is an independent and flexible extra-budgetary support to the justice sector reforms and has seven (7) windows as eligible areas of fund utilization established with a focus on justice sector needs and requirements. One of the seven windows of the Fund is dedicated to support initiatives aimed at Legal Empowerment which also includes funding for free legal aid to the deserving litigants through District Legal Empowerment Committees (DLECs).

These committees are governed under District Legal Empowerment Committees (Constitution & Functions) Rules, 2011

DLECs have been constituted across the country including the Federal Capital. Moreover, constitution of such Committees in erstwhile FATA is in process. So far funds amounting to Rs.60 million have been released for providing free legal aid to the deserving litigants, including prisoners who are otherwise unable to pursue their cases in the court of law due to financial constraints.

The composition of the Committee is as under:

- District & Sessions Judge/ Zilla Qazi as ex-Officio Chairperson;
- District Co-ordination Officer/ Deputy Commissioner/ Political Agent, as member ex-officio,
- Superintendent, District/ Central Jail, as member ex-officio;
- President, District Bar Association as member ex-officio and
- A representative of the Civil Society as co-opted member of the Committee.

The Superintendents, District Jails across Pakistan are designated members of the DLECs with the objective to facilitate free legal aid to the prisoners who are otherwise unable to access this important facility for

want of awareness and information regarding the process involved.

DLECs have broader perspective to facilitate every deserving litigant involved in civil, criminal or family cases including the under trial prisoners. Under Rule 5 (ii) of the DLECs (Constitution & Functions) Rules, 2011, the legal aid facility is extended in the following areas:

- Professional fee/ honorarium payable to lawyer;
- Court fee;
- Copying charges
- Process fee; and
- Any other area which the Committee may deem appropriate in a particular case, for extending legal aid to the deserving litigant.

Consequently, an organized mechanism in the form of DLECs does exist with a view to provide free legal aid facility to the poor and deserving litigants including prisoners to safeguard their rights before the court of law. However, for effective utilization of this valuable forum, the Prison Departments and relevant authorities may better liaise with the prison administration officials across the country to actively report cases of the economically underprivileged prisoners to DLECs or other relevant fora for timely

Improving the performance of District Legal Empowerment Committees (DLECS).

The establishment of District Legal Empowerment Committees (DLECs) across the country is an important initiative for provision of free legal aid to the deserving citizens, who cannot pursue their cases in the court of law for want of financial constraints.

A substantial amount from the Access to Justice Development Fund (AJDF) is placed at the disposal of DLECs for extending such a facility to the deserving litigants in terms of professional fee of lawyer, court fee, copying charges, process fee and any other area which the Committee deems appropriate. Up to the FY 2019-20, through these Committees, free legal aid has been provided in around 3000 cases and 60 million rupees have been disbursed for the purpose of professional fee to the lawyers engaged in such cases. Following the review of performance shared by some DLECs, it was revealed that optimum benefit of this novel forum was not being

achieved for various reasons including lack of awareness, case selection process, non-holding of monthly meetings, composition of the Committee, and lengthy process of status determination for such applicants, etc. Keeping in view the mandate of these committees, LJCP has felt that there is a need to improve performance of DLECs as eventually it would enhance the confidence of vulnerable segments in formal justice system for protection of their fundamental rights.

To this end, LJCP has requested the respective chairpersons of DLECs to identify bottlenecks or irritants affecting their performance and suggest reforms in the rules and procedure regulating their functioning and, therefore, sought input in the following successive areas:

- Are the DLECs Rules sufficient to implement their mandate and functions?
- Does composition of DLEC need redefining to improve the frequency and effectiveness of monthly meetings;

- How can selection criteria of deserving applicant be simplified? Is there any need for simplification of problem?
- Does qualification cap of five years' active practical experience of lawyers need reconsideration for quality of legal aid?
- Do utilization areas of funding need any addition or deletion?
- What should be the strategy for creating awareness about free legal aid facility and sensitization of justice sector stakeholders?
- Other suggestion, if any?

Through this exercise, LJCP intends to collect useful suggestions, opinions of those practically involved in free legal aid process, and LJCP management is confident that it would help suggest reforms in the relevant rules for improving the service delivery under DLECs.



E-office

Expanding Business Possibilities



Timely

1

Paperless Administration

2

Cost Reduction

3

Safe Digital Storage

4



Time to go Paperless!
Law & Justice Commission of Pakistan initiates efforts to adopt the E-Office Application developed by National Information Technology Board (NITB).

E-Office is an application developed by the National Information Technology Board, working under the Ministry of Information Technology, it is helping the Government departments to go paperless.

It is aimed at improving internal efficiencies in an organization through electronic

administration. The physical file movement of official files and documents consumes a lot of time and requires continuous monitoring from desk-to-desk before the final decision is made by the senior officials. It is a digital workplace solution that replaces the existing method of manual handling of files and documents with an efficient electronic system and other relevant advancing technologies. In a monthly meeting, Secretary LJCP said that it was imperative to adopt modern business culture to ensure efficiency and transparency.



The Hon'ble Chief Justice of Pakistan approves the proposal of establishing National Judicial Automation Unit (NJAU).

The Unit to be housed in the Old Building of the Federal Judicial Academy. A team of IT Experts from the Superior Courts would start working soon to operationalise the unit:

Establishing a unified integrated case flow management system for the Judicial Institutions of Pakistan has been on the agenda of the National Judicial Automation Committee (NJAC) since its inception. To achieve this goal, it had been proposed from the forum of Technical Experts Sub-Committee that a dedicated unit for Automation of Judiciary, National Judicial

Automation Unit (NJAU) be established, in Islamabad to cater for the IT related requirements of the Judiciary. This Unit would work towards the centralized automation policy for the Judiciary and its integration with other Justice Sector Organisations.

NJAC after considering the proposal, in its meeting dated 18th January 2020 directed to place the proposal before NJPMC and to seek a formal approval. Accordingly, it was agreed that LJCP Secretariat will submit formal proposal for consideration of approval before the Hon'ble Chief Justice of Pakistan/ Chairman NJPMC for establishment of NJAU, provision of office space for the core team of NJAU at the old FJA building.

Further, it was decided that LJCP shall request the Supreme Court of Pakistan, Federal Shariat Court and the High Courts for nomination of IT-Expert(s) as members of the core team of NJAU responsible for completion of PC-I for NJAU.

The Committee remarked that sufficient staff was not available from the pool of courts, therefore, the NITB would also be requested for provision of deficient staff and necessary equipment as an alternate arrangement. Since the proposed Unit shall require an efficient data center, certain options were considered by NJAC as to acquire services from the National Telecommunication Corporation (NTC) or to develop an in-house Data Center or to use one of the existing data centers in the Judiciary.



To decide on the matter, the Director-IT High Court of Sindh was directed to provide a report to LJCP Secretariat about service quality and customer care services of NTC vis-à-vis Data Center for NJAU. Further it was agreed that during the transitional period National Data Center would be established at the High Court of Sindh till NJAU acquires its own dedicated national

data center. As directed by the committee, the matter was placed before the Hon'ble Chief Justice of Pakistan, in the meeting of NJAC held on 13th May 2020 at the Supreme Court of Pakistan, Islamabad, Dr. Muhammad Raheem Awan, Secretary LJCP informed the committee that proposals of NJAC on the Establishment of NJAU had been approved by NJPMC, and that the Hon'ble Chief Justice of Pakistan/Chairman NJPMC approved:-

- a) Provision of office space for core team of NJAU at the old Federal Judicial Academy (FJA) building.
- b) Requesting the Supreme Court of Pakistan, Federal Shariat Court and the High Courts for nomination of IT-Expert(s) as member of the core group of NJAU. The core group would be responsible for completion of PC-I for NJAU.

The matter was again deliberated upon and NJAC decided that the Federal Secretary, Ministry of IT would be included in NJAC as a member. For timely completion of PC-I and its submission to the Federal Government, the Secretary LJCP would meet with the Hon'ble Member Judges of the Islamabad High Court to discuss availability of human resource and other allied equipment for the Core Team of NJAU and report to the Chair for appropriate directions.

After receiving of nominations from the courts, a meeting with the Secretary-IT & Telecom should be held for arrangement of technical and human recourses.

Installation of E-Kiosks in the Supreme Court and High Court of Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJK) and Supreme Appellate Court and Chief Court of Gilgit-Baltistan



In a meeting of NJAC held on 13 May 2020, it was discussed that the Supreme Court, High Court of Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJK), Supreme Appellate Court and Chief Court of Gilgit-Baltistan would be facilitated. Ministry of IT then offered for installation of E-Kiosk Machines in the premises of the Superior Courts of Gilgit Baltistan and Azad Jammu & Kashmir.

Now, Law & Justice Commission of Pakistan is closely working with the Ministry of Information Technology to install the same in the premises of the courts. This shall provide the litigants an easy access to information such as court schedule, cause list, case information etc.

Rule of Law Index to be Established: During meeting of NJAC held on 13th May 2020, the Hon'ble Chairman NJAC desired that the Bench Mark in World Bank Report "Doing Business and Rule of Law Index" be integrated in CFMS in line with World Justice Project (WJP).

In the meeting of NJAC dated 18th January, 2020, it was resolved that all the Courts may prepare an index of all the Ministries and their attached Departments, statutory and corporate bodies of their respective provinces/ICT along-with nature of litigation as prepared by the Supreme Court of Pakistan. Program to also include minors, juvenile, and women gender indicators and special categories like commercial, banking, foreign parties etc.

During meeting, the Hon'ble Chairman informed that the Bench Mark in World Bank Report "Doing Business and Rule of Law Index" as per World Justice Project (WJP) would be integrated in CFMS.

The Hon'ble Chairman NJAC further observed that the work done on the Bench Mark set down in "Doing Business and Rule of Law Index" must be in line with the pattern of the Supreme Court of Pakistan.

The Hon'ble Chairman NJAC desired that Courts must be integrated in CFMS which was amongst the Bench Marks as set down in "Doing Business and Rule of Law Index of

WJP" on the pattern of the Supreme Court of Pakistan at the earliest and report be submitted in the next meeting of NJAC including commercial and international contract/parties.



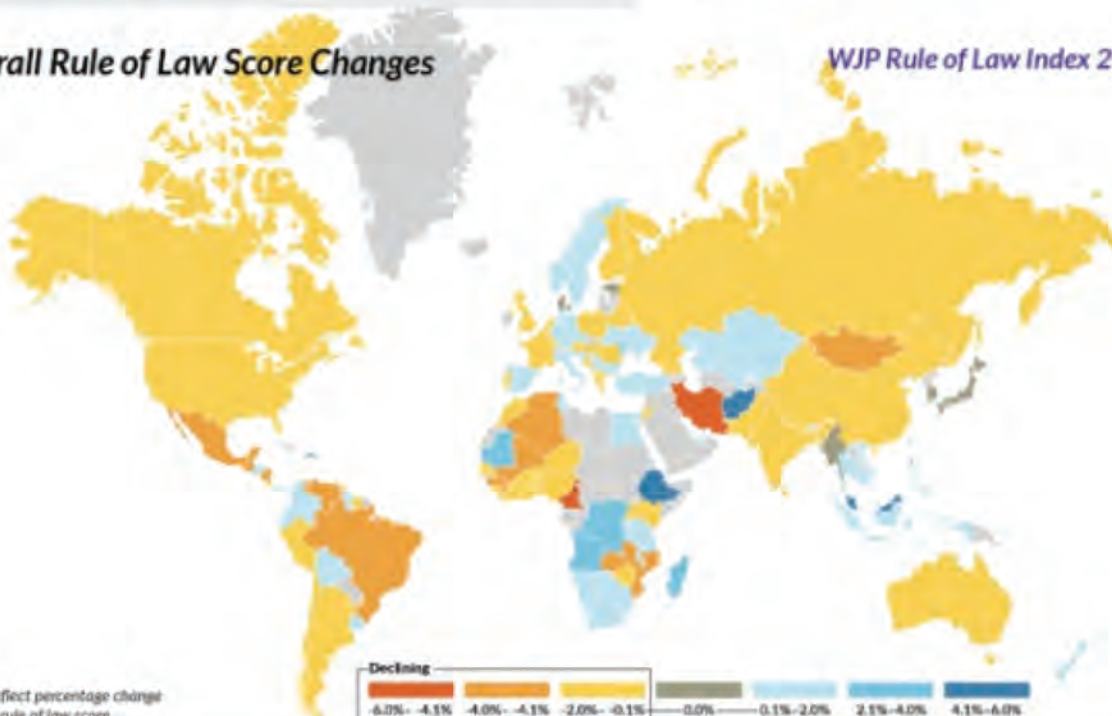
WJP Rule of Law Index 2020

The 2020 edition of the *World Justice Project Rule of Law Index®* measures how the rule of law is experienced and perceived in 128 countries and jurisdictions worldwide.



Overall Rule of Law Score Changes

WJP Rule of Law Index 2020





Law & Justice Commission
of Pakistan