

**DECISIONS OF 53RD MEETING OF
THE NATIONAL JUDICIAL (POLICY MAKING) COMMITTEE
HELD ON JULY 11, 2025 AT ISLAMABAD**

AGENDA ITEM-1: Institutional Response on Cases of Enforced Disappearances

DECISION:

1. The NJPMC strongly condemned enforced disappearances and unanimously resolved that the judiciary will neither compromise on its constitutional mandate, nor shall it fall prey to expediencies when it comes to safeguarding fundamental liberties, particularly in matters as grave as enforced disappearances.
2. The NJPMC constituted a committee comprising the following with a mandate to propose “Institutional Response on Cases of Enforced Disappearances” after considering concerns of the Executive in this regard.
 - I. Director General, Federal Judicial Academy
 - II. Secretary, Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan
 - III. Senior Director (Academics), Federal Judicial Academy
3. Learned Attorney General for Pakistan shall communicate all such concerns of the Government to the Committee with plausible legal options for consideration and review. The Committee shall submit its report to the NJPMC within 30 days of such communication from the Attorney General for Pakistan.

AGENDA ITEM-2: Institutional Response to Extraneous Influence on Judges of District Judiciary.

DECISION:

1. The NJPMC unanimously decided that there must be some reporting and redressal mechanism in place for judicial officers against external influence by Executive functionaries/organizations.
2. It was further decided that the High Courts shall develop reporting and redressal mechanism in this regard, within 30 days, under intimation to LJCP.

AGENDA ITEM-3: Commercial Litigation Corridor (CLC)

DECISION:

After detailed deliberations, the Committee decided as under:

- a. The High Courts shall notify Civil Courts and District Courts to try cases involving commercial disputes and hear such appeals respectively.
- b. To effectively adjudicate commercial disputes, designated Commercial Courts should be presided over by the judicial officers, preferably on six monthly rotation basis.
- c. Commercial cases will be categorized by the High Courts for allocation to the designated Commercial Courts for fast-track adjudication.
- d. Special attention shall be given to cases of educational institution, particularly the medical colleges.
- e. Specialized Benches will be constituted at the High Courts and Supreme Court.
- f. A Data Collection and Reporting Mechanism for Commercial Disputes will be developed & implemented.

AGENDA ITEM-4: Timelines for disposal of different categories of cases

DECISION:

The Committee considered the timelines suggested by the High Courts for disposal of various categories of cases and decided that each High Court shall prescribe timelines for disposal of 13 specified categories of cases, as per list below under intimation to NJPMC Secretariat within 30 days, for monitoring and performance evaluation.

1. Declaratory Suit (Land Disputes),
2. Declaratory Suit (Inheritance Disputes),

3. Injunction Suit (Land Disputes),
4. Recovery Suit (Public Revenue/ Money Matters),
5. Specific Performance (Contract Enforcement),
6. Rent Cases,
7. Family Suit (Dissolution/ Dower / Maintenance / Guardianship),
8. Succession Cases,
9. Execution Petitions,
10. Criminal Trial (Juvenile Offenders - JJSA - 2018),
11. Criminal Trial (Punishment up to 7 years,)
12. Criminal Trial (Punishment above 7 years),
13. Labour Cases

AGENDA ITEM-5: Double-Docket Court Regime

DECISION:

After thorough discussion, the Committee decided as under:

- a. Double Docket Court Regime will be piloted in minimum one district of each Province. Modalities for categorization of cases and incentive shall to be formulated by the High Courts.
- b. Working in Double-Docket will be optional for Judges and Staff.
- c. The High Court shall communicate the modalities so developed to the LJCP within 30 days.

AGENDA ITEM-6: Establishment of Model Criminal Trial Courts (MCTC)

DECISION:

After deliberations, the Committee decided that the High Courts may pilot the initiative for oldest criminal cases in chronological order.

- SOPs of the Expeditious Justice Initiative may be used for working of the MCTCs.
- The High Court may determine the number of MCTCs in each district keeping in view the number of target cases.

- The District and Session Judges may assign such cases to MCTCs under a Time-Bound Criminal Trial Regime.
- The High Courts may assign cases to the Judicial Officers on Special Duty awaiting posting.

The Additional Registrar (Judicial) of the Supreme Court of Pakistan shall, in coordination with Pakistan Bar Council and Supreme Court Bar Association, earmark a weekday for hearing of criminal cases of each Province.

AGENDA ITEM-7: Institutionalization of Court-Annexed Mediation

DECISION:

After deliberations, the Committee approved the Court-Annexed Mediation Regime, to be piloted as under;

- a. District Mediation Facility in at least One district of each Province shall be established.
- b. One Family Court-Annexed Mediation Centre in each provincial headquarters and ICT to be established.
- c. SOPs for establishment of Mediation Facilities and referrals shall be developed by the High Courts.
- d. Mediation facilities shall also be established at Supreme Court.
- e. A mechanism shall be designed for data analysis meant for review and update.
- f. Government shall be approached to consider amendments in relevant laws providing for mandatory pre-trial mediation in commercial and labour cases.
- g. The recommendations of the ADR Committee of the Supreme Court shall be placed before the NJPMC for consideration and approval.

AGENDA ITEM-8: Performance Evaluation of District Judiciary

AGENDA ITEM-9: Standardization of Recruitment Mechanism for District Judiciary

AGENDA ITEM-10: District Judiciary Policy Forum (DJPF)

AGENDA ITEM-11: Parity in Terms and Conditions of Service of District Judiciary

AGENDA ITEM-12: Access to International Exposure Opportunities

Agenda Items 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 were taken jointly as these pertained to district judiciary.

DECISION:

After deliberation, the NJPMC, in order to address the disjunct between policy innovation of various High Courts, constituted a committee under the chairmanship of Mr. Justice (Rtd) Rahmat Hussain Jafferri, former Judge, Supreme Court of Pakistan, comprising Hon'ble Justice Rozi Khan Barrech, Chief Justice, High Court of Balochistan, Registrars of the High Courts and Director General, FJA to make recommendations for placement before the NJPMC for consideration on following:

- a. Measurable KPIs for Judges aligned with WJP Rule of Law Index indicators and establish monitoring and evaluation mechanisms.
- a. Standardized eligibility criteria for the appointment of judicial officers;
- b. Uniform syllabus and comprehensive evaluation framework for examinations; and
- c. Combined and specialized training programs at the Judicial Academies.
- d. Examine disparities in Terms & Conditions of Service of the District Judiciary and recommend a uniform package,

- e. Propose a framework for the District Judiciary Policy Forum; and
- f. Develop a policy framework for overseas training and exposure of judicial officers.

AGENDA ITEM-13: Professional Excellence Index

DECISION:

1. After deliberations, NJPMC unanimously approved the Professional Excellence Index. Each High Court to develop its own proforma and develop its own Professional Excellence Index within 30 days, under intimation to NJPMC Secretariat. Draft proforma for consideration is attached.
2. The Professional Excellence Index shall facilitate the talent hunt for induction in district judiciary and elevation to the higher judicial positions.

AGENDA ITEM-14: Consideration of Ethical Guidelines and Policy Framework for Use of Generative AI in the Judiciary.

DECISION:

1. After detailed discussion, the NJPMC referred the matter to the National Judicial Automation Committee (NJAC) for constitution of a committee to review the draft AI charter and develop a code of ethical conduct before integration of AI in the judicial processes.
2. NJAC to also include the provision of development of AI tool, based on the data available with the High Courts and the Supreme Court for research purposes only, in the draft policy.
3. A final draft of “Charter on Ethical Use of Generative AI in the Judiciary” shall be submitted by NJAC within 30 days.

AGENDA ITEM-15: Review of Progress by the National Judicial Automation Committee (NJAC)

DECISION:

1. The Committee appreciated the strides taken by NJAC in translating the vision of digital justice into actionable projects.
2. While appreciating the presentations made by Lahore High Court on Integrated Criminal Justice System and Peshawar High Court on Enterprise Resource Planning, and also the advancement already made by the High Court of Sindh, the Committee lauded the efforts of all the High Courts for technology integration in judicial processes. It further directed the LJCP to coordinate visits of officers of various High Courts for exchange of best practices.
3. The Committee unanimously decided that the High Courts shall initiate policy on biometric verification for institution of cases in the Provinces, under intimation to the LJCP Secretariat within 30 days.
4. It was also directed that the NJAC shall include and integrate the timelines for the 13 categories of cases, indicated vide Agenda Item-4, in the proposed dashboard.
5. The recommendations made by the NJAC shall be placed before the NJPMC for consideration and approval.

AGENDA ITEM-16: Unified SOPs and Monitoring Mechanism for timely Intra Provincial Transfer of Accused.

DECISION:

The matter was considered by the NJPMC and after deliberations it was observed that the matter involved co-ordination among the Provinces, therefore, the Home Department, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa may engage with its counterparts to streamline the process. It was also agreed that the respective Registrars of the concerned High Courts shall facilitate the process of transfer of accused.

AGENDA ITEM-17: Strengthening Criminal Justice Coordination Framework

DECISION:

The Committee appreciated the Provincial Police Officer, Punjab, representing all the Inspectors Generals, for the policy input and decided the following;

1. The High Courts shall issue SOPs for attendance of under trial prisoners through video link.
2. The attendance of official witnesses may be managed through video link from the nearest criminal court, with video link facility, if deemed appropriate by the trial court.
3. Federal and Provincial Judicial Academies shall conduct courses for Police Officers including District Police Officers on request of the respective IGPs.

ADDITIONAL DECISIONS.

1. On the request of the Additional Attorney General for Pakistan, the NJPMC decided that all constitutional petitions pertaining to tax and financial matters shall be heard and decided by division benches of the High Courts instead of Single Bench.
2. The NJPMC appreciated the initiatives of Lahore High Court regarding construction of female bar rooms, day care center and health insurance for Judges and their family members. It was decided that all the High Courts will approach their respective Provincial governments for similar facilities.
3. It was also decided that the NJPMC Secretariat shall take up the proposal of consultation with the Presiding Officer before transfer of ministerial staff of the Administrative Courts and Tribunals with the Federal Government.

4. The NJPMC has once again decided that in appointments to Special Courts / Tribunals constituted by the Provincial and Federal Governments, the decision already taken by NJPMC dated 9.7.2012 be implemented by the said Governments. The said decision reads as under.

“4) The High Courts may recommend the serving Judicial Officers for appointment as presiding officers of special courts by transfer or on deputation. However, where such appointments are required to be made by direct recruitment then the same should be made from amongst the highly qualified and experienced advocate.”