

PILDAT

Pakistan Institute of
Legislative Development
And Transparency

PILDAT

ANNUAL
REPORT

JULY 01, 2015
JUNE 30, 2016



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Mission Statement

“PILDAT will work for strengthening democracy and democratic institutions in Pakistan by building the capability of and instituting non-partisan monitoring framework for the elected representatives and legislatures while facilitating greater participation of all segments of the society in the democratic process and development of new political leadership”

CONTENTS

Introduction
President's Message
Abbreviations & Acronyms

Basic Information	10
Board of Directors	11
Mission Statement	02
Activities During the Reporting Period	
- Assessing Leadership Potential and Performance in Political Leadership of Pakistan	15
- Assessment of the Quality of Governance in Pakistan	18
- Democracy and Legislative Performance Assessment	26
- Democratic Civil-Military Relations in Pakistan	42
- Parliamentary Dialogues	44
- Performance of State Institutions & Practises in Pakistan	59
- Right to Information	67
- Reforming the Rule of Law in Pakistan	86
- Youth	98
- PILDAT's take on Key Issues	112
Publications & Dissemination	115
APPENDICES	
Appendix A: Auditor's Report and Financial Statements	155

PILDAT Introduction

Pakistan Institute of Legislative Development & Transparency, PILDAT (www.pildat.org) is an independent, non-partisan and not-for-profit indigenous think tank focussed on political and public policy research and legislative strengthening. As an indigenous institution, its mission is to strengthen democracy and democratic institutions in Pakistan.

PILDAT is a premier research organization of Pakistan focusing on democracy, governance and public policy. Founded in 2001, the organisation focuses on producing objective, research-based analysis on policies especially under review by the Parliament and the Executive.

Our independent research, analysis, and advocacy based on it, has helped in shaping critical policies as well as broadened the public and media discourse on areas including democratic and legislative strengthening, political and institutional reform including in areas of democracy, governance, political parties, local governments, electoral processes & reforms, civil-military relations, federation-provinces relations, women and youth in politics, etc.

PILDAT has prepared and published nearly 1000 publications since 2002. These include policy briefs, background papers, legislative analyses, periodic monitors such as on civil-military relations and other issues. PILDAT has assisted key Standing Committees in the National and Provincial Assemblies of Pakistan in the discharge of their responsibilities of oversight and scrutiny of the Executive through capacity building and background research. PILDAT also provides forums for comparative political and Parliamentary learning through regional and international dialogues, conferences and study visits.

Leading with our independent and objective analyses and proposals for policy reform in critical areas, PILDAT is well-recognised as a serious and objective institute in policy-making circles, across legislatures, and media within Pakistan and abroad. As an organisation created and led by Pakistani citizens with a belief to strengthen Pakistan's democracy and democratic institutions, PILDAT has, as a cardinal principle, employed and upheld its independence and non-partisan approach. It has very carefully ensured that its research agenda and analyses are rooted in open-minded inquiry reflecting diverse points of view.

PILDAT is a registered non-profit entity under the Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860, Pakistan. Its formal registration process was completed on September 19, 2002.

Further details about PILDAT's work can be obtained from its website: www.pildat.org

President's Message

After successfully completing our objectives for this year and the laudable efforts put by the PILDAT team in achieving the results through their hard work and dedication, I am pleased to share PILDAT Annual Report 2015-2016 covering the period from July 01, 2015 to June 30, 2016.

While we have continued to pursue our flagship initiatives on assessing quality of democracy, we are excited to share new initiatives undertaken by us during the year. In addition to continuing our focus on issues related to strengthening democracy, governance and public policy, this year we initiated a nation wide struggle to strengthen the Rule of Law in Pakistan, specifically aimed at reforming the Police, Prosecution Service and Free Legal Aid System by initiating system and policy advocacy. Considering the worsening Rule of Law situation in Pakistan, PILDAT started identifying and advocating the passage of legal and systemic reforms for a better and improved capacity and responsiveness of state institutions to better respond to citizens' rights through improved Rule of Law. PILDAT also worked rigorously on effective implementation of Right to Information Act in Pakistan.

While more detailed overview of our work is given in following pages, I am glad to share some of PILDAT's key achievements and firsts in our endeavours this year:

1. The first-ever **Senators Score Card** assessing individual parliamentary performance of the Honourable Senators: A systematic assessment of the individual parliamentary performance of the Honourable Senators of Pakistan was conducted by PILDAT and published in the shape Score Cards
2. **Comparative Score Card on Right to Information:** PILDAT prepared and published the first ever scorecard on Right to Information in 2015. This publication brought about **forward movement in the realm of RTI legislation at the Federal level as well as the Provincial Level in Sindh**. A Committee was formed in the Federal Government to review the stalled Federal Right to Information Bill 2014 in light of changing security scenarios and push for its passage into law.
3. PILDAT facilitated the creation of the **Academic Network on RTI** whose role is to create a community of academics who will study and invoke RTI for its effective implementation while de-mystifying it in the minds of governments as well as common people.
4. A **Parliamentary Caucus on Rule of Law** was established and facilitated by PILDAT in 2015. The Parliamentary Caucus on Rule of Law adopted a Reform Agenda as its core objective; the Reform Agenda was also presented to Prime Minister's Committee on Legal Reforms & CM – Punjab who welcomed the recommendations and committed to working in consultation with PILDAT on the said recommendations.
5. **Mapping of Future Political Leadership of Pakistan:** In a systematic effort to map the future political leadership of Pakistan, PILDAT identified 21 leading political personalities of Pakistan projected to become Prime Ministers in the next 10-15 years' time. Report on Mapping Future Political Leadership of Pakistan included those who are most likely going to be political leaders in future and those who have the potential to be the future political leaders. PILDAT identified these personalities based on the promise and potential they had shown and compiled their profiles in the form of a book with the specific aim of highlighting the roles they play as political leaders for the people of Pakistan.

6. PILDAT hosted a **two-day regional conference** titled “**Understanding the Silent Revolution: Regional Conference on Right to Information in South Asia**”. The conference was attended by international delegates from India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Canada as well as representatives of Governments and Information Commissions from Pakistan.
7. In collaboration with the Punjab Information Commission, PILDAT successfully conducted five **trainings of Government Officers in Punjab on the Effective Use of the Punjab Transparency and Right to Information Act, 2013** in collaboration with the Punjab Information Commission.
8. **5 Pakistan-India Dialogues on Sharing of Experiences on Governance and Democracy**: While PILDAT has been facilitating structured, theme-oriented India-Pakistan Parliamentarians' Dialogues on bilateral issues since 2011, in 2015-2016, it envisaged that beyond the countries' capitals and foreign policy issues, conversation must also include experience sharing on good governance on basic public issues affecting citizens' lives in the nuclear neighbours. A series of 5 Dialogues including Legislators and Public Officials between Pakistan and India on **good practices of governance and democracy to improve service delivery for the citizens of Pakistan and India** were facilitated.

These initiatives and other modest contributions of PILDAT this year in strengthening democracy and democratic institutions in Pakistan are being shared with you through this report. PILDAT management and staff are committed in effective implementation of our mission for strengthening democracy and democratic institutions in Pakistan. We are focused on instituting non-partisan monitoring framework for the elected representatives and legislatures while facilitating greater participation of all segments of the society in the democratic process and development of new political leadership.

We place a high emphasis on learning lessons from all aspects of our work to help us to develop stronger and more effective programmes. We also value your opinion and support, and look forward to receiving your thoughts or feedback at info@pildat.org



Ahmed Bilal Mehboob
President

September 2016

Abbreviations & Acronyms

AAP	Aam Admi Party
AJK	Azad Jammu Kashmir
ANoRTI	Academic Network on Right to Information
ANP	Awami National Party
APC	All Parties Conference
ASI	Assistant Sub Inspector
BJD	Biju Janata Dal
BJP	Bharatiya Janata Party
BNP-A	Balochistan National Party (Awami)
CEC	Chief Election Commissioner
CLD	Centre for Law & Democracy
CMR	Civil-Military Relations
COAS	Chief of Army Staff
CPI	Communist Party of India
CPNE	Council of Pakistan Newspaper Editors
CRRID	Centre for Research in Rural and Industrial Development
CSDS	Centre for the Study of Development Society
CSO	Civil Society Organisations
CUTS	Consumer Unity and Trust Society
DAG	Democracy Assessment Group
DAI	Development Alternative Inc.
DCC	Defence Committee of the Cabinet
DGCMR	Dialogue Group in Civil Military Relations
DIG	Deputy Inspector General
DPO	District Police Officer
DSP	Deputy Superintendent
ECP	Election Commission of Pakistan
FOI	Freedom of Information
GB	Gilgit Baltistan
HODs	Heads of Departments
ICT	Islamabad Capital Territory
INC	Indian National Congress
ISAF	International Security Assistance Force
ISPR	Inter Services Public Relations
JDU	Jannata Dal United
JUI-F	Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (Fazlur Rehman)
JUI-S	Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (Samiul Haq)
KP	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
LEA	Law Enforcement Agencies
LJCP	Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan
MLA	Member of Legislative Assembly
MNA	Member of National Assembly
MP	Member of Parliament
MPA	Member of Provincial Assembly
MPDD	Management and Professional Development Department
MQM	Muttahida Quami Movement
MYP	Member Youth Parliament Pakistan
NA	National Assembly
NAB	National Accountability Bureau
NAP	National Action Plan
NCP	Nationalist Congress Party
NESPAK	National Engineering Services of Pakistan
NSC	National Security Committee
PCRoL	Parliamentary Caucus on Rule of Law
PIA	Pakistan International Airlines
PIC	Punjab Information Commission
PIOs	Public Information Officers
PIPS	Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services
PKMAP	Pakhtunkhwa Milli Awami Party
PML	Pakistan Muslim League
PML-N	Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz
PMRU	Performance Management and Reforms Unit
PPPP	Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarian
PSC	Provincial Steering Committee
PTI	Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf
RAW	Research & Analysis Wing
RTI	Right to Information
RTIC	Right to Information Commission
RoL	Rule of Law
SAD	Shiromani Akali Dal
SHO	Station House Officer
SC	Supreme Court
UNCAC	United Nations Convention against Corruption
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USIP	United States Institute of Peace
YP	Youth Parliament

Basic Information

Name of the Organization

Pakistan Institute of Legislative Development and Transparency – PILDAT

E-mail

info@pildat.org

Website

www.pildat.org

Twitter Handle

@Pildat

Facebook Page

<http://www.facebook.com/PILDAT>

Formation Date

November 01, 2001

Legal Entity

Society registered under the Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860

Objective

To Strengthen Democracy and Democratic Institutions

Registration Date

September 19, 2002

Auditors

Nadeem Safdar & Co.
(Chartered Accountants)

Bankers

Faysal Bank Pvt. Ltd and Bank Alfalah Pvt. Ltd



Board of Directors

Mr. Javed Nawaz **Acting Chairman Board of Directors**

Mr. Javed Nawaz is the Managing Director of Agro Dev in Oman. He has served on the Executive Committee of the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (1980-83). He established 3 schools while he was the Chairman Board of Governors, Pakistan College, and Muscat. He is a Law Graduate and has a post graduate degree in Business and Statistics. Mr. Nawaz was member of the First Group Study Exchange Team sponsored by Rotary International to visit California, USA in 1974.

Mr. Abdul Latif Mirza **Board Member**

Mr. Abdul Latif Mirza has served as Manager Production Support, Technology Services, Saudi Hollandi Bank, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, and Head, EDP Saudi Hollandi Bank, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

Mr. Ismet Amin Khawaja **Board Member**

Mr. Ismet Amin Khawaja is General Manager for Foundations Building Contracting Company, Ltd. He is Chairman of the Institution of Engineers Pakistan, Eastern Province Sub-Centre, Saudi Arabia. In October 2001, he was appointed Honorary Investment Counsellor for Eastern Region of Saudi Arabia by the Board of Investment, Government of Pakistan. Mr. Khawaja has been involved in a number of international projects.

Mr. Mohammad Haroon **Board Member**

Mr. Mohammad Haroon is Senior Vice President / Assistant General Manager at United Gulf Bank, Bahrain. He has served as an Investment Banker at Investment Corporation of Pakistan at Karachi and Peshawar; Manager, Senior Manager (Development), Acting Zonal Head, Senior Manager (Credit & Marketing for Gulf); and as Commercial Manager, National Bank of Pakistan, Peshawar, Abbottabad and Bahrain, 1974-1981.

Mr. Mohammad Jameel Bajwa **Board Member**

Mr. Mohammad Jameel Bajwa is CEO, Enviro Consult, Lahore. His expertise is in Infrastructure Development. He has worked in Nigeria as Project Manager of Kaduna State Housing Authority and has executed mega-scale projects in his field including housing projects in Pakistan and abroad.

Board of Directors

Dr. Sania Nishtar **Board Member**

Dr. Sania Nishtar, SI, FRCP, PhD, is the Founder and President of the Heartfile, an NGO think tank. Her areas of interests are health systems, global health, broader issues of governance and public-private relationships. She is also the founder of Pakistan's Health Policy Forum and provides support to many agencies in an advisory role. Internationally, she is a member of many Expert Working Groups and Task Forces of the World Health Organization and is currently a member of the board of the International Union for Health Promotion and the Alliance for Health Policy and Systems Research. She is also a member of the World Economic Forum's Global Agenda Council, the Clinton Global Initiative, the Ministerial Leadership Initiative for Global Health, etc. She speaks to audiences around the world and has been extensively published in and quoted in the media. Sania Nishtar is the recipient of Pakistan's Sitara-e-Imtiaz, the European Societies Population Science Award, 16 gold medals and many accolades of the International Biographical Centre, Cambridge and the American Biographical Centre. Sania Nishtar holds a Fellowship of the Royal College of Physicians of London and a Ph.D.

Mr. Ahmed Bilal Mehboob **Secretary General**

The founder, President of the Pakistan Institute of Legislative Development And Transparency – PILDAT, Mr. Ahmed Bilal Mehboob has over 25 years experience in senior management and advisory positions and over 10 years experience in design, planning and implementation of projects in the field of Parliamentary development, strengthening democratic institutions, democratization, political discourse, Election Monitoring and dialogues for reconciliation. Mr. Mehboob's focus has been on strengthening democracy and democratic institutions and providing thought leadership on crucial issues that affect democracy and political growth in the country.

Activities During the Reporting Period



Assessing Leadership Potential and Performance in Political Leadership of Pakistan



(L-R) Mr. Mujib ur Rehman Shami, *Editor in Chief Daily Pakistan*, Chaudhry Muhammad Anwar Bhinder, *Former Speaker West Pakistan Assembly / Former Senator* and Mr. Ahmed Bilal Mehboob, *President PILDAT*

In a groundbreaking PILDAT initiative, PILDAT began a systematic effort to map the future political leadership of Pakistan through assessing leadership potential and performance. Following were the major outputs by PILDAT under this initiative during this period:

1. PILDAT Report on Mapping Future Political Leadership of Pakistan including those who are most likely going to be political leaders in future and those who have the potential to be the future political leaders. Through the first-of-its-kind analysis, PILDAT identified 21 leading political personalities of Pakistan projected to become Prime Ministers in the next 10-15 years' time. PILDAT identified these personalities based on the promise and potential they have shown and compiled their profiles in the form of a book with the specific aim of highlighting the roles they play as political leaders for the people of Pakistan. The exercise of developing fact-based and concise profiles of such leaders is aimed at informing and facilitating citizens for their engagement with such political leadership and to enhance public focus and critical appraisal of the leaders that will help future leadership development.
2. Senators' Score Card 2015-2016 through which First-ever systematic assessment of individual parliamentary performance of Senators was conducted by PILDAT during the Thirteenth Parliamentary Year of the Senate, March 12, 2015 – March 11, 2016. Breaking new grounds, these Score Cards sought to provide the citizens of Pakistan with critical information in order to empower them to monitor their elected representatives and to identify the prospective future political leadership of Pakistan.

Trailblazing in nature, these reports generated focus on fact-based discourse, received wide media coverage, got quoted in national and international publications, which helped PILDAT achieve its objective of steering

debate on key qualities of democracy and leadership in Pakistan. A brief overview of PILDAT reports is given below:

Mapping Future Political Leadership of Pakistan

The 21 potential future Prime Ministers of Pakistan were evaluated based on the PILDAT-devised 13-point criteria that included: Role in political party; Engagement with public; Charisma; Demonstrated ability to run a government at any level; a clear Vision about future of Pakistan; Level of understanding about political issues; Level of knowledge about internal affairs; Financial integrity as indicated in the statements of assets and liabilities and taxes paid; any Legally documented criminal record; Independence of views, Stances on political issues; Demonstrated capacity to transcend differences; Potential and likelihood to become Prime Minister of Pakistan in the next ten to fifteen years.

The profiles shed light on the identified leaders' socio-political careers and give an account of their personal and political journey, major influences in life, elected and other offices held and holding, political affiliations, financial transparency, achievements and major positions taken on ideological, political and social issues.

Mapping Future Political Leadership of Pakistan: Scorecards on Honourable Senators' Performance, 2015-2016

A systematic assessment of the individual parliamentary performance of the Honourable Senators of Pakistan during the Thirteenth Parliamentary Year of the Senate, that is, March 12, 2015 – March 11, 2016, was carried out by PILDAT. According to the results of this assessment, the overall average performance score of the Senators was 41%.

The following Senators attained the Top 5 Positions:

- i. Senator Col. (R) Tahir Hussain Mashhadi, (Sindh, MQM) with 95% overall score
- ii. Senator Muhammad Usman Kakar, (Balochistan, PMAP) with 76% overall score

- iii. Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, (Federal Capital, PML) and Senator Saeed Ghani, (Sindh, PPPP) both with 73% overall score
- iv. Senator Muhammad Talha Mehmood, (KP, JUI (F)) with 68% overall score
- v. Senator Nauman Wazir Khattak, (KP, PTI) and Senator Dr. Jehanzeb Jamaldini, (Balochistan, BNP-M) both with 66% overall score

The Top 5 Women Senators were as follows:

- i. Senator Sassui Palijo, (Sindh, PPP-P) with 1st position among Women Senators, an overall rank of 13 and overall score of 51%
- ii. Senator Sitara Ayaz, (KP, ANP) with 2nd position among Women Senators, an overall rank of 15 and overall score of 49%
- iii. Senator Nuzhat Sadiq, (Punjab, PML-N) with 3rd position among Women Senators, an overall rank of 21 and overall score of 43%
- iv. Senator Sehar Kamran, (Sindh, PPP-P) with 4th position among Women Senators, an overall rank of 22 and overall score of 42%
- v. Senator Gul Bashra, (Balochistan, PMAP) with 5th position among Women Senators, an overall rank of 23 and overall score of 41%

These Score Cards sought provide the citizens of Pakistan with some critical information in order to empower them to monitor their elected representatives and to identify the prospective future political leadership of Pakistan. The methodology and framework of assessing the performance of 102 Senators were developed indigenously.

Honourable Senators' performance were evaluated based on the following parameters:

1. Oversight
 - i. Number of Committee Memberships
 - ii. Number of Committees Chaired
 - iii. Attendance in Committee Meetings
 - iv. Number of Adjournment Motions
 - v. Number of Resolutions
 - vi. Number of Call Attention Motions
 - vii. Number of Questions
2. Legislation
 - i. Number of Private Member Bills introduced
 - ii. Number of Private Member Bills passed
3. Representation
 - i. Attendance in the Plenary Sessions

Assessing Internal Democracy of Major Political Parties of Pakistan

PILDAT monitored political parties' activities relating to internal democracy on monthly basis. This was done through careful monitoring of media and parties' official websites. Monthly monitors were published based on key developments pertaining to 8 major political parties of Pakistan (PML-N, PTI, PPPP, MQM, JUI-F, JI, NP and ANP) in order to assess their internal democracy. The second Annual Report was published on February 22, 2016 on Internal Democracy of Major Political Parties of Pakistan. In the backdrop of this report, a Roundtable Discussion on the subject took place on March 1, 2016 in which experts gathered together to stress upon the need of promoting intra-party democracy.

For the second year (2015) evaluation by PILDAT of Political Parties' Internal Democracy in Pakistan, the Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) again emerged as the most democratic political party while the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) again ranked as the least democratic party.

A brief overview of PILDAT report is given below:

PML-N Least Democratic Party for Second Year in a Row; JI retains Most Democratic Rank; PTI Slips to Third Position

The PILDAT Score Card assessing internal democracy of eight political parties in Pakistan placed the Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) with 56% score (No. 1), the National Party (NP) with 47% score (No. 2), the PTI with 44% score (No. 3), the Awami National Party (ANP) with 40% score (No. 4), the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) with 36% score (No. 5), the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazlur Rehman (JUI-F) and Muttahida Quami Movement (MQM) (Both at No. 6) with 33% score, and the



Veteran Politicians and Experts speak at the launch of PILDAT Report on Mapping Future Political Leadership of Pakistan held in Lahore

PML-N with 31% (No.7).

The PILDAT Report on Internal Democracy of Major Political Parties of Pakistan 2015 concluded that the selected eight political parties received an overall score of 40 out of 100, which indicated a drop from the overall score of 43 in 2014. This showed that the state of internal democracy of political parties in Pakistan, although not in a good shape the previous year, further deteriorated in 2015.

Within this overall score, the indicator of Parliamentary Parties' Role in Developing Party Position received the highest score of 49%. And Credibility of political parties' annual statements of accounts submitted to the Election Commission of Pakistan and whether their funding base was wide enough, received the lowest score of 26%.

Regular elections, regular change in leadership through election, regular meetings of the Consultative Council (Shura) and the Working Committee (Aamla) and discouragement of dynastic leadership within the party, favoured the Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) which rated as the most democratic political party. The National Party (NP) emerged as the second most democratic party of 2015 with an overall score of 47%, which was a significant improvement over party's 4th position in 2014. Regular change in top leadership since its founding in 2003, party conventions successfully conducted in 2015 in which transparent party elections also took place for all four provincial chapters of the party, and lack of any sign of dynastic leadership have favoured the democratic credentials of NP.

On the other hand, the PML-N once again ranked as the least democratic party. Irregular or no party meetings, lack of competitive elections and continuation of the same leadership since the founding of the PML-N were factors perceived as major weaknesses in the

democratic character of the party. The PML-N was followed by the MQM and the JUI-F, rated as the second least democratic parties among the eight parties evaluated.

In order to assess democracy within political parties objectively and scientifically, a framework consisting of twelve (12) indicators was devised by a broad-based Steering Committee constituted by PILDAT. A party-wise account of each of the twelve (12) indicators was compiled after collecting data from various sources including the political parties. This account became the basis of quantitative assessment (scoring) for the parties.

Following were the indicators of internal democracy of political parties:

- i. Democratic character of the party constitution;
- ii. Regular and competitive party elections;
- iii. Effectiveness of intra-party structures;
- iv. Role of local party chapters in selecting party candidates for legislatures and local governments;
- v. Regular meetings of parliamentary parties;
- vi. Tradition of annual general meetings or conventions;
- vii. Discouragement of dynastic leadership;
- viii. Regular change in party leadership;
- ix. A broad funding base and credible party accounts;
- x. Tolerance of dissent within party;
- xi. A democratic decision-making process; and
- xii. Active participation of women, youth and minorities in party affairs

Assessment of the Quality of Governance in Pakistan



(L-R) H.E. Dr. T. C. A. Raghavan, *High Commissioner of India to Pakistan*, Mr. Ahmed Bilal Mehboob, *President PILDAT* and Mr. Shahid Hamid, *Senior Advocate Supreme Court, Former Governor Punjab* at the Mutual Learning on Governance and Development between Pakistan and India event in Islamabad

PILDAT continued its Assessment of Quality of Governance during this period as well by preparing, publishing and releasing governance assessment Score Cards for Federal and Provincial Governance for 2014-2015, second year of elected political Governments in office since May 2013 General Election.

The Score Cards generated positive involvement and interest from the Governments. One of the key lessons learnt by PILDAT has been that governance assessment can be used as a powerful tool to incentivize Governments in improving their performance. The Federal and 4 Provincial Governments showed increased interest in governance assessment and provided feedback while the Score Cards were quoted widely in Legislatures and in Media.

Below are the key highlights of the activities and Score Cards under this initiative:

Indian High Commissioner Spoke on Mutual Learning on Governance and Development between Pakistan and India

High Commissioner of India to Pakistan, H.E. Dr. T. C. A. Raghavan, shared his views on Mutual Learning on Governance and Development between Pakistan and India at the PILDAT Forum on August 11, 2015. Dr. Raghavan lauded the efforts of PILDAT in the past in the facilitation of the Parliamentarian Dialogues between Pakistan and India from 2004 till 2014.

He felt each country had excelled in different areas and hence could benefit from knowledge sharing. Praising construction and management of Motorway in Pakistan, Dr. Raghavan said that both countries had areas to learn from each other. The proactive use of RTI Law, eradication of Polio, and arid agriculture for instance, constituted good examples in India.

Dr. Raghavan also believed that each country can look at and learn from good practices governance in the shortest possible time. Though he pointed out that for this to materialize the environment needed to be conducive and there needed to be a lot of investment in the areas by the governments of both Pakistan and India. In the current context Dr. Raghavan felt for the growth of both countries, it was pertinent for Pakistan and India to increase structured interaction on issues of governance.

While explaining the best practices adopted by countries Dr. Raghavan spoke about the model example of Singapore. He highlighted how the government of Singapore had concentrated its efforts on the improvement of one particular area at a particular time.

Dr. Raghavan also felt that the process of change could not happen in isolation as the civil society and its pressure on the government was required for the materialization and implementation of change. One example that he gave in regards to the importance of the Civil Society Organizations (CSO) in the development of the governance structure in India was the involvement of the CSO's in the success of Project Tiger, a programme for the conservation of the tigers of India.

When identifying the channels, which might lead to better governance structures, he highlighted the importance of the development of technology and the globalization of the world, which made knowledge sharing between India and Pakistan and most other countries accessible. To him the best approach for any country when considering the development in governance was to look at model examples and tailor them to their own country.

Guests on the occasion raised questions relating to the scenario of bilateral relations, Kashmir issue, the tenacity of the Indus Water Treaty, Indian position on the Pakistan-China Economic Corridor, the relationship

between civil service and Government in India.

Federal and Provincial Governments Briefed PILDAT Governance Assessment Group on Key Achievements in Governance

On October 20, 2015, the Prime Minister of Pakistan's Office (PMO) representatives briefed PILDAT's Governance Assessment Group on the Federal Government's performance on key governance indicators in its second year in office from June 2014 to May 2015.

Additional Secretary to the Prime Minister, **Mr. Fawad Hasan Fawad**, leading the delegation from the PMO, was accompanied by the Joint Secretary, **Mr. Kazim Niaz**, and the Deputy Secretary, Prime Minister's Office, **Mr. Khushal Khan**, to share the details of the initiatives undertaken by the Government.

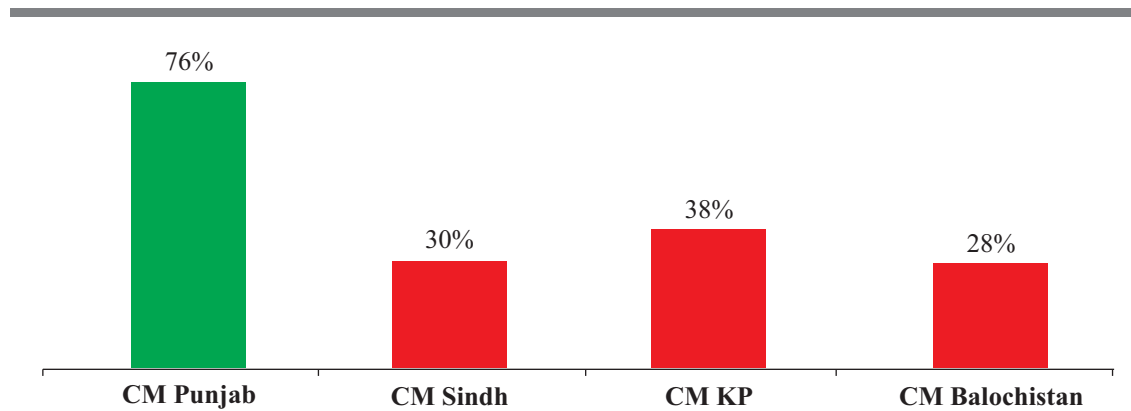
The briefing was part of PILDAT initiative to assess Quality of Governance in Pakistan through which PILDAT seeks and receives data on key governance indicators from the Federal and 4 Provincial Governments annually. In similar briefings earlier from October 01-02, 2015, representatives from 4 Provincial Governments shared highlights of their respective Governments' Performance through June 2014-May 2015 with the Governance Assessment Group.

Members of PILDAT's Governance Assessment Group who joined the meeting included Former Chief Secretary of Balochistan, **Mr. Abdul Hakim Baluch**, Senior Lawyer, Former Chairman SECP, Dr. Tariq Hassan, Former Chief Secretary Sindh, **Mr. Javed Ashraf Husain**, Former Senior National Specialist (Education), UNESCO, **Mr. Arshad Saeed Khan**, Former Caretaker Chief Minister KP, Former Chairman WAPDA, **Mr. Shamsul Mulk**, Development and Political Economist, Senior Fellow UC Berkley, **Dr. Niaz Murtaza**, Senior Journalist, **Mr. Ghazi Salahuddin**, Editor in Chief, Daily Pakistan, **Mr. Mujib ur Rehman Shami**, Chairman IPPAC, Former Chairman FBR, **Mr. Abdullah Yusuf**, and President PILDAT, **Mr. Ahmed Bilal Mehboob**.

Meanwhile, over the course of two meetings in the month of October 2015, representatives of the Provincial Governments of Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), and Balochistan shared their Governments' respective achievements with the Governance Assessment Group for the purpose of PILDAT's on-going assessment of the Quality of Governance in the Federal Government and the four provinces during their second year from June 2014 to May 2015.

On this occasion, representatives from the Provincial Government of Punjab included **Ms. Zakia Shahnawaz Khan**, Minister for Population Welfare, Punjab, joined by **Mr. Iftikhar Ali Sahoo**, Secretary, Planning and Development Department and **Mr. Zaman Wattoo**, Additional Secretary (I&C), Services & General Administration Department. Balochistan Government was represented by **Mr. Zulfiqar Durrani**, Secretary Planning and Development Department joined by **Mr. Mujib Ur Rahman**, Chief of Foreign Aid, Planning and Development Department and **Mr. Arif Hussain Shah**, Chief of Section Federal Projects Balochistan. Representatives from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa included **Mr. Ambar Ali Khan**, Chief Economist, Planning & Development Government of KP, joined by **Mr. Muhammad Bakhtiar Khan**, Coordinator Reforms Cell, **Syed Zahir Ali Shah**, Chief of Coordination Planning and Development Department and **Ms. Nasiba Bibi**, Communications Specialist, Planning and Development Department. Additional Chief Secretary (Development), Planning and Development Department, **Mr. Aijaz Ali Khan** was leading the delegation from the Sindh Government, accompanied by Deputy Secretary General of Police, **Dr. Ghulam Sarwar Jamali**, Secretary Sindh Energy Department, **Agha Wasif Abbas**, Special Finance Secretary, Finance Department, **Dr. Noor Alam**, Secretary (Implementation & Coordination) SGA & CD, **Mr. Parvez Ahmed Seehar** and Chief Coordination Planning and Development, **Mr. Abdul Fateh Tunio**, to share the details of the initiatives undertaken by the Government.

The members of PILDAT's Governance Assessment Group who joined the meeting included **Mr. Abdul Hakim Baluch**, Former Chief Secretary of Balochistan, **Mr. Mohammad Feyyaz**, Peace and Security Researcher, **Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Moinuddin Haider**, Former Governor Sindh, **Mr. Shahid Hamid**, Senior Advocate Supreme Court, Former Governor Punjab, Dr. Tariq Hassan, Senior Lawyer, Former Chairman SECP, **Mr. Javed Ashraf Husain**, Former Chief Secretary Sindh, **Mr. Nohman Ishtiaq**, Public Finance Management Expert, **Mr. Arshad Saeed Khan**, Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist; Former Senior National Specialist (Education), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), **Mr. Shamsul Mulk**, Former Caretaker Chief Minister KP; Former Chairman WAPDA, **Dr. Niaz Murtaza**, Development and Political Economist, Senior Fellow UC Berkley, **Mr. Saeed Ahmed Qureshi**, Former Chief Secretary Sindh, **Mr. Ghazi Salahuddin**, Senior Journalist at The News, **Dr. Shoaib Suddle**, Former Federal Tax Ombudsman, Former I.G. Police, **Ms. Rabia Sultan**, Director Farmer's Association Pakistan, **Mr. Ahmed Bilal Mehboob**, President PILDAT and **Ms. Aasiya Riaz**, Joint Director PILDAT.



Performance of Chief Ministers in the PILDAT Annual Assessment of Quality of Governance

Government representatives provided valuable inputs, highlighting the key areas of improvements in governance at the provincial level and members of the assessment group gave their expert insights on the performance of the Provincial Governments during the discussion sessions following the Government presentations.

KP Government Front-runner in Quality of Governance with Positive Ratings on 18 out of 28 Indicators; Punjab trailed with 8 positive Indicators; PILDAT Public Opinion Poll on Quality of Governance (2015)

As per the public opinion poll, Provincial Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa secured popular support for its performance in Governance, with reception of positive Approval Ratings in 18 out of 28 Governance Indicators.

The Nationwide Public Opinion Poll conducted by PILDAT on Quality of Governance in Pakistan at the completion of the second year of the current Federal and Provincial Governments in office elected through the General Election 2013. The survey results were the second part from a two-part PILDAT survey covering separately Quality of Democracy and Quality of Governance. The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Government emerged as the clear front-runner with positive evaluation on 18 out of 28 Governance Indicators, followed by the Government of Punjab, positively evaluated on 8 out of 28 Governance Indicators, Government of Sindh and Balochistan, both positively evaluated on only 2 out of 28 Governance Indicators, by the respondents resident in the respective provinces.

However, with reference to nationwide public opinion on the overall popularity of the Provincial Governments, the Punjab Government had the highest Approval Rating at 76%, followed by the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa at 38%, Government of Sindh at 30% and the Balochistan Government at 28%.

The public largely saw the governance performance of the Federal Government negatively. Out of the 30 core Governance Indicators, the Federal Government's governance performance was positively evaluated only on six indicators: Immunization of Children (85%); Education (64%); Collection of Utility Bills (56%); Law and Order (55%); Healthcare (54%) and National Security (53%). In all the remaining policy areas that were included in the survey, the majority opinion was one of disapproval on indicators of Poverty Alleviation (28%), Transparency (30%), Management of Unemployment (25%), Quality & Independence of Civil Service (26%), Merit-based Appointments in Regulatory Bodies (28%), and Devolution of Powers to Lower Tiers-Establishment of Local Governments (29%). Pakistanis appeared uncertain about the trustworthiness of the National Accountability Bureau (NAB), which registered a low Approval Rating of 30%. Only 32% of the respondents positively rated trust in Government Officers. The Armed Forces emerged as the most trustworthy institution with an Approval Rating of 75%, with Police considered the least trustworthy institution at 32%. Majority of the respondents negatively evaluated the performance of the Ministries with the exception of Ministry of Defence, receiving an Approval Rating of 55%, followed closely by the Ministry of Commerce at 47%. The Ministry of Water and Power received the worst evaluation in the nationwide opinion poll at 27%. The Ministry of Railways and Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication received Approval Ratings of 43% and 45% respectively.

When asked about the biggest identified challenge for the Country, majority of respondents (25%) from all over Pakistan identified 'Energy Crisis', as the biggest problem. 'Unemployment' came in second, with 19% respondents identifying it as a serious challenge for the Country. The problem of 'Maintaining Law & Order and Peace in Light of Terrorism' ranked as the third biggest problem, identified by 15% of the respondents, followed by 'Poverty', identified by 12% of the respondents.

Surprisingly, the problem of 'Corruption' was not perceived as a major issue by Pakistanis; with only 3% of the representative sample of the Pakistani public considering it as a major issue facing the Country in 2015.

In the survey, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif enjoyed a high positive rating of 75% among adult men and women from across the four Provinces. Meanwhile from 30 Indicators on which respondents from all across Pakistan were asked to rate the Federal Government's performance on governance, only 6 indicators received a favourable view of performance while on a majority of 24 indicators, respondents' view of Federal Government's performance appears as 'Poor' or 'Very Poor'.

While the Approval Ratings for Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif suggest that the majority of the respondents (75%) positively evaluated him, trust in his potential of resolving problems in the Country gives a more detailed outlook on the Prime Minister's popularity among the Pakistani public. Survey results show a majority of respondents (61%) were optimistic about the current Government's capability, under Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to improve peace and stability in Pakistan, 56% of respondents were optimistic about improvement in economy, 54% are optimistic about controlling terrorism in the future. Only 32% remained hopeful about the Government's ability to generate employment opportunities and 29% believed that Nawaz Sharif's Government could rectify the issue of poverty.

The nationwide poll was conducted by PILDAT during June 02-12, 2015 following the completion of the second year of the National and Provincial Governments in office. The respondents for the survey included 3231 citizens from rural and urban areas from 56 districts of all the four Provinces of Pakistan, using Systematic Random Sampling Approach. The fieldwork for the report was done in face-to-face interviews in respondents' homes. The sample is also based on a cross-section of various age, income, education and language groups of the population. Error margin is estimated to be approximately 3-5% at 95% confidence level. The profile of the selected sample matches closely with the profile of the overall population of Pakistan. For a detailed comparison and explanation, please see the chapter on Methodology in the poll report placed on PILDAT website. PILDAT has used international standards and best practices of conducting public opinion polls. All the details which are required for ascertaining the credibility of a public opinion survey such as the Methodology, Profile of the selected sample and its comparison with the overall population, exact text of the questions asked are provided in the survey report.

PILDAT Provincial Score Cards on Quality of Governance for 2014-2015: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Tied with Punjab for First Position in Quality of Governance at 68%; Sindh Ranked Second at 59% and Balochistan was last at 58%

PILDAT analysis revealed that Quality of Governance in Pakistan's Provinces was improving slowly and gradually. The Provincial Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) closed the gap with the Government of Punjab as both received an overall score of 68% in their performance on quality of governance in the second year of the Governments, since assuming office in 2013.

The Governments of Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa received a positive score (above 50%) for all 25 parameters assessed. Whereas, the Governments of Sindh and Balochistan performed positively across 20 parameters, while performance deteriorated in 4 and remained stagnant in 1.

KP led in Environmental Sustainability at 82.3% while Punjab was the leader under the parameter on Poverty Alleviation at 80.4%. The performance of both the KP and Punjab Governments was lowest in the parameter on Gender Gap at 51% and 52.9% respectively.

According to PILDAT's assessment, the Sindh Government secured third position with an overall score of 59% and Balochistan fourth at 58%. The performance of the Balochistan Government was highest for Devolution of Powers to Local Governments (77.7%), being the first Province to complete its Local Government elections. It was also the first Province to have operational Local Governments. Balochistan's performance was lowest in Public Transport at 41.3% for which Sindh outperformed the remaining Provinces at 78.3%. However, according to PILDAT's assessment, the Sindh Government was weakest in bridging the Gender Gap in the Province.

The comparative analysis on Quality of Governance across Pakistan's Provinces is carried out by PILDAT since 2013 to highlight key areas of strengths and potential areas requiring improvement in the quality of governance.

Government of the Punjab garnered the highest score of 84.8% for Clean Efficient and Economic Public Procurements, across all Provinces, among all 25 Governance Assessment Parameters. Whereas, the Government of Sindh received the lowest score of 38.5% for Gender Gap among all parameters under consideration.



(L-R) Mr. Shehryar Gul, Deputy Coordinator, Performance Management and Reforms Unit (PMRU), KP, Mr. Zulfiqar Durrani, Secretary (Planning), Planning and Development Department, Balochistan and Dr. Ijaz Munir, ASPM, Federal Government of Pakistan speaking at the Roundtable on Quality of Governance

PILDAT Score Card on Federal Government: Quality of Governance Received 44% Score for 2014-2015

PILDAT's analysis revealed that the Quality of Governance at the Centre in general improved in the second year of the Federal Government. The Federal Government received a score of 44%. Out of the 27 Governance Assessment Parameters assessed, Federal Government had shown improvement in performance in 18 parameters and deterioration in 9 parameters.

The Federal Government emerged strongest in its Foreign Policy Management (74%). Federal Government improved international relations by initiating almost 112 bilateral and/or multilateral peace and reconciliation agreements between Pakistan and other countries in 2014-2015 as compared to 34 in 2013-2014. The Federal Government received the second highest score for Management of Inflation (65%) and third highest for Merit-based Recruitments and Promotions (63%) in the second year of the Government, since assuming office in 2013.

The weakest performance had been under Transparency with a low score of 22%. The Federal Government has not yet passed the reformed Right to Information (RTI) Bill. The Bill, which was passed in February 2014 by the Senate Standing Committee on Information and Broadcasting, has since awaited the approval of the Federal Cabinet to be tabled in the Parliament.

In this stand-alone assessment of the Quality of Governance, the Federal Government received an average score of 42% for Rule of Law, 44% for Management of Economy, 50% for Administrative Effectiveness, and the highest for Service Delivery at 51%. For Social Indicators with a score of 30% the PML-N Government's performance deteriorated during its second year in Office.

PILDAT Holds Roundtable Discussion on Measuring the Quality of Governance

PILDAT held a Roundtable Discussion on 'Measuring the Quality of Governance' on April 19, 2016 to discuss the recent experiences of its Governance Assessment of the Federal and Provincial Governments 2014-2015. Representatives from the Federal and Provincial Governments provided their recommendations to PILDAT for improving the framework and highlighted the shortcomings in data collection they themselves face that become an impediment to accurately monitor performance.

In addition, a number of Governance experts were also present as discussants and provided input to PILDAT, in particular, stressed upon the inclusion of Judicial Efficiency to the Governance Assessment framework.

The Speakers included **Dr. Ijaz Munir**, ASPM, Federal Government of Pakistan, **Mr. Zulfiqar Durrani**, Secretary (Planning), Planning and Development Department, Government of Balochistan, **Mr. Shehryar Gul**, Deputy Coordinator, Performance Management and Reforms Unit (PMRU), Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and **Mr. Khalid Mehmood Siddiqi**, Senior Chief (Physical Planning and Housing), Planning and Development Department, Government of Sindh. The representative from the Punjab Government was unable to attend the session therefore **Dr. Ijaz Munir** discussed Governance in the Punjab on their behalf.

Dr. Ijaz Munir while addressing potential gaps in PILDAT's assessment said that while it is important to measure performance against set targets, it is also important to study newly started and ongoing projects. Furthermore, while PILDAT assesses Governance based on performance in different sectors, the true essence of the job that ministries are performing needs to



Participants at the roundtable on Quality of Governance organised by PILDAT

be captured in the assessment.

Mr. Zulfiqar Durrani provided his input on how PILDAT's ongoing assessment could further be refined. He argued that think tanks in Lahore and Islamabad may not be necessarily able to acquire credible data from a Province as remote as Balochistan. PILDAT must have a team present in Quetta to measure Governance accurately in Balochistan. He believed that main challenge for the country is lack of credible data. It is highly unfortunate that the census has not been held for twenty years in Pakistan. It is also crucial to include prosecution and judiciary in the Governance framework used by PILDAT. PILDAT may also develop a mechanism whereby the level of equity in the country can be measured and assessed, with attention on marginalization of certain socio-economic groups.

Mr. Shehryar Gul represented the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa at the Roundtable Discussion. Mr. Gul shared a presentation on how the PMRU measures performance and implementation in the KP Government. The PMRU is conducting performance audits at the District and Provincial levels. A Key Performance Indicator (KPI)-based monitoring system covers 32 Provincial departments through 700 KPIs. Geographic Information System (GIS) data is also used for cross-sectional analysis. Data is collected on a monthly basis and a final presentation is given every quarter to the Chief Secretary. The Districts are rated and analysed on the basis of this data and the processed information is made available online for citizens. The KP Government has created a Citizens Portal, which is also available as an Android application. Similarly, citizens can now issue complaints through the Portal. Mr. Gul believed that engagement with citizens and transparency are indispensable to the performance of any Government.

Mr. Khalid Mahmood Siddiqui represented the Government of Sindh. Mr. Siddiqui believed that data collection strategies could be further simplified by PILDAT. He recommended that PILDAT might send one data collector to each Province to interact with all responsible departments. However he agreed with fellow speakers that there are major limitations at the Provincial level on the availability and compilation of data. The representative of the Sindh Government suggested possible additions to PILDAT's framework, including Judicial Efficiency and Accountability, Revenue Generation, Regional Equity, streamlining Sustainable Development Goals and Human Rights, and Road Infrastructure.

The discussants at the Roundtable felt that PILDAT's Governance Assessment is a useful exercise that highlights many areas and challenges of Governance that are otherwise not assessed. However, a number of aspects remain missing from PILDAT's framework. **Dr. Gulfaraz Ahmed**, Former Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Resources, believed that one such area is the state of affairs at the grassroots level: have new policies brought any sort of relief to citizens? Discussants were also of the view that PILDAT's framework, though comprehensive, should have different weightage for different parameters. It was overwhelmingly felt that the judicial and prosecution system should be assessed as part of PILDAT's framework.

Mr. Ahmed Bilal Mehboob, President, PILDAT, in his opening remarks, presented the methodology used in PILDAT's Governance Assessment, which for the Federal Government is based on improvement and decline in performance indicators in 2014-2015 from 2013-2014. Alternatively, the performance of the four Provinces is measured through

improvement or decline from 2013-2014 to 2014-2015, scored relative to each other.

PILDAT Polls and its Democracy and Governance reports are absolutely independent and objective

In a press statement on October 26, 2015, PILDAT stated that Daily 'Dunya' Lahore has published a series of baseless news stories in its issues of October 26, 2015 and on September 16, 2015.

Both the stories wrongly imply that the Government of the Punjab has assigned the task of preparing 'a good governance report' for the province of Punjab to PILDAT.

The story, apparently, has been built on the basis of a meeting, which PILDAT attended with the representatives of various departments of the Punjab Government in the Planning and Development (P&D) Department as a follow up of PILDAT request for data on various aspects of Governance of the Punjab Government for the year 2014-2015.

While building this baseless story covered on September 16, 2015, the correspondent failed to realize that PILDAT has held exactly similar meetings with the officials of the governments of Balochistan (ruled by NP, PkMAP and PMLN coalition), Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (ruled by PTI-led coalition), Sindh (ruled by PPP) and the Federal Government (ruled by the PML-N) not only this year but also last year. Every year PILDAT designs data request forms for 27 provincial Performance Parameters and 28 Federal Performance Parameters of Governance. These forms are sent to the Prime Minister's Office to seek data from the Federal government and to the four Chief Ministers individually for obtaining provincial performance data. Each government, as per routine, appoints a focal person and department to facilitate the provision of data to PILDAT.

After sending these data request forms, follow-up meetings are held with the concerned governments to explain the intent of the data requests and to answer any questions that the concerned departments may have regarding the data requested. This exercise is undertaken to produce a data analysis report assessing the quality of governance in the Federation and the Four Provinces and Scorecards as purely independent and non-partisan effort. A 25-member Governance Assessment Group consisting of eminent and experienced persons from the four provinces guides this effort.

First set of such reports for the year 2013-2014 were released in May 2015 while the work for the reports for the year 2014-15 is currently on-going and the reports are expected to be released by January 2016.

These reports are separate from the Public Opinion Poll which PILDAT undertakes every year on public

perception about democracy and governance. Public Opinion Polls are purely based on public opinions solicited from a representative sample of over 3000 respondents scientifically selected from all over the country depicting the diversity of age, education, gender, urban/rural, income etc. in the country's population using the state of the art international standards and practices.

The tone and terror of the story in Dunya newspaper on October 26, 2015 terming wrongly that PILDAT does not hold by the independence and integrity of its public opinion poll are a continuation of the baseless story and now its unethical and unprofessional use by the newspaper and the associated news channel. After the PILDAT President's very clear denial of the baseless story of September 16 on the Dunya TV programme aired on October 24, in which PILDAT demanded an apology from the reporter for writing a cooked-up and baseless story alleging PILDAT colluded with any Government to carry out governance assessment, it is absolutely unprofessional and unethical for Dunya Newspaper to run the October 26 story, once again misconstruing the facts.

This is a sheer fabrication to connect the public opinion poll report on the public perceptions on the quality of democracy that was released by PILDAT on October 19, 2015 with PILDAT meetings with the officials of Punjab Government or for that matter with any Provincial or Federal Government.

PILDAT is a non-partisan think tank and fiercely guards its independence. There is no question of PILDAT working with any government on a report commissioned by any government.

PILDAT remains committed to the values of independence, non-partisanship, integrity and high quality of work. PILDAT has taken independent positions irrespective of the positions taken by various political parties. For example PILDAT report on the state of internal democracy in political parties released in December 2014 rated the PML-N as the party with the poorest quality of internal democracy and PTI with the strongest internal democracy. The PILDAT reports on the quality of provincial legislatures during 2013-2014 declared Sindh Provincial Assembly as the most active and the Punjab Assembly as the least active. In terms of governance, Punjab and its Chief Minister have scored better than the other provinces. However, PILDAT has greatly appreciated the strong attendance record of former PM Yusuf Raza Gilani in the Parliament and has strongly criticized PM Nawaz Sharif and Punjab CM Shahbaz Sharif for their rare attendance of legislatures sittings through our work.

PILDAT works in a variety of areas including quality of governance, quality of democracy, performance of State institutions, including National and Provincial

Legislatures, Internal Democracy of Political Parties, Youth, Civil-Military Relations, Electoral Reforms, and others. Independence and objectivity are the guiding principles and hallmark of each of our initiatives in our contribution to strengthening of democracy and democratic institutions. PILDAT has and will always continue to uphold these values.

Presentation on Good Governance MPDD, Lahore

On March 24, 2016 PILDAT, President, Ahmed Bilal Mehboob, delivered a presentation on Good Governance to participants of the 17TH PSMG (Public Sector Management & Governance) Course for Officers being promoted from BS-17 to BS-18, held at the Management and Professional Development Department (MPDD), Government of the Punjab, Lahore. Among other things, Mr. Mehboob discussed recommendations that emanated from the Pakistan-India Dialogues on Sharing of Experiences on Governance and Democracy held in two countries during May 2015- March 2016. He also shed light on the framework used by PILDAT for the Assessment of the Quality of Governance in Pakistan. Source: PILDAT

Democracy and Legislative Performance Assessment



(L-R) Dr. Huma Baqai, Associate Professor, Director Public Affairs and Communications, Institute of Business Administration (IBA), Mr. Iftikhar Ahmad, Anchor, Dunya News, Mr. Javed Jabbar, Former Senator and Former Federal Minister for Information and Media Development, Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Moinuddin Haider, Former Governor Sindh and Mr. Ahmed Bilal Mehbob, President PILDAT speaking at a National Workshop on Assessment of Quality of Democracy

PILDAT has been assessing the quality of Pakistan's democracy since 2002. Our annual assessments are based on analysis of major events that have affected the quality of democracy during the period under consideration, scoring by a Democracy Assessment Group (DAG) consisting of eminent Pakistanis from different walks of life and a representative national public opinion survey. PILDAT's assessment of the quality of democracy is primarily based upon 2 assessment frameworks, which are as follows:

- International IDEA's Democracy Assessment Framework
- An indigenously developed Pakistan-Specific Framework

From July 2015 to June 2016, following were major initiatives carried out by PILDAT under this component:

1. PILDAT Report on Assessment of the Quality of Democracy in Pakistan 2015. The report, which carried PILDAT analysis of the democracy developments throughout the period through their close monitoring and quantitative assessment of the quality of democracy based on scores by PILDAT's Democracy Assessment Group (DAG) which consists of eminent personalities representing different walks of life. These scores were taken for the calendar year of 2015. The launch of Democracy Report generated media comments and analyses in the shape of over 20 Media Reports, including Op-eds and Electronic media discussions contributing to increased awareness among public, media and parliamentarians about the performance of democratic governance and democratic institutions and greater realization of the importance of introducing reforms to address the weaknesses in

the democratic system prevalent in Pakistan. International publications also used and quoted the report. Specific reform proposals generated from the report were shared with Presiding Officers of Legislatures; Governments and key State Institutions. The PILDAT's Report on Quality of Democracy was also cited by Justice Asif Saeed Khosa in Supreme Court's Detailed Judgment for the 18th and 21st Constitutional Amendment

2. PILDAT Public Opinion Poll on the Quality of Democracy in Pakistan, June 2014-May 2015 was released in September 2015. Upon the completion of the 2nd year of National and Provincial Assemblies and Governments in office in May 2015, PILDAT carried out a country-wide, nationally representative survey to gauge public opinion across the country on quality of democracy. The nationwide poll was conducted during June 02-12, 2015 with a sample size of 3231 citizens throughout Pakistan.
3. PILDAT Conference on Constitutional Development in South Asia: As part of PILDAT's focus on assessing Quality of Democracy in Pakistan, the Conference by PILDAT was also organized to commemorate Constitution Day, inspired by an initiative by the Senate of Pakistan, on the anniversary of the passage of the 1973 Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. The Conference was organized to showcase a comparative and holistic insight into the story of Constitutional Development in South Asia

Below is a snapshot of various public engagements, consultations and releases by PILDAT under the component:

President's Order Upholds PILDAT's Appeal directing National Assembly to Provide Attendance Records of MNAs in 15 Days

In an unprecedented triumph for democracy and parliamentary openness in Pakistan, the President of Pakistan upheld PILDAT's request for attendance record of MNAs, directing the National Assembly of Pakistan to provide the information to PILDAT in 15 days on July 10, 2015.

The Presidential verdict No. 441/WM/2013 dated 6th July 2015 on 'Mr. Ahmed Bilal Mehboob Versus National Assembly Secretariat' case has been made on July 6 rejecting the appeal of the National Assembly Secretariat that it had made in October 2013 against the Federal Ombudsman's 'recommendation' to the National Assembly of Pakistan to provide the attendance records of individual members to PILDAT.

The President's Order states that the "information requested [attendance records of MNAs] does not either fall in the exclusion clause or the exempted clause of the relevant law ...and the impugned decision of the Wafaqi Mohtasib is unexceptionable and calls for no interference." Following the President's Order, it remains crucial for Pakistan's citizens and media to ensure that the National Assembly Secretariat provides the requested attendance record of Honourable Members of the National Assembly within a fortnight, as instructed.

PILDAT, which has been struggling for greater transparency in Parliament and Provincial Assemblies for years, believes that public records of attendance of honourable public representatives is one of the basic requirements of democracy. Flouting all standards of transparency, openness and public access, the National Assembly has continued to maintain that attendance records of MNAs should not be made publicly available. This position of the National Assembly belies both regional and international good parliamentary practices where attendance records of public representatives, such as Lok Sabha in India, are openly available on their websites.

Taking a leaf out of standards of openness and transparency, one of Pakistan's own provincial legislatures, the Provincial Assembly of the Punjab, has begun to make attendance records of MPAs available online on its website. The regressive stance taken by the National Assembly, therefore, is both unfathomable and without legitimate ground, as upheld by the Presidential decree of July 6.

The Orders of the Honourable President maintain that the "contention of the Agency [National Assembly] is misconceived in nature" and that the Assembly's representation is rejected on the following grounds:

"Article 66 and 67 of the Constitution do not apply to the facts....for the reasons that the Article 66 primarily gives the immunity and privileges to a Parliamentarian for speeches on the floor of the House and Article 67 pertains to framing the Rules of Procedure with regard to proceedings in the House. Rules 28 and 283 of the ...Assembly Rules do not apply at allin view of Article 19-A of the Constitution of Pakistan, which significantly supplements the Information Law."

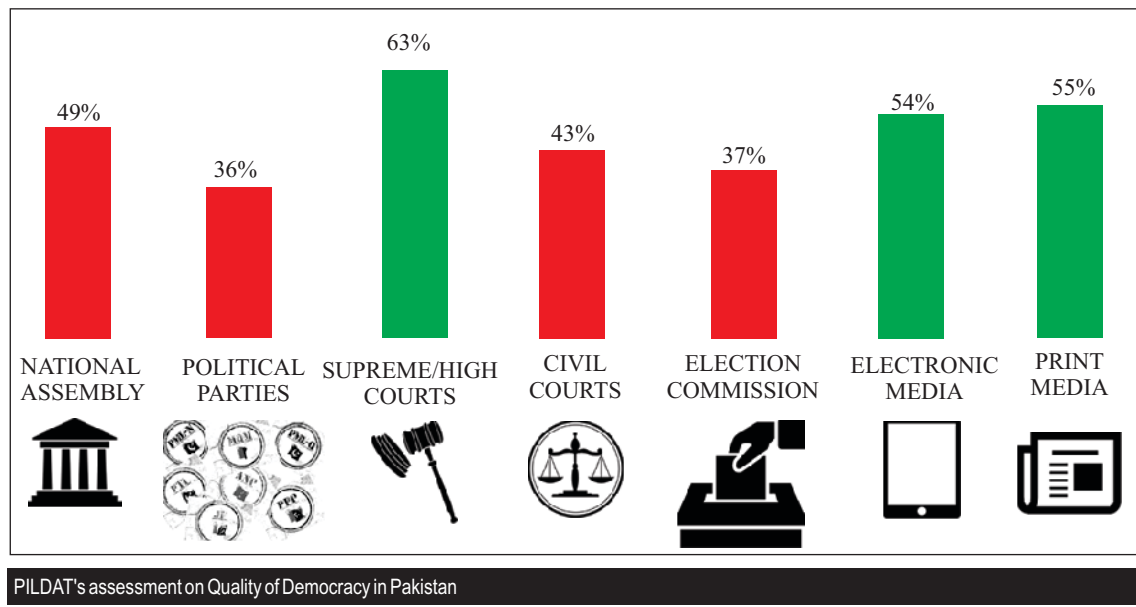
The "other reason for not accepting the stance of the Agency [National Assembly Secretariat] is that it is also a matter of record that on electronic media proceedings of the National Assembly is televised...Even under Rule 282 of the Assembly Rule 2007, Secretary of the National Assembly Secretariat/ the Agency is required to prepare a full report of the proceedings at each of the sittings and to publish the same, (Emphasis added), meaning thereby, that all the information available with documents and record maintained at the Agency [National Assembly Secretariat] is not confidential and secret."

Consider, however, how tedious it is for citizens to actually access information, that, in the first place, should be publicly available. The journey from seeking attendance records of MNAs to rejection of National Assembly's position by the President spans nearly two and a half years. This, in itself, speaks volumes about the standards of openness, lack of ease of access and flaws in the existing Right to Information legal regime in Pakistan.

Tedious Timeline Against Transparency

i. PILDAT sought from the National Assembly of Pakistan the complete record of attendance of each Member of the National Assembly for the 2008-2013 term in March 2013.

The National Assembly secretariat declined to share the required information. PILDAT sought the information invoking the Freedom of Information Ordinance, 2002. The request was again turned down by the Assembly, maintaining that the attendance record of MNAs "does not constitute a public record under section 7 of the Freedom of Information Ordinance, 2002."



PILDAT filed a complaint before the Ombudsman of Pakistan maintaining that attendance of Parliamentarians does not constitute 'excluded information' under section 15-18 of the FOI 2002 and that PILDAT, as an indigenous organisation by Pakistani citizens, has the right to know the commitment and dedication of the Members of the Parliament towards their legislative duties for which they were elected through an electoral process.

ii. Federal Ombudsman upholds PILDAT's perspective asking the National Assembly of Pakistan to provide attendance records of MNAs to PILDAT.

The National Assembly files an appeal to the President of Pakistan against the Federal Ombudsman's decision.

iii. President of Pakistan rejects the representation by the National Assembly directing it to comply within 15 days with provision of Attendance Records of MNAs

PILDAT awaits the National Assembly Secretariat abiding by the President's Orders and sharing of the attendance records within the allotted time. It is also hoped that the remaining Provincial Legislatures, in the light of the President's Orders and the initiative taken by the Provincial Assembly of the Punjab, replicate the same spirit of transparency and parliamentary openness.

Public Confidence in Democracy Remained High in Pakistan - PILDAT Survey

In encouraging signs for Pakistan's democracy, 66% of respondents looked favourably upon the quality of democracy in the country, whereas 64% believe that democratically elected governments constitute the best

system for Pakistan. It also seemed that the people of Pakistan decided to depart from the history of Military takeovers, with only 20% of the respondents stating that another Military takeover would be beneficial for the country.

These findings were released from PILDAT Public Opinion Poll on the Quality of Democracy in Pakistan for the Second Year of the Federal and Provincial Governments, June 2014-May 2015 on the International Day of Democracy.

Denoting the importance people of Pakistan attach with Local Governments, a substantial 80% of the respondents said that holding Local Government elections nationwide are somewhat to very important. On the other hand, 72% of respondents believed that elected Local Governments are somewhat to very important in solving the problems faced by Pakistani Citizens.

Finding of PILDAT's Public Opinion Poll also showed that popular grievances were getting pinned down on the poor performance of bureaucracy, with only 33% of the respondents rating positively its effectiveness. On the other hand, 56% of the respondents stated that they reposed high to very high level of trust in their favourite political party.

The survey results were released from a two-part PILDAT survey covering separately Quality of Governance and Quality of Democracy. The two-part public opinion survey was conducted by PILDAT upon the completion of the 2nd year of National and Provincial Assemblies and Governments in office in May 2015. The nationwide poll was conducted during June 02-12, 2015 with a nationally representative sample size of 3231 citizens throughout Pakistan.



PILDAT's Democracy Assessment Group (DAG) assessed Quality of Democracy during 2015

Findings of the Public Opinion Poll also showed that the Military continues to be the most popular State Institution with an Approval Rating of 75%. Respondents also reposed high level of trust in the Supreme Court/High Courts, the Electronic Media and the Print Media.

The Supreme and High Courts of Pakistan earned a strong Approval Rating of 62%, and the Electronic Media and the Print Media Approval Ratings of 53% and 55% respectively. It was however disappointing to see that institutions such as the National Assembly and the Election Commission, that may be considered the bastions of a democracy, could not retain high-level of public's trust. Similar was the case with the Police, which managed to garner an Approval Rating of 32% amongst the respondents.

On 11 core indicators measuring quality of democracy in Pakistan, 6 showed positive approval rating while 5 were rated negatively. Respondents were given above 50% approval rating to Independence of Media (64%), Effectiveness of Supreme Court (56%), Trust in Favourite Political Party (56%), Performance of Independent Cabinet (52%), and Democratic Oversight of Security Sector (51%). 59% of the respondents believe that the General Election in 2013 was somewhat to completely transparent and fair. On the contrast 30% respondents see the Election as somewhat to completely rigged. For the democracy survey conducted at the end of the 1st year of the elected Governments, 53% of the respondents believed that General Election 2013 were completely to somewhat transparent and fair and 37% thought they were somewhat to completely rigged.

PILDAT Holds Consultation on the Quality of Democracy in Pakistan During 2015

A consultation session was organized by PILDAT on January 29, 2015 for its annual Assessment of the Quality of Democracy in Pakistan. Titled National Workshop on Assessment of the Quality of Democracy in Pakistan, 2015, the forum was held to ascertain public **p.g writ of the civilian Governments**: The period under consideration saw the weakening of the writ of the civilian Government as its authority was eclipsed by a number of factors including the activism and visibility of the Military leadership in formulating policies and taking decisions. This was especially in relation to critical domains of our foreign policy and the internal security policy. This can also be considered fallout of the dharna, which saw humiliation of the elected Government at the hands of the protestors and the subsequent ascendancy of the Military influence.

No major improvement in legislatures: Although sparks of improvements were witnessed, especially in the Pakistan Senate, no substantial improvement was witnessed in the performance of Legislatures during 2015. It still remains the case that the elected representatives do not consider the Parliament to be main arena of their duties; they spend most of their time and energy on attending to the personal issues like dealings with local administration, police, employment, postings, transfers etc. of their constituents rather than in the legislatures on their responsibilities relating to legislation, oversight and representation The Parliament also continues to be side-lined by informal and ad-hoc avenues of consultation, such as the All Parties Conferences. Both the Prime Minister, Mr. Nawaz Sharif and Mr. Imran Khan, leader of PTI - the third largest parliamentary party in the National Assembly – seldom attend an Assembly Session indicating

the low priority they assign to the Parliament. For 2015, the Prime Minister attended 20% of the sittings of the National Assembly (17 out of a total of 87 sittings), whereas as Mr. Imran Khan only attended 2% of the total sittings (2 sittings out of a total of 87 sittings). The Leader of the Opposition in the National Assembly managed to attend 88% of the total sittings in 2015.

Judiciary: With regards to the performance of the Judiciary, it emerged that speedy and economical access to justice remains a major problem, as evinced by the increasing and huge pendency of cases across most of the District Judiciary of Pakistan. A clear manifestation of the near-dysfunctional status of the courts was the formation of the Military Courts after the passage of the 21st Constitutional Amendment on January 06, 2016. It is widely apprehended that the elected Government may be seeking an extension in the law allowing Military Courts after the end of the two years sunset clause in 2016. No concrete action has been undertaken to reform Pakistan's judicial system by now when more than half the time allowed to reform the judicial system has lapsed. These developments are accompanied by the fact that the people of Pakistan are increasingly seeking out informal and alternative methods of dispute resolution and justice. Consider the example of the so-called Sharia Courts set up by the Jamat-ud-Dawa. The parallel judicial system, which has been operative at least in the Federal Capital since 1990, has now been expanded so that 7 'Sharia courts' are now functional, one each in Lahore, Gujranwala, Bahawalpur, Multan, Karachi, Quetta and Islamabad.

However, Pakistan's Superior Judiciary must be commended for pushing the Federal and Provincial Governments to hold Local Government elections. Had it not been for the persistence of the Supreme and High Courts, the Federal and Provincial Governments would have continued to drag their feet. The greatest improvement in the quality of democracy was witnessed in the parameter of the Institution of Local Governments, for which the score increased to 31.8% in 2015 from 19.3% in 2014 by almost 12.5 percentage points.

Electoral Process & Management: With regards to Electoral Process and Management, although the recurrent theme remained the inability of the Election Commission of Pakistan to exert its Constitutional authority in 2015, the clean-chit granted by the General Election 2013 Inquiry Commission finally laid to rest the controversy surrounding General Election 2013. While the Commission did not find any evidence of organized and systemic rigging, it did find a long list of management issues with the ECP whose resolution should have been accorded a higher degree of priority by the ECP than is apparent. The ECP must, however, be commended for holding one of the largest electoral exercises in the history of the country, i.e. the Local Government elections.

Weakening institutional decision-making: 2015 also brought to note an apparent aversion on the part of the Federal Government to revert to Constitutionally prescribed institutional avenues for decision-making such as the Federal Cabinet. The Federal Cabinet met only 4 times during 2015 whereas it should have met 52 times ('Meeting of the Cabinet shall normally be held once a week on a day and time to be specified by the Prime Minister') according to the Rule 20 (1) of the Rules of Business of the Federal Government. In other words, the Federal Cabinet was able to meet only for 8% of the times it was originally supposed to meet till the end of 2015, with the last meeting for the period under consideration held on September 16, 2015.

Given that security remained one of the biggest challenges being faced in 2015, not even a single meeting of the National Security Committee 'the principal decision-making body on national security', was held during the year. Instead, the Prime Minister chose to carry out one-on-one interactions with the Chief of Army Staff. The Federal Minister of Defence was present in only 21% of these meetings.

Weak Rule of Law: Rule of Law continued to be problematic in the case of Pakistan's democracy in 2015. Incidents such as the case files of the SGS and Cotecna corruption cases of Mr. Asif Ali Zardari going missing, the constant and flagrant disregard shown by Gen. (Retd.) Pervez Musharraf for court proceedings, a dubious confession-video of Mr. Saulat Mirza emerging from his death-cell underlined the fact that the rule of law only seemed to be applicable in the case of the weak in Pakistan, while those with clout continued to flout it.

Vibrant Media and new challenges: Both the electronic and print media continued to expand, not only in terms of the outlets, but also in reach during 2015. However, 2015 showed that the freedom of media is not only restricted to the control and coercion, or the lack of it, by the Government. Instead, a new form of media control is evinced by the almost one-sided criticism directed at politicians and elected leadership.

While the Government control on the media is not so much of an issue now as a large number of privately-owned media channels have come on stream, the control of media by 'establishment' and various business interests has introduced a new dimension of the constraints on the freedom of expression.

Accountability Institutions: The year of 2015 also saw regression with regards to the accountability structures in place in Pakistan. The National Accountability Bureau continues what can be best described as hedging, and at worst as abdication of its responsibility, exemplified by the list of 150 mega-corruption cases, which the

organisation has yet to conclude. The list includes cases against high profile figures, including the Prime Minister, Chief Minister of the Punjab, former premiers, ministers and bureaucrats. Also consider that during 2015 PPP-led Sindh Government also criticized the NAB in the harshest terms along with introducing a Private Members Bill in the Senate to clip the NAB Powers.

Sparks of Activism by the Civil-Society: With regards to the performance of the civil society, sparks of activism were shown by it in 2015 such as in relation to protesting the blocking of YouTube, the Lahore Bachao Tehreek, etc. However, no systemic improvement was recorded in this regard.

It was however also seen that Pakistan's civil society was seen to be operating in an atmosphere of uncertainty. Following the temporary closure of Save the Children (an INGO) in Islamabad, the Federal Government has introduced a new policy for NGO & INGO registration.

Constitutional Framework – Need for reforms regarding the status of AJK, GB and FATA: It remains unfortunate that one of the key concerns regarding Pakistan's constitutional framework, that is on granting a Provincial Status to Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Gilgit Baltistan and the Federally Administrated Tribal Areas (FATA) persists even in 2015. Additionally, people of Gilgit Baltistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir are even deprived of representation in the National Assembly and the Senate. Many jurists believe that these territories can be given provisional representation and provincial status without compromising the legal stand of Pakistan on the issue of Jammu and Kashmir.

According to PILDAT's assessment, four parameters received a score of either 50% or more in 2015. These included the Performance of the Media (50%), Constitutional Framework (50.7%), Electoral Process and Management (51%) and Civil Society (51.4%). For 2014, these parameters included Performance of the Judiciary and Access to Justice (54.9%), Performance of the Media (53.1%), Constitutional Framework (57.2%), Electoral Process and Management (53.9%) and Civil Society (56.7%). For 2013, these included Constitutional Framework (55.2%) and Electoral Process and Management (53.8%).

Therefore, Performance of the Media, Constitutional Framework and Electoral Process and Management are three parameters that have consistently received high scores for the past three years in the context of quality of democracy.

4 parameters scored less than 40% for the democracy assessment in 2015, signifying that these areas remain a cause of concern. These include Performance of the National and Provincial Governments (34.9%), Institution of Local Governments (31.8%), Democratic Oversight of the Security Sector and Rule of Law (29.2%) and Human Rights (38.2%). In 2014, the parameters scoring less than 40% included Performance of National and Provincial Governments (38.3%), Institution of Local Governments (19.3%), Democratic Oversight of the Security Sector and Rule of Law (33.9%). In 2013, these low scoring parameters included Performance of the Unelected Executive/Bureaucracy (36.9%), Institution of Local Governments (16.5%), Democratic Oversight of the Security Sector and Rule of Law (31.3%) and Human Rights (25.8%).

Therefore, Performance of the National and Provincial Governments, Institution of Local Governments, Democratic Oversight of the Security Sector and Rule of Law, and Human Rights remain repeated areas of concern for the past three years in the context of Pakistan's democracy.

PILDAT Conference on Constitutional Development in South Asia

Constitutions and constitutional developments in Sri Lanka, Pakistan and India offered similarities as well as opportunities to learn from each other, so agreed speakers at the PILDAT Conference on Lessons for Constitutional Development in South Asia that took place on May 05, 2016 in Islamabad. Three Constitutional Experts, one each from India, Sri Lanka and Pakistan highlighted their country's respective of Constitutional Development.

Sri Lanka, Pakistan and India, all three have Federal and Parliamentary systems. All three are also looking for empowered local governments and further strengthening constitutional provisions for protection of religious minorities. Although the three countries have witnessed different trajectories of Constitutional development, the models in place in each country offer a lot to learn.

Acting Sri Lankan High Commissioner, **H.E. Mrs. E. A. S. Wijayanthi Edirisinghe**, Vice Chancellor, West Bengal



(L-R) Dr. Ishwara Padil Bhat, Professor, Mr. Shahid Hamid, Senior Advocate Supreme Court, Mr. Ahmed Bilal Mehboob, President PILDAT, Indian High Commissioner, H. E. Mr. Gautam Bambawale and H.E. Mrs. E. A. S. Wijyanthi Edirisinghe, Vice Chancellor, West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences, Kolkata, India sharing their views on the Constitutional Development in South Asia in a Conference held in Islamabad

National University of Juridical Sciences, Kolkata, India, Professor **Dr. Ishwara Padil Bhat** and Senior Advocate Supreme Court of Pakistan; Former Governor; Former Federal Minister, **Mr. Shahid Hamid**, spoke at the Conference as three esteemed Constitutional Experts. Indian High Commissioner, **H. E. Mr. Gautam Bambawale**, also shared his perspective at the Conference. A complete copy of his speech can be accessed [here](#).

Acting Sri Lankan High Commissioner, **H.E. Mrs. E. A. S. Wijyanthi Edirisinghe** said that at the moment, Sri Lanka is in the process of drafting a new Constitution, the effort for which was being spearheaded by the Public Representations Committee on Constitutional Reforms. This Committee has developed a unique model of public consultations, seeking the views and advice of the people ahead of formulating its recommendations. She stated that the need of a new Constitution has arisen due to the experience that the country underwent during the Rajapakse regime after the end of the 30-year insurgency by the Tamil separatists, which increasingly saw powers being concentrated in the Office of the President. She highlighted that shuttling between a Presidential and Parliamentary Constitution has only had a negative impact on the country's Constitutional Development. Therefore, the growth of the Constitution had been haphazard, not organic. Her complete remarks are based on the Background Paper authored by Mr. Lal Wijenayake, Chairman Public Representations Committee for Constitutional Reforms, Sri Lanka, who could not join the Conference but sent his presentation which can be accessed at: [Constitutional Developments in Sri Lanka](#).

Sharing Pakistan's trajectory of Constitutional development, **Mr. Shahid Hamid** said that military rule

automatically converts a Parliamentary form of Government into a Presidential one, as had often been highlighted in Pakistan's case. He highlighted that given the 18th Amendment had been passed, the current Constitution was not that of 1973; rather, that of 1973 as heavily amended in 2010. He stated that the 18th Amendment had restored the original spirit of Parliamentary democracy in Pakistan. He, however, observed that Constitutional forums for debate and discussion, such as the Council of Common Interests, have not emerged as effective due to their infrequent meetings. The Background Paper authored by Mr. Shahid Hamid for the Conference can be accessed at: [Constitutional Development in Pakistan](#).

Professor Dr. Ishwara Padil Bhat highlighted that Indian Courts consider federalism as the Basic Structure of the Constitution, beyond the amending powers of the Parliament. Pointing out India's experience of federalism, he stated that well-planned federalism is a fort against national disintegration, especially in a country as diverse as India. He stated that from the angle of good governance, Parliamentary system has the advantage of flexibility, responsibility and control over the Executive.

Earlier, in his opening remarks, Mr. Mehboob said that in the context of Constitution making in the Sub-Continent, the month of April has a special meaning. The Constitution of Pakistan was passed by the National Assembly on April 10, 1973; April 14, 2016 marks the 125th Birth Anniversary of Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar, who chaired the Drafting Committee of the Indian Constitution. It was also on April 28, 2015 that Sri Lanka passed its 19th Constitutional Amendment, which introduced key reforms in terms of rebalancing the powers of the Executive Presidency and the Parliament.

Participants at the Conference included prominent scholars, writers, MPs, law faculties and media persons who engaged in a keen and candid exchange of views with the Speakers. Members of the National Assembly including **Mr. Shehryar Khan Afridi**, MNA, PTI and **Ms. Nafeesa Khattak**, MNA, PTI joined the Conference. Senators who were in attendance included **Senator Hasil Bizenjo**, NP; Senator **Dr. Jahanzaib Jamaldini**, BNP-M; **Senator Usman Kakar**, PMAP; **Senator Karim Khawaja**, PPP; **Senator Sardar Muhammad Azam Musakhel**, PMAP and **Senator Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Abdul Qayyum**, PML-N. A member of the Provincial Assembly of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, **Ms. Sobia Shahid**-PML-N, was also in attendance.

Score Cards on Performance of Parliament and Provincial Assemblies

PILDAT continued its on-going practice of compiling Score Cards and corresponding assessments on the performance of the Senate of Pakistan, National and 4 Provincial Assemblies. Through these Score Cards, PILDAT assesses the three main categories of a legislature's performance: its *representativeness*, its *legislative capacity*, and *oversight of the Executive*. The key analyses generated during the period are as follows:

1. Score Card on the Performance of the National Assembly of Pakistan: 2015-2016
2. Score Card on the Performance of Provincial Assembly of Balochistan: 2015-2016
3. Score Card on the Performance of Provincial Assembly of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa: 2015-2016
4. Score Card on the Performance of Provincial Assembly of the Punjab: 2015-2016
5. Score Card on the Performance of Provincial Assembly of Sindh: 2015-2016

The Assessment of the Performance of the Senate showed that the Senate must be lauded on various accounts, including but not limited to its reforms to increase transparency and openness. Meanwhile, the performance of the National Assembly declined by 5 percentage points in 3rd Parliamentary Year with Accountability being the weakest area. In a comparative assessment of performance of Provincial Assemblies, Sindh Assembly's performance was rated the highest at 68%, Balochistan Assembly got the lowest score at 35%, while Punjab and KP Assemblies tied for second place with scores of 66%.

These Score Cards received wide media coverage and editorial mentions in key newspapers of Pakistan. Proposed reforms on sharing online attendance were adopted by the Senate and the National Assembly as well as the Provincial Assembly of the Punjab. Another one of PILDAT's consistently proposed reforms on Legislatures requiring Conflict of Interest provisions received a positive push forward as the Senate of Pakistan began discussions on required provisions on Conflict of Interest for members.

A brief overview of PILDAT Score Cards is given below:

Senate lauded for Setting High Standards for Parliamentary Transparency and Openness

Upon the completion of the Senate of Pakistan's Parliamentary year in March 2016, PILDAT lauded the Senate in joining the global ranks of democratic and legislative transparency. Under the leadership of the Honourable Senator Raza Rabbani, Chairman of the Senate, the Senate has taken important initiatives to set new standards of Parliamentary efficiency and discharge of its responsibilities.

PILDAT noted that the highlight of the Senate's performance has been the attendance of Senators in the sessions, which was higher as compared to any other legislature of Pakistan with an average of 60% Senators being present per sitting. In comparison, the attendance of Members in the Indian Rajya Sabha is far superior; averaged at 81% per session in 2015. Unfortunately, the presence of Ministers in the Senate left much to be desired as they were hardly present in the House and have even been barred from entering the House by the Chairman. The Prime Minister of Pakistan, Mr. Nawaz Sharif, MNA, for instance, attended only 1 of 103 sittings in the entire year. The PM even violated Rule 61(2A) that had been amended by Senators in 2014 to make it mandatory for him to attend the Prime Minister's Zero Hour (last hour of sitting) at least once a week during a session.

In comparison, the Leader of the House and Leader of the Opposition each had praiseworthy attendance records of 76% and 68% respectively.

There also appeared to be more interest in the legislative work by the membership as reflected by increasing number of Private Members' Bills tabled during the year. 18 bills were introduced in the Senate: 64% more than the previous year

(11). In comparison, Rajya Sabha saw its members introduce 52 Private Members' Bills in the 2015 Calendar year.

The Senate was taking seriously its oversight duties over the Executive by amending its rules to give powers to the House to constitute itself into a Committee of the Whole and summon Government officials or ask for any official record. This was done through the newly inserted Rule 172(A) in the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Senate in April 2015. The Committee of the Whole on Speedy and Inexpensive Justice met proactively over the 13th Parliamentary year and issued a highly comprehensive report when the House referred the prevailing issue of the provision of justice to the committee.

The Senate Standing Committee on Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, Statistics and Privatization also took its oversight duties seriously, meeting 38 times over the year. On the other hand, the Senate Standing Committee on Ports and Shipping led by its Chairman, Senator Muhammad Ali Khan Saif, MQM, met only twice: the lowest of any Senate Committee.

Legislators accorded significance to matters of public interest by amending its rules so that instead of one Calling Attention Notice, two Calling Attention Notices would be taken up daily during the session. The House is also taking up matters *suo moto* in the larger public interest. On June 11, 2015, the Chairman took note of the Indian Prime Minister's statement that Pakistan is responsible for promoting terrorism⁴ and suspended the discussion on the Finance Bill for 45 minutes in order to enable the House to have a discussion on the matter.

The Senate of Pakistan made another crucial reform by revamping its website, and making it more open, transparent, and accessible. PILDAT applauds the new additions to the website, including live webcast of proceedings, detailed information on business of the Senate, availability of a provisional calendar, and details regarding the pay and allowances of Senators. Most noteworthy is the fact that the attendance of individual Senators in the House is now online. The Secretariat has taken one step further and begun to upload the attendance in Committee meetings, an initiative that is not yet taken by the Indian Rajya Sabha nor any Pakistani legislature.

PILDAT commended the Senate's initiative towards reducing the gap between Parliament and the people by creating a Public Petitions Portal. Citizens can file the petitions related to public issues on the website which can then be taken up in the House or referred to a committee. The Secretariat even allows petitioners to track the progress of their petitions online. Within three

months of launching this portal, Senate received 554 petitions, 20 were selected for discussion in the House and 169 were deferred to Committees. It is critical that these initiatives do not fall through the cracks with the completion of the tenure of Senator Raza Rabbani as Chairman. A number of important practices, such as the compilation of Senate newsletters halted with changing tenures.

PILDAT welcomed the introduction of draft rules of a Code of Conduct in January 2016, compiled by the Senate Committee on Ethics. A Code of Conduct will surely set standards of conduct expected from all members, as is an established practice in Parliaments around the world, including the Rajya Sabha and the British House of Lords. A Code of Conduct would not only control the behaviour of Parliamentarians but also foster public trust.

PILDAT strongly believes that a **Conflict of Interest** provision be included in the Code of Conduct. MPs are likely to have occupations beside politics, such as being business-owners, farmers, etc. that result in them holding interests outside of their roles as legislators. PILDAT recommends that MPs declare all financial interests that may potentially create a Conflict of Interest between their duties as legislators and their personal interests. A *Register of Members' Financial Interests* that is used in Indian and British Parliaments may be emulated in Pakistan to compel Parliamentarians to vote and deliberate in the interests of the public. A register would diminish accusations of Conflict of Interest, and also uphold the legitimacy and integrity of the work of Parliamentarians.

PILDAT Lauds the Senate for Setting High Standards for Parliamentary Transparency and Openness; issues analyses of performance upon completion of Parliamentary Year of the Senate

On March 11, 2016 upon the completion of the Senate of Pakistan's Parliamentary year, PILDAT lauded the Senate in joining the global ranks of democratic and legislative transparency. Under the leadership of the Honourable Senator Raza Rabbani, Chairman of the Senate, who vowed to restore the "majesty and transparency of Parliament"¹ upon his election in April 2015, the Senate has taken important initiatives to set new standards of Parliamentary efficiency and discharge of its responsibilities.

In its analysis of the performance of the Senate during the year, PILDAT notes that the highlight of the Senate performance has been the attendance of Senators in the sessions, which was higher as compared to any other legislature of Pakistan with an average of 60% Senators being present per sitting.² It is marginally higher than attendance in the National Assembly, which is currently

averaging at 58% in its 3rd year. However, in comparison, the attendance of Members in the Indian Rajya Sabha is far superior; averaged at 81% per session in 2015.3 Unfortunately, the presence of Ministers in the Senate left much to be desired as they were hardly present in the House and have even been barred from entering the House by the Chairman. The Prime Minister of Pakistan, Mr. Nawaz Sharif, MNA, for instance, attended only 1 of 103 sittings in the entire year. The PM even violated Rule 61(2A) that had been amended by Senators in 2014 to make it mandatory for him to attend the Prime Minister's Zero Hour (last hour of sitting) at least once a week during a session.

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PILDAT welcomes the introduction of draft rules of a Code of Conduct in January 2016, compiled by the Senate Committee on Ethics. A Code of Conduct will surely set standards of conduct expected from all members, as is an established practice in Parliaments around the world, including the Rajya Sabha and the British House of Lords. A Code of Conduct would not only control the behaviour of Parliamentarians but also foster public trust.

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and deliberate in the interests of the public. A register would diminish accusations of Conflict of Interest, and also uphold the legitimacy and integrity of the work of Parliamentarians.

According to PILDAT Score Card on Performance of the National Assembly: Performance declined in 3rd Parliamentary Year by 5 Percentage Points

A PILDAT Score Card on the Performance of the 14th National Assembly's 3rd Parliamentary year showed the overall performance of the National Assembly declined by 5 percentage points at 43% from 48% in the second Parliamentary year. The performance, when compared with five years average of the 13th (previous) National Assembly, which stood at 49%, also declined. The Score Card was released on May 31, 2015.

It was observed that Accountability has consistently been the weakest area of the National Assembly in 2015-2016 (at 32%) as well as in previous years. While the Senate of Pakistan is making crucial reforms through the creation of a Committee on Ethics and development of a Code of Conduct, no such initiative has been undertaken in the National Assembly. As per the Rules of Procedure, the sole authority to oversee conduct of Members of National Assembly (MNA) in the House lies with the Speaker of the National Assembly, who can, at his/her discretion, suspend an MNA or adjourn a sitting. PILDAT strongly recommended that the National Assembly develops and enforces a Code of Conduct for Members, which has long been overdue.

While MNAs file Statements of Assets and Liabilities with the ECP, events such as the leaks of the Panama Papers make it clear that this is insufficient to make MNAs accountable to citizens. PILDAT advocates increasing the power of the Parliament itself to hold MNAs accountable. This would be done through the introduction of Conflict of Interest provisions. MNAs are likely to have occupations beside politics that result in

them holding interests outside of their roles as legislators. PILDAT recommends that MNAs declare all financial interests that may potentially create a Conflict of Interest between their duties as legislators and their personal interests in a Register of Members' Financial Interests. This is compiled in both Indian and British Parliaments and may be emulated in Pakistan to facilitate MNAs to vote and deliberate in the interests of the public. A register would diminish accusations of Conflict of Interest, and also uphold the legitimacy and integrity of the work of MNAs.

The Oversight of the Executive in 2015-2016 received a score of 44%. The Public Accounts Committee along with its sub-committees led by the Leader of the Opposition, Syed Khursheed Shah, MNA (NA-199, Sindh, PPPP) met 118 times this year: 30% more than the previous year when it met 91 times. Meanwhile, Standing Committees met on average for 13 sittings each. The Standing Committee on the Cabinet Secretariat was most active in 2015-2016 with 38 meetings of the Committee and its sub-committees under its belt. The least active Committee was the Standing Committee on Parliamentary Affairs, led by Mian Abdul Manan, MNA (NA-83, Punjab, PML-N) that met only 5 times.

PILDAT noted with concern the fact that the Honourable Speaker, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, did not accept a single adjournment motion in 2015-2016. This is a worrying trend as adjournment motions are important tools used by MNAs to raise matters of urgent concern in the House.

No significant strides were made in the financial oversight either. In June 2015 the National Assembly discussed the budget for only 15 sittings. In comparison, the Indian Lok Sabha discussed its 2016 budget for 31 sittings over 87 working days. The days that the Lok Sabha did not meet were utilised by specialized committees examining departmental budgets. The National Assembly's rules specifically bar the Finance Bill

from being referred to the Standing Committees, the single biggest reform required in the Budget Process in the National Assembly. The budget documents spread over 2,000 pages contain technical details that lay out the strategies for the coming fiscal year. Without an in-depth scrutiny of departmental budget in Standing Committees, MNAs are given only 2 days to go through the motions of studying the budget documents and 2 weeks to pass the budget.

No substantive work in Parliament can be done without the active participation of MNAs: The representatives of the will of the people. The attendance of MNAs in 2015-2016 was recorded at 61% of the membership: with 206 of 340 members being present on average per sitting. However, over the 103 sittings this year, quorum was lacking 17 times indicating that while MNAs may have attended the House but many only have stayed long enough to mark their attendance and not actually join the complete proceedings.

Most disappointing perhaps was the attendance of the Honourable Prime Minister of Pakistan, Mr. Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, MNA, who attended 10% of the sittings in 2015-16. His attendance is worse in comparison with the previous year when he attended 36% of sittings. Fortunately he did manage to attend more sittings in the National Assembly than the Senate of Pakistan where he made his presence known only once.

In the wake of the Panama Leaks scandal that engulfed the country and dominated the final session of the National Assembly, the Opposition resorted to boycotting proceedings till the Prime Minister arrived to answer their questions. One of Parliamentary leaders heading the protest against the PM was none other than Mr. Imran Khan, MNA, (NA-56, Punjab, PTI), who had an even more abysmal attendance record than the PM with 5% attendance for the year. Through his poor attendance the PTI Chief failed to represent both his constituency and his party in the House. The remaining Parliamentary leaders had better records: Mr. Iftikhar ud Din, MNA (NA-32, KP, APML), had the highest attendance at 85%. Meanwhile, Leader of the Opposition Syed Khursheed Shah impressed with 73% attendance. For adequately representing the citizens of Pakistan, the National Assembly received a score of 50%.

The National Assembly received its highest score of 51% for its legislative capacity in 2015-2016. The legislature saw an active membership that laid 42 Private Members' Bills: up from a significant 62% in the previous year when 26 bills had been laid. Despite this important achievement of the legislators, a worrying trend of the passage of hasty legislation was witnessed. The 22nd Constitutional Amendment that redefined the selection process of the Chief Election Commissioner and members of the ECP was tabled and passed on the same day on May 19. This was not a stand-alone incident: often laws tabled by the Government do not go through the required legislative procedure. For instance, the 21st Constitutional Amendment that sanctioned military courts for speedy trials skipped stages of the legislative procedure (such as scrutiny by Committees) mandated in the Rules of Procedure.

The Parliament was periodically bypassed in 2015-2016, for instance, through the usage of ordinances to bulldoze laws. The PIA ordinance was promulgated on December 07, just 48 hours before the National Assembly session was set to begin. Ordinances are a provision given in the Constitution of Pakistan to enact laws in emergency situations when the Assembly is not in session. There was no national crisis that warranted the promulgation of the PIA ordinance. The Government had earlier bypassed Parliament by introducing a mini-budget in November 2015 that increased indirect taxation.

MNAs themselves become party to undermining Parliament by deliberating matters of public concern in All-Parties Conferences (APC) than the floor of the House. In the period under consideration, the Prime Minister himself called an APC on January 15, 2016 to discuss the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) instead of the Government requisitioning a session of Parliament to discuss the matter. The Parliament is a representative forum of all elected parties and national policies must be debated and reviewed inside and not outside it. It is quite unsurprising that the Public Approval Rating for trust in the National Assembly has declined from 60% in 2014 to 49% in 2015.¹

For Transparency the National Assembly received a score of 46% as it began uploading the attendance of MNAs online. It did so with resistance having initially declined PILDAT's request in 2013. The National Assembly had filed an appeal to the President of Pakistan to resist uploading the attendance. This was rejected in July 2015 and the National Assembly was asked to comply with the Federal Ombudsman's directives and share this information publicly.

The National Assembly witnessed a decline in Involvement in Foreign Policy to 34% from 41% in 2013-2014. The sudden decision by the National Assembly to cancel its hosting of the 61st Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference (CPC), less than two months before it was scheduled to take place as the National Assembly refused to extend an invitation to the Speaker of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly appeared to be both embarrassing and irresponsible. If Pakistan's agreement to host the Conference was contingent upon not inviting the representative of the Jammu and



Score Card on the Performance of Provincial Assembly of Sindh- Third Parliamentary Year

Kashmir Legislative Assembly, this should have been clearer when the Speaker agreed to hold the CPC in the first place. Furthermore, the Government is still not obliged to get National Assembly's ratification of international treaties and agreements.

The Score Card is based on an international framework developed by the Inter-Parliamentary Union to assist Parliaments and their members in assessing how their Parliament performs against widely accepted criteria for democratic Parliaments. The PILDAT Team assigned detailed scores to National Assembly across 47 key performance indicators.

PILDAT undertook a Performance Analysis of the Provincial Assemblies in 3rd Parliamentary Year (2015-2016)

As per PILDAT assessment on the comparative performance of the four Provincial Assemblies of Pakistan in the third Parliamentary year (2015-2016) on June 20, 2015, the Sindh Assembly received the highest score at 68%, followed closely by the Punjab and KP Assemblies at 66%. Balochistan Assembly got the lowest score of 35%.

Sindh Assembly performed the best in the area of representation in 2015-2016 with a high score of 88%. Even though it is still not optimal, the Assemblies with the highest attendance at 34% of the membership being present on average were the Balochistan and Sindh Assemblies. The Punjab Assembly performed worst in this regard with an average of 13% of the 368 members being present.

The combined presence of Dr. Abdul Malik Baloch, Former Chief Minister of Balochistan (PB-48, Balochistan, NP) and Nawab Sanaullah Zehri, Current Chief Minister (PB-33, Balochistan, PML-N) was 59% of the total sittings in 2015-2016. A close second was the

attendance of the Honourable Chief Minister of Sindh, Syed Qaim Ali Shah, MPA, (PS-29, Sindh, PPPP) at 51% of the total sittings in Sindh Assembly. The Honourable Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Mr. Pervaiz Khattak, MPA (PK-13, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, PTI) attended 29% of the sittings of the KP Assembly in 3rd year. The lowest attendance in 2015-2016 was of the Honourable Chief Minister of the Punjab, Mr. Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif, MPA (PP-159, Punjab, PML-N), who only joined 5% sittings of the Provincial Assembly of the Punjab during the third year.

While the Leader of the House in the Punjab Assembly demonstrated the lowest attendance, the Opposition Leader, Mian Mehmood ur Rashid, MPA (PP-151, Punjab, PTI) attended 85% of the sittings in 2015-2016, the highest figure for any leader of the opposition in the provincial assemblies. Khawaja Izharul Hassan, MPA (PS-99, Sindh, MQM), Opposition Leader from Sindh Assembly was present for 73% of sittings; Maulana Abdul Wasay, MPA (PB-20, Balochistan, JUI-F), Balochistan Assembly Opposition Leader attended 61% of sittings, and Maulana Lutf ur Rehman, MPA (PK-66, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, JUI-F), KP Assembly Opposition Leader, was present for 53% of the sittings.

Sindh Assembly also had the best performance with regards to legislation with a score of 70%. The Assembly saw an active membership that introduced the highest number of Private Members' Bills at 9. Private Members' Bills are important indicators of the performance as they reflect the usage of the provision given to legislators to make laws in addition to those made by the Executive. The remaining 3 Provincial Assemblies lagged behind with only 1 Private Members' Bill introduced by the Punjab and KP Assemblies each. No Private Members' Bill was introduced in the Balochistan Assembly in 2015-2016. Meanwhile, the Punjab Assembly passed 46 laws in its third year (2015-2016), the Sindh Assembly passed 28 bills, the Balochistan Assembly passed 23 bills while

the KP Assembly passed the lowest number of bills at 18.

The Provincial Assembly of the Punjab had the best performance with regards to the Oversight of the Executive in 2015-2016 with a score of 84%. Even though the budget process in Assemblies remains very weak in general, Punjab Assembly spent 13 sittings (42 hours) discussing the Provincial Budget 2015-2016. In comparison the Sindh Assembly's budget session lasted 10 sittings (39 hours); Balochistan Assembly's session lasted 6 sittings, and KP Assembly passed the annual budget in only 5 sittings. The Punjab Assembly is also to be commended for being one of the two Assemblies, alongside the Sindh Assembly, that has mandated in the Rules of Procedure a pre-budget debate to increase the powers of the legislators in the development of the annual budget. In terms of oversight of finances, however, the Sindh Assembly surpasses Punjab by being the only Assembly to review the implementation of the budget on a quarterly basis. The Executive in Sindh submits a Quarterly Report of the Budget to Sindh Assembly, which is then discussed by legislators.

It was noted that significant reforms were still required across the 4 Provincial legislatures to strengthen the Budget process before its passage. With limited time available to scrutinize the Provincial Budgets and no adequate powers with Standing Committees to undertake in-depth reviews of the Provincial Budgets, year after year, Budget Sessions see mere endorsements of the Executive's budget by the Provincial Legislatures. PILDAT has been making recommendations to strengthen the Budget process in the Parliament and Provincial Assemblies of Pakistan, which include increasing the duration of the Budget process to at least 30 – 45 days and changes in the Rules of Procedure of the Provincial Assemblies to allow Standing Committees both power and time to review the Budget both before and after its introduction.

The Punjab Assembly met for the most number of sittings at 75 with the most amount of time spent in the House at 193 hours. In comparison, the Sindh Assembly met for a total of 182 hours over 59 sittings, and the KP Assembly met for 126 hours over 51 sittings. The worst in this regard was once again the Balochistan Assembly with 95 hours over the course of 46 sittings under its belt. In terms of time spent in the House, Sindh Assembly members spent 3.1 hours on average per sitting, followed by Punjab Assembly at 2.6 hours per sitting, KP Assembly at 2.5 hours per sitting, and lastly Balochistan Assembly at 2.1 hours per sitting.

Standing Committees that offer the most important avenue of oversight of the executive and are considered the eyes and ears of each legislature show a dismal trend of activity across 4 Provincial Legislatures. Even the highest number of average meetings per Standing Committee is 2.4, which is in the Sindh Assembly. In KP, Committees held an average 2.1 meetings per Standing Committee and 1.4 meetings per Standing Committee were held in the Punjab Assembly during the third year. PILDAT did not receive the requested data for the Balochistan Assembly in this regard. However, it is worth remembering that Balochistan Assembly lagged behind even in activating its Standing Committees while even at the close of the third year, 2 Standing Committees (Local Government, and Public Health Engineering) are still without Chairpersons and thereby not functional. There is a crucial need of reforms in enhancing the powers and capabilities of Standing Committees. In most legislatures, with the exception of the KP Assembly, Committees can only meet after a subject has been referred to them by the House and do not have *suo moto* powers, allowing Committees to take up any matter within their domain.

The Punjab Assembly was commended for its amendment to the Rules of Procedure in 2015-2016 that makes it mandatory to hold election of Standing Committees within 90 days after the election of the Leader of the House. A similar rule needs to be introduced in the Rules of Procedure of all the Provincial Assemblies so that the inordinate delay can be avoided. Additionally, the Punjab Assembly also amended Rules adding a Zero Hour to take up matters of urgent public importance relating to the Government and requiring intervention of the Assembly.

The Punjab and KP Assemblies surpassed the other Provincial legislatures in Transparency and Accountability with equal scores of 90%. Punjab's most important initiative came with its practice of uploading the individual attendance of MPAs online on its official website. The Punjab Assembly became the first of all National and Provincial legislatures in Pakistan to make this move. However, PILDAT notes with concern that the attendance of a number of MPAs is excluded from the uploaded attendance: including that of the Leader of the House, the Opposition Leader, Ministers, Parliamentary Secretaries, Advisor to the Chief Minister, and Special Assistants to the Chief Minister. All in all the attendance of 66 of the 368 MPAs is not uploaded. In comparison the Senate and the National Assembly upload the attendance of all the members regardless of whether they are Ministers or Parliamentary Secretaries. PILDAT recommended that the Assembly Secretariat upload the attendance of ALL MPAs as well as attendance within Committee meetings as is undertaken by the Senate of Pakistan.

Regrettably, other than Punjab, no other Provincial Assembly had begun making available members' attendance on

their respective websites for easy public access.

The Punjab and KP Assemblies were observed to regularly compile and update key performance statistics on their websites and are prompt in updating them. The KP Assembly uploads detailed business transacted by each of the 123 MPAs on the official website. The KP Assembly was commended for a landmark achievement to transact all business of the House on computers. Computers have now been installed on the desk of every MPA. All business being transacted from Executive goes through the Secretariat and is immediately accessible to MPAs who simply have to click on the relevant folders to immediately access information on questions, answers, motions, bills and proposed amendments amongst others.

The quality of websites of the Balochistan and Sindh Assemblies lagged far behind those of the Punjab and KP Assemblies. Not only do they not have detailed performance statistics but they also do not upload basic information such as lists of adjournment motions, Calling Attention Notices, questions, etc. Sindh Assembly was only marginally better than Balochistan Assembly by virtue of regularly issuing notices of Committee meetings.

PILDAT assessed the cost-efficiency of the Provincial Assemblies with regards to allocation of the budget. In 2015-2016, the KP Assembly was the most cost-efficient at spending Rs. 6.3 million for every working hour, Punjab Assembly spent approximately Rs. 6.8 million per working hour, Sindh Assembly spent about Rs. 8.1 million per hour, and Balochistan Assembly was least cost-efficient with Rs. 12.9 million per hour.

Welcome yet hasty passage of the much-needed and long-demanded 22nd Constitutional Amendment: PILDAT

While it was heartening to note that despite being bitterly divided over Panama Leaks, the National Assembly was able to pass the 22nd Constitutional Amendment Bill, 2016 unanimously on May 19, the hasty passage yet again contributed to the negative trend of rushing legislation through the Parliament said a PILDAT statement.

The 22nd Amendment to the Constitution has brought about much-needed and long-demanded reform in the qualification of the Chief and Members of the Election Commission of Pakistan. This change, however, only fulfills one requirement of the many crucial, but still pending, electoral reforms. The piecemeal approach to electoral reforms reflects the absence of required focus on the issue by the Parliament. The Parliamentary Committee on Electoral Reforms, formed on July 24, 2014, had set a term of completion of its work in 4 months. Regrettably, however, after almost 1 year and 6 months of its work, it has, so far, failed to table a

comprehensive package of electoral reforms in the Parliament.

More often than not, it is witnessed that instead of bringing important legislation in time, the Government and Parliament move in at the eleventh hour to do the needful. Apparently the passage of the Amendment was prompted by the approaching completion of the term of the 4 ECP members set to retire in June 2016. According to media reports, the Federal Ministry on Parliamentary Affairs wrote to the Speaker, National Assembly on April 26, 2016 to constitute the Committee. The Amendment, as a prerequisite, already appears to be delayed and the Committee hasn't been formed to-date. It is also worth noting that earlier, the Parliamentary Committee was only able to finalise the appointment of the existing Chief Election Commissioner after a delay of 16 months.

The negative trend of rushing important legislation through the Parliament, without the requisite debate in the legislature, and any input from concerned stakeholders, including members of the civil society, media, etc. has been going on for a while. Earlier, the all-important 21st Constitutional Amendment, which paved the way for formation of Military Courts, was passed after only 174-minutes of debate in the National Assembly.

Scourge of Supplementary Budgets Eroding Parliamentary Powers Over the Purse

While the Parliament was presented the Federal Budget 2016-2017 on June 03, soon after, the Finance Minister, Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar sought the Parliament's post-facto approval for a Rs. 261 billion 'supplementary budget' to cover governmental expenditure overruns in the outgoing fiscal year which was almost 28% higher than the figure approved last year.

Every year, while each Federal Government must seek Parliamentary consent on Federal Budget before any spending, 2 the Government receives the assent for x amount of money but returns next year to the National Assembly to ask for an additional spent amount for its post-effect approval. Consider that the Assembly passes the budget each year that prescribes limits and purpose. The additional budget and re-appropriation can change the prescribed limit and purpose. Prior approval of the Assembly is therefore, not required and hence the sanctity of the original budget passed by the Assembly is lost.

The priorities of any nation are reflected in its policies and strategies. The national budget, representing the Government's fiscal, financial and economic objectives, serves as the most important policy document of a country. The national budget, therefore, is the single most important manifest of governmental priorities. "Power over purse strings" or the "power of the purse" is an incontestable democratic fundamental. This essentially means that there is an obligation on elected

representatives of the people in an Assembly to ensure that all revenue and spending measures they authorize, legally and constitutionally, are fiscally sound, match the needs and aspirations of the population with equity, and that they are being implemented appropriately and efficiently. It further symbolizes that it is “we the people” who make and implement the budget for themselves. Pakistan's current budgetary process has traditionally attracted little input from parliamentarians, political parties or wider civil society. The budget process has, in consequence, become solely the domain of the Government, leaving little scope for analysis or accountability. The culture and practice of supplementary budget further erodes even the cosmetic role of the National Assembly in scrutiny and passage of the budget.

To strengthen Parliament's role in Budget scrutiny requires many reforms with the budget procedures but a major reform, in this case, is required in the Constitution of Pakistan. Just as the Constitution of Pakistan requires that the Federal Government present an annual budget statement to the National Assembly in respect of each financial year, the same Constitution, through Article 84, also suggests that the Federal Government has the power to spend amounts and get an ex-post (after spending the money) approval from the National Assembly.

This constitutional provision, however, runs contrary not just to the principle of Parliamentary scrutiny and approval of budget but also allows the Government to follow bad fiscal discipline contrary to leading international good practices in this regard.

This constitutional power of supplementary and excess grants in the hands of each Government results in many problems. Firstly, the seriousness in the budget making is reduced since each Government knows it can increase the budgetary limits or change the purpose during the year. Secondly, the focus on policy is lost. Policymaking and implementation is hampered once the purpose of funds is changed. Thirdly, monitoring and accountability becomes difficult since the executed initiatives may differ from approved initiatives.

So archaic and fiscally-irresponsible is this system that Pakistan is among the only 3 countries in the world that provide this power to Governments of changing the budget in almost any manner after budget passage by a Parliament. In Denmark, while the Government has this power, it still requires prior approval of the parliamentary committee of the finance in order to use excess budget. In Pakistan's system, Governments do not even submit to this oversight and prior approval by Parliament and Committees.

The weakness in the system of fiscal discipline and lack of Parliamentary oversight is not limited to just one Government or one year. Each Government merely presents a supplementary budget after incurring the unauthorized extra expenses during the previous year at the time of presenting the next year's budget. It is a mockery of parliamentary supremacy and runs counter to the spirit of democracy that excess spending and other changes in the approved budget are made without the prior approval of the Assembly and prompt citizens to raise the question, what, after all, is the sanctity of Parliament's approved budget if each Government can spend as much extra as it deems necessary?

Amendment in Constitution: PILDAT demands that the Parliament must create the necessary political consensus to amend the Constitution to not just take away the powers of excess and supplementary grants from Federal and Provincial Governments but also make it incumbent upon each Government to seek 'prior' approval in case any extra expenditure is required. The definitions of excess and supplementary grants must also be revised to be stringent and precise in scope.

Democratic Civil-Military Relations in Pakistan



PILDAT's Civil Military Group meet to discuss the trends in Civil Military Relations in 2015

Under this initiative, a snapshot of activities undertaken by PILDAT during the period include the following:

1. Monthly analysis of civil-military relations in Pakistan through PILDAT Monitor on Civil-Military Relations. During July 2015 to June 2016, PILDAT issued 12 Monitors carrying its analysis of over 55 key issues affecting civil-military relations in Pakistan. The Monitors served to provide timely and succinct analysis that received wide media coverage and comment and resulted in at least 3 Op-eds in key newspapers and multiple news stories and electronic media analyses. In addition, several opinion makers wrote to PILDAT terming PILDAT analysis through these Monitors to be containing "Excellent Information, concise and objective"; really good contributions towards understanding of issues that are muddled by too much talk in media and less research"; range of topics of great benefit not only for the people but also for the journalists and academia, etc." All PILDAT Monitors on Civil-Military Relations can be accessed on PILDAT's website: www.pildat.org
2. PILDAT, following its belief that a constitutional equation in Pakistan's civil-military relations is fundamental to not only strengthening of the country's democracy but also for the development of civilian institutions and maintaining professionalism in the Armed Forces, has been monitoring civil-military relations in Pakistan since 2004. In August 2015, PILDAT compiled a report analysing major developments that impacted civil-military relations during the first two years of the Federal Government that assumed office as a result of May 2013 General Election. The report also examined some of the relevant regional and international incidents in civil-military relations. The report can be accessed at PILDAT website at following link: http://www.pildat.org/Publications/publication/CMR/MajorDevelopmentsAffectingCivilMilitaryRelationsInPakistan_June012013_May312015.pdf
3. PILDAT Dialogue Group on Civil-Military Relations continued to provide thought leadership on critical issues affecting civil-military relations in Pakistan through issuing statements and holding meetings with relevant stakeholders. PILDAT's work on the subject through the Group continued to serve to widen and contribute to encouraging and enhancing the space for democratic discourse in the society on the hitherto taboo subject of civil-military relations. Below are some of the key positions taken by the Group during the year:

PILDAT welcomes holding of the NSC meeting after 18 Months

PILDAT welcomed the holding of meeting of the National Security Committee that took place on April 06, 2016 after a gap of almost one year and six months. The earlier meeting of the NSC was held on October 10, 2014.

Given the multiple national security challenges that beset our nation, regular and institutionalized consultation between the elected civil and military leadership at the forum of the NSC is an urgent and consistent need. Countries facing far fewer and lesser serious security challenges have set weekly periodicity of meetings of similar forums. PILDAT has regularly maintained that the NSC should at least meet monthly, if not more frequently.

However, the presser issued by the Prime Minister's Office stating that the Premier chaired the '5th meeting of the National Security Committee of the Cabinet', raises certain serious questions. Terming the forum a Committee of the Cabinet is misleading, given that Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCS) and the three Services Chiefs are members of the NSC but are not members of the Federal Cabinet. Does the name attributed in the press release reflect a careless approach by the Government or it shows Government's changed thinking? It is worth noting here that the Federal Government has already changed the nomenclature of the Committee twice already. The forum, which was initially launched and named as Cabinet Committee on

National Security (CCNS) in August 2013, was renamed as the National Security Committee on April 11, 2014. It was understood that the name of the forum was changed due to the very reason that membership of the Committee was not based only on Federal Cabinet Members. If this is a case of an oversight by the leadership, it only communicates the lack of seriousness that is associated particularly with regards to this forum, and generally with regards to institutionalization in matters of national security. If it reflects a change in thinking, it is indeed equally problematic and technically flawed to name the forum as a Cabinet Committee.

Needless to say, the NSC is a critical forum of consultation on national security issues. Terming it as 'the principal decision making body on matters of national security', as its current status is, encroaches upon the powers of the Federal Cabinet. It is also worth noting that the model of Pakistan's NSC is an anomaly in terms of its "decision-making" role. PILDAT research shows that all similar bodies working around the World are only consultative in nature and their recommendations are not binding. If Pakistan indeed wishes to give the NSC decision-making powers, whether or not it is recommended, its existence should be backed by a legislation, and not just an executive order, as is the case at the moment.

PILDAT's Civil-Military Group Called for Elected Government to Demonstrate Political Ownership on Security Issues

The PILDAT Dialogue Group on Civil-Military Relations paid rich tribute to the martyrs of the Armed Forces, the Law Enforcement Agencies and of the Police who laid down their lives protecting the borders and writ of the State on July 31, 2015. The Group urged the elected Government to demonstrate leadership on the national, political, security and foreign affairs of the country with renewed vigour. The Group believed that Pakistan is in a de-facto state of internal war as well as facing critical threats on the Line of Control.

While recognizing the courage and the determination with which the Armed Forces are conducting the Operation Zarb-e-Azb, the Group stressed that the civilian, democratically-elected leadership of Pakistan, in Government and in all parties represented in Parliament, should demonstrate ownership, in words, and through oversight of the process. Political parties need to invest more intellectual resources in research and formulation of security, defence and foreign policy options. Noting the enhanced negative posturing and continuous animosity displayed by India towards Pakistan, the Group underscored the need for cohesive civil-military strategy for timely and effective response to deal with the situation.

Lamenting the underuse of the otherwise critical forum of consultation on national security, the Group asked the Government to fully utilise the National Security Committee. The Committee has only met 4 times since its formation in 2013. The Group also stated that the decision-making role of the National Security Committee be revised to become a consultative forum, in line with the practice of similar forums in other countries. The Government should hold regular, and at least bi-monthly meetings of the NSC, the Group advised. The Group asked the elected Government to appoint full-time Federal Ministers of Defence and Foreign Affairs who should fulfill the responsibility of robust articulation and representation of State interests and Government policies in these two important spheres. The Group reviewed the proactive role played by the Provincial Apex Committees, formed after the adoption of the National Action Plan (NAP). The Group called on the Federal and Provincial Governments to notify the remit, and Terms of Reference of these Apex Committees. Parliamentary Committees dealing with Defence and National Security should also devote intellectual resources to conduct periodic review and oversight of the implementation of the National Action Plan. On matters of national security requiring media briefings, a system of joint briefings by the Federal Ministry of Information, Federal Ministry of Interior and Federal Ministry of Defence should be devised.

The Group believed that valuable lessons gained in Swat and FATA should not be disregarded requiring civilian control and administration in the regions. Considering that it has almost been 6 years since the Pakistan Army cleansed Swat of militants, the elected Government should make arrangements to provide effective civilian administration not only in Swat, but also in FATA.

PILDAT's Dialogue Group on Civil-Military Relations called for upholding the Constitution; State Institutions must carry out responsibilities within Constitutionally-defined Domains

PILDAT's Dialogue Group on Civil-Military Relations that met on November 18, 2015, called for every State institution to work within the Constitutionally defined domain. The Group met in the context of the press statements issued by the ISPR on November 10 and the Federal Government's response on November 11.

The Group deeply regretted that institutional mechanisms available for communication and consensus, in the shape of the National Security Committee (NSC), remain dormant. The NSC, the Group criticised, has not met for one year, and said that the institutionalisation of the NSC remains unfruitful in the absence of regular meetings to discuss issues of national security.

The Group believed that it remains the responsibility of the Federal Government to periodically inform the Parliament and the citizens of the implementation progress of its policies, including the National Action Plan.

Parliamentary Dialogues

Since September 2004, PILDAT has been facilitating opportunities of mutual learning and interactions between Pakistani and Indian legislators at the national level with the key objectives to strengthen democracy and improve bilateral relations. It began a series of structured, theme-specific dialogues among Pakistani and Indian legislators in 2011, totalling the legislative interaction between Pakistan and India to 10 since 2004. PILDAT successfully made a foray into the State/Provincial level from the central capitals of the two countries as the Pakistan delegation visited Patna, Bihar on August 25, 2012.

In addition to this PILDAT also pioneered Dialogues between Pakistan and Afghan legislators in 2008 and at the end of 2014, had facilitated 12 Pakistan-Afghanistan MPs Dialogues. Based on the success of legislator-legislator structured dialogues facilitated by PILDAT between Pakistan and India and Pakistan and Afghanistan, PILDAT initiated the first-ever legislator dialogue between Pakistan and US legislators that took place in Washington D.C., from April 11-17, 2015.

The success of the Dialogue was not only spoken of during the hearing of the current ambassador of the United States to Pakistan, H.E. Mr. David Hale, but also initiated a channel of discussion between legislators of both countries, since the Dialogue in April, 2015 the chairman of the National Assembly Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs has invited and continued the channel of communication with his counterpart from the House of Representatives.

In 2015-2016, facilitated three (3) bilateral Dialogues focussing on the sharing of experiences between Members of the National and Provincial/ State Assemblies, Government Officials and Experts from both Pakistan and India.

The three rounds of Dialogues were held respectively in Lahore and Karachi, Dubai, New Delhi, Chandigarh and Jaipur. Specific themes pertaining to Governance and Democracy that were discussed at each Dialogue round included Agriculture, Tourism, and Business & Investment; Local Government and Anti-Corruption Mechanisms and Institutions to Address the Problems of Corruption; and Role of Media in India-Pakistan Relations, and Policing System in India and Pakistan.

A snapshot of activities undertaken by PILDAT during the period include:

Commitment of the Members of the Pakistan Parliament Appreciated in the US Congress

Commitment and Sincerity of Pakistani Parliamentary delegation was appreciated in the US Congress in the

context of their useful meetings and interactions with their US counterparts during the United States-Pakistan Legislators Dialogue Forum held in April 2015 in Washington D.C., USA.

During the incoming Ambassador to Pakistan David Hale's hearing held at the United States Senate on June 23, 2015, members of the US Congress and in particular Senator James Risch (R-ID), Chairman Senate Sub Committee on Near East, South and Central Asia and Counterterrorism, spoke about the sincerity and commitment of the members of the Pakistan Parliament to better US-Pakistan relations. Relevant excerpts from the hearing are reproduced below:

"Recently, this spring, a number of us had the opportunity to meet a delegation from Pakistani governing body, the parliament that were (ph) here. And I have to say, I think all of us were impressed with their sincerity and their commitment to do the things that would better U.S. Pakistan relationship.

The June 2014 operation against militant groups in FATA was a good effort to bring more stability to the border with Afghanistan. And hopefully, the U.S. Pakistan strategic dialogue can produce more tangible results politically and economically.

The past seven (ph) years have shown us that despite enormous USAID, Pakistan will only prosper when a country can create a stable environment for trade and foreign direct investment. To achieve this kind of success, the international community needs a serious partner in the Pakistan government that can deepen these (ph) political institutions and work through its relationship with India and others.

After our meeting with the delegation from Pakistan, I think all of us believe that they have a sincere commitment to attempt to do that." (Detailed Hearing June 23, 2015)

PILDAT welcomed the positive outcome and impact of the thirteen (13) members Pakistani Parliamentary Delegation engaging in a structured Dialogue with twenty-one (21) of their US counterparts on issues of mutual interest and concern during the Dialogue Forum.

The US-Pakistan Legislators Dialogue Forum, held in Washington D.C., USA from April 13-17, 2015, was an independent initiative facilitated by the Convergence Centre of Policy Resolution, the Consensus Building Institute in the US and PILDAT in Pakistan with support from the United States Institute of Peace-USIP.



Pakistan-India Legislators and Public Officials Dialogue

Pakistan India Legislators & Public Officials Dialogue on Sharing of Experiences on Governance and Democracy kicked-off in Lahore

PILDAT hosted Pakistan-India Legislators and Public Officials Dialogue on Sharing of Experiences on Governance and Democracy began in Lahore on October 06, 2015.

Members of Rajasthan Vidhan Sabha, **Mr. Mangi Lal Garasiya** (Indian National Congress) and Punjab Vidhan Sabha, **Mr. Kuljit Singh Nagra** (Indian National Congress) from India joined their counterparts from the Provincial Assemblies of Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkwa in Pakistan to exchange views on subjects of Agriculture and Business and Investment.

Both sides believed exchange of ideas on issues of mutual interest and concern are required for the two countries to resolve common issues faced by citizens of the two countries.

Speaking on the subject of Promotion of Agriculture in India, **Professor Jagrup Singh Sekhon**, Chairman, Dept. of Political Science, Guru Nanak University, Amritsar, said that Agriculture was a state subject and the role of the central Government in this regard was limited to policy formulation and the provision of finances. He highlighted how the Land Reforms, the Green Revolution and the Mechanization of Farming had greatly helped the Agriculture Sector in India. He spoke of how the production of food grains and their yield had increased from the 1950's to date, however he did say that the percentage of Agriculture as part of GDP had declined. Some of the challenges that he spoke of were the problems associated with Land Acquisition and Lack of Availability of Food Grains in the Punjab region leading to an increase in poverty and the rising suicide rate. He felt that for the improvement of Agriculture in India there needed to be incentives given to the Agriculture Sector, Reforms made in the Institutions and an Increase in Investment. Some challenges that he pointed out in Punjab were the Lack of Awareness about the Schemes available in the State, the Falling Water Table and the Rising Inputs Costs, however in comparison to this in Rajasthan though there had been a development in the technology used in the Agriculture Sector the lack of skilled personnel in the sector had been a deterrent for the State.

Sharing the perspectives on Agriculture in Pakistan, **Mr. Muhammad Asif Khan**, Agricultural Economist, said that the major challenges faced by the Agriculture Sector in Pakistan included a Lax of the Enforcement of Rules, Adulteration and Smuggling of the Food Grain Seeds, Adulteration in Pesticides, High Electricity Tariffs, Corruption, Poor Water Pricing and Land Holding Issues, etc. However, Mr. Khan did say that he felt Pakistan had shown a potential for improvement in the areas of Cohesive National Water & Agriculture Policy, Flood Management, a Reduction in Electricity Tariff and the Construction of Mini Dams to deal with the problem of water shortage. He felt that if information was announced in a timely manner, an increased number of persons could avail of the agriculture equipment subsidies provided to farmers in Pakistan.

In the discussion session, participants raised questions about the disparity in the wages between those given to males as



(L-R) Prof. Jagrup Singh Sekhon Chairman, Department of Political Science & School of Social Science, Coordinator Special Assistance Programme (UGC), Guru Nanak Dev University Amritsar, Mr. Ahmed Bilal Mehboob, President PILDAT and Prof. Sanjay Lodha, Professor, Department of Political Science, University College of Social Sciences & Humanities, Mohanlal Sukhadia University, Udaipur, Rajasthan at the Pak-India Public officials dialogue

compared to females and more importantly how water disputes between both countries had affected the Sector in Pakistan as well as India. Some members present raised concerns about how India and Pakistan had tried to cater to the growing population of their respective countries by resorting to artificial methods of cultivating crops which had led to the increase in major diseases in both countries. There was a general consensus that both in Pakistan and in India the number of persons willing to join the Agriculture Sector had deteriorated over the years as many wanted to join more profitable professions. Members from the Indian Delegation felt both Pakistan and India needed to come up with better ways to use the rainwater and unanimously agreed upon an increase in the awareness campaigns in both countries.

Speaking on the subject of Investment, **Dr. Hafiz A. Pasha**, Former Advisor to PM on Finance, said that while on the ease of doing business index, both Pakistan and India nearly ranked similar; with Pakistan at 128 while India at 142, the real difference between the two countries was on the Global Competitiveness Index where India ranked at 71 while Pakistan ranked at 129. He said that due to terrorism and energy deficiency, business and investment in Pakistan had suffered over the years. However, Pakistan had displayed unprecedented political and security consensus on thwarting terrorism through the National Action Plan and was making huge progress through a successful Zarb-e-Azb operation against militants. In the future scenario of Pakistan-China Economic Corridor, Pakistan would benefit especially as crippling levels of energy shortage would be over. Dr. Pasha pointed out that despite its risks, Pakistan was also a high-return country, a fact that Pakistan's Government must use for the advantage of getting foreign investment.

Discussing the scenario of Investment in India, **Prof. Hemant Kumar Shah**, Head, Department of Economics, H. K. Arts College, Ahmadabad, India, pointed out how Gujarat had shown a great improvement in its economic growth over the years. He spoke about how the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and Foreign Institutional Investor's (FII) investing in Gujarat had increased from the early 1990's to date. Prof. Shah touched upon how the Gujarat Government had invested a large portion of its funds on the development of the Industrial Sector as compared to the other sectors. According to the statistics provided by him Gujarat had been ranked as one of the most Business Friendly States in India. Some of the developments in Gujarat that he outlined were the creation of Special Economic Zones (SEZ), the Availability of Water and Electricity and Well Designed and Connected Roads and Railways, which according to him had contributed to Gujarat's success.

Participants believed that the rising regional inequality had been a major issue in regards to the Business and Investment Sector in both countries. They also spoke of the best practices used in the sector; some examples that were discussed included the adoption of Value Added Tax (VAT) by India and how Pakistan could learn from it.

Parliamentarians joining the Dialogue included **Mr. Shehryar Afridi**, MNA, PTI and **Rana Muhammad Afzal Khan**, MNA, PML-N.

Members of the Punjab Assembly who joined the Dialogue included **Mr. Amjad Ali Javed**, MPA, PML-N, **Ms. Najma Begum**, MPA, PML-N, **Mr. Ali Salman**, MPA, IND, **Ms. Khadija Umar**, MPA, PML, **Ms. Shameela Aslam**, MPA, PML-N, **Ms. Azma Zahid Bukhari**, MPA, PML-N, **Ms. Tamkeen Akhtar Niazi**, MPA, PML-N, **Ms. Salma Shaheen Butt**, MPA, PML-N, **Ms. Rukhsana Kokab**, MPA, PML-N, **Ms. Fozia Ayub Qureshi**, MPA,



Speakers sharing experience of Governance and democracy at the Pakistan-India Legislators Dialogue held on October 06, 2015 in Lahore

PML-N, **Ms. Saadia Sohail Rana**, MPA, PTI, **Ms. Surriya Naseem**, MPA, PML-N, Engineer Qamar ul Islam Raja, MPA, PML-N, **Mr. Irfan Daultana**, MPA, PML-N, **Dr. Najma Afzal Khan**, MPA, PML-N, **Ms. Faiza Ahmad Malik**, MPA, PPPP, **Sardar Vickas Hassan Mokal**, MPA, PML, **Ms. Nasreen Nawaz**, MPA, PML-N and **Mr. Muhammad Waheed Gul**, MPA, PML-N.

Members invited to join from the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Provincial Assembly included **Mr. Wajeeh uz Zaman**, MPA, PML-N and **Mr. Mehmood Jan**, MPA, PTI.

Other members invited to join the Dialogue included, **Dr. Muhammad Afzal**, Dean, Faculty of Crop Production Sciences, University of Agriculture, Peshawar, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, **Mr. Attaullah Khan**, Special Secretary/Director IT, Provincial Assembly of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. **Mr. Naeem Khalid**, D. S. Planning, Agriculture Department, Government of Punjab, **Mr. Mahmood Akhtar**, Chief, Planning and Evaluation Cell, Agriculture Department, Government of Punjab. **Ms. Afshan Imtiaz**, Additional Secretary, Industries & Commerce Department, Government of Punjab and **Mr. Humayun Mazhar**, Secretary, Youth Affairs, Sports, Archaeology & Tourism, Government of Punjab.

Second Round of Pakistan-India Legislators and Public Officials Dialogue on Sharing of Experiences on Governance and Democracy begins in Karachi; October 08, 2015

PILDAT hosted its second round of the Pakistan-India Legislators and Public Officials Dialogue on Sharing of Experiences on Governance and Democracy in Karachi on October 08, 2015.

Members of Rajasthan Vidhan Sabha, **Mr. Mangi Lal Garasiya** (Indian National Congress) and Punjab Vidhan Sabha, **Mr. Kuljit Singh Nagra** (Indian National Congress) from India joined their counterparts from the Provincial Assemblies of Sindh and Balochistan in Pakistan to exchange views on subjects of Agriculture and Business and Investment.

Participants present at the Dialogue expressed a need for more and more avenues of exchange of ideas on issues of governance between India and Pakistan.

Speaking on the subject of Promotion of Agriculture in India, **Professor Jagrup Singh Sekhon**, Chairman, Dept. of Political Science, Guru Nanak University, Amritsar, said that Agriculture was a state subject and the role of the central Government in this regard was limited to policy formulation and the provision of finances. He spoke about how the Land Reforms, the Green Revolution and the Mechanization of Farming had greatly helped the Agriculture Sector in India. Prof. Sekhon spoke of how the production of food grains and their yield had increased from the 1950's to date, however he did say that the percentage of Agriculture as part of GDP had declined. Some of the challenges that he spoke of were the problems associated with Land Acquisition and Lack of Availability of Food Grains in the Punjab region leading to an increase in poverty and the rising suicide rate. He felt that for the improvement of Agriculture in India there needed to be incentives given to the Agriculture Sector, Reforms made in the Institutions and an Increase in Investment. Some challenges that he pointed out in Punjab were the Lack of Awareness about the Schemes available in the State, the Falling Water Table and the Rising Inputs Costs, however in comparison to this in Rajasthan though there had been a development in the technology used in the Agriculture Sector the lack of skilled personnel in the sector had been a deterrent for the State.



(L-R) Prof. Hemant Kumar Shah Head, Department Of Economics, H K Arts College, Ahmadabad, India and Rana Muhammad Afzal Khan, MNA, PML-N speaking at the Pakistan-India Legislators and Public Officials Dialogue

Sharing the perspectives on Agriculture in Pakistan, **Mr. Muhammad Asif Khan**, Agricultural Economist, said that the major challenges faced by the Agriculture Sector in Pakistan included a Lax of the Enforcement of Rules, Adulteration and Smuggling of the Food Grain Seeds, Adulteration in Pesticides, High Electricity Tariffs, Corruption, Poor Water Pricing and Land Holding Issues, etc. However, Mr. Khan did say that he felt Pakistan had shown a potential for improvement in the areas of Cohesive National Water & Agriculture Policy, Flood Management, a Reduction in Electricity Tariff and the Construction of Mini Dams to deal with the problem of water shortage. He felt that if information was announced in a timely manner, an increased number of persons could avail of the agriculture equipment subsidies provided to farmers in Pakistan.

In the discussion session, participants raised questions about the strong links between the farmer community and the subject specific academics. They pointed out how links like these were not present in Pakistan. The issue of the efficient utilization of water in Balochistan, Rajasthan and Punjab were also discussed and the participants shared experiences regarding the rainwater utilization in Punjab, India and how those could be adopted by Pakistan. For the development of the Agriculture Sector it was unanimously agreed that the Governments needed to work to better the provision of facilities for the farmers. While quoting policies adopted in India, Member of the Legislative Assembly of Indian Punjab spoke of the need of people-centric policies. Many persons present felt the role played by the civil societies organization needed to be highlighted. Many members representing Pakistan raised questions about how India in the media had been projected as a growing economy in regards to agriculture, however it was unclear how with this, the incidence of poverty and suicide were so high. The success of the Land Reforms adopted in India were also discussed. Members also pointed out how garbage was being converted into

fertilizers an idea adopted in Sindh, Pakistan after observing the practice in India.

Speaking on the subject of Investment, **Mr. Muhammad Sabir**, Principal Economist, Social Policy and Development Centre, Karachi, Pakistan, said that on the ease of doing business, Faisalabad had been ranked one of the best cities in Pakistan followed by Karachi. He said that due to terrorism and energy deficiency, business and investment in Pakistan had suffered over the years. However, Pakistan had displayed unprecedented political and security consensus on the issue of terrorism through the National Action Plan and was making huge progress through a successful Zarb-e-Azb operation against militants. In the future scenario of Pakistan-China Economic Corridor, Pakistan would benefit especially as crippling levels of energy shortage would be over. Mr. Sabir pointed out how Pakistan needed to work towards building alternative means of electricity generation for the development of business and investment in Pakistan. He spoke of how Pakistan needed to adopt policies like the generation of Special Economic Zones (SEZ). He pointed out that despite its risks, Pakistan was also a high-return country, a fact that Pakistan's Government must use for the advantage of getting foreign investment.

Discussing the scenario of Investment in India, **Prof. Hemant Kumar Shah**, Head, Department of Economics, H. K. Arts College, Ahmadabad, India, pointed out how Gujarat had shown a great improvement in its economic growth over the years. He spoke about how the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and Foreign Institutional Investor's (FII) investing in Gujarat had increased from the early 1990's to date. Prof. Shah touched upon how the Gujarat Government had invested a large portion of its funds on the development of the Industrial Sector as compared to the other sectors. According to the statistics provided by him Gujarat had been ranked as one of the most Business Friendly States in India. Some of the developments in Gujarat that he outlined were the creation of Special Economic Zones (SEZ), the



With Syed Naveed Qamar, MNA (NA-222, Hyderabad-V, Sindh, PPPP), Chairman, National Assembly Standing Committee on Railways, in the chair, participants pose for a group photo at the end of Pakistan-India Legislators and Public Officials Dialogue on Sharing of Experiences on Governance and Democracy on December 12, 2015 at Dubai

Availability of Water and Electricity and Well Designed and Connected Roads and Railways, which according to him had contributed to Gujarat's success.

Participants believed that growing of the Business sector in many States in India was because of the continued support of Governments there. They highlighted that the business friendly laws made in India, the investment done in the creation of Skill Development Centres at the sub-national level, the professional autonomy given to the private sector and e-governance had greatly helped the Business and Investment sector and had made all relevant information available to the concerned persons. The empowerment given to the provinces/ States of both countries was discussed at length and linked to the development of the business and investment sector in both countries. Participants felt Governments needed to invest in the education programmes for the persons involved in the business sector. On international forums representatives of both countries needed to be united for the improvement of the said subjects.

Members of the Sindh Assembly who joined the Dialogue included **Syed Hafeezuddin**, MPA, (PS-93 Karachi-V, Sindh, PTI), **Ms. Mahtab Akbar Rashdi**, MPA, (RSW-156, Sindh, PML-F), **Mr. Shafi Muhammad Jamot**, MPA, (PS-129 Karachi-XLI, Sindh, PML-N), **Mr. Faqir Dad Khoso**, MPA, (PS-72 Jamshoro-II (Old Dadu-II), Sindh, PPPP), **Ms. Shamim Mumtaz**, MPA, (RSW-138, Sindh, PPPP), **Ms. Saira Shahliani**, MPA, (RSW-144, Sindh, PPPP), **Mr. Fayaz Ali Butt**, MPA, (PS-77 Dadu-IV (Old Dadu-VII, Sindh, PPPP), **Ms. Nusrat Bano Sehar Abbasi**, MPA, (RSW-157, Sindh, PML-F), **Dr. Muhammad Rafique**, MPA, (PS-31 Khairpur-III, Sindh, PML-F), **Ms. Sorath Thebo**, MPA, (RSW-158, Sindh, PML-N) and **Eng Pesu Mal**, MPA, (RSM-163, Sindh, PPPP).

Members invited to join the Dialogue from the Balochistan Provincial Assembly included **Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo**, Acting Speaker, Balochistan Provincial Assembly, MPA, (PB-41 Awaran, Balochistan, PML), **Mr. Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti**, Minister, Interior and Tribal Affairs and Prisons and Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA), Balochistan Provincial Assembly, MPA, (PB-24 Dera Bugti, Balochistan, PML-N), **Dr. Shama Ishaq**, MPA, (PBW-59, Balochistan, National Party) and **Sardar Raza Muhammad Barrech**, MPA, (PB-4 Quetta-IV, Balochistan, Pashtoonkhwa Milli Awami Party).

Other members invited to join the Dialogue included, **Ms. Bushra Anjum Butt**, MPA, (W-354, Punjab, PML-N), **Mr. Abdul Fattah Bhangar**, Secretary, Industries and Commerce Department, Government of Balochistan.

Pakistan-India Legislators and Public Officials Dialogue on Sharing of Experiences on Governance and Democracy; December 12, 2015; Dubai, UAE

Joint Statement

1. The second round of Pakistan-India Legislators and Public Officials Dialogue on Sharing of Experiences on Governance and Democracy was convened in Dubai, UAE on December 12, 2015 to share lessons among two countries on each others' Local Government System and Anti-Corruption Mechanisms and Institutions to Address the Problems of Corruption.
2. The Dialogue brought together senior participants including MPs, practitioners and subject-experts from two countries who shared experiences of each country's system in an informed and reform-oriented discourse.



Notable Legislators from Pakistan and India including some senior experts attend Pakistan-India Legislators & public Officials Dialogue in Dubai in 2015

3. At the outset, participants from both sides expressed embarrassment that owing to the state of relations between Pakistan and India, the two sides had to huddle in a third country venue for sharing of lessons. Participants underscored the urgent need to improve conditions allowing for free dialogue and sharing of good practices among citizens of Pakistan and India.
4. Sharing of good practices on two key subjects once again underscored the critical need for regular dialogues and discussions among Pakistani and Indian citizens especially on areas that help improve the lives of citizens in two countries.
5. Participants appreciated the efforts of PILDAT, in partnership with Lokniti-CSDS, in facilitating the exchange of good practices and asked that the exchange must be broadened to include more areas of governance and democracy.
4. Participants also stressed that continuity of Local Government system is one basic requirement in strengthening the democratic structure and making it more effective.
5. The provision of minimum educational qualifications to contest Local Government elections in some Indian States was discussed. Concern was expressed that such a provision might lead to the exclusion of large number of women and disadvantaged sections from the Local Government System and run counter to the principle of inclusion. On the other hand, it was recognised that educated representatives would be an asset to efficient local Government.

Local Government Systems in India and Pakistan

1. While sharing models of Local Government systems in place across Pakistan and India, including the Panchayati Raj/ Local Government system, participants noted that the two countries face strikingly common challenges in functioning of the Local Government systems.
2. The two sides agreed that a strong legal provision is needed for continuity of Local Government systems to ensure that elections to Local Governments take place at regular interval. The inclusion of such a provision in the Indian Constitution has ensured continuity of the Local Government systems in India.
3. Both sides stressed that power to lower tiers should be meaningfully devolved to the lowest effective level. Similarly, allocation of resources needs to be governed effectively through the Provincial/State Finance Commissions.
6. Large election expenses were considered a major challenge in Pakistan and India which tend to exclude large segments of populations from contesting election. Participants believed that creative solutions were required to address this challenge.
7. The significant increase of women in Panchayati Raj has had a great impact in India. Participants noted that distinct solutions are being applied in some Indian States in enhancing meaningful women participation in Local Government systems. Such good practices are worthy of consideration in Pakistan's Local Government systems in which an average of 33% representation of women has been legislated. Delegates also believed that women still need to overcome social and cultural barriers and require various forms of support in both countries.

Anti-Corruption Mechanisms and Institutions to Address the Problems of Corruption

1. The two sides lamented the low ranking of both Pakistan and India on Corruption Perception Index

and an indifference/acceptance of sorts by the public of the prevalence of corruption in two countries.

2. Both sides believed alongside effective institutions, the two countries require stronger affirmation by people that the rule of law shall prevail and a continuous strengthening of the accountability mechanisms.
3. Participants stressed wider and more effective implementation of citizens' right to information in the two countries leading to greater transparency and empowerment. Participants from Pakistan believed that in Pakistan, the revised bill on Right to Information must be brought in the Parliament for passage while provinces including Sindh and Balochistan must also urgently introduce reformed RTI laws.
4. Delegates agreed that political parties must also open themselves up for greater transparency by the citizens. Zero tolerance for corruption among their own rank and file and while choosing candidates for various elections by the parties will provide required impetus to effective anti-corruption in two countries.
5. Pro-active role of civil society, use of smart technology and focus of the media on curbing corruption can also be useful in effectively addressing problems of corruption.

With **Syed Naveed Qamar**, MNA (NA-222, Hyderabad-V, Sindh, PPPP), Chairman, National Assembly Standing Committee on Railways, in the chair, delegates from Pakistan included (in alphabetical order by first name) **Mr. Arbab Muhammad Asim Khan**, District Nazim Peshawar, PTI, KP; **Mrs. Mahtab Akbar Rashdi**, MPA, (RSW-156, Sindh, PML-F); **Mian Mehmood ur Rashid**, MPA, (PP-151 (Lahore-XV), Punjab, PTI) Leader of the Opposition; **Engineer Qamar-ul-Islam Raja**, MPA, (PP-5, Rawalpindi-V, Punjab, PML-N); **Mr. Said Rehman**, Director, Local Governance School, Peshawar, KP, **Maj. (Retd.) Syed Burgan Ali**, Director General-NAB, Punjab and **Senator Taj Muhammad Afridi**.

Under the leadership of **Mr. Mani Shankar Aiyar**, MP, Rajya Sabha, INC, delegates from India included (in alphabetical order by first Name) **Mr. Aryadan Shoukath**, Ex-Panchayat President and Former Municipal Chairman, Nilambur, Kerala; **Mr. Ashutosh**, Spokesperson AAP; **Mr. Bharat Bhushan**, Editor, Catch News; **Mr. Bhupinder Singh Hooda**, MLA, INC and former Chief Minister Haryana; **Dr. Sharan Prakash Patil**, MLA, Karnataka, INC, Minister for Medical Education, Government of Karnataka; **Mr. Mahendra Jeet Singh Malviya**, MLA, INC, former Cabinet Minister, TAD/Public Grievance Redressal/Technical - Engineering Education/Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Rajasthan; **Dr. Sukhbilas Barma**, MLA, INC, former Indian Administrative Service; former Chairman, former Chairman, 3rd Finance Commission, West Bengal; **Mr. V.D. Satheesan**, MLA, INC, Member, Kerala Legislative Assembly; **Dr. Nupur Tiwary**, Faculty Member, Indian Institute of Public Administration New Delhi, India and **Ms. Nandana Reddy**, (Karnataka) Panchayati Raj Activist, Convener of the Grand Panchayat Hakkottaya Andolona.

Experts who joined the Dialogue from Pakistan and India included **Mr. Shahid Hamid**, Senior Advocate Supreme Court of Pakistan, Former Governor of Punjab and former Federal Minister; **Prof. George Mathew**, Chairman, Institute of Social Sciences, New Delhi, India and **Prof. Jagdeep Chhokar**, founder and trustee, Association for Democratic Reforms New Delhi, India, former Professor and Dean, Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, India.

The PILDAT team included **Mr. Ahmed Bilal Mehboob**, President, **Ms. Aasiya Riaz**, Joint Director, and **Ms. Shahira Khan**, Projects Officer while **Mr. Nitin Mehta**, Research Officer, represented the Lokniti-Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS), New Delhi, India.

Pakistan Delegation Arrives in India for the third Round of India-Pakistan Legislators and Public Officials Dialogue on Sharing of Experiences on Governance and Democracy

A delegation of 19 members of the National and Provincial Assemblies of Pakistan, Government Officials and Media Persons from across Pakistan arrived in India on March 7, 2016 to take part in the third India-Pakistan Legislators and Public Officials Dialogue on Sharing of Experiences on Governance and Democracy. The series of Dialogues are facilitated by PILDAT in collaboration with Lokniti (CSDS), India.

The Dialogue in New Delhi, scheduled for March 8, will focus on the themes of Police and Media while the Dialogue in Chandigarh, on March 10, will focus on Agricultural practices and the Dialogue in Jaipur, on March 12, will discuss Tourism and Agricultural Practices.

The Pakistan Delegation includes (in Alphabetical order by first Name in the following sequence Members of Senate, Members of the National Assembly, Members of the Provincial Assemblies and the Experts) **Senator Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Abdul Qayyum**, (Punjab; PML-N); **Senator Mir Hasil Khan Bizenjo**, (Balochistan; National Party - NP); **Senator Nauman Wazir**, (KP; PTI); **Senator Saud Majeed**, (Punjab, PML-N); **Mr. Asad Qaisar**, MPA, Speaker Provincial Assembly of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (PK-35 Swabi-V, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, PTI); **Mr. Muhammad Afzal Khan**, MNA, (NA-82 Faisalabad-VIII, Punjab, Pakistan Muslim League – Nawaz - PML-N); **Ms. Munaza Hassan**, MNA (NA-306,



(L-R) Ms. Devyani Srivastava Senior Program Office, Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative, Mr. Shahid Hamid, Senior Advocate Supreme Court and Mr. Mani Shankar Aiyar MP, Rajya Sabha Indian National Congress (INC) at the Pakistan-India legislators Dialogue on March 08, 2016 held in New Delhi, India

Women Punjab-XXXIV, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf - PTI); **Dr. Ramesh Kumar Vankwani**, MNA (NA-334 Karachi, Sindh, Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz - PML-N); **Mr. Shehryar Afridi**, MNA (NA-14, Kohat, KP, PTI), **Ms. Mahtab Akbar Rashdi**, MPA (RSW-156, Sindh, Pakistan Muslim League – Functional – PML-F); **Mian Mahmood-ur- Rashid**, MPA, Leader of the Opposition, Punjab Assembly, (PP-151 (Lahore-XV), Punjab, PTI); **Dr. Najma Afzal Khan**, MPA (RSW-320, Punjab, PML-N); **Ms. Arifa Noor**, Resident Editor-Islamabad, Dawn Newspaper; **Senator (Retd.) Javed Jabbar**, Former Federal Information Minister, Member, Senate Forum for Policy Research, **Mr. Kabir Ahmad Khan**, Managing Director Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation Government of Pakistan; **Mr. Muhammad Ali Nekokara**, Former SSP, Pakistan Police; **Dr. Muhammad Shoaib Suddle**, Former IG Police, Sindh & Balochistan, Pakistan; **Mr. Mujeeb-ur- Rahman Shami**, Editor-in-Chief Daily Pakistan; President, Council of Pakistan Newspaper Editors (CPNE); **Mr. Saleem Safi**, Television Anchor and Columnist, Geo TV. The PILDAT Team includes **Mr. Ahmed Bilal Mehboob**, President-PILDAT; **Ms. Aasiya Riaz**, Joint Director-PILDAT; **Mr. Faheem Ahmed Khan**, Projects Manager-PILDAT; **Mr. Muhammad Saad**, Projects Manager-PILDAT; **Ms. Shahira Khan**, Projects Manager-PILDAT.

India-Pakistan Legislators and Public Officials Dialogue on Sharing of Experiences on Governance and Democracy; March 08, 2016; New Delhi, India

Joint Statement

1. The third round of Pakistan-India Legislators and Public Officials Dialogue on Sharing of Experiences on Governance and Democracy began in New Delhi, India, on March 08, 2016 to share experiences and perceptions of the two countries on Role of Media in India-Pakistan Relations and on

2. Policing System in India and Pakistan.
2. The Dialogue brought together Members of Parliament and State/Provincial Legislatures from Pakistan and India, practitioners and subject-experts from the two countries who raised key issues and reform ideas covering both themes.
3. At the outset, participants appreciated the facilitation of the Dialogue to allow sharing of perspectives on common issues. The opportunity for interaction in a phase in which the two Governments have not yet resumed the Secretaries-level Dialogue, made this all the more important.
4. All Participants extolled the valuable role of Mr. Mani Shankar Aiyar, MP, Rajya Sabha, in promoting dialogue and peace between India and Pakistan through the on-going process, and in his diverse and distinguished capacities as a diplomat, a veteran Parliamentarian, a public intellectual and a broadcaster.
5. Dialogue participants also welcomed the recent high-level sharing of intelligence information by Pakistan with India to alert the Indian Government against potential terrorist activities. They hoped that this becomes the first of a series of confidence-building measures to build trust and goodwill, and eliminating terrorism.
6. Participants lauded the efforts of PILDAT, in partnership with Lokniti-CSDS, in facilitating the exchange of good practices and stressed that the exchange must be continued and broadened to include more areas of governance and democracy.

Role of Media in India-Pakistan Relations

1. Participants acknowledged, at the outset, that news media's growth has become exponential and that media are one of the several vital determinant factors in shaping bilateral relations between Pakistan and India.

2. While it was recognised that the news media have to shine a spotlight on reality, the requirements of objective and professional reporting should uphold the core values and cardinal principles of journalism.
3. Members emphasised that while all media in both countries cannot be painted with the same brush, there is a tendency in a few to be shrill and even jingoistic. This is deplorable and has to be addressed.
4. Participants underscored that both news media and academic centres focusing on media studies should be encouraged to conduct sustained research on portrayal of the other country by the news media in each country and that research findings should be published and broadcast to inform the public.
5. It was noted with regret that, often, fringe elements are wrongly given more space than warranted in the media of the two countries. More often than not, news media's unquestioning reflection of their own Government's foreign and defence policies stance hampers the expression of independent perspectives.
6. Lack of access for media to locations in the other country and obstacles in obtaining visas for journalists of both countries were highlighted as key issues hampering an informed portrayal of each country. Participants urged both India and Pakistan to put in place policies ensuring ease of access, travel and reporting by journalists from both countries. Specific proposals included visa-free access without city restrictions and for setting up of media lounges at Pakistan-India border posts to facilitate regular interaction and engagement between Pakistani and Indian media representatives without the need to obtain visas.
7. Lamenting the negligible progress on agreed Codes of Conduct for South Asian media despite the lapse of two decades, experts underscored the centrality of initiation and sustaining of regular media dialogue between Pakistan and India, involving, among others, media associations of the two countries. Such a dialogue's pre-set objective should be to develop a Joint Code of Conduct on reporting about the two countries, starting from refraining to refer to the other as the "enemy" State. In this regard, suggestions were also made to eliminate the element of aggressive postures from the daily parade at the Wagha-Attari border.
8. Indian and Pakistani participants highlighted that the phenomenal growth in new digital media has enormous positive potential for engagement between Pakistani and Indian citizens and may actually make many existing restrictions redundant.
9. The two sides agreed that joint initiatives are needed in both conventional mainstream media and social media by individuals and enterprises of the two countries to promote an entirely new collaborative, cooperative mindset both within the media and among media audiences in the two countries. This new shared approach to reporting the news and making comments could engender an unprecedented improvement in mutual perceptions and bilateral relations. In this regard, it was suggested that the prospects of a jointly owned India-Pakistan TV channel, possibly located in Dubai, might be further pursued

Policing System in India and Pakistan

1. Participants of the Dialogue lamented the continuing negative image stigmatising Police in both countries. The two sides agreed that the first step towards reforming police system is to acknowledge the critical importance of Policing and provide due and fair credit to Police.
2. Delegates agreed that sharing of experiences on Policing in the two countries highlighted the vast avenues of learning from each other in this critical sector.
3. While comparing effective practices in effective policing in Pakistan and India, participants believed that lack of uniform police laws across States in India and Provinces in Pakistan poses a big challenge for the two countries.
4. In sharing reform proposals, experts agreed that the Indian Supreme Court's directives on operational autonomy and accountability of the Police and Pakistan's Police Order, 2002, are similar in promoting democratic, community-oriented, professional and accountable policing and need to be implemented.
5. Experts believed that Police Station reform and revamping should be at the heart of improving the system of Policing in the two countries.
6. Participants underscored the urgent need for reforms to promote fair, professionally led, adequately resourced and accountable Police across Indian States and Pakistan's Provinces.
7. Delegates agreed that Policing in the two countries required to benefit effectively from the use of new technologies, better training and capability-based promotion system in the Police; modernize static and counter intuitive stop and search practices and introduce discipline matrix to reduce discretion of the supervisory police officers and promote fairness in internal police disciplinary proceedings.
8. Both India and Pakistan need to reduce disconnect existing amongst the actors of the criminal justice system of the two countries by introducing criminal justice coordination committees at the district levels.
9. Members stressed on the requirement of State support in terms of effective legislation and its implementation, critical financial support and promoting collaboration amongst various law enforcement agencies/departments keeping in view complex and challenging policing environment in the two countries.
10. Participants agreed that there is ample scope for effective police leadership, independent of the role of politicians in policing, can be complementary to the use of state support in building police capacity.



(L-R) Mr. Sanjay Kumar, Co-Director, Lokniti, a Research Programme of the CSDS, Mr. A. S. Panneerselvam, Readers' Editor, The Hindu, Senator (Retd.) Javed Jabbar, Former, Federal Information Minister, Member, Senate Forum for Policy Research and Mr. Mani Shankar Aiyar, MP, Rajya Sabha Indian National Congress(INC) at the Pakistan-India Legislators Dialogue

The Pakistani Delegation, joining the Dialogue in New Delhi, included (in alphabetical order by first Name in the sequence of Members of Senate, National Assembly, Provincial Assemblies and Experts) **Senator Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Abdul Qayyum**, (Punjab; Pakistan Muslim League – Nawaz - PML-N); **Senator Mir Hasil Khan Bizenjo**, (Balochistan; National Party - NP); **Senator Nauman Wazir Khattak**, (KP; Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf - PTI); **Senator Saud Majeed**, (Punjab, PML-N); **Mr. Muhammad Afzal Khan**, MNA, (NA-82 Faisalabad-VIII, Punjab, PML-N); Parliamentary Secretary for Finance; **Ms. Munaza Hassan**, MNA (NA-306, Women Punjab-XXXIV, PTI); **Mr. Shehryar Afridi**, MNA, (NA-14, Kohat, KP, PTI), **Mr. Asad Qaisar**, MPA, (PK-35 Swabi-V, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, PTI) Speaker Provincial Assembly of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa; **Ms. Mahtab Akbar Rashdi**, MPA, (RSW-156, Sindh, Pakistan Muslim League – Functional – PML-F); **Mian Mehmood-ur-Rashid**, MPA, (PP-151 (Lahore-XV), Punjab, PTI), Leader of Opposition, Provincial Assembly of the Punjab; **Dr. Najma Afzal Khan**, MPA, (RSW-320, Punjab, PML-N); **Ms. Arifa Noor**, Resident Editor-Islamabad, Dawn Newspaper; **Senator (Retd.) Javed Jabbar**, Former Federal Information Minister, Member, Senate Forum for Policy Research; **Mr. Muhammad Ali Nekokara**, Former SSP, Pakistan Police; **Dr. Muhammad Shoaib Suddle**, Former IG Police, Sindh & Balochistan, Pakistan; **Mr. Mujeeb-ur-Rahman Shami**, Editor-in-Chief Daily Pakistan; President, Council of Pakistan Newspaper Editors (CPNE) and **Mr. Saleem Safi**, Television Anchor and Columnist, Geo TV.

With **Mr. Mani Shankar Aiyar** MP, Rajya Sabha Indian National Congress (INC), in the Chair, the Indian delegation joining the Dialogue included (in alphabetical order by first Name in the following sequence) from **Mr. Pavan K. Varma** MP, Rajya Sabha Janata Dal (United)-

JD (U), Bihar and **Mr. Vijay Jawaharlal Darda**, MP, Rajya Sabha, INC, Maharashtra; from the Delhi Legislative Assembly, **Mr. Madam Lal**; Member Legislative Assembly (MLA), Masturbate Nagar, Delhi, Aim Adam Party (AAP); **Mr. Saurabh Hardwar** MLA Greater Kailash, Delhi Aam AAP and **Mr. Senath Bhakti**, MLA, Malviya Nagar, Delhi, AAP. Participants and experts also included **Mr. Ashutosh**, Spokesperson Aam Admi Party (AAP); **Mr. A. S. Dulat**, Member, National Security Advisory Board, Former Special Director, Intelligence Bureau, Former Secretary, Research and Analysis Wing (RAW); **Mr. A. S. Panneerselvam**, Readers' Editor, The Hindu; **Ms. Devyani Srivastava** Senior Program Office, Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative; **Mr. K. P. Nayar**, Senior Journalist and Consulting Editor, The Telegraph; **Dr. K. S. Subramanian**, Former Senior Civil Servant and Member of the Indian Police Force; **Dr. Kiran Bedi**, Former Officer, Indian Police Service; **Mr. Sidharth Bhatia**, Founding Editor, The Wire; **Ms. Smita Gupta**, Senior Journalist, The Hindu; **Mr. Sunit Tandon**, Former Director, Indian Institute of Mass Communication Former CEO, Lok Sabha TV; **Ms. Vandana Seth**, Research Scholar and **Mr. Ved Marwah**, Honorary Research Professor, Centre for Policy Research, Delhi, Former Governor, Manipur, Mizoram and Jharkhand, and Former Commissioner of Police, Delhi.

India-Pakistan Legislators and Public Officials Dialogue on Sharing of Experiences on Governance and Democracy; March 10, 2016; Chandigarh, India Joint Statement

1. The second meet of the Third Round of Pakistan-India Legislators and Public Officials Dialogue on Sharing of Experiences on Governance and Democracy was held at the Centre for Research in

Rural and Industrial Development (CRRID) in Chandigarh, India, on March 10, 2016 to share experiences and perceptions on Effective Agriculture Practices and Policies.

2. The Dialogue brought together Members of Parliament and State/Provincial Legislatures from Pakistan and India, practitioners and subject-experts from the two countries who raised key issues and reform ideas covering the theme of promotion of agriculture.
3. Participants acknowledged and appreciated the cooperation, facilitation and co-hosting of the Dialogue in Chandigarh by the Centre for Research in Rural and Industrial Development (CRRID) alongside PILDAT. Special thanks in this regard were also offered by the delegates for Mr. Mani Shankar Aiyar, MP, for facilitating this cooperation between CRRID and PILDAT and in his leadership and facilitation of the Dialogue.
4. The dialogue participants on both sides agreed that in Agriculture, as in other areas, there is an enormous potential to learn from good practices and policies in both countries for each other. They demanded that barriers to communication and travel must be brought down in this regard.
5. Participants from Pakistan noted with interest some of the key initiatives implemented in the Indian Punjab for promotion of improved agricultural practices. These included low-interest agricultural loans set at 8% interest with subvention of 4%; provision of duty free tractors to farmers and loans for tubewells; water conservation by imposing restriction on plantation of rice before June 10 each year and time-limits of 15-days for Government functionaries to take decisions on agricultural loans, etc., which resulted in thousands of loans for tubewells.
6. Both sides acknowledged that agriculture remained a major area of potential cooperation for both India and Pakistan. Most challenges faced by the agricultural sectors in both the countries are similar. These included groundwater depletion; deteriorating quality of groundwater and soil degradation and air pollution due to excessive use of insecticides and pesticides; stagnation in cropping yields and last, but not the least, adverse impacts of climate change. It was also recognized that apart from these challenges, there is a critical need to improve the marketing of farming products.
7. Participants stressed that Governments may consider cooperating to address these challenges to avoid the threat of food security, high number of suicides of farmers with low-holdings and an adverse impact on the economy.
8. Apart from these shared challenges, there are also challenges peculiar to each country. For Pakistan, these include low per acre yield; inefficient use of irrigation water; infrastructural deficiencies; deficient agricultural research; high input costs; absentee farmers; lack of robust and consistent price supporting mechanisms; and low crop intensity.
9. Some of the challenges peculiar to the Indian agricultural sector include lack of focus on horticulture, floriculture and livestock and subsidiary occupations like bee keeping, sericulture and pisciculture.
10. It was recognized that both the countries have various areas for cooperation in the field of agriculture. These included sharing of research and development such as in seed quality; optimum irrigation practices; facing climate change; efficient agro-processing; recharging of groundwater; development of drought resistant crops; exploration of the horticulture, floriculture, livestock, fisheries, and organic farming sectors; use of technology and progressive agricultural practices.
11. Participants proposed that there is a need to create a single market for agricultural produce, especially for perishable goods, to balance shortages and surpluses in both the countries.
12. It was proposed that Joint Research Centres should be established on the India-Pakistan border, spanning over 100 acres on each side to begin with, where researchers and students of agriculture universities and experts can carry out joint research on seeds, crops, and combating crop-related diseases.
13. Participants from India, highlighting their experiences, shared that free electricity for farmers, or even electricity at flat rates, is, in the long run, harmful for the agriculture sector. Pakistan may consider keeping this in view in case it wishes to subsidise the electricity for the farmers, which the Indian scientists believe has been responsible for fast lowering water table in Indian Punjab.
14. Participants also believed that there is a need to promote regular exchanges between students and experts on agriculture, so that the practitioners on both sides remain apprised of good practices.
15. The visa policy where India-Pakistan citizens over 65 years of age were granted visa at the border should be implemented in letter and spirit.
16. To consider promoting exchange of farmers' delegation and facilitate participation of industrialists and farmers in agriculture fairs (Kissan Melas) on both sides of the border.
17. The small farmers and the landless peasants' problems cannot be solved in the farm sector alone. They need to be provided with off-farm gainful employment opportunities to supplement their income.
18. In addition, participants also underscored an urgent need across the SAARC countries to strengthen the third tier of democracy, i.e., Elected Local Governments. Both sides agreed that both India and Pakistan must share good practices in this regard, adding, at a later stage, lessons and experiences from other SAARC countries. Both PILDAT and CRRID agreed to cooperate further in this regard.



Participants at the Pakistan-India Legislators Dialogue in Jaipur

The Pakistani Delegation, joining the Dialogue in Chandigarh, included (in alphabetical order by first Name in the sequence of Members of Senate, National Assembly, Provincial Assemblies and Experts) **Senator Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Abdul Qayyum**, (Punjab; Pakistan Muslim League -- Nawaz - PML-N); **Senator Nauman Wazir Khattak**, (KP; Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf - PTI); **Senator Saud Majeed**, (Punjab, PML-N); **Mr. Muhammad Afzal Khan**, MNA, (NA-82 Faisalabad-VIII, Punjab, PML-N); Parliamentary Secretary for Finance; **Mr. Shehryar Afridi**, MNA, (NA-14, Kohat, KP, PTI), **Mr. Asad Qaisar**, MPA, (PK-35 Swabi-V, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, PTI) Speaker Provincial Assembly of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa; **Ms. Mahtab Akbar Rashdi**, MPA, (RSW-156, Sindh, Pakistan Muslim League - Functional -PML-F); **Mian Mehmood-ur-Rashid**, MPA, (PP-151 (Lahore-XV), Punjab, PTI), Leader of Opposition, Provincial Assembly of the Punjab; **Dr. Najma Afzal Khan**, MPA, (RSW-320, Punjab, PML-N); **Mr. Muhammad Ali Nekokara**, Former SSP, Pakistan Police and **Dr. Muhammad Shoab Suddle**, Former IG Police, Sindh & Balochistan, Pakistan.

With **Dr. Rashpal Malhotra**, Executive Vice Chairman-CRRID, in the chair, the Indian participants joining the Dialogue included (in alphabetical order by first Name in the sequence of Members of the Lok Sabha and Subject Experts) **Mr. Prem Singh Chandumajra**, MP, Lok Sabha, Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD), Anandpur Sahib, Punjab; **Dr. Kuldip Kaur** Director General-CRRID; **Dr. G.S. Kalkat**, Chairman of Punjab Farmers Commission; **Dr. Jaswinder Singh Brar**, Professor of Economics, Centre for Economic Change, Punjabi University, Patiala; **Ambassador (Retd.) P.S. Sahai**, Principal Research Advisor-CRRID; **Dr. R. S. Ghuman**, Nehru SAIL Chair Professor-CRRID; **Dr. S. K. Mangal**, Member, Governing Body-CRRID; **Dr. S. S. Johl**,

Chancellor, Central University of Punjab, Patiala; **Sardar Manpreet Singh Badal**, Former Finance Minister of Punjab; **Dr. Satish Verma**, RBI Chair Professor-CRRID; **Mr. Satish Dhanda**, Industrialist from Ludhiana; **Dr. Sucha Singh Gill**, Senior Professor-CRRID and **Dr. Sukhwinder Singh**, Professor of Economics, Centre for Economic Change, Punjabi University, Patiala.

India-Pakistan Legislators and Public Officials Dialogue on Sharing of Experiences on Governance and Democracy; March 12, 2016; Jaipur, India Joint Statement

1. The third leg of the third India-Pakistan Legislators and Public Officials Dialogue on Sharing of Experiences on Governance and Democracy was held in Jaipur, India on March 12, 2016.
2. The third meet saw Rao Rajendra Singh, MLA and Deputy Speaker Legislative Assembly of Rajasthan, in the chair in the Dialogue facilitated by Pakistan Institute of Legislative Development and Transparency (PILDAT) and the Consumer Unity and Trust Society (CUTS). Participants included Members of Parliament and State/Provincial Legislatures from Pakistan and India, practitioners and subject-experts from the two countries who raised key issues and reform ideas covering the themes of Promotion of Agriculture and Tourism.
3. A special thanks was offered by the delegates for **Mr. Mani Shankar Aiyar**, MP, for facilitating this cooperation between CUTS and PILDAT and in his leadership and facilitation of the Dialogue.
4. Participants acknowledged that experiences on good governance in India and Pakistan in development of agriculture and tourism provide great potential for exchange of ideas and cooperation. The forum of the Dialogue for

exchange of ideas in this regard was appreciated.

5. Participants stressed on the need for more avenues of interaction and learning between the two countries. They agreed that each delegate has a responsibility to carry forward the proposals discussed for policy reform in two countries. Need for a time-bound roadmap in this regard was also highlighted.
6. Participants also underscored the need for facilitating greater engagement of youth in the two countries in areas including democratic and governance development.
 - i. Tourism
 - ii. Through discussion at the Dialogue, the Participants agreed that enormous potential of cooperation on tourism promotion exists in the two countries which remains untapped.
 - iii. Participants believed that tourism offers a key avenue of promoting peace between India and Pakistan. In addition, they stressed that the two countries must explore avenues of promoting nostalgic and religious tourism as well. An exceptional example offered in this regard was that of respect and following of Sheikh Burhan-al-Din dargah in Rajasthan which is equally popular among Muslims and Hindus.
 - iv. Lack of an efficient and relaxed visa regime was highlighted as a major stumbling block in promotion of tourism between Pakistan and India. Delegates urged the Governments of Pakistan and India to adopt citizen-friendly visa regime allowing free access to citizens of the two countries.
 - v. Delegates also stressed that potential for promotion of India-Pakistan tourism must be tapped especially in areas bordering the two countries. In addition, both sides supported opening up of more points across the border, such as Khokhrapar Monabao, to facilitate travel and trade opportunities.
 - vi. The preferred scheme of tourism promotion for the two countries should be to focus first on in-country tourism, followed by promotion of regional and international tourism in the two countries.
 - vii. Participants highlighted the potential of learning offered by the good practices of the Palace-on-Wheels Train and a dedicated Tourist Police within regular Police Stations, where required.
 - viii. One of the proposals offered for joint tourism promotion between the two countries focused on facilitating the opening of offices of Tourism Development bodies in each other's country.
 - ix. Delegates believed initiatives also need to be taken to encourage Sports and Cultural tourism between the two countries.
 - x. Participants from both sides felt that one of the major impediments in promotion of tourism in the sub-continent was indeed the prevailing security environment which could only be overcome by bridging the trust gap between the two neighbouring countries. Besides, there was a dire need to share intelligence and mutual cooperation in fighting terrorism.
 - xi. Delegates called upon the political leadership of both countries to work together to address disputes hampering the relationship between two countries.

Promotion of Agriculture, with Special Focus on Arid Agriculture

- i. In the session focussing on learning from each country's effective agricultural practises, participants noted that both the countries were beset by similar set of challenges in this regard. These include growing populations and limited land resources; depletion of groundwater and climate change which lead to frequent droughts and volatility of prices of agricultural products.
- ii. Delegates noted joint solutions could be adopted including area expansion or intensification, greater technological development, diversification in the form of high value crops, greater spending on information dissemination and agricultural research.
- iii. Indian experience suggests that Price Support Mechanism is not the only sustainable solution for agriculture sector development. Similarly, in the Indian experience, promotion of live-stock farming in areas facing water scarcity has proved more successful.
- iv. Participants supported promotion and development of solar farming in arid areas. Need for research and cooperation for research in the sector were also stressed. The two countries must also focus on development and use of organic farming practices in the agricultural sector.

The Pakistani Delegation, joining the Dialogue in Jaipur, included (in alphabetical order by First Name in the sequence of Members of Senate, National Assembly, Provincial Assemblies and Experts) **Senator Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Abdul Qayyum**, (Punjab; Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz - PML-N); **Senator Saud Majeed**, (Punjab, PML-N); **Mr. Muhammad Afzal Khan**, MNA, (NA-82 Faisalabad-VIII, Punjab, PML-N); Parliamentary Secretary for Finance; **Mr. Shehryar Afridi**, MNA, (NA-14, Kohat, KP, PTI), **Mr. Asad Qaisar**, MPA, (PK-35 Swabi-V, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, PTI) Speaker Provincial Assembly of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa; **Ms. Mahtab Akbar Rashdi**, MPA, (RSW-156, Sindh, Pakistan Muslim League - Functional - PML-F); **Mian Mehmood-ur- Rashid**, MPA, (PP-151 (Lahore-XV), Punjab, PTI), Leader of Opposition, Provincial Assembly of the Punjab; **Dr. Najma Afzal Khan**, MPA, (RSW-320, Punjab, PML-N); **Mr. Muhammad Ali**

Nekokara, Former SSP, Pakistan Police and **Dr. Muhammad Shoaib Suddle**, Former IG Police, Sindh & Balochistan, Pakistan.

With **Rao Rajendra Singh**, MLA, Deputy Speaker, Legislative Assembly of Rajasthan, Shahpura, Rajasthan, BJP; in the chair, the Indian Delegation included (in alphabetical order by First Name in the sequence of the Members of the Legislative Assembly and Experts) **Mr. Chhotu Singh**, MLA, Chairman, Standing Committee on Environment, Jaisalmer, Rajasthan, BJP; **Mr. Anand K. Tripathi**, Joint Director, Department of Tourism, Jaipur, Government of Rajasthan; **Dr. Arvind Mayaram**, Former Finance Secretary, Ministry of Finance & Former Secretary Ministry of Minority Affairs of Government of India; **Dr. Edward Dickinson**, Expert Policy Implementation, Systems Design, Operations Development and Quality Improvement; **Mr. Gyan Prakash**, General Secretary of Federation of Hospitality and Tourism of Rajasthan (FHTR); **Mr. Kelly Bains**, Former Officer, Indian Police Service; **Dr. L. R. Yadav**, Head of Agronomy Depart, Sri Karan Narendra Agriculture University; **Dr. N. V. Patil**, Director ICAR-National Research Centre; **Dr. Pratap Singh Birthal**, Director, IDS; **Dr. Rashmi Dickinson**, co-founder India Inspiration Initiative and ex-British Senior Civil Servant; **Dr. S. J. Singh**, Director of Rajasthan Agricultural Research Institute, Jaipur; **Mr. Sanjay Pande**, Additional Director, Department of Tourism, Jaipur, Government of Rajasthan; **Ms. Sarita Kumari Ghanerao**, Managing Director, ShaJay Enterprise & ShaJay Exports and **Mr. Shital Prasad Sharma**, Director, State Institute of Agriculture Management, Jaipur.

Performance of State Institutions & Practises in Pakistan



(L-R) Mr. Iftikhar Ullah Babar, *Former Secretary Senate of Pakistan*, Mr. Ali Muhammad Khan, *MNA, PTI* and Syed Naveed Qamar, *MNA (NA-222, Hyderabad-V, Sindh, PPPP)*, *Chairman, National Assembly Standing Committee on Railways* at the launch of the first-ever Citizens' Report on the Performance of the Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services – PIPS on January 08, 2015 in Islamabad.

Under the 'Democracy and Governance Programme' PILDAT has initiated a series of performance assessments of State Institutions. Within this component PILDAT selects key state institutions each year, including the national and provincial legislatures, and publishes a performance assessment. The assessments aim to promote an objective assessment of the performance of state institution, the best practices, and a way forward.

Under this initiative, a snapshot of activities undertaken by PILDAT during the period include:

- i. Assessment of the Performance of **Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services – PIPS**
- ii. Assessment of the Performance of **Election Commission of Pakistan - ECP**
- iii. Assessment of the Performance of **National Accountability Bureau - NAB**
- iv. Assessment of the Performance of **Pakistan Railways**
- v. Improving **Pakistan-Afghanistan Border Management**
- vi. Assessment of the Performance of **Pakistan International Airlines - PIA**

Each assessment report objectively analysed performance of the key State Institutions from the citizens' perspective. The reports, prepared in collaborative manner through seeking data from institutions, also identified reform proposals for the benefit of each institution. Upon the launch of each of the reports, key figures from the institution under study, appreciated the objective assessment while taking into consideration reform proposals outlined in the reports. A brief overview of activities in this regard is given below:

PILDAT Launches first-ever Citizens' Report on the Performance of the Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services - PIPS

PILDAT launched the first-ever *Citizens' Report* on the *Performance of the Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services - PIPS* by recommending a need for the PIPS to work harder towards achieving its goals and objectives, greater transparency for its activities and a standard procedure for recruitment at the PIPS by the FPSC, among others. The report was launched on January 08, 2015.

The Performance Assessment launch was presided over by **Syed Naveed Qamar**, MNA and Member Board of PIPS, while **Rana Muhammad Afzal Khan**, MNA, PML-N, **Mr. Ali Muhammad Khan**, MNA, PTI, **Mr. Iftikhar Ullah Babar**, Former Secretary Senate, and **Mr. Ahmed Bilal Mehboob**, President PILDAT, shared their views, alongside a large number of Parliamentarians.

Credibility of Election Commission Critical for Democratic Continuity

The Election Commission of Pakistan is as independent and powerful as the Election Commission of India, but lacks the capacity to enforce, and the credibility of Election Commission is critical for democratic continuity, said experts at a Roundtable held by PILDAT on February 10, 2015.

It was recognized that transparency, fairness, and right to information are crucial to the functioning of the ECP. The ECP



Senior Analysts and Politicians attend an event on Performance of NAB

must make efforts to reform its Complaint Redressal Mechanisms, while the Representation of the People Act of 1976 should be improved to ensure effective time-bound mechanisms for dealing with pre-election and post-election complaints. Provisions can be made in the Representation of the People Act to establish a real efficient monitoring cell at the ECP Headquarters in order to collect information for the purpose of scrutiny of nomination papers by Returning Officers, election campaigns, polling day, and post-election matters.

Dr. S. Y. Quraishi, former Chief Election Commissioner of India, and **Mr. Hasan Muhammad**, former Secretary, the Election Commission of Pakistan, also the authors of the publications, spoke at the Roundtable discussion. The Panelists were **Mr. Shahid Hamid**, Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of Pakistan; former Governor of the Punjab and **Dr. Ijaz Shafi Gilani**, Chairman of Gallup Pakistan. Present at the Roundtable were **Mr. J. P. Singh**, Deputy High Commissioner of India to Pakistan, and **Mr. Wazir Ahmed Khan Jomezai**, former Deputy Speaker, National Assembly of Pakistan.

Improved Border Management Crucial for Internal Security in Pakistan and Afghanistan

Improved border management is important for the national security of Pakistan and Afghanistan, said experts and participants at a PILDAT National Consultative Forum on Pakistan-Afghanistan Border Management: Challenges and Way Forward. The National Consultative Forum was organized to understand what are the mechanisms by which the border can be effectively regulated and the unauthorized movement can be controlled. This forum was held in Islamabad on March 11, 2015.

Mr. Rustam Shah Mohmand, former Secretary of

Interior and former Pakistan Ambassador to Afghanistan, **Lt. General (Retd.) Moinuddin Haider**, former Minister of Interior and former Governor, **Mr. Ahmer Bilal Soofi**, former Federal Caretaker Law Minister and **Mr. Ahmed Bilal Mehboob**, President, PILDAT spoke at the National Consultative Forum. Also present at the occasion was **Senator Mir Hasil Khan Bizenjo**, President National Party.

NAB Performance in 2014 Improved by 54%: Chairman NAB

The performance of NAB has improved by 54% in 2014, said Chairman NAB, **Mr. Qamar Zaman Chaudhry**, while addressing the PILDAT Public Forum on the National Accountability Bureau and the Challenges of Corruption in Pakistan on April 08, 2015. While presenting his perspective on performance of the NAB, Mr. Chaudhry said that the NAB has prepared a law for the protection of whistle blowers as well.

In response to the Chairman NAB indicating that a new law may be on the anvil to replace the NAO 1999, **Mr. Ahmed Bilal Mehboob**, President PILDAT, said that any efforts to dilute effective accountability requirements would be faced with stiff resistance inside and outside the Parliament.

The PILDAT Forum was organized to review the performance of the NAB under PILDAT's programme of evaluating performance of key State institutions for the benefit of the citizens. Alongside **Mr. Qamar Zaman Chaudhry**, Chairman NAB, **Dr. Munir Ahmed**, Founding President of the Islamic Countries Society of Statistical Sciences, **Brigadier (Retd.) Musaddiq Abbasi**, former Director General, Awareness and Prevention NAB, and **Mr. Ahmed Bilal Mehboob**, President PILDAT, spoke at the Forum.



PILDAT takes strong exception to threats to NAB

On February 17, 2016, Pakistan Institute of Legislative Development And Transparency - PILDAT expressed shock and concern at the Prime Minister's open warning to the nation's independent accountability institution NAB.

PILDAT said that it is shocking that the Prime Minister, who is generally very cautious about commenting on national institutions, has gone out of the way to threaten the National Accountability Bureau of consequences.

PILDAT expressed its concern at the growing trend of targeting accountability institutions by the executive. Earlier the PPP-led Sindh Government had criticized the NAB in the harshest terms and the PPP had introduced a bill in the Senate to clip the NAB Powers.

PILDAT has criticized pressure tactics against the NAB which included a private members bill by a ruling party MNA to make NAB a toothless institution. PILDAT warned against any effort to roll back the independence and effectiveness of the NAB and said that it would not only dilute democracy, but it may also invite non-institutional accountability by institutions which do not have the legal mandate but have the muscle to undertake such accountability. It is, therefore, better for democratic future of the country to not make an effort to weaken the State's accountability institutions.

PILDAT noted that the NAB has come a long way from being a military dictator's tool for selective victimization to an institution whose head is appointed through a bi-partisan process with an effective legal framework. PILDAT reminded that no one, including the senior government functionaries, should be above accountability in the country.

It is a disturbing trend that the powerful elite hold others accountable but if they are questioned about their own conduct, they threaten the very institutions.

PILDAT has asked the NAB to not feel demoralized or harassed by these pressure tactics and to continue its independent accountability in strict accordance with law, without fear or favour.

PILDAT called upon the political parties, civil society and media to come forward and defend independent accountability institutions.

Performance of the Pakistan International Airlines: PILDAT Briefing Session

On **October 15, 2015** PILDAT hosted a briefing session on the Citizens' Periodic Report on Performance of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) in Islamabad. **Ms. Nargis Sethi**, Former Secretary Defence and Cabinet Secretary authored the report. Key findings of the report were shared with the participants followed by perspective of political parties presented by **Sardar Muhammad Latif Khan Khosa**, Secretary General Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and **Senator Nauman Wazir Khattak**, Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI). **Mr. Nasser N. S. Jaffer**, Chairman PIA, also briefed the guests on constraints to PIA's revival.



Guests at the discussion on Performance of Pakistan International Airlines organised by PILDAT

During the session **Ms. Nargis Sethi** shared her research findings and highlighted how PIA is vulnerable to failure at the hands of incompetent human resource and political interference. Contrary to the Government's vision of privatisation of PIA by March 2016, Ms. Sethi suggested minimum political interference in the operations of the airlines. She stressed on how qualified and independent Board of Directors (BoD) should be appointed to deal with the decisions of PIA. She also recommended that worker unions should not blackmail management and work in the interest of the employees and the company. Lastly, she proposed formation of an autonomous and independent regulatory authority that can solely focus on regulating PIA as a profitable entity.

Sardar Muhammad Latif Khan Khosa expressed Pakistan Peoples Parties (PPP) disagreement with PML (N) on privatisation of PIA. He argued that PIA is a national flag carrier and it is imperative that the government and PIA management is held accountable for bringing the airline to this vulnerable stage. He also expressed his discomfort over the high employee to aircraft ration and suggested that an immediate action be taken to revamp the human resource outlook of the corporation. Finally, he stressed upon the role of parliamentarians in voicing this issue and proposing the needful to revamp PIA.

On behalf of Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf, **Senator Nauman Wazir Khattak** presented certain recommendations to revive PIA without privatising it. He reaffirmed that human resource is one of the major issues faced by PIA. Merit-based recruitment and relevant work experience should be mandatory for senior management hiring. The role of the Ministry should only be restricted to appointment of capable Board of Directors and allow them to run PIA under the ideology of good governance as a corporate entity.

Chairman PIA, **Mr. Nasser N. S. Jaffer**, confessed the internal issues of PIA are much grieves than highlighted during the session. He identified incompetent human resource as a reason for decline of the airlines. However, financial restructuring is underway to revive PIA. He also stressed that the Honourable Prime Minister and Advisor to PM on Aviation have mandated the Chairman to revive PIA and not to privatise it. He clarified that all major decisions are being taken through the BoD.

Mr. Ahmed Bilal Mehboob, President PILDAT, and **Ms. Aasiya Riaz**, Joint Director, PILDAT deliberated the briefing session. They encouraged the guests to engage in the discussion session. Various participants raised questions and proposed recommendations. The participants included parliamentarians, media representatives and members of civil society and academia for the discussion on the way forward for PIA.

Parliamentarians present for the discussion session included **Ms. Asyia Naz Tanoli**, MNA (NA-282, Women Punjab- X, PML-N), **Ms. Nafeesa Inayatullah Khan Khattak**, MNA (NA-322, Women Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, PTI), **Ms. Aisha**, MNA (NA-329 District Swat, Women KPK, Jamat-e-Islami), **Senator Ms. Khalida Mohsin Qureshi** (PPPP, Punjab), **Mr. Sajid Nawaz**, MNA (NA-3, Peshawar III, KP, PTI), **Senator Farhatullah Babar** (PPPP, KP), **Mr. Bismillah Khan**, MNA (NA-43, Tribal Area-VIII, FATA, IND), **Mr. Siraj Muhammad Khan**, MNA (NA-6, Nowshera-II, KP, PTI).

On this occasion, representatives from the Pakistan International Airlines included **Mr. Nayyar Hayat**, Chief Financial Officer, PIA and **Mr. Daniyal Gillani**, General Manager, Public Affairs, PIA. Members from the aviation division included **Mr. Ahmed Latif**, Senior Joint Secretary (Aviation) and **Mr. Farooq Hassan**, Deputy

Secretary (Flying). Other eminent personalities part of the discussion included **Mr. Talat Masood**, Defence Analyst, **Mr. Ayaz Wazir**, Former Ambassador, **Mr. Wazir Jogezai**, Former Deputy Speaker of Pakistan, **Mr. Asif Ezidi**, Former Ambassador, **Mr. Iftikhar Ullah Babar**, Former Secretary Senate were also present for discussion.

Lack of Police-Prosecution Liaison is major hurdle to effective justice dispensation

Speakers at the Consultative Session held in Lahore on November 21, 2015 on **Effective Prosecution and Legal Aid System Pakistan** included **Ms. Ayesha Hamid**, Senior Advocate Lahore High Court (left); **Mr. Ihtasham Qadir**, Prosecutor-General, Punjab **Mr. Azam Nazeer Tarar**, Vice Chairman Pakistan Bar Council **Mr. Ahmed Bilal Mehboob**, President PILDAT **Dr. Shoaib Suddle**, Former Inspector General (IG) Sindh & Balochistan and **Mr. Shahid Hamid**, Senior Advocate Supreme Court.

Other participants of the session included **Senator Mohsin Khan Leghari**; **Dr. Shazra Mansab Ali**, PML-N, **Ms. Ayesha Javed**, W-317 (PML-N); **Ms. Saadia Sohail Rana**, W-355 (PTI); **Pir Masood Chisti**, President, Lahore High Court; **Dr. Sohail Shahzad**, Dean, Faculty of Law, Hazara University (second from right); **Mr. Munir Hussain Bhatti**, Chairman Free Legal Committee, Punjab Bar Council, Honourable **Dr. Anwar Khan Gondal**, Additional Prosecutor General, **Mr. Mujeeb ur Rahman Shami**, Senior Journalist; and Intekhab Hanif, Special Correspondent, Dawn.

The Consultative Session concluded with concrete recommendations while highlighting that the quality of prosecution that has significantly improved since the creation of an independent prosecution service in 2006. All stakeholders agreed that police-prosecution liaison at the 'thana' (police station) is essential for an effective justice system. It was also pointed out that the government must increase funding for police and its Investigation Branch in order to strengthen the quality of evidence at trial. The need to equip police officers with modern technological knowledge and tools was emphasised by participants at the session.

It was agreed that the current Legal Aid System needs a major overhaul, and in this regard a recommendation for establishing a Free Legal Aid Authority was put forward. With respect to media coverage of crime and trials, it was pointed out that reporters and journalists should be sensitised so that accused persons are not subjected to harsh 'media trials' before being proved guilty in court.

Pakistan Railways is Improving - Yet there are many Miles to go...

December 30: A PILDAT Analysis on Performance of Pakistan Railways shows that while major challenges remain for the country's largest passenger and freight network, the past two years since 2013 have shown improvement in the performance of Pakistan Railways. Pakistan Railways' earnings have increased and its punctuality rate is up from 53% in 2013 to 70% in 2015. The Railways was able to exceed its targeted earnings during 2014-2015 and reduce its financial deficit. These improvements have come about through larger investments in infrastructure development, purchase of new operational locomotives and an increase in quality of services. However, the sustainability of this trend will depend on the political will of the top political leadership and continued dedication of the Railways Team to the mission of turning this crucially important State institution around.

At a Briefing Session, organized by PILDAT to discuss the performance of Pakistan Railways on December 30, 2015, key stakeholders critically evaluated the Railways Performance and offered recommendations and a way forward. Among others, **Khawaja Saad Rafique**, MNA and Federal Minister of Railways, **Syed Naveed Qamar**, MNA and Chairman National Assembly Standing Committee on Railways, and **Senator Nauman Wazir Khattak**, PTI, shared their perspectives at the Briefing Session.

"Priority was given to de-politicising Pakistan Railways in order to ensure turnaround of this important State Institute."—
Khawaja Saad Rafique, MNA, Federal Minister of Railways.

Among other key state institutions, the Pakistan Railways sits atop the ever-burgeoning pile of poor governance inflicting Pakistan. The deteriorating quality of services and declining number of passengers and trains in Pakistan Railways, which once used to be the predominant mode of transportation in Pakistan, offers a classic case study in lack of vision and will over the years. At its peak between 1955 and 1960, the Railways handled 73 per cent of freight traffic, which fell sharply down to less than 4 per cent in 2015. During 1970s, Pakistan Railways also had the largest passenger carrier share in transportation. Participants deliberated upon the reasons for the huge setback to Railways' role as a catalyst for economic development. While significant under-investment by successive governments in Railways is one reason, lack of political focus and commitment to the country's key State institution was considered to be the reason at the heart of the issue.



(L-R) Mr. Fida Muhammad, *Additional Secretary of the ECP*, Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, *Member Senate of Pakistan*, Rana Muhammad Afzal Khan, *MNA (PML-N)* and Mr. Shafqat Mahmood, *MNA (PTI)* discuss the limitation faced by the Election Commission of Pakistan in a briefing session organised by PILDAT in Islamabad.

As part of its focus on improving quality of governance, PILDAT periodically monitors the quality of performance of key State institutions with a view to highlight the issues and offer recommendations for strengthening these institutions. PILDAT study in analysing the performance of Pakistan Railways is an attempt to showcase the state of affairs at this important institution of the State and present to the citizens and policymakers alike some of the recommendations that can help improve the Pakistan Railways. PILDAT analysis is prepared with support and collaboration of the very institutions whose performance is evaluated and we are grateful for the support provided by the top political and technical management of Pakistan Railways in preparing our performance analysis.

The briefing session was followed by a discussion session where participants, including Parliamentarians, Government officials, esteemed members of media and civil society discussed the way forward for Pakistan Railways.

Lack of capacity to use power remains ECP's greatest challenge in 2015

Members of the Parliamentary Committee on Electoral Reforms discussed limitations faced by the Election Commission of Pakistan that impede its performance. They highlighted lack of capacity and institutional independence as key limitations faced by the ECP during a briefing session hosted by PILDAT on January 13, 2016.

Member Parliamentary Committee on Electoral Reforms including **Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed**, Pakistan Muslim League, **Mr. Shafqat Mahmood**, MNA (NA-126 Lahore IX, Pakistan Tehreek- e-Insaf), **Dr. Arif Alvi**, MNA (NA-250 Karachi-XII, Pakistan Tehreek- e-Insaf), and

Rana Muhammad Afzal Khan, MNA (NA-82 Faisalabad, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz), shared their perspectives at the Briefing Session where PILDAT shared the findings of its Citizens' Periodic Report of the Performance of the ECP in 2015.

Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, representing the PML, believed that it would not be wrong to term the ECP as toothless; the ECP lacks any authority to take punitive action against code violators. While he criticized the ECP for failing to exercise its constitutional independence, he acknowledged the technological efforts made by the ECP during the year, especially their Biometric project during Haripur (NA-19) by-election. He also endorsed PILDAT's recommendation of preparation of an Annual Report by the ECP to share its performance annually. He suggested that a separate body should be created, known as the Election Services of Pakistan (ESP) that should assist the ECP in providing electoral services through out the country.

While discussing the ECP's performance during 2015, **Mr. Shafqat Mahmood**, MNA (PTI), pointed out that the ECP needs to take stringent measures to gain public trust that was further weakened during the LG-Elections due to ECP's mismanagement where voters' names were transferred from their respective constituencies to other constituencies.

Dr. Arif Alvi, MNA (PTI) and Chairman Parliamentary Sub-committee on Electoral Reforms, believed that the ECP has failed to make any progress on Electronic Voting Machines and voting rights for overseas Pakistanis. He insisted that the ECP should adopt innovative measures to address these issues, if the traditional ways are constraining them given their capacity.

“Innovative solutions are required to meet ECP's goal to facilitate Overseas Pakistan's Voting Right.” - Dr. Arif Alvi

Rana Muhammad Afzal Khan, MNA (PML-N), pointed out the role of political parties in ensuring the code of conduct is followed during the elections. He also pointed out that the ECP should be more pro-active in engaging the political parties, media and public to gain their trust.

Mr. Fida Muhammad, Additional Secretary of the ECP, shared the efforts made by the ECP during 2015 to improve its performance. He highlighted that various administrative and technological efforts were taken in 2015 to ensure improved performance during the year, especially in the Local Government Elections. He also pointed out various constraints faced by the ECP. He asserted that despite all the efforts made by the ECP, voter turnout remained low in metropolitan cities during the Local Government Elections held in Punjab, Sindh, KP and ICT. The Additional Secretary agreed to the PILDAT recommendation of appointment of spokesperson to address to media and public by the ECP and termed it as imperative.

“The Election Commission of Pakistan spent Rs. 10 crore from the Federal Government's funds for voters education during Local Government Elections, however, voters turnout remained as low as 30%” – Mr. Fida Muhammad, Additional Secretary ECP

The PILDAT Briefing Session was followed by a discussion where participants, including parliamentarians, government officials, esteemed members of media and civil society discussed some of the recommendations that can help improve the state of affairs for this important state institute. While the ECP needs to take stringent measures to improve its performance, it was discussed that the Parliamentary Committee of Electoral Reforms, and the political parties should also perform their role unflinchingly to ensure there are no lapses in the laws, rules and regulations set for General Elections 2018. However, the ECP will be responsible for ensuring implementations of these laws and withstand any political or judicial pressure.

Other Parliamentarians present included: **Mr. Sajid Nawaz**, MNA (NA-3 Peshawar-III, PTI), **Senator Mr. Sajjad Hussain Turi**, IND (FATA), **Senator Mr. Hamza**, PML-N (Punjab), **Senator Dr. Jehanzeb Jamaldini**, BNP-M (Balochistan), **Mr. Khaili George**, MNA (NA-338 Quetta, PML-N), **Dr. Ramesh Kumar Vankwani**, MNA (NA-334 Karachi, PML-N), **Mr. Pervaiz Malik**, MNA (NA-123 Lahore-IV, PML-N), **Alhaj Shah Jee Gul Afridi**, MNA (NA-45 Tribal Area-X, FATA, IND), **Mr. Shehryar Afridi**, MNA (NA-14 Kohat, PTI), **Ms. Nafisa Khattak**, MNA (NA-322 Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, PTI), **Molana Ameer Zaman**, MNA (NA-263, Balochistan, JUI-F), **Mr. Bismillah Khan**, MNA (NA-43 FATA, IND), **Mr. Siraj Muhammad Khan**, MNA (NA-6 Nowshera-II, PTI), **Mr. Muhammad Muzammil Qureshi**, MNA (NA-253 Karachi-XV, MQM), **Mr. Abdul Waseem**, MNA (NA-243 Karachi-V, MQM), **Sahibzada Muhammad Yaqub**, MNA (NA-34 Lower Dir, JI), **Ms. Amra Khan**, MNA (NA-30, PML-N), **Ms. Sabiha Nazir**, MNA (NA-299, PML-N), **Ms. Shaheen Shafiq**, MNA (NA-292, Punjab, PML-N), and **Ms. Aliya Kamran**, MNA (NA-332, Balochistan, JUI-F).

PILDAT in its report on The Election Commission of Pakistan in 2015 analysed that despite the ECP's significant role in the democratic process, the ECP failed to exercise its legal and constitutional right to ensure compliance of Election Rules, as seen during bye-elections conducted during 2015. However, after the lessons learned during Local Government elections in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the ECP improved its performance of management of Local Government elections in Punjab and Sindh. The ECP reports to have achieved only 40% progress against 62% targeted progress on 102 goals that were to be achieved by December 2015. This low progress can partly be attributed to its heavy engagement in local government elections throughout the year.

PILDAT Supports Stringent Measures to Manage Pakistan-Afghanistan Border

PILDAT hailed various measures being taken by Pakistan to better manage the Pakistan Afghanistan border. In the light of latest developments indicating that Pakistan is enforcing more stringent border management system on the Western Border, PILDAT has welcomed the initiatives in a statement.

PILDAT stated that “while the Durand Line constitutes the legal border between Pakistan and Afghanistan under International Law, the legal rubric of rubric of 'easement rights' to the various Pashtun and other tribes along its sides has come to be misunderstood as facilitative of cross border movement at will. It is also important to understand that the easement rights are only exercisable by members of the tribes divided by the Durand Line and are not available to other ordinary nationals of Afghanistan or Pakistan.”

In an earlier paper on the subject titled: Pakistan-Afghanistan Border Management: A Legal Perspective, PILDAT has

supported Pakistan fencing the Durand Line, arguing that Pakistan is well within its rights to do so without vitiating the non-treaty easement rights of the divided tribes. The PILDAT paper argues that Pakistan can lawfully fence its side of the border without Afghanistan's consent by following the precedence of the USA-Mexico border which has been unilaterally fenced by the USA under the Secure Fence Act 2006. This has been deemed lawful under international law since the USA as a sovereign State is entitled to protect its territory, integrity and national security through the implementation of immigration policy. Similar case highlighted is that of India fencing its side of the border. PILDAT maintains that the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan should also welcome this as an effectively managed border equally takes care of the security issues faced by Afghanistan.

PILDAT has argued that the internal and external threats faced by the State of Pakistan from unauthorized crossings of the Durand Line unequivocally call for effective border management.

Right to Information

Improving citizens' right to information through provision of adequate and effective legal frameworks and their implementation has been a key focus of PILDAT since 2002 when Pakistan became the first South Asian country to adopt the Right to Information (RTI)/Freedom of Information (FOI) legislation through passing the Freedom of Information Ordinance (FOIO), 2002. Near-identical laws were subsequently passed in 2005 in Balochistan, and in 2006 in Sindh. However, since then Pakistan has lost its position as regional RTI leader to neighbouring India, which, in 2005, passed the world's third-best RTI law according to the. Pakistan has also fallen behind Nepal and Bangladesh, which passed progressive RTI laws in 2007 and 2009, respectively.

Fortunately, efforts to reform RTI in Pakistan have been underway since 2012, after a sub-Committee of the Senate Standing Committee on Information, Broadcasting and National Heritage drafted a new RTI law for Federal Government which the Federal Ministry of Information, Broadcasting and National Heritage agreed to adopt and present in the Parliament as an official Government Bill. This Bill, which in its current form could potentially become the best RTI law in the world, was finalized in February 2014 and has since awaited the approval of the Federal Cabinet to be tabled in the Parliament. In the same period, the Provinces of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and Punjab passed internationally acclaimed RTI legislation in December 2013. Implementation of both laws has been underway since early 2014, spearheaded by independent statutory Information Commissions that are responsible for promoting implementation of the laws, monitoring and reviewing their implementation and enforcing the provisions of these reformed RTI laws in the hearing of complaints.

In this backdrop, PILDAT began concerted efforts afresh to promote passage of reformed RTI law at the Federal and Provincial spheres of Balochistan and Sindh while monitor and assist effective implementation of reformed RTI laws in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Following were key highlights of PILDAT's work on RTI during the reporting period:

1. Comparative Analysis and recommendations on RTI Laws in Pakistan in the shape of various publications including:
 - i. Monthly Monitors on RTI
 - ii. RTI Score Card
 - iii. Policy Brief on RTI
 - iv. Legislative Brief on Sindh Freedom of Information Legislation
 - v. RTI Case Studies
 - vi. Media Briefs
 - vii. Legislative Brief on Federal RTI Bill
 - viii. Background Paper
2. Workshops, Media Briefings and Sensitisation Sessions for National and Provincial Legislators, Government Officials, Media Persons and Academia
3. Regional Conference on Right to Information in South Asia
4. Facilitating Pakistan's first Academic Network on Right to Information (ANoRTI)

Under this initiative, a snapshot of activities undertaken by PILDAT during the period include:

PILDAT Welcomes the presentation of new Federal RTI Law for Cabinet Approval

On August 21, in a press statement, PILDAT welcomed the announcement by the Federal Minister of Information, Broadcasting and National Heritage that the new draft law on Right to Information (RTI) will be presented for official approval in the upcoming meeting of the Federal Cabinet. This is the same version of the Bill which was lauded earlier for earning highest score in the world on Canada-based Centre for Law and Democracy's Global RTI Rating 2015. PILDAT has expressed hope that following the approval by the Cabinet, the law would be swiftly tabled in Parliament for debate and passage.

PILDAT Lauds Pakistan's Lead in the Global RTI Ranking; Demands early Passage of RTI Law at the Centre and in Sindh and Balochistan Provinces

On July 22, in a press release, PILDAT welcomed the highest score that Pakistan's draft Right to Information (RTI) law has been able to obtain in an international assessment of similar laws around the world.

The Canada-based Center for Law and Democracy-CLD announced in a statement that the draft Right to Information law, prepared by the Government of Pakistan, has scored impressive 146 points on the RTI international rating, which would put Pakistan 11 points ahead of the next best right to information law (of Serbia) in the world. The CLD monitors and



Senior Politicians participate a briefing session on Right to Information

analyses RTI laws around the world under seven categories and 61 indicators.

Pakistan, with its current outdated Freedom of Information Ordinance 2002, is placed at 83rd position out of 102 countries with a score of 66. India is in the 3rd position with a score of 128.

If the Parliament of Pakistan passes the RTI law in its present or even improved form, Pakistan will have the honour of having the best RTI law in the world.

Earlier, the provinces of Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa had passed progressive RTI laws in 2013 though KP law suffered a set back when its Assembly amended the law in early 2015 making it restrictive and less progressive.

PILDAT has commended Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, the Government of Pakistan and especially its Ministry of Information, which is steering the RTI bill, for drafting an effective and progressive law and appealed to the Government and the Parliament to pass the law at the earliest.

PILDAT also appealed to the Provincial Governments of Sindh and Balochistan to replace their current outdated Freedom of Information laws with progressive RTI laws that are in tune with the current times.

PILDAT also hoped that the KP Government would take urgent steps to restore the progressive character of its RTI act in line with the vision of PTI Chairman, Mr. Imran Khan.

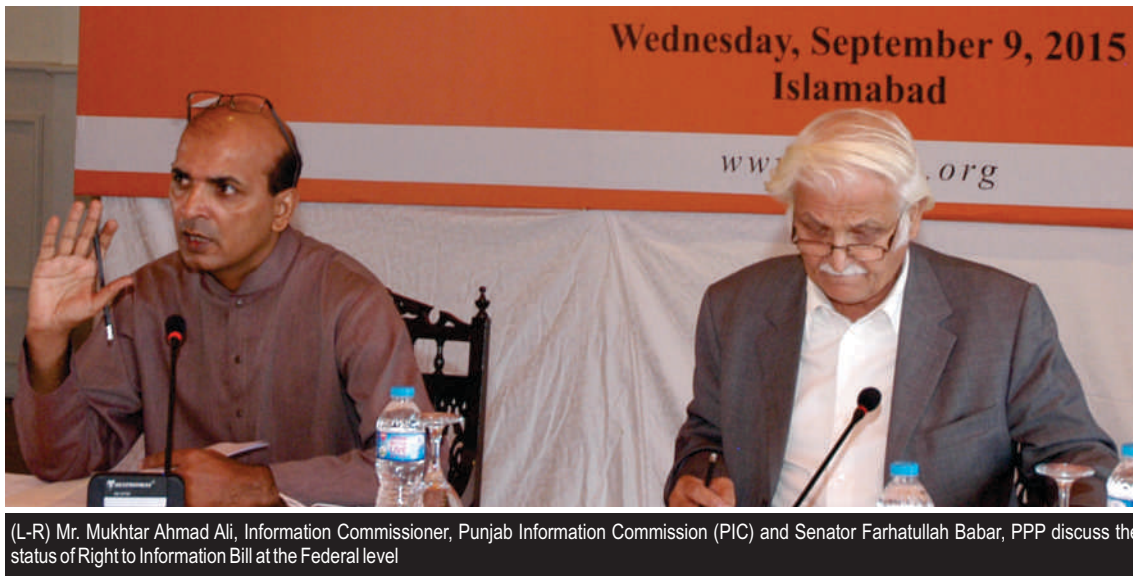
PILDAT has also asked the Federal Government to further improve the RTI law in line with the

recommendations made by the CLD.

Despite Promises, Federal Government has not yet Passed Right to Information Bill

In a Briefing Session organized by PILDAT on September 09, 2015 for the benefit of Members of the Parliament on Right to Information (RTI) Legislation in Pakistan, it was observed that the Federal Government of Pakistan has failed to honor repeated promises for early passage of the internationally acclaimed Right to Information Bill. The Session, which was held at the Nazara Hall, Serena Hotel, Islamabad, on September 09, 2015, was addressed by the Honourable **Senator Farhatullah Babar**, Member, Senate Standing Committee on Information, Broadcasting and National Heritage, and **Mr. Mukhtar Ahmad Ali**, Information Commissioner, Punjab Information Commission (PIC), who was the Keynote Speaker. Mr. Mukhtar Ahmad Ali informed the audience that the origins of the prevalent culture of government secrecy could be found in the colonial period and that this culture had unfortunately persisted even after the Independence of Pakistan. He was of view that official information should no longer be provided on a need-to-know basis as the right to access this information can now be extended to all citizens in an effective and cost-efficient manner given recent advances in information technology.

While discussing areas in which the Federal Right to Information Bill that is currently under consideration by the Cabinet could be improved, Mr. Mukhtar urged the Federal Government to address the Bill's weaknesses before tabling it in the Parliament. He also urged inclusion of the President House under the ambit of the draft RTI law. His recommendations also highlighted punishments for RTI-related offences, and provisions relating to the powers, composition and grounds for



(L-R) Mr. Mukhtar Ahmad Ali, Information Commissioner, Punjab Information Commission (PIC) and Senator Farhatullah Babar, PPP discuss the status of Right to Information Bill at the Federal level

appointment and removal of Information Commissioners to an independent statutory body to be established under the Bill for overseeing the implementation of RTI and for the hearing of RTI-related complaints, which would be referred to as Pakistan Information Commission. He also added that the authority to notify rules under the Bill must not rest solely with the Federal Government, rather such notifications should be issued by the Government on the advice of the Information Commission.

Honourable Senator Farhatullah Babar spoke of the many hurdles that the Senate Standing Committee on Information, Broadcasting and National Heritage had to overcome during the drafting of the Federal Right to Information Bill – including receiving a letter from the Ministry of Defence urging the Standing Committee to discontinue drafting the law until a No-Objection Certificate from the Ministry had been obtained. He added that, despite these hurdles, the draft RTI law had been finalised by the Senate Standing Committee over 15 months ago, in consultation with members of the civil society. However, despite repeated assurances for the RTI Bill's early passage as an Official Government Bill by the Honourable Senator Pervaiz Rashid, Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting and National Heritage, the Bill had not been discussed in 14 consecutive meetings of the Cabinet. According to the Honourable Senator, these continuous delays suggested that the Federal Government of Pakistan was either not committed to early passage of the law, or that it was not fully in charge of the portfolio of Information, Broadcasting and National Heritage. If such delaying tactics continued, the Honourable Senator urged concerned Members of the Parliament and civil society to pressurise the Federal Government to fulfill its promises by either presenting the matter before Courts, or appealing directly to the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Mian Mohammad Nawaz Sharif.

The Session was opened by **Mr. Ahmed Bilal Mehboob**, President, PILDAT, who welcomed the audience and appreciated the interest they had shown in the future of the Right to Information law in Pakistan. He also called for early passage of the progressive RTI Bill under consideration at the Centre, which could potentially become the best RTI law in the world if passed in its current form. In the absence of a strong RTI law at the Centre, President PILDAT also appreciated the precedent set by the Provincial Governments of Khyber Pukhtunkhwa and the Punjab in passing modern RTI legislation.

In addition to members of civil society and the media, the Session was attended by the **Honourable Senator Advocate Muhammad Daud Khan Achakzai**, (ANP, Balochistan) Chairperson, Senate Standing Committee on Communication, **Honourable Senator Baz Muhammad Khan**, (ANP, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa) Chairperson, Senate Standing Committee on Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development, **Honourable Senator Nisar Muhammad** (PML-N, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa) Member, Senate Standing Committee on Parliamentary Affairs, **Honourable Senator, Dr. Ashok Kumar** (NP, Balochistan) Member, Senate Standing Committee on Information, Broadcasting & National Heritage, and the **Honourable Senator Sajjad Hussain Turi** (IND, FATA) Chairperson, Senate Standing Committee on National Health Services Regulation and Coordination.

Also in attendance at the Session were: Honourable **Ms. Aasiya Nasir**, MNA (NA-341, Non Muslim–IX, Balochistan, JUL-F), **Honourable Mrs. Mussarat Ahmad Zeb**, MNA (NA-323, Women, KP, IND), **Honourable Mr. Malik Aamir Dogar**,



(L-R) Mr. Ahmed Bilal Mehboob, *President PILDAT* and Mr. Abdul Matin Khan, *Information Commissioner, KP Right to Information Commission* speaking at a discussion on Right to Information

MNA (NA-149, Multan-II, Punjab, PTI), **Honourable Mr. Siraj Muhammad Khan**, MNA (NA-06, Nowshera-II, KP, PTI), **Honourable Mr. Ali Muhammad Khan**, MNA (NA-10, Mardan-II, KP, PTI), **Honourable Mr. Shehryar Afridi**, MNA (NA-14, Kohat, KP, PTI), **Honourable Mr. Ramesh Kumar Vankwani**, MNA (NA-342, Non Muslim-X, PML-N), **Honourable Ms. Sajida Begum**, MNA (NA-324, Women, KP IV, PTI), and **Honourable Ms. Naema Kishwar Khan**, MNA (NA-327, Women, KP, JUI-F).

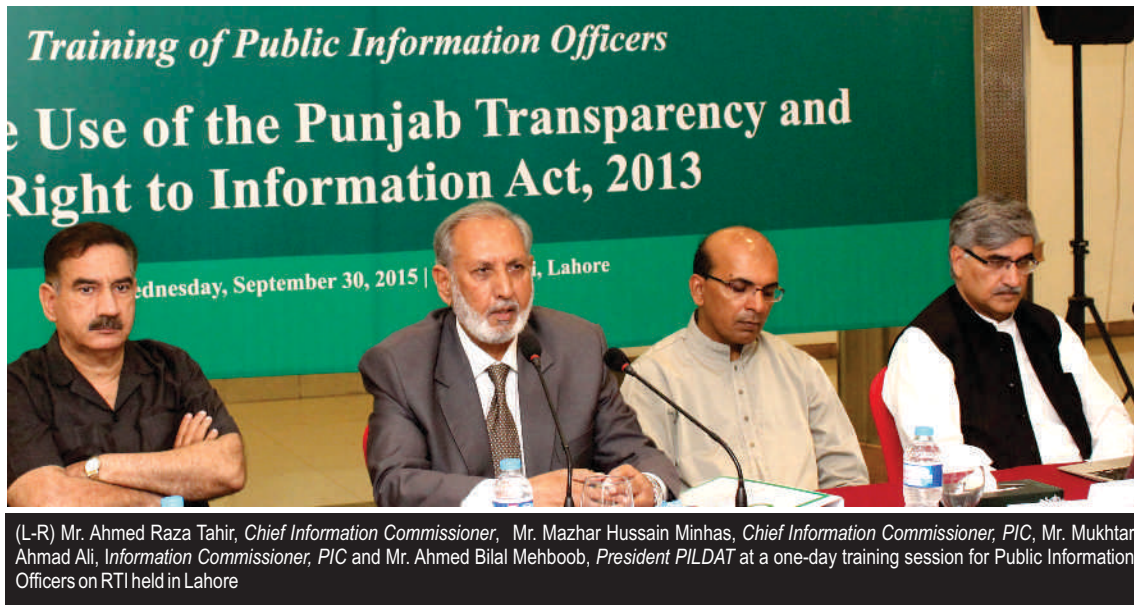
Federal Government must start leading the way for Provinces on RTI: Media

News media from Islamabad expressed solidarity with the ongoing Right to Information (RTI) movement in Pakistan and urged the Federal Government to follow the positive example set by the Provinces of Khyber Pukhtunkhwa (KP) and Punjab in passing and implementing modern RTI legislation. Participants also discussed instances of how they had put the RTI law to use both successfully and unsuccessfully, which included requesting expenditure records of Chief Minister and Governor House of Punjab, the Foreign Office and Ministry of Defence. These views were expressed at a Briefing Session for News Media on State of Right to Information in Pakistan organized by PILDAT on September 18, 2015, at Sheesh Mahal III, Islamabad Serena Hotel. Speaking at the event were **Mr. Abdul Matin Khan**, Information Commissioner, KP Right to Information Commission, and **Mr. Mukhtar Ahmad Ali**, Information Commissioner, Punjab Information Commission (PIC).

Mr. Mukhtar Ahmad Ali highlighted the importance of RTI legislation as a tool for the news media in investigative journalism. He was of the view that the media's traditional reliance on 'sources' was no longer the most accurate and efficient way of obtaining and

verifying information of public importance. He said that the information received from such sources varied greatly in terms of accuracy and quality, and could often be tainted by the personal agenda of the source in question. RTI laws, he asserted, provided the only reliable means of obtaining and verifying information required in news reporting. He said that by relying on information obtained directly from public bodies, the media could produce investigative reports based on incontrovertible facts and official records. The Information Commissioner Punjab noted with concern the small number of RTI requests submitted by media in Punjab, which, in his view, was indicative of their lack of ownership on such issues. Linking the success of RTI in Punjab to the existence of an independent body for oversight and enforcement, the Punjab Information Commission, he called on the media to advocate for the establishment of a similar Commission at the Federal level. Such a Commission, he added, would be more effective and consistent than the Federal Ombudsman in facilitating the media to request and obtain information.

Mr. Abdul Matin Khan appreciated the positive role played by the media in pressuring the Provincial Assembly of KP to recently repeal the controversial amendment it had made to the Province's otherwise progressive law by excluding itself from the RTI Act ambit. The media, he added, had begun reporting on RTI-related developments and using the RTI law while reporting on issues of public importance. He shared that out of the more than 1000 information complaints received by the KP RTI Commission over the past year, 75 had been submitted by the media. The majority of these complaints had received a positive response, he added. The Information Commissioner also highlighted the many ways in which RTI had promoted transparency and accountability in the Province, such as the use of RTI by students seeking justifications for the marks they had



(L-R) Mr. Ahmed Raza Tahir, Chief Information Commissioner, Mr. Mazhar Hussain Minhas, Chief Information Commissioner, PIC, Mr. Mukhtar Ahmad Ali, Information Commissioner, PIC and Mr. Ahmed Bilal Mehboob, President PILDAT at a one-day training session for Public Information Officers on RTI held in Lahore

been awarded on Board examinations; by public servants seeking transparency in government recruitment processes; by concerned citizens for improvement of medical facilities provided in prisons, and by residents of marginalized areas such as PATA for improvement in the provision of basic social services like health and education. He urged the media to continue using RTI and reporting on the ongoing movement to increase overall usage of the law.

Opening the Briefing Session, **Mr. Ahmed Bilal Mehboob**, President, PILDAT, stressed to the audience that the passage of modern RTI legislation at the Federal level was only the first step. He added that without more widespread use of the law by ordinary citizens and the media, the objectives of transparency and accountability in governance could not be fully realized. Speaking about the Indian experience, he highlighted the instrumental role played by the media in popularizing RTI and its usage, and in protecting this right from being weakened as was recently tried in KP. Commenting on the impact of RTI laws, he added that in a short time-span RTI had already stirred a silent revolution within Pakistan, transforming the way citizens and governments interacted. He quoted the example of PILDAT's information request under the Freedom of Information Ordinance 2002, for access to MNA attendance records, due to which the proactive disclosure of these records has become the norm within all legislatures of Pakistan. He concluded by saying that with a more progressive RTI law at the Centre, it would not be long before transparency and accountability became the norm in all aspects of Government.

Punjab Information Commission trains Public Information Officers on the Province's RTI law

A one-day training session for Public Information Officers (PIOs) appointed under the Punjab Transparency and Right to Information Act 2013, by the Punjab Information Commission (PIC) was held on September 30, 2015 in Lahore. The training session was developed and organized by the PIC in collaboration with PILDAT to sensitize the PIOs on the Effective Use of the Punjab Transparency and Right to Information Act, 2013. The session included an in-depth overview of What is RTI and Why it is Important and The Punjab Transparency and Right to Information Act 2013, both of which were led by **Mr. Mukhtar Ahmad Ali**, Information Commissioner, PIC. **Mr. Ahmad Mubarak**, former Police Service Pakistan Officer, briefed the participants on the Responsibilities of Public Information Officers. The training ended with a group activity in which participants discussed landmark orders passed by the PIC between 2014-2015, under the overall guidance of the above-mentioned trainers and **Mr. Mazhar Hussain Minhas**, Chief Information Commissioner, PIC.

In the first session, Mr. Mukhtar Ahmad Ali drew extensively on examples highlighting the importance of RTI within both Islamic and Western history, and drew the basis of this fundamental right from both Islamic and Western canon. He urged PIOs to dismiss the notion that RTI law was solely the domain of developed countries, as through it various developing countries like India and Bangladesh had also successfully modernized their governance systems. He urged participants to shoulder their additional responsibilities as PIOs in the interest of modernizing the governance system in Pakistan.

He also provided an in-depth overview of the provisions of the Punjab RTI law, and engaged them in a lively discussion on the finer points of its language. The ensuing discussion touched upon various issues of importance, including: the comprehensive definition of information and public bodies within the law; proactive disclosure and annual reporting requirements that must be fulfilled by PIOs; the powers and functions of the PIC; and the open-ended processes by which

the public could request the information held by government.

Following this session, **Mr. Ahmad Mubarak** apprised participants about their responsibilities and authority under Punjab's RTI law. The Public Information Officers is the first point of contact with the public in the overall system of information disclosure being overseen by the PIC, and, in this regard they have been empowered to decide on matters of information disclosure according to the provisions of RTI law, regardless of the personal wishes of superior officers within their assigned offices or coordinating Ministries. He also explained in detail the duties of PIOs in assisting information requesters and in upholding the letter and spirit of the law within their assigned departments.

To sum up the entire session's learning, participants were divided into groups to discuss and present the various Orders on Complaints passed by the PIC since its inception. This led to insightful dialogue between participants and officials of the PIC presiding over the group activity.

Mr. Ahmed Bilal Mehboob, President, PILDAT, commended the PIC for its role in leading the way on RTI within Pakistan. He also remarked how necessary such trainings were in producing a culture within government conducive to the smooth and consistent implementation of RTI. **Mr. Mazhar Hussain Minhas**, Chief Information Commissioner, appreciated the participants' enthusiasm and encouraged them to take the knowledge they had gained in the training to their respective government departments and push for the appointment of PIOs and the effective implementation of the Punjab Transparency and Right to Information Act., 2013.

The Training was attended by a diverse group of PIOs representing the Departments of Education, Law and Justice, Information and Culture, Social Welfare Town Planning, Labour, and Planning and Development from the districts of Bahawalnagar, Bahawalpur, Layyah, Lodhran, Multan, Muzzaffargarh, Rajanpur and Sahiwal. PIOs from district offices of Technical Education and Vocational Training Agency (TEVTA) and Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) were also in attendance. Mr. Mazhar Hussain Minhas, Chief Information Commissioner, PIC awarded Certificates of completion to the participants.

Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) provinces lead in Preliminary Comparative Right to Information (RTI) Scorecard in Pakistan

PILDAT released its preliminary Comparative Scorecard that assessed Right to Information Legislation and its Implementation and promotion within Pakistan at the Federal and Provincial levels on October 05, 2015.

On this assessment, the Punjab Transparency and Right to Information Act 2013 and the Punjab Information

Commission formed under this law received the highest scores in comparison to counterpart RTI laws and implementing and promotion agencies in place at the Federal level, and within KP, Sindh and Balochistan. The KP RTI regime closely trailed behind the Punjab RTI regime with 178 out of 400 points.

The Assessment Framework of the preliminary Comparative Scorecard was developed by PILDAT in-house, based on consultations with key stakeholders responsible for the implementation and promotion of RTI legislation in Pakistan, including the Punjab Information Commission and the Khyber Pukhtunkhwa (KP) Right to Information Commission.

In terms of the Strength of the Law, the Punjab Transparency and Right to Information Act 2013 was placed first and above the KP Right to Information Act 2013, which came in second because it does not include the Peshawar High Court under its ambit and because it is still functioning without Rules of Business, despite having been passed on November 04, 2013.

The Federal Freedom of Information Ordinance 2002 was placed above the Balochistan Freedom of Information Act 2005 and the Sindh Freedom of Information Act 2006, both of which were tied in last place. This is because the Federal RTI law has been supplemented with the promulgation of Rules of Business passed in 2004. The Federal RTI law has also been rated above its counterparts in Sindh and Balochistan because it applies to local government bodies, when read in conjunction with the Islamabad Local Government Act 2015. The Government Public Bodies monitored by the Punjab Information Commission received a higher score than Government Public Bodies under the KP Right to Information Commission in terms of Implementation of the RTI law within Government Public Bodies, as they have been more effective in Appointment and Training of Information Officers. Government Bodies under the ambit of RTI law at the Federal level and within Sindh and Balochistan could not be fully scored on the same Assessment Area, due to unavailability of data. In the Area of Promotion of Implementation of RTI law by Information Commission/Department the KP RTI Commission was placed higher than its counterpart in Punjab. This is because the former has been able to maintain a disposal rate of around 70% in comparison to Punjab's disposal rate of around 47% for the information requests it has received since inception.

The Commission in KP was more effective at Promoting Public Use of RTI, which was reflected in the greater number of per capita information requests received in KP. However, the Commission's in both KP and Punjab generally scored poorly on this parameter, as both were not able to publish Annual Reports for both years of their



A briefing session held in Lahore on the Status of Right to Information in Pakistan

functioning. This indicated that the Commissions had not been able to establish mechanisms for monitoring the implementation of RTI within public bodies under their purview, which is one of their major functions.

The relevant Ombudsman Offices responsible for hearing RTI complaints at Federal level and within Sindh and Balochistan scored poorly on this parameter, as they were not able to enforce the decisions passed on the small number of information complaints they have received.

Within the Assessment Area of Infrastructure and Resources, the Punjab Information Commission was placed first, while the KP Right to Information Commission was placed second. This is because, unlike its counterpart in Punjab, the Commission in KP has not published information related to its Budget and Expenditures, as required in the law. Relevant implementing and enforcement agencies established at the Federal level and within Sindh and Balochistan could not be fully scored on the same Assessment Area, due to unavailability of data.

Truth of Government performance can now be accessed by media and public under the fundamental right to information in KP and Punjab

Media persons attending a one-day briefing session on the 'State of Right to Information in Pakistan' held on October 13, 2015 were urged by the Information Commissioners from Khyber Pukhtunkhwa (KP) and Punjab to popularize the Right to Information (RTI) laws in Pakistan and educate the public on how to use these laws for getting better services.

The truth of Government performance can now be accessed by the media as well as the public under the fundamental right to information in KP and Punjab, observed the provincial Information Commissioners from both the provinces. Organized by the Pakistan Institute of Legislative Development and Transparency (PILDAT), the lively briefing session was attended by more than 30 journalists from print and television media.

The session's panel speakers included **Mr. Mukhtar Ahmad Ali**, Punjab Information Commissioner, and **Mr. Abdul Matin Khan**, KP Information Commissioner. Other prominent participants included **Mr. Mujeeb-ur-Rahman Shami**, Chairman, Council of Pakistan Newspaper Editors; **Rana Azeem**, President, Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists, **Mr. Atta-ur-Rehman**, Senior Journalist; **Mr. Javed Farooqui**, Bureau Chief Lahore, Capital TV and **Mr. Javed Jabbar**, former Senator and Federal Information Minister.

KP Information Commissioner, **Mr. Abdul Matin Khan**, informed the audience that the provincial RTI law has received great support from the media and the recent repeal of controversial amendments to the RTI law by the KP Assembly would not have been possible without the pressure generated by the media. "Already, the law has been used by citizens in KP to inquire about government expenses, recruitments and transfers in addition to accessing information health by organizations and improving the standards of medical facilities within prisons," he noted.

Punjab Information Commissioner, **Mr. Mukhtar Ahmad Ali**, urged the media persons in attendance to begin reporting on Pakistan's fledgling RTI movement more regularly, as this will help expedite the passage of the country's internationally acclaimed RTI Bill, which was finalized almost two years ago but has been pending enactment by the Parliament. "The RTI law empowers reporters and journalists to pursue and investigate the stories that interest them personally, and provides them with a reliable and effective means of verifying this information," he said. Mr. Ali was of the



(L-R) Mr. Ahmed Raza Tahir, *Chief Information Commissioner*, Mr. Mazhar Hussain Minhas, *Chief Information Commissioner, PIC* and Mr. Ahmad Mubarak, *Former PSP Officer* at the briefing session on RTI

view that information obtained through RTI requests is more accurate and verifiable than information obtained through the media's traditional interaction with 'sources'.

Addressing the session, **Mr. Javed Jabbar** observed the irony in the fact that the Freedom of Information Ordinance 2002 had been passed by a military-backed government, while previous such efforts had failed during the civilian governments of both Ms. Benazir Bhutto and Mian Nawaz Sharif. "Despite more than seven years of continuous civilian rule since the overthrow of the military government which passed the FOIO 2002, no significant improvements have been made to the law," he remarked, while calling on citizens and the media to pressure the government in passing more effective RTI laws and ensuring their effective implementation.

While opening the Briefing Session, **Mr. Ahmed Bilal Mehboob**, President PILDAT, called on media persons to press upon the government to update the out-dated FOI laws in effect at the Centre and within Sindh and Balochistan provinces, which fail to meet even the most basic international standards on RTI. Mr. Bilal Mehboob quoted the example of PILDAT's information request under the FOI Ordinance 2002, for access to MNA attendance records, due to which the proactive disclosure of these records has become a norm within all legislatures of Pakistan.

During the event PILDAT provided the audience with various publications on RTI, including Briefing Paper on Right to Information and the News Media, Activating the Right to Information in South Asia as well as Key Messages for Media on RTI.

Punjab Information Commission trains District Heads of Department on the Province's RTI Law

A one-day training session was held by the Punjab Information Commission (PIC) for the Heads of Departments (HoDs) of various government bodies from

districts Multan, Muzaffargarh and Rajanpur on October 14, 2015 in Lahore.

The HoDs in attendance were provided an in-depth overview of What is RTI and Why it is Important and Responsibilities of Public Bodies under the Punjab Transparency and Right to Information Act 2013. **Mr. Mukhtar Ahmad Ali**, Information Commissioner, PIC and Mr. Ahmad Mubarak, a former official of the Police Services of Pakistan, delivered these modules. The training ended with a group discussion of landmark orders passed by the PIC between 2014-2015, which was moderated under the overall guidance of **Mr. Mazhar Hussain Minhas**, Chief Information Commissioner, PIC.

In the first session, Mr. Mukhtar Ahmad Ali drew extensively on examples highlighting the importance of RTI within both Islamic and Western history. He dismissed the notion that RTI law was solely the domain of developed countries. "Various developing countries like India and Bangladesh have successfully modernized their governance systems through the implementation of RTI and other related measures". He pressed upon participants the importance of ensuring RTI implementation within their Departments, as this fundamental is not only important in itself, but is also linked to guarantees of other fundamental rights. Mr. Mukhtar also answered a number of questions posed by the participants relating to the status of the Punjab RTI law with respect to laws that restrict disclosure of information, and the interpretation of exception clauses within this law.

Following this session, Mr. Ahmad Mubarak apprised participants about their responsibilities and authority under Punjab's RTI law. "The Public Body is the first point of contact with the public in the overall system of information disclosure being overseen by the PIC, and, in this regard they have been empowered to decide on matters of information disclosure according to the

provisions of RTI law, regardless of the personal wishes of superior officers within their assigned offices or coordinating Ministries,” he said. Mr. Mubarak also explained in detail the duties of public bodies in facilitating information requesters and in upholding the letter and spirit of the law within their assigned departments. He also stressed the allocation of sufficient departmental resources for public bodies to effectively carry out their functions under RTI, such as for the computerization of official records and the production of Annual Reports on RTI implementation for review by the Information Commission.

To sum up the entire session's learning, participants were divided into groups to discuss and present the various Orders on Complaints passed by the PIC since its inception. This led to insightful dialogue between participants and officials of the PIC presiding over the group activity.

Mr. Ahmed Bilal Mehboob, President, PILDAT, commended the PIC for its role in leading the way on RTI within Pakistan. He also remarked how necessary such trainings were in producing a culture within government conducive to the smooth and consistent implementation of RTI.

Mr. Mazhar Hussain Minhas, Chief Information Commissioner, appreciated the participants' enthusiasm and encouraged them to take the knowledge they had gained in the training to their respective government departments and push for the appointment of PIOs and the effective implementation of the Punjab Transparency and Right to Information Act, 2013. Upon completion of the Training Session, Mr. Mazhar Hussain Minhas awarded certificates to the participants in attendance.

The Training was attended by a diverse group of HoDs representing the Departments of Education, Health, Law and Justice, Police, Housing and Town Planning, Finance and Planning, and Community Development. HoDs from the offices of Tehsil Municipal Administration within the targeted districts were also in attendance.

Briefing Session for participants of the Mid-Career Management Course on Understanding Right to Information (RTI) and the responsibilities of Public Officials: National School of Public Policy

Information Commissioner, Punjab Information Commission, **Mr. Mukhtar Ahmad Ali** shared highlights of the Punjab Transparency and Right to Information Act 2013 and outlined the obligations of government officials under it while addressing the participants of the Mid-Career Management Course at the National School of Public Policy, Lahore on November 02, 2015.

In her Inaugural Address, Joint Director PILDAT, **Ms. Aasiya Riaz** stressed the need for the regular sensitization of government officials on their responsibilities under RTI law.

Amendments to Sindh's outdated Freedom of Information Act already underway: Provincial Information Minister

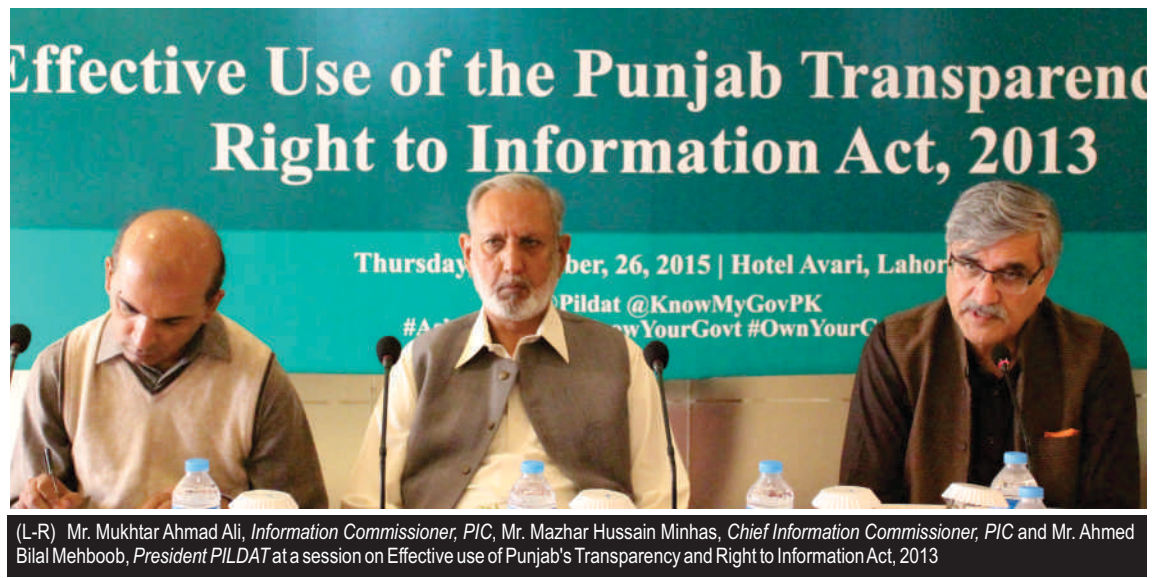
Members of the Provincial Assembly (MPAs) of Sindh and media persons attending a one-day Briefing Session on the 'State of Right to Information in Pakistan' on November 05, 2015 in Karachi were urged by the Information Commissioners from Khyber Pukhtunkhwa (KP) and Punjab to push for the reform of the outdated Sindh Freedom of Information Act 2006.

Organized by PILDAT, the lively briefing session was attended by MPAs from the PPPP, PML-F and MQM and journalists from print and television media. The Panel for the Session was chaired by **Mr. Nisar Ahmed Khuhro**, Provincial Minister of Information, Sindh, and also included the participation of **Mr. Mukhtar Ahmad Ali**, Punjab Information Commissioner, and **Mr. Abdul Matin Khan**, KP Information Commissioner.

Provincial Minister of Information, **Mr. Nisar Ahmed Khuhro**, informed the audience that the process of amending the outdated Sindh Freedom of Information Act 2006 was already underway, and assured its expedited passage through the Provincial Assembly. He explained that the amended RTI law contained important provisions, which would make it more responsive and effective in meeting public demand for official transparency and public accountability. He felt that information on government was available in Pakistan, but problems of consolidating and using were still being faced. He was also of the view that effective implementation of RTI was a slow process. “Making RTI more effective will require collaboration between citizens, media and legislators. We must all support each other to ensure the right to know.”

KP Information Commissioner, **Mr. Abdul Matin Khan**, and Punjab Information Commissioner, Mr. Mukhtar Ahmad Ali, briefed the participants on what the new RTI laws in their respective provinces had achieved despite obstacles. They also called on the news media in Sindh to participate in the growing movement for RTI reforms in Pakistan.

Mrs. Mahtab Rashidi, MPA (Women-156, PML-F), was of the opinion that implementation of the RTI in Sindh was lax and much attention needs to be given to the implementation of the existing Sindh Freedom of Information Ordinance 2006, as every citizen has the right to know how public money is spent.



(L-R) Mr. Mukhtar Ahmad Ali, Information Commissioner, PIC, Mr. Mazhar Hussain Minhas, Chief Information Commissioner, PIC and Mr. Ahmed Bilal Mehboob, President PILDAT at a session on Effective use of Punjab's Transparency and Right to Information Act, 2013

Dr. Huma Baqai expressed concern over the state of RTI in Sindh, and said that actions further than mere lip-service to the idea need to be undertaken by political parties. Senior Journalist, Mr. Mubashar Zaidi stressed the need for a new RTI law, saying that information from the government is the media's bread and butter.

While opening the Briefing Session, **Ms. Aasiya Riaz**, Joint Director PILDAT, spoke about the power of RTI to transform the face of government, Ms. Riaz quoted the example of PILDAT's information request under the Freedom of Information Ordinance 2002 for access to MNA attendance records, due to which the voluntary disclosure of these records has become a norm within legislatures of Pakistan.

During the event PILDAT provided the audience with various publications on RTI, including Briefing Papers on Right to Information and the News Media (Sindhi Version), Activating the Right to Information in South Asia (Sindh Version), a Policy Brief on Effective Legislation on Right to Information, a Legislative Brief on Sindh Freedom of Information Legislation as well as Key Messages for Media on RTI and Key Messages for Legislators on RTI.

Mrs. Mahtab Akbar Rashidi, MPA (Women-156, PML-F), **Syed Khalid Ahmed**, MPA (PS-122, KARACHI-XXXIV, MQM) **Mr. Shafi Muhammad Jamot**, MPA (PS-129, KARACHI-XLI, PML-N), **Dr. Lal Chnad Ukrani**, MPA (Minorities-160, PPP), **Ms. Shaheena Sher Ali**, MPA (Women-141, PPP), **Ms. Ghazala Siyal**, MPA (Women-42, PPP) attended the Briefing Session. Senior Journalists and columnists such as **Mr. Ghazi Salahuddin**, **Ms. Huma Baqai**, **Mr. Waseem Badami**, ARY News, **Mr. Mubashar Zaidi**, Dawn, **Mr. Asghar Azeem**, Daily Jinnah, **Ms. Rafia Haider**, Associated Press of Pakistan, **Mr. Abdul Abdul Jaffar**, Roznama Dunya and **Mr. Kamran Chauhan**, Daily Pakistan were

also in attendance.

Punjab Information Commission trains Public Information Officers on the Province's Right to Information law

A one-day training session for Public Information Officers (PIOs) appointed under the Punjab Transparency and Right to Information Act 2013 was held by the Punjab Information Commission (PIC) in Lahore on November 26, 2015.

The training was attended by a diverse group of 20 PIOs representing the Departments of Agriculture, Education, Health, Planning and Development, Police, Population Welfare, Public Prosecution, Sports and Town Planning from the districts of Layyah, Lahore, Multan, Muzaffargarh and Rajanpur. PIOs from offices of Tehsil Municipal Administration in Multan were also present.

The training session was developed and organized in collaboration with PILDAT to sensitize PIOs on the Effective Use of the Punjab Transparency and Right to Information Act, 2013. The session included an in-depth overview of What is RTI and Why it is Important, which was led by **Mr. Mukhtar Ahmad Ali**, Information Commissioner, PIC. **Mr. Ahmad Mubarak**, former Police Service Pakistan Officer, briefed the participants on Responsibilities of Public Information Officers under the Punjab Transparency and Right to Information Act, 2013. The training ended with a group simulation exercise in which participants enacted the roles of Public Information Officers and Information Seekers in scenarios designed to test their knowledge of the Act.

Mr. Mukhtar Ahmad Ali drew extensively on examples highlighting the importance of RTI within both Islamic and Western history, and drew the basis of this fundamental right from both Islamic and Western canon. "RTI is no longer the sole domain of developed countries," he said. "Various developing countries like India and Bangladesh

have successfully modernized their governance systems through enactment of RTI”.

Mr. Ahmad Mubarak apprised participants about their responsibilities and powers under Punjab's RTI law. “PIOs are the first point of contact with the public in the overall system of information disclosure under the PIC,” he explained. “The law empowers them to decide on matters of information disclosure according to the provisions of RTI law, regardless of the personal wishes of superior officers within their assigned offices or coordinating Ministries.”

Inaugurating the Training Session, **Mr. Ahmed Bilal Mehboob**, President, PILDAT, commended the PIC for its role in leading the way on RTI within Pakistan. Mr. Mazhar Hussain Minhas, Chief Information Commissioner, appreciated the participants' enthusiasm and encouraged them to implement what they had learnt during the training within their respective government departments.

KP ahead of Punjab in Pakistan's Right to Information Scorecard

In the country's first ever consolidated assessment and scoring of Right to Information/Freedom of Information (RTI/FOI) laws and their implementation at Federal and Provincial levels, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's (KP's) Right to Information Act, 2013 and the KP Right to Information Commission (RTIC) secured 1st place in the overall rankings with a score of 73%.

Punjab's Transparency and Right to Information Act, 2013 and the Punjab Information Commission (PIC) formed under it ranked at 2nd position with an overall score of 65%. Balochistan's Freedom of Information Act, 2005 and the Provincial Government of Balochistan stood at 3rd place in the overall rankings with a score of 29%, whereas the Freedom of Information Ordinance, 2002 and the Federal Government of Pakistan ranked 4th, with an overall score of 26%. Sindh's Freedom of Information Act, 2006 and the Provincial Government of Sindh earned the lowest position in the overall rankings with a score of only 24%.

Speaking at the RTI Scorecard launch on January 05, 2016, **Ms. Saman Sultana Jafri** said younger parliamentarians are doing what they can to push for better RTI legislation, however it is the senior political leadership and parliamentarians who do not give Right to Information its due importance. **Mr. Shehryar Afridi** lamented the lack of transparency within the legislature, which he hoped would be strengthened by passage of a new Federal RTI law. **Senator Hasil Khan Bizenjo** reiterated the need for Members of Parliament to give greater priority to transparency and public accountability, in addition to highlighting the need for a more robust RTI law at the Federal level. **Hafiz Tahir Khalil** suggested that parliamentarians present at the Launch should meet with the Chairman Senate and push for the passage of the Federal RTI Bill.

Honourable Senators Mir Hasil Khan Bizenjo (NP, Balochistan), **Usman Khan Kakar**, (PKMAP, KP), **Dr. Ashok Kumar** (NP, Sindh), **Saeed Ul Hasan Mandokhail**, (PML, Balochistan) and **Nawabzada Saifullah Magsi**, (PPPP, Balochistan) were present at the Launch along with Honourable Members of National Assembly **Ms. Asma Mamdot**, (Women, Punjab, PML-N), **Ms. Amra Khan** (Women, Punjab, PML-N), **Ms. Naeema Kishwer** (Women, KP, JUI-F), **Syed Ali Raza Abidi** (NA-251, Karachi IIV, MQM), **Mr. Shehryar Khan Afridi**, (NA -14, Kohat, KP, PTI.), **Syed Rehan Hashmi** (Na-245, Karachi-VII, MQM), **Ms. Saman Sultana Jafri** (Women, Sindh, MQM), **Ms. Nafeesa Inayatullah Khattak** (Women, KP, PTI).

Seniors media persons including **Mr. Ghazi Salahuddin**, The News/Jang, **Mr. Muhammad Ziauddin**, **Mr. Sohail Chaudhry**, Daily Pakistan, **Mr. Wasif Chaudhry**, Associated Press of Pakistan, **Mr. Waseem Abbasi**, The News, **Mr. Ikram Junaidi**, Dawn, **Ms. Batool Rajput** and **Mr. Ameer Abbas**, Dawn TV, and **Mr. Azaz Syed**, Geo/The News, were also present at the Launch.

On strength of Legal Framework, Punjab ranked 1st ahead of KP. KP law ranked behind Punjab in this area because, unlike Punjab, it provides blanket immunity to the Peshawar High Court and does not extend the right to information to all citizens of Pakistan or legally incorporated entities. KP's law, unlike Punjab, also fails to specify that Information Commissioners may only be removed by a multi-party committee of legislators. It does not specify which official or body has final authority in overruling the application of exemptions in public interest. FOI laws in effect within Federal, Sindh and Balochistan Governments received similar scores in terms of strength of Legal Framework, primarily because they do not ensure comprehensive access to different categories of information; they provide blanket immunity to defence institutions and do not derogate against secrecy-promoting laws like the Official Secrets Act, 1923.

On Implementation, KP RTIC secured 1st position ahead of its counterpart in Punjab, the PIC. The PIC stood 2nd as it was unable to effectively monitor the implementation of RTI within public bodies under its purview. PIC's performance in terms of monitoring implementation especially fell short of the RTIC in terms of number of inspections of public bodies conducted, proportion of Annual Reports received from public bodies and the regularity with which it was able to update its website with details on implementation of RTI. The PIC was also unable to train as high a proportion of Public Information Officers (PIOs) as the RTIC, primarily due to understaffing and delays in release of its first Budget. In terms of processing of complaints, the PIC had a longer processing time than the RTIC, and lower disclosure rate and higher



pendency rate.

The Balochistan Government was ranked 3rd in terms of strength of RTI/FOI Implementation, ahead of the Federal Government in 4th position and the Sindh Government in 5th position. Balochistan was ranked ahead of the Federal and Sindh Governments, as it was able to provide a greater proportion of information on implementation requested by PILDAT, including information on the designation of PIOs. Implementation of FIO at Federal level and within Sindh and Balochistan was marred because their Governments, unlike KP and Punjab, have yet to establish dedicated agencies which have been allocated resources exclusively for coordinating implementation and addressing complaints against non-provision of implementation.

Punjab Information Commission trains Public Information Officers on the Province's Right to Information law

A one-day Training Session for Public Information Officers (PIOs) appointed under the Punjab Transparency and Right to Information Act 2013 was held by the Punjab Information Commission (PIC) in Lahore on January 12, 2016. This was the third training session held by the PIC in collaboration with PILDAT to sensitize PIOs on the Effective Use of the Punjab Transparency and Right to Information Act, 2013. The training included an in-depth overview on Concepts and Principles of the Right to Information, which was led by **Mr. Ahmad Raza Tahir**, Information Commissioner, PIC. **Mr. Ahmad Mubarik**, former Police Service Pakistan Officer, briefed the participants on Role of Public Information Officers: Procedures for Handling Requests. The training ended with a group simulation exercise in which participants enacted the roles of Public Information Officers and Information Seekers in scenarios designed to test their knowledge of the Act. Mr. Mazhar Hussain Minhas, Chief Information Commissioner, PIC, distributed certificates to

participants upon conclusion of the Training Session.

During their training, participants engaged in lively discussion and put forward a number of suggestions for the consideration of the Punjab Information Commission. Chaudhry Muhammad Ashraf, District Officer, City District Government, Multan, called for the designation and training of PIOs at District and Union Council level to ensure success of the Local Government system. Mr. Jamal Farid, Tehsil Municipal Administration, Rajanpur, was of the view that widespread public use of RTI must be promoted through grassroots awareness campaigns. Dr. Saeed Aamir, Assistant Medical Superintendent, Pervaiz Ilaahi Institute of Cardiology, Multan, discussed the possible conflicts of interest that may come into play with the release of sensitive information about personal assets of government officials. At the end of the Session, Ms. Nadia Zia, Deputy District Officer, DCO Muzaffargarh, felt that she now had a clear idea of her role and powers as a PIO under Punjab's RTI law.

Over 20 officials attended the Training from the districts of Lahore, Multan, Muzaffargarh and Rajanpur. They represented a number of government departments, including Agriculture, Buildings, Communication & Works, Cooperatives, Environment, Local Government, Police, Population, Tehsil Municipal Administration, Waste Management, and Water & Sanitation.

Forward Movement on Federal and Sindh RTI Bills announced at National Seminar on RTI

Speakers at the National Seminar on the State of Right to Information Legislation and Implementation in Pakistan on January 15, 2016 unveiled the steps being taken by the Provincial and Federal Governments for enacting modern RTI legislation in Pakistan.

Mr. Nasir Jamal, Director General, Internal Publicity Wing, Federal Ministry of Information Broadcasting and National Heritage stated that the Government of

Pakistan has constituted a special committee including senior parliamentarians such as **Mr. Pervaiz Rashid, Mr. Ahsan Iqbal, Ms. Anusha Rahman Khan, Mr. Irfan Siddiqui** and **Ms. Marriyum Aurangzeb** to formulate recommendations on the Right to Information Bill 2014. The Committee has been tasked with re-evaluating whether issues such as National Security, Foreign Relations and Law Enforcement are sufficiently protected under the draft law, given the changing security situation. The Committee is expected to have its first meeting within the next week. Mr. Jamal said the Committee would invite feedback and input from relevant stakeholders including civil society organizations such as PILDAT.

Revealed for the first time in public **Ms. Zeenat Jahan**, Director Information, Information and Archives Department, Government of Sindh, read out clauses of the Sindh Right to Information Bill 2015, pertaining to whistle-blower protection and the powers and composition of the Sindh Information Commission. The responsibilities of the Sindh Information Commission have been drafted in line with the powers and responsibilities of the Information Commissions in Punjab and KP. She said that the Bill has been vetted by the Law Department and is ready to be tabled in the Provincial Assembly of Sindh.

Discussion at the event also centered on issues of cooperation and coordination between RTI implantation agencies and the provincial bureaucracies. Chief Information Commissioner, Punjab Information Commission (PIC), **Mr. Mazhar Hussain Minhas**, said that the Punjab Transparency and Right to Information Act 2013, has not been fully owned in influential quarters of the Punjab government, including the Services and General Administration Department, which has yet to approve appointments of officials to the Commission against 43 sanctioned positions in its budget. These delays have resulted in the PIC resorting to non-governmental funding to deal with the rising amount of RTI complaints being received. Representing the Punjab Chief Minister's Secretariat, **Dr. Riaz Mahmood**, Director, Law Department, mentioned that true implementation of the law will take time; the Law department has taken steps to ensure that the PRTTIA as well as other departmental laws and regulations are being proactively disclosed on the Punjab Law Portal's website.

Mr. Shehryar Memon, Deputy Secretary, Reform and Implementation Cell, Chief Secretary Office, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa shared that the Independent Monitoring Unit of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Government has been proactively disclosing the performance of developmental project in KP. He and Professor Kalim Ullah, Information Commissioner, KP RTI Commission agreed that the possibility of an additional allowance for those officers fulfilling the role of PIOs or including these duties in the job description of Assistant Commissioners to address the problem of low motivation amongst PIOs.

Representatives from the Balochistan Department of Information and the Chief Minister's Secretariat were of the opinion that the existing FOI in Balochistan is sufficient to guarantee citizen's access to information within the current political climate. **Mr. Abdul Latif**, Director DGPR, said that rather than drafting a new law for RTI in Balochistan, the role of the Provincial Ombudsmen should be strengthened further.

Academics from across Pakistan commit to studying RTI and pushing for its inclusion in Academic and Training Institute curricula

Speakers and participants at a two-day Briefing for Pakistani Academia on the State of Right to Information (RTI) and its Implementation agreed that RTI needs to be studied as an academic subject and included in the curricula of Universities and Government Training Institutes across Pakistan. They also agreed that effective implementation of RTI was necessary to improve responsiveness, accountability and transparency within government.

In a session on “**Effective Implementation of RTI: Experiences from across the border**”, on January 27, 2016 distinguished speakers from India provided details on the extent to which RTI was being implemented effectively and being used by the public to access rights and social services. **Ms. Anjali Bhardwaj**, Co-convener, National Campaign for Peoples' Right to Information, said that 4-6 million RTI applications were being filed in India every year due to tremendous demand for public information and government accountability at the grassroots level.

Speakers from KP and Punjab also apprised the audience of the progress in implementing RTI provisions within government and the impact this had on governance within both Provinces. **Mr. Mohsin Abbas**, Managing Director, Punjab Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA), said that RTI had changed the nature of governance and citizen-state relations in both developed and developing countries. He also explained the importance of the PPRA's initiatives in making government procurement open to public scrutiny and eliminating corruption in the implementation of government contracts. Mr. Shehryar Memon, Deputy Secretary, KP Reform and Implementation Cell, while speaking of the KP Government's initiative in making data on its performance public, was of the view that effective implementation of RTI was a major reason for improved governance within the Province.



Guests join from India to discuss the Effective Implementation of RTI: Experiences from across the border

Mr. Mazhar Hussain Minhas, Chief Information Commissioner of Punjab felt that the performance of the Punjab Information Commission in ensuring proper implementation of RTI was being hampered due to lack of financial support and cooperation from the Punjab Government. In this regard, he spoke of delays in the release of the Commission's Budget and appointment of Commission staff against sanctioned positions in the Budget.

Professor Kalimullah, KP Information Commissioner apprised the audience of the KP RTI Commission's initiative to launch toll-free helplines and an online web portal to aid the public in accessing information under RTI. He added that the Commission's campaign to improve public awareness of RTI, especially in rural areas, was gradually making public use of the RTI Act more diverse and widespread.

Over 60 academicians from Islamabad, Lahore, Multan and Peshawar participated in the Briefings, which were organised to generate informed debate on how to improve implementation of RTI in Pakistan at both Federal and Provincial levels. Participants also included Faculty from Kinnaird College for Women, International Islamic University Islamabad, Bahauddin Zakariya University, Institute of Management Sciences, Peshawar, Forman Christian College, Quaid-e-Azam University, National University of Science and Technology (NUST), Bahria University, Beaconhouse National University, National University of Punjab as well as the Directing Staff of the National School of Public Policy and the Management and Professional Development Department, Lahore, and the National Institute of Management, Islamabad.

Academics and Faculty of government training institutes launch Pakistan's first Academic Network on Right to Information

An Academic Network on Right to Information (ANoRTI)

was launched in Lahore on January 28, 2016 as a result of a two-day Briefing to Academia on the state of RTI in Pakistan, organized by Pakistan Institute of Legislative Development and Transparency.

The purpose of this network is to create a community of academics who will study and invoke RTI for its effective implementation and liaison with relevant government agencies," said **Dr. Amna Mahmood**, head of the Political Science & International Relations Department at International Islamic University (Islamabad) and Convener of the newly formed network. "Through this platform, we hope to de-mystify Right to Information in the minds of both its users, like ordinary citizens and civil society, as well as public bodies and implementation agencies on whom the law is applicable."

Dr. Mahmood convened the first meeting of ANoRTI, which was attended by senior academicians including **Dr. Syed Riffat Hussain**, Head of Department of Economics, National University of Science and Technology, Islamabad; **Dr. Mansoor Kundi**, Professor, International Islamic University, Islamabad; **Dr. Sarfaraz Khan**, Director, Area Studies Centre, University of Peshawar; Professor **Dr. Muhammad Shafique**, Chairperson, Department of History, Bahauddin Zakariya University, Multan; **Mr. Amjad Mahmood**, Director General, National Institute of Management, Islamabad; and **Mr. Naeem ul Haq**, Rector, National Institute of Management, Lahore.

Over 60 academicians from Islamabad, Lahore, Multan and Peshawar participated in the Briefing organised to generate an informed debate on how to improve implementation of RTI in Pakistan at Federal and Provincial levels. Participants also included Faculty from Kinnaird College for Women; International Islamic University Islamabad; Bahauddin Zakariya University, Institute of Management Sciences, Peshawar; Forman

Christian College, Quaid-e-Azam University; National University of Science and Technology (NUST); Bahria University; Beaconhouse National University; University of Punjab; as well as Director-level staff of the National School of Public Policy, Management and Professional Development Department, Lahore; and the National Institute of Management, Islamabad.

Earlier in the day, **Ms. Anjali Bhardwaj**, Co-convenor, National Campaign of Peoples' Right to Information, New Delhi, presented on the evolution and role of RTI reforms movement in promoting transparency and accountability in the legislative, executive and judicial branches of government. She also showed a documentary produced by Satrik Nagrik Sangathan, India, entitled Using RTI to Promote Political Accountability.

"The success of the RTI movement in India was achieved by linking RTI with the basic information needs of citizens for better service delivery and representation in relevant legislatures," said Ms. Bhardwaj during her presentation. She also highlighted the way forward for RTI reforms in India by focusing on the passage of Anti-Corruption, Whistleblower Protection and Grievance Redressal laws.

In a session on the Progress and Challenges in RTI Implementation, **Mr. Shehryar Memon**, Deputy Secretary, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Reform and Implementation Cell, briefed the participants on the groundbreaking Performance Management Cell portal launched by the Office of KP Chief Secretary, under which data on the performance of Provincial Government Departments is being proactively disclosed for public scrutiny. He also demonstrated use of the Citizen's Portal, under which complaints from citizens relating to social service delivery can be tracked online and resolved expeditiously.

In a session entitled "**Using RTI in Research on Democracy and Governance**", Special Correspondent, Geo News, **Mr. Azaz Syed**, and shared his experiences in requesting information from the Federal and Provincial Governments. Referring to a request for information on the number of schools in the various federating units of Pakistan, he said that the Provinces with independent Information Commissions and modern RTI laws were far more responsive in handling his information requests.

Punjab Information Commission and PILDAT collaboration expands the cadre of Government Officials trained on implementation of the Right to Information

The Punjab Information Commission, in collaboration with PILDAT, successfully concluded the 5th and final session in a series of trainings imparted to Government Officials on the Punjab Transparency and Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2013 on February 04, 2016 in Lahore. Since September 30, 2015, more than 110 Public Information Officers (PIOs) and Heads of Departments (HoDs) of the Government of Punjab posted in Bahawalnagar, Bahawalpur, Lahore, Layyah, Lodhran, Multan, Muzaffargarh, Rajanpur, and Sahiwal have been imparted knowledge and skills for effective implementation of RTI.

Mr. Mazhar Hussain Minhas, Chief Information Commissioner of Punjab, observed that the officials trained this week in collaboration with PILDAT are a welcome addition to the 208 officers already trained on RTI at the Management and Professional Development Department (MPDD), Punjab in 2015. He stressed the need for sustained collaborations between the Punjab Information Commission and civil society organisations like PILDAT for effective implementation of RTI in the Province. "Such collaborations are especially necessary in offsetting the adverse impact of bureaucratic resistance faced by the Commission, due to which its budgeted funds and resources are not being released on time," said Mr. Minhas.

Earlier in the day, participants were briefed on the concept and principles of RTI as well as on their responsibilities under the Punjab Transparency and RTI Act, 2013 by Punjab Information Commissioner, Mukhtar Ahmad Ali and Mr. Ahmad Mubarak Ahmad, Complaints Coordinator PIC.

Participating Heads of Departments were put in conversation with Public Information Officers from of previous training sessions, including Jam Awais, Deputy District Officer (Planning), Multan; and Tahira Maryam, Health and Education Officer, Lahore. According to Mr. Riaz Ahmed Hashmee, Chairman, Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education, Multan, "This Session helped me as a Department Head understand the areas where PIOs require their cooperation for smooth implementation of RTI. I aim to now designate my Systems Analyst as PIO as he has the requisite skill set and resources to update the Board's website on a timely basis," he said. "This will hopefully make the Board's activities and our complaints redressal system more efficient."

Participants also engaged in a group exercise using case studies produced by PILDAT based on Orders on Complaints passed by the Punjab Information Commission. They agreed that the group exercise helped clarify key concepts in



Media Awareness workshop on RTI organised by PILDAT

relation to RTI legislation and its implementation.

Pakistan needs a strong Federal RTI law to guarantee the constitutional Right to Information: Members of the Academic Network on Right to Information

Pakistan needs a strong RTI at the Federal level to adequately ensure citizens' constitutional right to access information held by government. This was agreed at a meeting of Pakistan's first Academic Network on Right to Information (ANoRTI) held in Islamabad on February 11, 2016.

Mr. Toby Mendel, Executive Director, Centre for Law and Democracy (CLD) was invited by PILDAT to apprise members of the ANoRTI on the Global RTI Ratings series, which is an initiative of CLD that comparatively assesses over a 100 RTI laws in the world. Pakistan is currently ranked 84th in the world within this scheme of ratings.

Speaking about why the CLD focuses on ranking different RTI laws in the world, Mr. Mendel said, "A strong law may not guarantee effective implementation of the Right to Information; however, it does help in the formation and sustainability of a robust implementation mechanism for this all-important right." He also said that civil society and media were important stakeholders in the RTI movement as they could generate pressure on the government for passage of a robust RTI law.

Members of the ANoRTI attending the meeting discussed how to expedite the passage of Pakistan's internationally acclaimed RTI Bill, which is currently being reviewed by a 5-member Committee appointed by the Federal Government. In the context of Pakistan, they also favoured the establishment of a dedicated Information Commission that has adequate powers to ensure compliance of the RTI law within the executive, judicial and legislative branches of government.

The meeting was attended by a number of prominent academicians and media persons, including **Brig. Dr. Muhammad Khan**, Head of International Relations Department, National Defence University, **Dr. Mansoor Kundi**, Professor of International Relations, International Islamic University Islamabad, **Dr. Syed Riffat Hussain**, Head of Social Sciences and Humanities, National University of Science and Technology, **Mr. Mateen Haider**, Senior Correspondent, Dawn News, **Mr. M Ziauddin**, Senior Columnist, Jang News, **Mr. Maqbool Malik**, Chief Reporter, The Nation, **Mr. Azaz Syed**, Senior Correspondent, GEO News, and **Mr. Raza Abid**, Chief Reporter, Roze TV.

The Academic Network on Right to Information (ANoRTI) is a consortium of Academics, Government Training Institutes, and the Information Commissions of Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa dedicated to studying RTI in Pakistan.

Media Awareness Workshop on Using RTI in Investigative Journalism

PILDAT organised a Media Awareness Workshop in Islamabad on March 15, 2016, titled **Landing the Story: Using RTI in Investigative Journalism**, in which members of the electronic and print media from all over Pakistan were addressed by national and international experts, including Founder, Association for Democratic Reforms, New Delhi, **Dr. Jagdeep S. Chhokar**, and Bureau Chief, Online News Network, Karachi, **Mr. Aamir Latif**. Participants agreed that RTI could be used as a powerful tool to expose corruption and wrongdoing within government after reviewing relevant case studies from India and the United Kingdom.

PILDAT Regional Conference on Right to Information in South Asia begins

On the first PILDAT Regional Conference on Right to Information in South Asia on March 16, 2016, delegates from Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Nepal,



(L-R) Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, *Former Minister for Information, KP Chief Information Commissioner*, Sahibzada Muhamad Khalid and *Former Secretary, Ministry of Interior*, Mr. Tasneem Noorani speaking at the Regional Conference on Right to Information in South Asia

while sharing status of implementation of RTI regimes in the region, agreed that South Asian states face somewhat similar challenges in promulgation of RTI regimes.

Experts believed that in the South Asian region, RTI laws alone will not ensure transparency but public interest and use of the law is crucial. They believed that there is great merit in South Asian States learning from good practices among each other on effective RTI practices. There was also an agreement that the RTI movement needs to penetrate to the grass roots level and ensure good governance and that the role of Media Crucial is crucial in popularizing RTI Laws and their usage in societies.

In discussing the state of RTI law in Pakistan, it was shared that Pakistan's existing Federal Freedom of Information Ordinance ranks 84th in the world according to the International Rating Agency, Centre for Law and Democracy Canada. Pakistani experts, MPs and participants urged Pakistan's Federal Government to take leadership and pass the new RTI Law. Participants came together to share their experiences in strengthening RTI within their home countries, and enhance regional cooperation for the continued success of such local efforts in the future.

Speaking on Protecting and Disclosing Sensitive Information under RTI, Panel Chair, **Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed**, Chairperson, Senate Standing Committee on Defence, urged the Federal Government to not to further delay the passage of the internationally-acclaimed Right to Information Bill, 2014 on account of concerns for the security of sensitive information on defence and foreign relations. The Bill was approved by the Senate on July 15, 2014 but is still waiting to be tabled in the National Assembly.

Former Secretary, Ministry of Interior, **Mr. Tasneem Noorani**, added that the second level of resistance to RTI might be the Government officials who may not wholeheartedly accept that the intricacies of their activities need be open to public scrutiny. **Mr. Aamir Latif**, Bureau Chief, Online News Network, Karachi said that an effective and comprehensive RTI law serves to enhance national security rather than undermine it. Proactive and frequent disclosure of government information strengthens the writ of the state and ensures that the citizenry is fully invested in the government. **Dr. Jaymapathy Wickramaratne**, President's Counsel and MP, Parliament of Sri Lanka, presented the Sri Lankan Draft RTI Bill that has been ranked the 7th best in the world at the Conference. He said that the Sri Lankan RTI Bill has been drafted as such that it cannot be trumped in emergencies declared by the government. It can only be overridden through an amendment in the law.

Day one of the Regional Conference included 3 Panel Discussions in which nationally and internationally renowned speakers discussed Regional Conference themes, both among themselves and with the wider public. Later, the Chair of the session on Civil Society and Media in the RTI Movement, **Mr. Nikhil Dey**, Founding Member, Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan, Rajasthan, urged civil society and the media to highlight the potential uses of RTI in the public by utilising it in the course of their work. He cited the example of the 10,000 RTI applications that the MKSS has helped ordinary citizens lodge in the state of Rajasthan in the 'Jawabdehi Yatra'.

Ms. Aruna Roy, Founding Member MKSS, also spoke on the link between RTI and improved delivery of social services as well as reduced corruption, saying that governance is most effective when it is a participatory affair.



Participants at the Regional Conference on Status of Right to Information in South Asia

In the inaugural session on Overviewing the Right to Information in South Asia and the World, **Mr. Ahmed Bilal Mehboob**, President, PILDAT, said that the future of RTI in the South Asian would be bright if relevant stakeholders convened to discuss shared issues and concerns on a regular basis through forums such as the Regional Conference organised by PILDAT.

Dr. Jagdeep Chhokar, Association for Democratic Reform, India; **Mr. Taranath Dahal**, Chairman, Freedom Forum, Nepal, **Mr. Luwie Ganeshathan**, Centre for Policy Alternatives, Sri Lanka and **Mr. Michael Karnaicholas**, Centre for Law and Democracy, Canada, apprised the participants of the evolution and progress of RTI movements in their respective countries.

Chief Information Commissioners, **Sahibzada Muhamad Khalid** from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and **Mr. Mazhar Hussain Minhas** from Punjab, were co-hosts alongside PILDAT at the Conference.

PILDAT hosted delegates from five countries in the two-day Regional Conference on RTI in South Asia. **Ms. Aruna Roy**, Founder, Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan, India, **Mr. Nikhil Dey**, Founder, Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan, **Professor Jagdeep S. Chhokar**, Founder, Association for Democratic Reform and **Mr. Wajahat HabibUllah** Former Chief Information Commissioner, Central Information Commission are representing India. **Dr. Jayampathe Wickramarthne**, President's Council, Member of Parliament, Parliament of Sri Lanka and **Mr. Luwie Ganeshthasan**, Researcher, Centre for Policy Alternatives (CPA) are representing Sri Lanka. Nepal is being represented by **Mr. Krishna Hari Baskota**, Chief Information Commissioner, National Information Commission, **Mr. Tanka Raj Aryal**, Executive Director, Citizen's Campaign for Right to Information, and **Mr. Taranath Dahal**, Chairman Freedom Forum, Nepal. Bangladesh is represented by **Ms. Ruhi Naz**, Project Coordinator, Research Initiatives, Bangladesh and **Ms. Tahmina Rehman**, Regional Director, Article 19, South

Asia.

Regional Conference participants call for widespread public awareness and more robust implementation of RTI in South Asia

A Regional Conference on Right to Information in South Asia, titled Understanding the Silent Revolution, concluded with delegates from Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Nepal urging their governments to ensure widespread public awareness and effective implementation of RTI in the region.

Delegates from five countries were hosted at the two-day Regional Conference on RTI in South Asia, which was organised to enhance experience sharing and regional cooperation between leaders of various RTI movements in South Asia. **Ms. Aruna Roy**, Founder, Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan, India, **Mr. Nikhil Dey**, Founder, Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan, **Professor Jagdeep S. Chhokar**, Founder, Association for Democratic Reform and **Mr. Wajahat HabibUllah** Former Chief Information Commissioner, Central Information Commission are representing India. **Dr. Jayampathe Wickramarthne**, President's Council, Member of Parliament, Parliament of Sri Lanka and **Mr. Luwie Ganeshthasan**, Researcher, Centre for Policy Alternatives (CPA) are representing Sri Lanka. Nepal is being represented by **Mr. Krishna Hari Baskota**, Chief Information Commissioner, National Information Commission, **Mr. Tanka Raj Aryal**, Executive Director, Citizen's Campaign for Right to Information, and **Mr. Taranath Dahal**, Chairman Freedom Forum, Nepal. Bangladesh is represented by **Ms. Ruhi Naz**, Project Coordinator, Research Initiatives, Bangladesh and **Ms. Tahmina Rehman**, Regional Director, Article 19, South Asia.

Speaking on Opening Parliament to Citizens through RTI, Panel Chair, **Ms. Aruna Roy**, Founder Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan, New Delhi, said that the link between legislators and the common people is central to

a democracy. “Opening the activities of institutions such as Parliament as well as the performance of legislators themselves is a prerequisite to a modern democracy,” she said. Mr. Inayatullah Lak, Director General Parliamentary Affairs, Provincial Assembly of Punjab, apprised the participants of the measures that the Assembly Secretariat is taking to proactively disclose the activities of the provincial legislature, such as attendance of legislators, rules notified and video reports of the Assembly proceedings through their official website. Representing the Senate Secretariat, Ms. Rabeea Anwar, Joint Secretary Legislation, Senate of Pakistan said that in addition to the attendance of Senators, the attendance records of the Standing Committees of the Senate are also being proactively disclosed on the Senate website.

Earlier in the day, **Mr. Krishna Hari Baskota**, Chief Information Commissioner of Nepal spoke on the initiatives being taken by the National Information Commission of Nepal including a system of RTI audits. **Mr. Wajahat Habibullah**, Former Chief Information Commissioner, Central Information Commissioner of India, cited the example of extending the RTI Act in Kashmir, which came about through the efforts of civil society in 2009. He was of the view that extending the Act would strengthen the security of the state as citizens would be more likely to cooperate with the government.

Chief Information Commissioners, **Sahibzada Muhamad Khalid** from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and **Mr. Mazhar Hussain Minhas** from Punjab, were co-hosts alongside PILDAT at the Conference.

Members of Academic Network on RTI and Faculty to Government Training Institutes propose separate training module on RTI

Members of the PILDAT's Academic Network on RTI, together with the faculty of Government Training Institutes proposed a separate and dedicated training module on the Right to Information (RTI) at a Workshop on Designing Curriculums on RTI, organized by PILDAT on May 25, 2016 in Lahore.

Mr. Mukhtar Ahmad Ali, Punjab Information Commissioner, who introduced the aim of the Workshop identified that the civil services need to be reoriented to navigate a pro-transparency and open form of government, one that has a Constitutional mandate in Pakistan. Existing curriculums still borrow from outdated legislation such as the Official Secrets Act 1923 and the culture of secrecy or of a need to know basis for disclosure are still very much alive in many government departments across Pakistan. He said that RTI must be looked at as a cross-cutting theme. He said that clause 18 of the Civil Services Rules of Conduct 1964 state that an officer may not disclose information unless directed by a specific or general order of the government. Mr. Ali admitted that the PTRTIA 2013 should have been cross-referenced with existing Service Rules and should have advised/included amendments to these laws. A new training module that captures the spirit of transparency should be included in the training of Pakistan's civil servants whilst also editing existing courses that call for withholding information to tackle the issue of confusion around conflicting laws and rules of procedure. He further clarified that records held by the Government are still classified, however, RTI provides a window for accessing that information through legal means. RTI authorizes the disclosure of information.

The Workshop concluded with presentations by groups on what an ideal course on RTI should contain for officers posted in Federal and Provincial levels of government. Participants proposed various methods for sensitization including but not limited to workshops, seminars and role-playing activities to put course takers in the shoes of officers implementing the RTI. It was identified that such activities would enable course participants to develop their own solutions for the specific challenges they would face on ground.

Faculty and senior members of staff attended the Workshop from the Management and Professional Development Department, Punjab, the National School of Public Policy, Forman Christian College, Kinnaird College, Bahria University and Beaconhouse National University.

National Institute of Management includes lecture on RTI, Public Service Delivery and Public Servants in Senior Management Course for the first time

On March 21, 2016 PILDAT President Ahmed Bilal Mehboob delivered a presentation on “RTI, Public Service Delivery & Public Servants” to participants of the 19th Senior Management Course, held at the Senior Management Wing of the National Institute of Management, Islamabad. This is the first time senior civil servants have been sensitized on RTI to graduate into BPS-20 from BPS-19. In the context of the ongoing interaction hosted by PILDAT between Pakistan and India on governance, several case studies on the Indian experience of RTI were also shared with the audience.

Reforming the Rule of Law in Pakistan



Participants at the Consultative session on setting policy recommendations to bring urgent reforms in the Criminal Prosecution Systems of Punjab and Sindh in Islamabad

Reforms in Pakistan's rule of law remain the key priority of PILDAT's work. During this reporting period, PILDAT undertook a number of initiatives to strengthen Pakistan's Rule of Law framework. These initiatives mainly revolved around reforming Police, Prosecution System and Free Legal Aid Service in the country under the guidance of a Committee of Experts comprising renowned subject experts and practitioners. Key activities of this initiative have included:

1. Facilitating the formation of a bi-partisan Parliamentary Caucus on Rule of Law.
2. Production of thematic Position Papers, Legislative/Policy and Media Briefs
3. Briefing Sessions for Parliamentarians and Journalists
4. Consultations with members of Judiciary, Executive, Legislature, Media and key stakeholders; and
5. Public advocacy on Rule of Law through strategic communications via mainstream and social media platforms.

The formation of the Parliamentary Caucus on Rule of Law, brought together 53 Members of Parliament from both houses and across party lines in a joint effort to spearhead much needed Rule of Law legislation. The PILDAT Rule of Law initiative included the systematic input of stakeholders through consultative sessions and experts, through the constitution of the PILDAT Committee of Experts on Rule of Law. Their input informed the drafting of the Rule of Law Reform Agenda that the Caucus adopted in its third meeting in January 2016. This Reform Agenda was also presented to the Members of Provincial Assemblies of Punjab and Sindh as well as the media. The **Chief Minister of Punjab** welcomed the recommendations in the form of the

Reform Agenda and committed to working in consultation with PILDAT on the said recommendations. The Federal Budget for 2016-17 saw an increase of 9% in the overall allocation to police spending as called for in the Caucus Reform Agenda.

'Disconnect between Police and Prosecution a major problem in Criminal Justice System': Pakistan Bar Council

Vice Chairman Pakistan Bar Council, Mr. Azam Nazeem Tarar, led a key stakeholders' consultative session on setting policy recommendations to bring urgent reforms in the Criminal Prosecution Systems of Punjab and Sindh in Islamabad on October 16, 2015. The session was attended by **Senator Farhatullah Babar**; Senior Advocate Supreme Court, **Ms. Asma Jahangir**; Senior Advocate Supreme Court, **Mr. Shahid Hamid**; Prosecutor General Punjab, **Mr. Ihtesham Qadir**; Vice Chairman Islamabad Bar Council, **Mr. Shoaib Shaheen**; President Islamabad High Court Bar Association, **Raja Aleem Khan Abbasi**; Secretary Supreme Court Bar Association, **Chaudhary Muhammad Maqsood Ahmad**; Anchor & Bureau Chief Capital TV, **Mr. Murtaza Solangi**; President PILDAT, **Mr. Ahmed Bilal Mehboob** and other key personalities.

Consultative Session with the Sindh Police on Required Reforms

PILDAT facilitated a consultative session with various tiers of police officials ranging from Constables, SHOs, ASIs to DSPs and DIGs to seek views of the Sindh Police on required reforms in the police. This consultative session was held in Karachi on October 30, 2015. Participants of this session included **Dr. Muhammad Shoaib Suddle**, **Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Moinuddin Haider**, Former Governor Sindh, and Federal Minister for Interior, **Mr. Ghazi Salahuddin**, **Mr. Asad Jahangir**, Former IG



(L-R) Ms. Ayesha Hamid, Senior Advocate Lahore High Court, Mr. Azam Nazeer Tarar, Vice Chairman Pakistan Bar Council, Mr. Shahid Hamid, Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of Pakistan, Dr. Muhammad Shoaib Suddle, Former IG Police of Sindh and Baluchistan and Dr. Sohail Shahzad, Dean, Faculty of Law, Hazara University at a Consultative Session on Reforming Prosecution and Free Legal Aid Services held in Karachi on November 07, 2015

Sindh, **Mr. Muhammad Ali Nekokara**, Mr. Ghulam Sarwar Jamali, DIG Traffic, Hyderabad, Former SSP, **Mr. Zubair Habib**, Chief, Citizen-Police Liaison Committee, **Mr. Shahid Hayat**, DIG/Director FIA, Sindh and **Mr. Nazim F. Haji**, Chairman Managing Committee, Citizens Trust Against Crime.

Consultative Session on Reforming Prosecution and Free Legal Aid Services

PILDAT facilitated a Consultative Session on Reforming Prosecution and Free Legal Aid System in collaboration with Pakistan Bar Council on November 07, 2015 in Karachi. Various tiers of legal practitioners, representatives of Sindh Prosecution Service, Sindh Bar Council, Sindh High Court Bar Association, Investigating Officers of Police, Members of Parliament as well as Members of Sindh Assembly attended to discuss the issues in existing legislation and to debate upon the implementation strategy of proposed reforms in Prosecution and Free Legal Aid system of Pakistan.

Participants of this session included **Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Moinuddin Haider**, Former Governor Sindh, **Ms. Ayesha Hamid**, Senior Advocate Lahore High Court; **Mr. Azam Nazeer Tarar**, Vice Chairman Pakistan Bar Council; **Mr. Shahid Hamid**, Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of Pakistan; **Dr. Muhammad Shoaib Suddle**, Former IG Police of Sindh and Balochistan; **Dr. Sohail Shahzad**, Dean, Faculty of Law, Hazara University; **Mr. Abrar Hassan**, Advocate & Member, Pakistan Bar Council; **Honourable Senator Taj Haider**; **Ms. Ghazal Siyal**, RSW – 142 MPA Sindh, PPPP; **Syed Hafeezuddin**, PS – 93 Karachi – V MPA Sindh, PTI; **Justice (Retd.) Shafi Usmani**; **Mr. Saleem Akhtar**, Additional Prosecutor General, Sindh; **Mr. Salahuddin Gandapur**, Chairman Disciplinary Committee, Sindh Bar Council; **M. Aslam Butt**, District Attorney General; and **Mr. Muhammad Yaseen Azad**; Advocate & Member Pakistan Bar Council.

Punjab MPAs and journalists hold dialogue with PILDAT experts for strengthening Rule of Law in Punjab

On January 23, PILDAT organized a robust and well-attended briefing session entitled “Strengthening Rule of Law in Punjab” for Members of Punjab Provincial Assembly and local media persons. PILDAT’s Rule of Law (ROL) technical experts briefed MPAs and journalists on key issues and reforms to strengthen ROL and access to justice in Punjab. Participating MPAs included **Mr. Ali Salman** (Independent; PP-168 (Sheikhupura-Cum-Nanakana Sahib-I)); **Ms. Lubna Faisal** (PML-N, W-332); **Dr. Nausheen Hamid**, (PTI, W-356); **Ms. Bushra Anjum Butt** (PML-N, W-354); **Ms. Farzana Butt** (PML-N, W-310); **Dr. Syed Waseem Akhtar** (Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan PP-271 (Bahawalpur-V)); **Ms. Saadia Sohail Rana** (PTI, W-355); **Ms. Raheela Naeem Alias Raheela Khadim Hussain**, (PML-N, W-345); **Mr. Waheed Asghar Dogar** (PTI, PP-224 (Sahiwal-V)); **Mr. Shehzad Munshi** (PML-N, NM-369); **Ms. Nasreen Jawaid Alias Nasreen Nawaz** (PML-N, W-301); **Mr. Ehsan Riaz Fatyana** (PML-N, PP-58 (Faisalabad-VIII)); **Mr. Malik Muhammad Waris Kallu** (PML-N, PP-42 (Khushab-IV), and **Mr. Muhammad Waheed Gull** (PML-N, PP-145 (Lahore-IX).

PILDAT’s ROL experts included Advocate Supreme Court and Former Governor Punjab **Mr. Shahid Hamid**; Senior Member, Pakistan Bar Council, **Mr. Azam Nazeer Tarar**; Dean, Faculty of Law & Administrative Sciences, Hazara University, **Dr. Suhail Shahzad**; Former SSP Police, **Mr. Muhammad Ali Nekokara**; and President PILDAT, **Mr. Ahmad Bilal Mehboob**.



(L-R) Mr. Ahmed Bilal Mehboob, *President PILDAT*, Senator Mir Hasil Bizenjo, *Convener of Parliamentary Caucus on Rule of Law* and Dr. Muhammad Shoaib Suddle, *Former IG Police of Sindh and Balochistan* speaking at the briefing session on "Strengthening Rule of Law in Pakistan"

The briefing session highlighted that prosecution of criminal cases has significantly increased in Punjab since independent prosecution service was introduced in 2006 in the province. All stakeholders agreed that Police-Prosecution liaison at Police Station level is a must for an effective justice system.

Participants were of the view that Government should increase funding for Police and its Investigation Branch for effective prosecution. A general consensus emerged that Legal Aid System needs a major overhaul for which a Free Legal Aid Authority should be established. Participants also called upon the media to report on and advocate for the need of an effective justice system.

Key points of an ROL reform agenda presented before the MPAs included:

- i. Allocation of funds & increase in budget for Police;
- ii. Amendment in Section 154 of Code of Criminal Procedure 1898;
- iii. Establishment of Provincial Criminal Justice Coordination Committee;
- iv. FIRs to be made simple, online & computerized;
- v. Protection for witnesses through enactment of relevant laws to prevent resiling testimony from witnesses;
- vi. Establishment of Legal Aid Authority; and
- vii. Enactment of Public Defenders & Legal Aid Office Ordinance 2007.

Rule of Law reform agenda presented to MNAs and Senators for policy advocacy, legislative action

PILDAT organized a rigorous briefing session entitled "Strengthening Rule of Law in Pakistan" for Members of National Assembly, the Senate and local media persons in Islamabad on February 02, 2016. PILDAT's Rule of Law (ROL) Committee of Experts briefed

Parliamentarians and journalists on key issues and proposed reforms to strengthen ROL and access to justice in Pakistan.

Convener of Parliamentary Caucus on Rule of Law and National Party Senator, **Mir Hasil Khan Bizenjo**, chaired the briefing, which was attended by a large number of MNAs and Senators from major political parties.

Some of the Participating Parliamentarians included: **Senator Najma Hameed**, (Punjab, PML-N), **Mr. Sajid Nawaz**, MNA (NA-3, Peshawar-III, KP, PTI), **Mr. Bismillah Khan**, MNA (NA-43, Tribal Area-VIII, IND), **Ms. Nafeesa Inayatullah Khan Khattak**, MNA (women, KP, PTI), **Ms. Khalida Parveen**, MNA (Women, Punjab, PPP), **Ms. Shaheen Shafiq**, MNA, (Women, Punjab, PML-N), **Ms. Tahira Aurangzeb**, MNA (Women, Punjab, PML-N), **Ms. Seema Jameeli**, MNA, (Women, Punjab, PML-N), **Mr. Rai Hassan Nawaz Khan**, MNA (NA-162, Sahiwal-II, Punjab, PTI), **Ms. Ayesha Gulalai**, MNA (Women, KP, PTI) and MNA **Mr. Bilal Ahmed**, (NA-136, Nankana Sahib, Punjab, PML-N).

During the session, PILDAT Rule of Law Committee of Experts presented a proposed Rule of Law Reform Agenda. The agenda has been prepared through countrywide consultations held by PILDAT since August 2015 with public representatives, subject experts, legal practitioners and journalists to discuss ways and means for strengthening of Police, Prosecution Services, and Free Legal Aid systems in Pakistan.

The PILDAT Rule of Law Committee of Experts comprises **Dr. Shoaib Suddle**, Former IG Police; **Dr. Suhail Shahzad**, Dean, Faculty of Law & Administrative Sciences, Hazara University; **Mr. Muhammad Ali Nekokara**, Former SSP Police; **Ms. Ayesha Hamid**,



(L-R) Mr. Ahmed Bilal Mehboob, *President PILDAT*, Dr. Muhammad Shoab Suddle, *Former IG Police of Sindh and Balochistan* and Mr. Muhammad Ali Nekokara, *Former SSP Police* in a session on Rule of Law in Karachi

Advocate High Court; **Mr. Kamran Murtaza**, Senior Advocate Supreme Court and **Mr. Ahmad Bilal Mehboob**, President PILDAT.

In a robust discussion, participants agreed that Police-Prosecution liaison at Police Station-level is necessary for creating an effective justice system. They called on the government to increase funding for Police and its Investigation Branch for effective prosecution. A general consensus emerged that Legal Aid System needs a major overhaul for which a Free Legal Aid Authority should be established. Participants also called upon the media to report on and advocate for the need of an effective justice system.

Parliamentarians lauded PILDAT's efforts for building their awareness on Rule of Law and facilitating them with the proposed reform process. They also welcomed the proposed Reform Agenda presented at the briefing, and expressed their commitment to pursue it as part of their political and legislative priorities.

Key points of the Rule of Law Reform Agenda presented before the Parliamentarians included:

- i. Allocation of funds and increase in budget for Police;
- ii. Amendment in Section 154 of Code of Criminal Procedure 1898;
- iii. FIRs to be made simple, online and computerised;
- iv. No arrest to be made after FIR without evidence;
- v. Protection of witnesses through enactment of relevant laws to prevent resiling testimony from witnesses;
- vi. Establishment of Legal Aid Authority; and
- vii. Enactment of Public Defenders & Legal Aid Office Ordinance 2007.

Rule of Law reform agenda presented to Members of Sindh Assembly for policy advocacy, legislative action

PILDAT organised a briefing session entitled "Strengthening Rule of Law in Pakistan" for Members of Sindh Provincial Assembly (MPAs) and local media persons on February 10, 2016 in Karachi. PILDAT's Rule of Law (RoL) Committee of Experts briefed MPAs and journalists on key issues and proposed reforms to strengthen Rule of Law and access to justice in Pakistan.

During the session, PILDAT Rule of Law Committee of Experts presented a proposed Rule of Law Reform Agenda. The agenda has been prepared through countrywide consultations held by PILDAT since August 2015 with public representatives, subject experts, legal practitioners and journalists to discuss specific ways and means for strengthening of Police, Prosecution Services, and Free Legal Aid systems in Pakistan.

In a robust discussion that followed during the session, participants agreed that Police-Prosecution liaison at Police Station-level is necessary for creating an effective justice system. They called on the Government to increase funding for Police and its Investigation Branch for effective prosecution.

A general consensus emerged that Legal Aid System needs a major overhaul for which a Free Legal Aid Authority should



Participants at the Rule of Law session

be established. Participants also called upon the media to report on and advocate for the need of an effective criminal justice system.

Dr. Fouzia Hameed, MNA and Member of Executive Committee of Parliamentary Caucus on Rule of Law introduced the Caucus and its latest progress to participants. She shared that the newly formed Caucus is aiming to strengthen Rule of Law in Pakistan and desires to bring urgent reforms in key areas of Rule of Law i.e. Police, Prosecution & Free Legal Aid. She also assured that the Caucus intends to ensure implementation of existing legislation, and to highlight and address issues hindering Rule of Law in Pakistan.

Parliamentarians also lauded PILDAT's efforts for building their awareness on Rule of Law and facilitating them with the proposed reform process. They also welcomed the proposed Reform Agenda presented at the briefing, and expressed their commitment to pursue it as part of their political and legislative priorities.

Participating Members of National and Sindh Assembly included **Dr. Shazia Sobia**, MNA, (Women, Sindh, PPPP); **Ms. Shahida Rehmani**, MNA, (Women, Sindh, PPPP); **Ms. Khishwer Zehra**, MNA, (Women, Sindh, MQM); **Ms. Mahtab Akhbar Rashdi**, MPA (RSW-156, PML (F)); **Mr. Muhammad Hussain Khan**, MPA (PS-95 KARACHI-VII, MQM); **Mr. Waqar Hussain Shah**, MPA (PS-128 KARACHI-XL, MQM); **Mr. Nand Kumar**, MPA (RSM-168, PML (F)); **Mr. Sabir Hussain Kaim**, MPA (PS-49Hyderabad, MQM); **Mr. Muhammad Rashid Khilji**, MPA (PS-46 HYDERABAD-II, MQM); **Ms. Heer Soho**, MPA (RSW-149, MQM); **Syed Hafeezuddin**, MPA (PS-93 KARACHI-V, PTI); **Mr. Samar Ali Khan**, MPA (PS-113 KARACHI-XXV, PTI); **Mr. Kamran Akhtar**, MPA (PS-91 KARACHI-III, MQM); **Ms. Shamim Mumtaz**, MPA (RSW-138, PPPP) and **Ms. Kulsoom Akhtar Chandio**, MPA (RSW-135, PPPP); **Mr. Amir Haider Shah Sherazi**,

MPA (PS-85 Thatta II, PML-N); **Ms. Sorath Thebo**, MPA (RSW-158 PML-N) and **Dr. Muhammad Rafique**, MPA (PS-31, Khairpur-III PML-F).

The PILDAT RoL Committee of Experts comprised **Dr. Shoaib Suddle**, Former IG Police; **Dr. Suhail Shahzad**, Dean, Faculty of Law & Administrative Sciences, Hazara University; **Mr. Muhammad Ali Nekokara**, Former SSP Police; **Ms. Ayesha Hamid**, Advocate High Court and **Mr. Ahmad Bilal Mehboob**, President PILDAT.

Support of Media is Critical to Rule of Law Reforms in Pakistan: PILDAT Briefing

Experts in discussion with media representatives believed that the news media and its role and support are critical to rule of law reforms in Pakistan. Lack of uniform implementation of rule of law has become an alarming issue for Pakistan. All major issues facing Pakistan – rising terrorism, corruption, sluggish economic growth, flight of talent and capital, dysfunctional justice system, etc. are all manifestation of a weak rule of law.

PILDAT organised briefing session for media persons on Role of Media in Strengthening Rule of Law in Pakistan on February 16, 2016 during which PILDAT's Rule of Law (RoL) Committee of Experts highlighted key issues and proposed reforms to strengthen Rule of Law and access to justice in Pakistan. Prominent media persons, Parliamentarians, experts and youth representatives joined the lively discussion.

Speaking on the occasion, President of Parliamentary Caucus on Rule of Law, **Senator Mir Hasil Khan Bizenjo**, said that Pakistan score and rank on international rule of law index is disappointing - Pakistan, being the sixth most populous country in the world, is ranked on a dismal 98th position out of a total of 102 countries on the World Justice Project Report on Rule of Law Index 2015.



(L-R) Mr. Iftikhar Ahmed, Senior Anchor, Mr. Abid Saqi, Member Pakistan Bar Council, Mian Mahmud Ur Rasheed, MPA/ Leader of opposition in Punjab Assembly and Mr. Mujib ur Rehman Shami, Editor in Chief Daily Pakistan attending a dialogue with media on Straightening Rule of Law

He stressed that alongside the Parliament, the media must also join the cause of strengthening the rule of law in Pakistan.

During the session, PILDAT, Committee of Experts shared with the media a proposed Reform Agenda. The agenda has been prepared through countrywide consultations held by PILDAT since August 2015 with public representatives, subject experts, legal practitioners and journalists to discuss specific ways and means for strengthening of Police, Prosecution Services, and Free Legal Aid system in Pakistan.

Discussion focused on how the media can make political executive, police, lawyers, prosecutors and other relevant authorities responsive and accountable to their roles regarding access to justice. Experts also shared international experiences from India and the U.K. on how the local media collaborated with civil society to generate awareness and successfully moved local authorities to provide community justice.

Participating journalists and parliamentarians also discussed the critical timeline for instituting reforms in rule of law in the context of the 2-year sunset clause placed under the 21st amendment to the Constitution. They also reiterated that Rule of law is established when the most powerful submit before the law; no body; no body is above law.

The PILDAT Committee of Experts who spoke at the Briefing included **Mr. Azam Nazeer Tarar**, Senior Advocate Supreme Court and Member, Pakistan Bar Council; **Dr. Shoaib Suddle**, Former IG Police; **Dr. Suhail Shahzad**, Dean, Faculty of Law & Administrative Sciences, Hazara University; **Mr. Muhammad Ali Nekokara**, Former SSP Police and **Ms. Ayesha Hamid**, Advocate High Court.

Speakers of the session endorsed the need for training and encouraged journalists to use the Right to Information law frequently and to continuously play their watchdog role. They agreed that media should report on and advocate for the need of an effective criminal justice system. They also lauded PILDAT's efforts for building their awareness on Rule of Law and facilitating them for undertaking relevant professional and policy measures.

Mr. Ahmed Bilal Mehboob, President, PILDAT believed that media should be an ally in strengthening Rule of Law movement because all of us benefit from rule of law and all of us suffer when rule of law weakens.

Key Parliamentarians who participated in the session included: **Senator Sardar Azam Khan Musakhel** (Balochistan, PMAP), **Mr. Shehryar Afridi**, MNA (NA 14, Kohat, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, PTI), **Rana Muhammad Afzal**, MNA (A-82, Faisalabad-VIII, Punjab, PMLN), **Mr. Ramesh Lal Vinkwani**, MNA (Sindh, PMLN) and **Dr. Fouzia Hameed**, MNA (Women, Sindh, MQM).

Media should raise voice for institutionalising Rule of Law Reforms in public interest: Experts

In a robust dialogue with media persons and journalists on February 23, 2016, a panel of experts urged the media to be more proactive in raising its voice for institutionalising Rule of Law reforms in Pakistan.

In the dialogue organised by PILDAT, its Rule of Law (RoL) Committee of Experts highlighted key issues and proposed



(L-R) Dr. Muhammad Shoab Suddle, *Former IG Police of Sindh and Balochistan* and Mr. Muhammad Ali Nekokara, *Former SSP Police* speaking at a session on Rule of Law in Lahore

reforms to strengthen Rule of Law and access to justice in Pakistan. Prominent media persons, Parliamentarians, experts and youth representatives joined the lively discussion.

Speaking at the session, **Mian Mahmud Ur Rasheed**, MPA, (PP 151, Lahore-XV, Punjab, PTI), Leader of opposition in Punjab Assembly said that mind-set, especially of elite class, should be changed for reforming Rule of Law in the country. Budget of police have been increased in Punjab but Thana culture could not change as yet. He said empowering the institutions is important for improving rule of law situation in province.

The panel speakers observed that media's objective role and support are critical for bringing about much needed Rule of Law reforms in Pakistan. Key issues facing the country, such as terrorism, corruption, sluggish economic growth, flight of talent and capital, dysfunctional justice system etc., are all manifestations of weak and ad hoc Rule of Law implementation.

During the dialogue, the Committee of Experts also shared with the media a proposed Reform Agenda. The agenda has been prepared through countrywide consultations held by PILDAT since August 2015 with public representatives, subject experts, legal practitioners and journalists to discuss specific ways and means for strengthening of Police, Prosecution Services, and Free Legal Aid system in Pakistan.

The discussion focused on how the media can make political executive, police, lawyers, prosecutors and other relevant authorities responsive and accountable to their roles to ensure access to justice. Experts also shared international experiences from India and the U.K. on how the local media collaborated with civil society to

generate awareness and successfully moved local authorities to provide community justice.

Participants also discussed the fast elapsing timeline for instituting Rule of Law reforms in the context of the 21st amendment to the Constitution. They reiterated that Rule of Law is established when the most powerful submit before the law -- no body is above the law.

Speakers also endorsed the need for training and encouraged journalists to use the Right to Information law frequently and to continuously play their watchdog role. They agreed that media should report on and advocate for the need of an effective criminal justice system. They also lauded PILDAT's efforts for building their awareness on Rule of Law.

The PILDAT Committee of Experts who spoke at the Briefing included **Dr. Shoab Suddle**, Former IG Police; and **Dr. Suhail Shahzad**, Dean, Faculty of Law & Administrative Sciences, Hazara University. The other speakers include **Mr. Abid Saqi**, Member Pakistan Bar Council, **Mr. Mujib ur Rehman Shami**, Editor in Chief Daily Pakistan and **Mr. Iftikhar Ahmed**, Senior Anchor.

President PILDAT, **Mr. Ahmed Bilal Mehboob**, stressed that media should be an ally in strengthening a RoL movement in Pakistan in genuine public interest. Key points of the Rule of Law Reform Agenda shared with the media and other civil society actors include:

- i. Allocation of funds and increase in budget for Police;
- ii. Amendment in Section 154 of Code of Criminal Procedure 1898;
- iii. FIRs to be made simple, online and computerised;



- iv. No arrest to be made after FIR without evidence;
- v. Protection of witnesses through enactment of relevant laws to prevent resiling testimony from witnesses;
- vi. Establishment of Legal Aid Authority at Federal and Provincial level; and
- vii. Enactment of Public Defenders & Legal Aid Office Ordinance 2007.

Media's role vital for bringing Rule of Law Reforms: PILDAT Experts

In wide-ranging dialogue with local media persons, criminal justice and legal experts opined that immediate reforms are needed in Pakistan, and especially in Sindh province, to improve the Rule of Law situation, and for which media can play a very important role.

The Dialogue with Media on Rule of Law Reforms was organized by PILDAT in Karachi on February 26, 2016, during which PILDAT's Rule of Law (RoL) Committee of Experts highlighted key issues and proposed reforms to strengthen Rule of Law and access to justice in Pakistan. Prominent media persons and members of Provincial Assembly Sindh joined the lively discussion. Participants agreed that lack of uniform implementation of Rule of Law has become an alarming issue for Pakistan. All major issues – such as rise in terrorism, corruption, sluggish economic growth, flight of talent and capital, dysfunctional justice system, etc. – are actually manifestations of a weak rule of law.

During the session, the PILDAT Committee of Experts also shared with the media a Reform Agenda for Rule of Law. The agenda has been prepared through countrywide consultations held by PILDAT since August 2015 with public representatives, subject experts, legal practitioners and journalists to discuss specific ways and means for strengthening Police, Prosecution Services, and Free Legal Aid system in Pakistan.

In a robust discussion that followed during the session, participants agreed that Police-Prosecution liaison at Police Station-level is necessary for creating an effective justice system. They called on the government to increase funding for Police and its Investigation Branch for effective prosecution. A general consensus emerged that Legal Aid System needs a major overhaul for which a Free Legal Aid Authority should be established.

Participants lauded PILDAT's efforts for building their awareness on Rule of Law and facilitating them with the proposed reform process. They also the proposed Reform Agenda presented at the Session.

Speakers of the session endorsed the need for training journalists for effective reporting and analyses on various aspects of Rule of Law. They also encouraged journalists to use the Right to Information law frequently as well as to continuously play their watchdog role. They urged the media to report on and advocate for the need of an effective criminal justice system. **Mr. Ahmed Bilal Mehboob**, President, PILDAT stated that media should act as an ally in strengthening a Rule of Law movement in Pakistan for public interest. The PILDAT Committee of Experts who spoke at the Briefing included **Dr.**



Participants attending the Parliamentary Caucus on Rule of Law meeting in Islamabad

Shoib Suddle, Former IG Police; **Dr. Suhail Shahzad**, Dean, Faculty of Law & Administrative Sciences, Hazara University; and **Mr. Muhammad Ali Nekokara**, Former SSP Police.

Parliamentary Caucus on Rule of Law

The **Parliamentary Caucus on Rule of Law (PCRoL)** was formed on September 17, 2015 to bring together like-minded Parliamentarians committed to strengthen Rule of Law in Pakistan to reform the Policing, Prosecution service and Free Legal Aid system. The idea behind the caucus was to bring parliamentarians from both houses on one multi-party platform to initiate the passage of urgently required legislative reforms in Rule of Law. The total strength of the PCRoL is 53. Further details are shown below:

No.	Parliamentarians	Strength in PCRoL Membership
1	Members of National Assembly	32
2	Senators	21
3	Total	53

No.	Gender	Strength in PCRoL Membership
1	Male	37
2	Female	16
3	Total	53

No.	Party	Strength in PCRoL Membership
1.	PMLN	18
2.	PPPP	13
3.	PTI	8
4.	JUI-F	2
5.	MQM	1
6.	ANP	2
7.	BNP-M	1
8.	PMAF	2
9.	NP	2
10.	IND	2
11.	PML F	1
12.	PML	1
	Total	53



Members of the PCRoL attend meeting to discuss the working of the Caucus

An overview of the initiatives under the Parliamentary Caucus on Rule of Law is as below:

Parliamentarians Form Caucus on Rule of Law

Parliamentarians formed a multi-party caucus on Rule of Law in Pakistan on September 17, 2015. Under the convenership of **Honourable Senator Mir Hasil Khan Bizenjo** the caucus comprises of Parliamentarians from both the Senate and National Assembly of Pakistan.

Speaking on the occasion, Convener of the PCRoL, Senator Bizenjo stated that it is alarming for Pakistan, being the sixth most populous country in the world, to be ranked on a dismal 98th position, out of a total of 102 countries in the world on the World Justice Project Report on Rule of Law Index 2015. Our neighbouring country, India, ranks at the 59th position. These rankings reflect the dilapidated state of Rule of Law in Pakistan, specifically with respect to gaps in policy and legal reforms. He emphasised that a joint effort of like-minded Parliamentarians across party lines is crucial in addressing this issue to strengthen effective reform and implementation of laws in Pakistan.

Senator Bizenjo nominated a seven-membered Rules of Business Committee of the Caucus to finalise Rules of Business for the Parliamentary Caucus on Rule of Law. The Committee will prepare and submit draft before the Caucus for approval and includes **Mr. Awais Ahmed Khan Leghari** (NA-173, Dera Ghazi Khan-III, Punjab, PML-N) as Chair while **Mr. Ali Muhammad Khan** (NA-10, Mardan-II, Khyber Pukhtunkhwa, PTI), **Senator Muhammad Mohsin Khan Leghari** (Punjab), **Ms. Romina Khurshid Alam** (NA-295, Women Punjab – XXIII, PML-N), **Senator Taj Haider** (Sindh), **Senator Muhammad Usman Khan Kakar** (Balochistan) and **Ms. Aasiya Nasir** (NA-341, Non-Muslim- IX, Balochistan, JUI-F) as members.

Among other esteemed Parliamentarians, **Dr. Shezra Mansab Ali Khan Kharal** NA-137 (Nankana Sahib-III (Old Sheikhpura-VII, Punjab, PML-N), **Senator Najma Hameed** (Punjab), **Dr. Ramesh Kumar Vankwani** (NA-342, Non-Muslim-X, Sindh, PML-N), Senator Taj Haider (Sindh) and **Senator Sardar Muhammad Azam Khan Musakhel** (Balochistan) were also present at the occasion.

Mr. Ahmed Bilal Mehboob, President, PILDAT, assured the Caucus of PILDAT's full support in facilitating the Parliamentary Caucus on Rule of Law.

Reforms in Police are crucial for strengthening Rule of Law in Pakistan

At the second meeting of first ever multi-party Parliamentary Caucus on Rule of Law (PCRoL) on December 15, 2015, convened by Honourable Senator Mir Hasil Khan Bizenjo, Parliamentarians from both the Senate and National Assembly gathered together to debate upon measures to uphold Rule of Law in Pakistan.

Dr. Shoaib Suddle, Former IGP Sindh and Balochistan and **Mr. Muhammad Ali Nekokara**, Former Senior Superintendent of Police, highlighted challenges to effective policing in Pakistan and put forward recommendations for

reform. The present ratio of police officers to citizens is unsatisfactory; while the UN standard is of 1 officer for every 450 citizens, it is disappointing to note that in Lahore, Islamabad and Karachi there is one police officer for every 337, 625 and 880 citizens respectively.

Parliamentarians emphasised that it is alarming for Pakistan being the sixth most populous country in the world, to be ranked on a dismal 98th position, out of a total of 102 countries in the world on the World Justice Project Report on Rule of Law Index 2015. Our neighbouring country, India, ranks at the 59th position. These rankings reflect the dilapidated state of Rule of Law in Pakistan, specifically with respect to gaps in policy and legal reforms.

Senator Bizenjo, supported by attending Parliamentarians, underscored the need of a joint effort of like-minded Parliamentarians across party lines, which is crucial in addressing this issue to strengthen effective reform and implementation of laws in Pakistan.

Mr. Awais Ahmed Khan Leghari (NA-173, Dera Ghazi Khan-III, Punjab, PML-N), Chair, Rules of Business Committee, presented proposed Rules of Business for smooth and streamlined functioning of the Caucus, which were adopted unanimously by all Caucus members present at the occasion.

Among other esteemed Parliamentarians present were **Ms. Romina Khurshid Alam** (NA-295, Women Punjab – XXIII, PML-N), **Ms. Shaista Pervaiz** (NA-278, Woman Punjab-VI, PML-N), **Senator Taj Haider** (Sindh), **Senator Muhammad Usman Khan Kakar** (Balochistan), **Dr. Shezra Mansab Ali Khan Kharal** NA-137 (Nankana Sahib-III (Old Sheikhupura-VII, Punjab, PML-N), **Syed Ghulam Mustafa Shah** (NA-214, Old Nawabshah-II, Sindh, PPP), **Dr. Arif Ur Rehman Alvi** (NA-250 Karachi-XII, Sindh, PTI), **Senator Lt. General (Retd.) Abdul Qayyum** (Punjab), **Mr. Shafiqat Mahmood** (NA-126, Lahore-IX, Punjab, PTI), **Mr. Ghous Bux Khan Mahar** (NA-203, Shikarpur-Cum-Sukkur (Old Shikarpur-II), Sindh, PML-F), **Senator Jehanzeb Jamal dini** (Balochistan), **Dr. Fouzia Hameed** (MNA, Sindh, MQM) and **Senator Sardar Muhammad Azam Khan Musakhel** (Balochistan).

PILDAT welcomes Punjab Government's Announcement to establish a Legal Aid Authority; lauds PBC-UNDP initiative on Legal Aid

On September 15 PILDAT welcomed the announcement to establish a Legal Aid Authority in Punjab made by Punjab Law Minister, Rana Sanaullah Khan, MPA, at the 2-day conference on Legal Aid organized by the Pakistan Bar Council in collaboration with the UNDP at Lahore on September 11-12, 2015. The Conference theme was 'Legal Aid In Pakistan: The Next Steps'. PILDAT delegation, led by its President, Mr. Ahmed Bilal

Mehboob, actively participated in the conference proceedings and made contribution to the deliberations through Committees No.2 and No.5 to update The Pakistan Bar Council Free Legal Aid Rules, 1999.

The conference was attended by a large number of eminent legal practitioners, renowned human rights activists, civil society representatives and media including Mr. Azam Nazeer Tarar, Vice Chairman, Pakistan Bar Council, Muhammad Ramzan Chaudhary, Chairman Free Legal Aid Committee, Pakistan Bar Council; , former President Supreme Court Bar Association; Ms. Asma Jahangir, former President Supreme Court Bar Association and a well-known Human Rights Advocate; Dr. Suhail Shahzad, Dean, Faculty of Law and Administrative Sciences, Hazara University, Mansehra; and, Justice Aliya Neelum of the Lahore High Court.

Parliamentary Caucus on Rule of Law announces Reform agenda to strengthen Rule of Law in Pakistan

The All parties Parliamentary Caucus on Rule of Law convened by PILDAT on January 20, 2015 in Islamabad unanimously approved Reforms Agenda to improve rule of law and access to justice in Pakistan. The Caucus meeting held in Islamabad and discussed and finalized the reforms. It was discussed the three key area, Police, Procession and Free legal Aid, should be focused and need amendments in the laws better rule of law and access to justice. Parliamentary Caucus also hailed the suggestions of Senate Committee of the Whole for free and speedy justice in the country. Following reforms were approved by the Caucus:

- i. **Police - Allocation of funds and increase in budget:** Funding is an important aspect and therefore must be allocated for proper utilisation where needed. Increasing the strength of police by 15% to bring the police-population ratio at par with the international UN standard of 1:450. Investigation costs must be provided to facilitate the investigation process. The existing annual budget allocation for Punjab Police is USD 0.79 Billion (Rs. 82.95 billion) for a population of approximately 103 million which is about 6% of the total budget of the province. Out of this police budget, 80.13 % is utilised purely for allowances, 7.57 % towards fuel charges, 2.08% to training and 10.22% to miscellaneous expenses.
- ii. **Amendment in Section 154 of Code of Criminal Procedure 1898:** Amend Section 154 of Cr. P. C. to ensure that after registration of FIR, subsequent actions by police must be on the basis of solid reasons/evidence to be brought on the record by police officer(s) concerned. This would lead to more effective prosecution of cases.
- iii. **FIRs to be simple, online and computerised:** All FIRs should be recorded in simple language,

available online and computerised and be simultaneously sent to the prosecution service so as to involve the latter in the case from its very inception.

- iv. **No Arrest after FIR without Evidence:** FIRs should not form the basis for immediate arrest of those persons named in the FIR. In this regard specific reference may be made to the judgment of the August Supreme Court in Civil Petition # 1282 of 2014, Haider Ali v DPO Chakwal case wherein the August Supreme Court has issued as many as 15 directions including “no person should be arrested unless there is sufficient evidence available with the police to support such arrest. Where a person is unjustly deprived of his liberty, compensation will be required to be paid to him or her by the delinquent Police Officer”.
- v. **Protection for witnesses** through enactment of relevant laws to prevent resiling testimony from witnesses; ensure provision of safe and secure environment for giving statements in court to strengthen prosecution of crimes and hence provision of justice.
- vi. **Establishment of Legal Aid Authority:** The existing forums provided for under the present legal framework have not been able to fulfill the requirements for free legal aid as per the constitutional mandate. There was a need for Legal Aid Authorities both at the Federal and Provincial levels to monitor and supervise the work of public defender services.
- vii. **Enactment of Public Defenders & Legal Aid Office Ordinance 2007.** The Public Defenders & Legal Aid Office Ordinance has lapsed and it is recommended that it should be enacted at both the Federal and Provincial levels.

Senator Mir Hasil Khan Bizenjo (NP, Balochistan), was the Convenor of the PCRoL. The other members of the PCRoL who attended the meeting are: **Senator Lt. General (Retd.) Abdul Qayyum** (Punjab, PML-N), **Senator Muhammad Mohsin Khan Leghari** (Punjab, Independent), **Senator Taj Haider** (Sindh, PPPP), **Sardar Muhammad Azam Khan Musakhel** (Balochistan, PMAP), **Senator Muhammad Usman Khan Kakar** (Balochistan, PMAP), **Senator Dr. Ashok Kumar** (NP), **Senator Jehanzeb Jamaldini** (Balochistan, BNP-M), **Senator Dr. Karim Khawaja** (Sindh, PPPP), **Mr. Shafqat Mehmood** (MNA, NA-126, Lahore-IX, Punjab PTI), **Dr. Asma Mamdot** (MNA, Na-299, Women, Punjab-XXVII, PML-N), and **Dr. Fouzia Hamid** (Women Sindh, MQM).

Fourth Meeting of the Parliamentary Caucus on Rule of Law

In the 4th meeting of the Parliamentary Caucus on Rule of Law held on May 18, 2016, **Mr. Muhammad Sarwar Khan**, Secretary, Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan (LJCP), appraised the Caucus membership of the initiatives that the LJCP plans to undertake within the near future, which included a value chain analysis for the delivery of justice piloted by the Provincial Justice Committee. There is a need to assess gaps within the national and provincial justice systems and effectively re-orient institutions to focus on improving service delivery, he said.

Mr. Awais Ahmed Khan Leghari, Vice President, PCRoL chaired the meeting which was also attended by **Mr. Shehryar Afridi**, NA-14, Kohat, Khyber Pukhtunkhwa, PTI, **Ms. Romina Khurshid Alam**, NA-295, Women Punjab – XXIII, **Dr. Arif Ur Rehman Alvi**, NA-250 (Karachi-XII), Sindh, PTI, **Dr. Fouzia Hamid** (Women Sindh, MQM), **Senator Jehanzeb Jamaldini** (Balochistan, BNP-M), **Rana Muhammad Afzal Khan**, NA-82, Faisalabad-VIII, Punjab, PML-N, Punjab, PML-N, **Senator Muhammad Usman Khan Kakar** (Balochistan, PMAP), **Dr. Shezra Mansab Ali Khan Kharal**, NA-137 (Nankana Sahib-III (Old Sheikhpura-VII)), **Ms. Shaza Fatima Khawaja**, NA-304 Women Punjab-XXII, PML-N, **Sardar Muhammad Azam Khan Musakhel** (Balochistan, PMAP), **Senator Dr. Ashok Kumar** (NP), **Mr. Shafqat Mehmood** (MNA, NA-126, Lahore-IX, Punjab PTI), and **Senator Sassui Palijo** (Sindh, PPPP), **Ms. Shaista Pervaiz**, NA-278, Woman Punjab-VI, PML-N, PML-N, and **Senator Lt. General (Retd.) Abdul Qayyum** (Punjab, PML-N).

Youth



Members of 7th Youth Parliament Pakistan pose for a group photo with the distinguished guests at the end of a Review Panel Session

The vision of Youth Parliament Pakistan, its establishment and facilitation by PILDAT since 2007 has been part of our focus on Youth in the country. This focus has emanated from a critical requirement of Youth's awareness, education and training in the norms of politics and democracy in the country.

PILDAT believes sustainable democracy and the sustainability of sound democratic institutions in Pakistan is not possible without youth's involvement in the democratic and political processes. The idea behind facilitating a Youth Parliament Pakistan is not just to put Pakistani Youth through a mock exercise of what Parliament does and how it should work but to inculcate in the Youth of Pakistan the values and culture of democracy, tolerance, critical thinking and a rational, reason-based dialogue.

PILDAT formed the first-ever **Youth Parliament Pakistan** in the year **2007**. PILDAT successfully completed 7 batches of YPP during the period. The model of YPP was revised and hence PILDAT managed to enrol 240 young people instead of 60 per year in 5 training sessions.

Under this initiative, a snapshot of activities undertaken by PILDAT during the period include:

1. 8th Youth Parliament was inaugurated by Honourable Senator Raza Rabbani, Chairman Senate of Pakistan.
2. Youth Standing Committees prepared and disseminated their reports. Each Committee presented and defended their work in front of a panel of experts in the first session of 8th YPP. **Sardar Awais Ahmed Khan Leghari**, MNA Chairperson National Assembly Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, while assessing reports of the first session Members during Panel Evaluation Session, acknowledged the recommendations provided by the young Members and took it to Twitter to endorse their recommendations. He appreciated the idea of the Youth Standing Committee on Performance of Local Governments that power needs to be given to Local Governments to manage funds & development- to devolve power to the provincial level, he also acknowledged the work of Youth Standing Committee on Political & Electoral Reforms to increase number of polling stations, Train RO's and the need of electronic voting machines. He appreciated the efforts of Youth Finance Committee who touched the legal aspects in their CPEC report.
3. Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed invited the Members of Youth Standing Committee on Finance to brief the NA Committee on CPEC in the Parliament. He appreciated the recommendations put forward by the Youth Standing Committee.
4. The first session Members called on the Honourable Chief Justice of Pakistan on June 03, 2016 and held an interactive session with **Justice Anwar Zaheer Jamali**. The Honourable Chief Justice presented a shield to the first session of 8th Youth Parliament Pakistan.
5. For the first time, the Members of the first session of 8th YPP observed live proceedings of the Budget session 2016-2017 at the Parliament House, Islamabad.
6. Youth Parliament Pakistan Study Visit to UK & Denmark; November 29-December 05, 2015
7. For the first time, online voting system was introduced to conduct Youth Parliament Alumni Association (YPAA) in January 26, 2015 <http://www.youthparliament.pk/28012016.asp>



(L-R) Mr. Jakob Jakobsen, *Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Denmark*, Honourable Senator Raza Rabbani, *Chairman Senate of Pakistan* and Mr. Wazir Ahmed Jogezeai, *Former Deputy Speaker National Assembly of Pakistan/Speaker YPP* at the inauguration ceremony of the 8th Youth Parliament Pakistan

1. 8th YPP officially launched on Sunday April 03, 2016
2. Senate Chairman Mian Raza Rabbani met with Members of 5th session of Youth Parliament Pakistan on February 04, 2016
3. Members toured the Senate Hall on February 04, 2016
4. Mr. Shahryar Afridi, MNA PTI acknowledged and accepted the proposals provided by Youth Special Committee to provide recommendations to PTI and was convinced to add these in PTI's internal policymaking.

PILDAT and Youth Parliament Pakistan Remember Young Martyrs Fondly

The 6 martyrs were remembered fondly by PILDAT and the Youth Parliament Pakistan on July 28, 2015.

On the occasion of the anniversary of the air blue crash on July 28, 2010, the thoughts and prayers were with the martyred souls of the 6 trained and capable future leaders of Pakistan – as well as with the parents and families of the 6 martyred members of Youth Parliament Pakistan.

Mr. Hassan Javed Khan (YP39-SINDH02; Blue Party) Youth Prime Minister, Syeda Rabab Zehra Naqvi (YP41-SINDH04; Blue Party) Youth Information Minister, Mr. Prem Chand (YP38-SINDH01; Blue Party) Youth Minister for Culture, Sports and Youth Affairs, Mr. Bilal Nasir Jamaee (YP44-SINDH07; Green Party) Youth Shadow Minister for Information, Mr. Owais Bin Laiq (YP45-SINDH08; Green Party) Former Youth Shadow Minister for Information; Member Youth Parliament Standing Committee on Information and Syed Arsalan Ahmad (YP42-SINDH05; Blue Party) Member Youth Parliament Standing Committee on Information, lost their lives alongside other passengers in an Air blue flight crash. The 6 members of Youth Parliament on board the flight were travelling from Karachi to join the concluding session of the 3rd batch of Youth Parliament session in Islamabad.

The facilitation of the Youth Parliament Pakistan by PILDAT is a continuing tribute to the memory of the 6 youth leaders of Pakistan.

The PILDAT management and team, its board of directors, all friends of PILDAT and the Youth Parliament Steering Committee continue to mourn the untimely and tragic death of the Youth Parliament members. We are joined in this mourning by the alumni of Youth Parliament from across Pakistan as well as the various supporters of the Youth Parliament project.

7th Youth Parliament Pakistan

First Session of 7th YPP: Call On Honourable Chairman Senate

Members of the first session of 7th Youth Parliament Pakistan called upon **Honourable Senator Mian Raza Rabbani**, Chairman Senate of Pakistan, at the Parliament House on July 31, 2015. Welcoming the Members of Youth Parliament Pakistan, Senator Rabbani said it has always been a pleasure for him to address the previous batches at the Youth



Mr. Omar Ayub Khan, Former State Minister of Finance addressing the Members of the 7th batch

Parliament venue; it was, however, an equal pleasure to welcome the new batch to the Parliament House. Senator Rabbani addressed key questions of the MYPs in detail with the broad message that as the future of Pakistan, youth must guard against undemocratic tendencies and threats to democracy. Addressing a question raised by the Members of the Youth Parliament regarding proceedings of the Parliament to be televised live, Senator Rabbani said that he favoured the concept as lack of access and communication between the Parliament and people has led to a sense of alienation between the two. Answering another question regarding the necessity of the 21st Constitutional Amendment, he said that while he acknowledges the extraordinary security threats facing the country, the route of 21st Constitutional Amendment is not the most favourable to address the problem. Without necessary reforms in the prosecution processes, the challenge would remain. Accepting a proposal by PILDAT to lead the efforts from the platform of Parliament to develop a set of reform proposals to strengthen rule of law, he believed that political will is required to address our challenges in a holistic, long-term perspective.

Earlier, **Ms. Aasiya Riaz**, Joint Director PILDAT, thanked the Honourable Chairman for receiving the members of 7th batch of Youth Parliament Pakistan. She said that PILDAT admires his activism in asserting parliamentary authority over the executive. Mr. Amjed Pervez Malik, Secretary, Senate of Pakistan and Ms. Rabeeah Anwar, Deputy Secretary Legislation were also part of the meeting. During the 3rd day of the first session of the Youth Parliament, Members of the Youth Parliament Pakistan received training on the modules of National Security & Civil-Military Relations, Quality of Governance and Energy Crisis in Pakistan. While Dr. Hasan Askari Rizvi, Defence and Political Analyst shared perspectives

on internal and external security threats facing Pakistan, eminent Development & Political Economist, Dr. Niaz Murtaza briefed the members on assessment of quality of governance. Later in the evening, Dr. Gulfaraz Ahmed, Former Secretary Petroleum, gave an extensive and comprehensive presentation on the Energy Crisis in Pakistan. The Youth Parliament Pakistan is an initiative conceived, planned and facilitated by PILDAT. On the 4th day of the first session of the 7th Youth Parliament Pakistan, the members were addressed on the "Foreign Policy of Pakistan: Pak-US & Pak-India Relations" by two former Pakistani Ambassadors Mr. Masood Khan and Mr. Jehnagir Ashraf Qazi. On the last day of the first session of 7th Youth Parliament Pakistan Youth Standing Committees presented and defended their Committee Reports in front of the panel of experts. The panel included: **Dr. Shoaib Suddle**, Former I.G. Sindh, **Mr. Nohman Ishtiaq**, Public Finance Expert and **Ms. Aasiya Riaz**, Joint Director PILDAT. The panel posed tough questions to the Members of Youth Parliament Pakistan of respective Youth Standing Committees. The panel evaluated the policy paper of the respective Committees and the Youth Standing Committee on National Security & Foreign Affairs secured the highest marks.

Out of the 60 members of the first session of the 7th Youth Parliament Pakistan, top 15 Members were selected to participate in the 5th and final session scheduled to be held in December this year.

Second Session of 7th Youth Parliament Pakistan

The second session of 7th Youth Parliament Pakistan spanned from September 02-06, 2015. in Islamabad. The Members of the Youth Parliament Pakistan elected **Dr. Uzma Gul**, YP2-51-SINDH12 as the Youth Deputy Speaker while earlier in the day, in the respective meetings of the Blue and Green Parties, **Mian**



Mr. Javed Jabbar, Former Senator; Former Federal Minister for Information and Media Development briefing the Members of the 7th batch on How Parliament Works

Muhammad Salman Ayub, YP2-22-PUNJAB11 was elected by the Blue Party as Leader of the House and **Mr. Muhammad Umair Adil**, YP2-27-PUNJAB16 was elected by the Green Party as the Leader of the Opposition.

Youth Parliament Pakistan undergo comprehensive Module training on pressing political & democratic issues of Pakistan

Members of second session of 7th Youth Parliament Pakistan presented their Committee Reports on the floor of the House on the third day of the session. As a part of a comprehensive training process, 60 Members of 7th Youth Parliament Pakistan opted to become Members of the four Youth Standing Committees. After thorough research, Youth Standing Committees prepared their reports, which were debated in the House. **Mr. Javed Jabbar**, Former Senator; Former Federal Minister for Information and Media Development and **Syed Fakhar Imam**, Former Speaker National Assembly of Pakistan, addressed the Youth Parliament Pakistan Members in the morning session on Parliament & Provincial Legislatures. **Honourable Syed Naveed Qamar**, MNA Chairman National Assembly Standing Committee on Railways addressed the Youth Parliament Members on Module II “How Parliament Works?” He explained the Members about the structure and functioning of both Houses of the Parliament. Mr. Nohman Ishtiaq, Public Finance Expert briefed the Members of Youth Parliament about the role of Parliament in the Budget Process. The young people were addressed by **Dr. Niaz Murtaza**, Development & Political Economist; Senior Fellow UC Berkley on “Governance & Good Governance”. In addition to this, Senior Defence & Political Analyst, **Dr. Hasan Askari Rizvi** delivered a training session on “National Security & Civil-Military Relations” with the aim of assisting the Young Parliamentarians in enhancing their knowledge on the National Security issues prevailing in the country.

Young Parliamentarians pass anti-forced conversion Bill

Members of Youth Parliament Pakistan unanimously passed a Bill on anti-forced conversions. The Bill stated whereas it is the duty of the Government of Pakistan to provide protection to all individuals including non-Muslims under the Constitution of Pakistan and the international conventions. **Ms. Helle Nielsen**, Charge d'Affaires, Embassy of Denmark addressed the Youth Parliament Pakistan Members and congratulated them on becoming part of the Parliament. Ms. Nielsen briefed the Members about the overall objective of cooperation between Denmark and Pakistan and said that it was aimed to alleviate poverty with the help of peace building. Denmark also believes in strengthening democratisation, human rights and gender equality in Pakistan. Later, an interactive session was held between the Members and Ms. Nielsen.

Mr. Arshad Abbasi, Advisor Water & Renewable Energy, SDPI and Dr. Gulfaraz Ahmed, Former Federal Secretary Petroleum spoke in an interactive session with the young Parliamentarians on “Energy Crisis in Pakistan.”

The module on Foreign Policy of Pakistan with emphasis on neighbouring countries was delivered by eminent experts including Ambassador (Retd.) Masood Khan and Ambassador (Retd.) Ashraf Jehangir Qazi.

Later in the afternoon, Mr. Ahmed Bilal Mehboob delivered a comprehensive presentation on the Reforms in the Electoral System of Pakistan.

Second Session of Youth Parliament Pakistan Concludes

Second Session of the 7th Youth Parliament Pakistan concluded with a formal Certificate Distribution Ceremony.

Mr. Jan Reimer, Development Counsellor, Royal Embassy of Denmark and **Mr. Omar Ayub Khan**, Former State Minister for Finance distributed certificates to the Members of the second session of 7th Youth Parliament, after they completed a five-day intensive training session on the democratic and Political Affairs of Pakistan.

Mr. Ziyad Sohail (YP2-52-SINDH13), Mr. Omer Aamir (YP2-34-PUNJAB 23) and Syed Ahmed Raza (YP2- 49-SINDH10) of the Green Party asked for the construction of small dams, up gradation of irrigation channels, maintenance of current dams throughout the country considering scarce water resources. An overwhelming majority of the Parliamentarians from both the parties agreed with the Resolution and it was passed by a handsome majority.

Third YPP Session; Elections held at the Third Youth Parliament Pakistan Session

On the opening day of the third session of Youth Parliament Pakistan, elections were held for the office of Leader of the House, Leader of the Opposition and Youth Deputy Speaker.

Mr. Waleed Bizenjo (YP3-04-BALUCHISTAN04) was elected as Leader of the House, **Ms. Mariam Hassan Naqvi** (YP3-24-PUNJAB13) as Leader of Opposition and **Ms. Anusheh Bakht Aziz** (YP3-16-PUNJAB05) as Deputy Speaker of the third session of the 7th Youth Parliament Pakistan.

Young Parliamentarians propose to increase youth participation in the National Parliament by 2 percent

On the second day of the 5 day session, in a Resolution tabled in the House, Members of Youth Parliament Pakistan stressed on the fact that Youth representation should be assured well in the Parliament. This country should follow the global patterns of recognizing Youth as a valuable future investment and a rich pool of ideas. It should be a must for any political party with contesting members more than 15 to have at least 2% young members (22- 35 years of age) in their parties who actively contest for a seat in the National Parliament. The Resolution was presented in the House by **Mr. Sarfaraz Jamali** (YP3-50-SINDH11) and **Mr. Hassan Abbas Nawaz Awan** (YP3-44-SINDH05). Senior Constitutional Expert and Advocate Supreme Court of Pakistan, **Mr. Shahid Hamid** briefed the young Parliamentarians on

the Constitutional history of Pakistan and gave an overview of the Constitution of Pakistan. This was followed up with an interactive Question Answer session with the Members of Youth Parliament Pakistan.

Youth Standing Committees present their Policy Recommendations in the House for Debate

Standing Committees of Youth Parliament Pakistan put forward their Policy Recommendations in the House for debate on the third day of the 5-day Session. The four Youth Standing Committees of the 7th Youth Parliament Pakistan: Youth Standing Committee on National Security & Foreign Relations, Youth Standing Committee on Finance, Youth Standing Committee on Political & Electoral System and Youth Standing on Governance presented their workings on their respective Reports.

Madressahs in Pakistan should be regulated in terms of the curriculum and funds they receive: Members, Youth Parliament Pakistan

A resolution adopted in the House proposed that Madressahs should be regulated in terms of the curriculum and funds they receive in order to meet the needs of today's human resource market and to prevent the spread of hate-speech and extremism. The Resolution was put forward in the House by **Mr. Aaqib Ali Khan** (YP3-05-KP01), **Mr. Tayyab Shahnawaz** (YP3-30-PUNJAB19), **Mr. Hamza Nizam Kazi** (YP3-42-SINDH03), **Syed Hassaan Hassan Hashmi** (YP3-51-SINDH12) and **Mr. Haseeb Ullah Baloch** (YP3-43-SINDH04).

Mr. Awais Khan (YP3-19-PUNJAB08), **Ms. Ayesha Arif Khan** (YP3-40-SINDH01), **Ms. Ayesha Hayat** (YP3-20-PUNJAB09), **Mr. Muhammad Farhan** (YP3-28-PUNJAB17), **Syed Muhammad Uzair** (YP3-10-KP06) and **Mr. Muhammad Adnan** (YP3-27-PUNJAB16) moved a resolution in the House that the private businesses should not be allowed to generate media ratings, as they are easy targets of manipulation and corruption.

In a lecture delivered to the House on "Local Governments", **Syed Jaffer Ahmed**, Director Pakistan Studies Centre, University of Karachi, young Members were briefed about the importance and challenges faced in electing local Governments and their position vis-à-vis Provincial & Federal Governments.

3rd Session of 7th Youth Parliament Pakistan ends

The third session of 7th Youth Parliament Pakistan ended on September 18, 2015 in Islamabad. Top 15 Members were selected for the fifth session after undergoing a comprehensive 5-day training session.

Honourable Ms. Nafeesa Inayatullah Khan Khattak, MNA and Honourable Omar Ayub Khan, Former Finance Minister distributed certificates among the 3rd session



Members discuss recommendations during a Plenary session at the 7th Youth Parliament Pakistan session

Members.

Mr. Qaiser Nawab Zada Khattak (YP4-09-KP05) makes history by being elected as the first ever-male Deputy Speaker from the Green Party

As a result of the Elections held on October 02, 2015, first time ever in the history of Youth Parliament Pakistan a male Deputy Speaker, **Mr. Qaiser Nawab Zada Khattak (YP4-09-KP05)** was elected by the Members of the fourth session. Mr. Khattak is also the first ever Deputy Speaker being elected from the Green Party.

Mr. Saifullah Hassan Rana (YP4-51-SINDH11) got elected as Leader of the House & **Mr. Emaad Durrani (YP4-03-BALUCHISTAN03)** as Leader of the Opposition.

Following the same format as done in previous sessions of 7th Youth Parliament Pakistan, the Members, apart from engaging in the election process, were briefed by senior subject specialists on important Modules.

Members of Youth Parliament launch 'Voice of BISP Families' during a visit to BISP Office

On October 04, 2015 in Islamabad Youth Parliament Pakistan visited the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) and held an interactive discussion with **Honourable Ms. Marvi Memon**, MNA, Chairperson BISP, on poverty alleviation in Pakistan. Addressing the Members, Ms. Memon expressed that each province is a national integrator and said that as part of the Federal Cabinet she believes it is the prime responsibility of the Government to facilitate each and every province of Pakistan to prosper through equal opportunities.

Earlier, at the Youth Parliament session on October 3, Mr. Mukesh Kumar Meghwar (YP04-45-SINDH07), Mr. Shah Nawaz Baloch (YP04-02-BALUCHISTAN02) and Mr. Asad Palijo (YP04-42-SINDH02), urged the Government to expediently institute the 8th National Finance Commission award.

Members of Youth Parliament also observed a moment of silence and offered fateha over the sad demise of Justice (Retd.) Javed Iqbal, son of Dr. Allama Mohammad Iqbal, Poet Philosopher of Pakistan, at the start of the proceedings. Yesterday.

Senior Security & Defence Analyst, **General (Retd.) Talat Masood** gave an overview of the National Security and Civil Military Relations in Pakistan. Moreover, **Mr. Nohman Ishtiaq** held an interactive session with the young members on the Budget process of Pakistan.

Members of Youth Parliament ask the Parliament to pass Hindu Marriage Act

Members of Youth Parliament urged the Parliament of Pakistan to pass the Hindu Marriage Act Bill at the earliest. Members believed that according to the Constitution of Pakistan, all citizens are equal, but unfortunately Hindu marriages are not legally registered. Because of lack of legislation many Hindu girls under age of 18 are kidnapped and forcefully

converted, raped and killed. MYPs were of the opinion that it was the necessity of time that the said Bill should be approved from the Parliament and promulgated as a law at the earliest. The Resolution was presented by **Mr. Mukesh Kumar** (YP4-47 SINDH07), **Mr. Aziz Ullah Khan** (YP4-12-KP08), **Mr. Fateh Ullah Khan** (YP4-08-KP04) and **Mr. Sadam Hussain** (YP4-50-Sindh10).

Fourth Session of Youth Parliament Pakistan ended successfully

The fourth session of 7th Youth Parliament ended successfully. Top 15 Members were selected for the 5th session is as follows:

7th Youth Parliament Pakistan Study Visit to London & Copenhagen

Pre-Departure Briefing by Ministry of Foreign Affairs

The 7th Youth Parliament Pakistan Members departed for a study visit to the UK and Denmark spanning from **November 29-December 05, 2015**. The visit was facilitated by PILDAT. The 13-member delegation will spend 5 days (November 29-December 05) of learning and interaction in London & Copenhagen.

The Study Visit was organised to facilitate learning about the democratic and Parliamentary systems, institutional measures of public accountability and transparency of Governments, interactions with members of Parliament and discussion on particular issues facing Pakistan and youth of Pakistan, etc.

Members of 7th Youth Parliament Pakistan who departed on November 29, 2015 included: **Mr. Abubakar Ayesh** (YP4-58-AJK01), **Ms. Anusheh Bakht Aziz** (YP3-16-PUNJAB05) Deputy Speaker Third Session, **Mr. Ayaz Haider Bangash** (YP3-55-FATA01), **Mr. Daniyal Hassan** (YP1-53-ICT01), **Mr. Emaad Durrani** (YP4-03-BALUCHISTAN03) Leader of the Opposition, Fourth Session, **Mr. Qaiser Nawab** (YP4-09-KP05), Deputy Speaker, Fourth Session, **Mr. Saifullah Hassan Rana** (YP4-51-SINDH11), Leader of the Opposition, Fourth Session, **Syed Tauqeer Mehdi Kazmi** (YP4-61-GB02), **Ms. Uzma Gul** (YP2-51-SINDH12) Deputy Speaker, Second Session and **Mr. Waleed Bizenjo** (YP3-04-BALUCHISTAN04), Leader of the House, Fourth Session.

PILDAT officials who joined the Delegation included: **Ms. Aasiya Riaz**, Joint Director, **Mr. Faheem Ahmed Khan**, Projects Manager, PILDAT and **Ms. Aimen Khan**, Projects Manager, PILDAT respectively.

Mr. Jawad Ajmal, Assistant Director, Europe III, EU Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Islamabad presented an official stance of Pakistan-UK & Pakistan-Denmark relations to the delegation members.

At a dinner reception held at the Danish Embassy Chargé d'Affaires, Ms. Helle Nielsen and Development Councillor Mr. Jan Riemer welcomed the delegation departing for London and Copenhagen. The members were briefed about Denmark political setup and the objectives of the Study Visit that the delegates could achieve during the visit.

Delegation Members held interactions in Copenhagen, Denmark after ending their one-day study visit at the British Parliament

The first day in Denmark; "Introduction to Programme and 'Danish Democracy'" was marked with multiple interactions of the Delegation Members with various Danish officials. A lecture on Danish Democracy, Political system and processes and the Danish Electoral System was given by Mr. Robert Klemmensen from the University of Southern Denmark. The lecture focused on the constitutional evolution of Denmark, explaining in detail the major intervals which led to change in the Danish constitution. Mr. Klemmensen also discussed the Danish political system in quite some detail, before going on to lay out the electoral system in Denmark. The lecture was of particular interest to the participants because it detailed the municipality system in Denmark.

The Delegation Members were enlightened and impressed with the work of the Danish Supreme Audit Institution (Rigsrevisionen) during a presentation given by **Ms. Nanna Schnipper**, Special Consultant at Rigsrevisionen.

Day one proceedings came to an end by a visit to the Danish Parliamentary Ombudsman office, where **Mr. Christian Ougaard** gave a presentation on the Ombudsman's work in Denmark. Mr. Christian was vocal in appreciating the Pakistani system of appointing the Ombudsman as it guarantees safeguard of tenure, unlike Denmark, where an Ombudsman is elected by the Danish parliament and may be dismissed at their behest.

Earlier, **Ms. Maya Lindberg Brink**, Capacity Development Advisor, DANIDA Fellowship Centre and Mr. Finn Pedersen, Senior Consultant & Partner of Tana Copenhagen formally welcomed the delegation in Denmark.

Youth Parliament Pakistan delegation held a one day interaction at the UK Parliament on November 30, 2015. Members observed Chamber proceedings of House of Lords and House of Commons in Westminster.

In addition to this, the Delegation met various senior officials in Westminster. The most prominent among them was **Ms. Shabana Mehmood**, Member British Parliament. She is a British Pakistani Muslim and represents Labor Party in the House of Commons. She



Members of the 7th YPP interacting with British Parliament Officials & MPs during a Study Visit to UK and Denmark held in November-December 2015

explained the role of an MP in Britain and emphasized that an MP should only be involved in legislation and an MP's domain should not include disbursement of development funds as is the norm in Pakistan.

The Members of Youth Parliament were also briefed about the procedural details of House of Lords and House of Commons by **Baroness Berridge** from the Conservative. There was a particular focus on Parliamentary Committees and their role in monitoring and improving the performance of Government. The role of British Select Committee on Foreign Affairs was mentioned in particular with a special focus since it is expected to propose recommendations on the bill regarding UK's role in war against ISIL.

Mr. Crispin Poyser, Clerk Overseas Office gave an introduction to the Westminster while **Mr. Nick Beech**, Senior Clerk, Foreign Affairs Committee briefed the Members about the Committee System in the British Parliament.

A 3-D presentation on historical evaluation of governance system in Britain was given to the Delegation Members. The presentation comprised of multimedia effects, which were used to explain how Britain evolved to the present day model of constitutional monarchy. The chronological presentation started from 12th Century and described how House of Commons and House of Lords were established and how they have evolved overtime. It also included the most important events and revolutions—such as Glorious Revolution and Suffragettes Movement.

Earlier during the day, the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), UK, facilitated a tour of the Education Centre at the Victoria Gardens for the delegation. The tour is a world-class education facility that inspires and connects young people with Parliament and democracy.

7th Youth Parliament Pakistan Study Visit concludes successfully

7th Youth Parliament Pakistan Study Visit to the United Kingdom and Denmark spanned from November 30 to December 05, 2015. The Study Visit was aimed to facilitate learning about the democratic and Parliamentary systems, institutional measures of public accountability and transparency of Governments. The programme aimed to provide specific learning about the UK and Danish democracies, electoral, parliamentary and political systems. The 12-member delegation spent one day, November 30, 2015 in London, UK at the Houses of British Parliament while 4 days December 01-04, 2015 of learning and interaction in Copenhagen.

The 7th Youth Parliament Pakistan Study Visit Delegates observed the Election Poll at the City Hall on the day of EU Referendum on December 03, 2015. The sessions on the third day in Copenhagen were diverse and enriching as the delegation met with **Mr. Ole Damkjaer** from the leading newspaper, Berlingske Tidende, in the first session. Followed by a detailed discussion on municipality affairs with an emphasis on municipality elections in Municipality of Copenhagen.

Addressing the delegation over the sensitive agenda of "Freedom of Speech", Mr. Ole highlighted the role of Danish media in the modern political and social affairs of the country. Mr. Damkjaer stressed that Danish media is independent in



Members of Youth Parliament Pakistan posing for a Group Photo with the Danish Youth Representative in Copenhagen

its affairs related to reporting and publishing. The Parliament and other institutions have strengthened the media and vice versa in this part of the world.

Briefing the delegates on organising elections in the municipality of Copenhagen, **Ms. Anette Ludnd Hansen**, Head of Unit in the Secretariat and Press Unit, Ms. Hansen highlighted the issues pertaining to elections on the Election Day including the "Letter Vote". She further explained the process of voting in advance, at home, hospitals, in prison for inmates, schools and such initiatives that are encouraging and motivating the final turn out of the election in the municipality. Result of which the parliamentary elections of 2015, more than 44,000 votes were casted through letter vote.

During a visit to the City Hall, **Ms. Suanne Moller**, Election Official Chairperson, Conservative Party held an interactive session with the delegates. Ms. Moller briefed members of the delegation on the entire vote casting procedure and balloting in the presence of election officers as well as the importance of volunteers during the voting.

The day concluded with an interactive meeting with **Mr. Markus Ramussen**, Danish Conservative Youth who discussed the perspective of his party over the issues pertaining to foreign policy with special emphasis on the terrorism being propelled from the war driven countries like Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan. He presented his party perspective on refugee crises for global peace and peace missions. He also expressed the long-term policies what his party aims to formulate and propose the same to parliament for due implementation.

The sessions on the second day were held in Danish Parliament (Folketing) focusing on role of Parliament, Foreign Affairs, Natural Decision and Policy Making. Members of Youth Parliament got the opportunity to get

enlightened and actively interact with Members of Parliament, Committee Chair-Persons, Youth and Political Party representatives.

Mr. Ole Birk Olesen, MP (The Liberal Alliance), shed light on the role of Finance Committee and the complex process of forming annual budget in Denmark. Mr. Olesen stressed, along with economic benefits, the committee is most concerned about ensuring justice to common citizens in budgetary processes.

Mr. Flemming Kordt Hasen, Head of Section, the International Department Denmark explained the role of Committees dealing with foreign affairs. Mr. Hasen talked about the role of Foreign Policy Committee, Foreign Affairs Committee, Defence Committee and European Affairs Committee.

Mr. Christian Juul Lentz, Advisor, The Communication Department, talked about the introduction of democracy to Danish Youth. As the proportion of youngsters voting in elections is decreasing day by day; the speaker explained what measures the Government is taking in attracting the youth's attention towards democracy and importance of voting. Mr. Lentz, briefed the parliamentarians about 'School Elections' campaign initiated by the government and its results so far.

Ms. Vibeke Finnemann Scheel, Student Assistant, The Committees Secretariat briefed the Youth Parliamentarians about Denmark's social welfare model and of the Children's and Education Committee. Ms. Scheel, talked about the education, health and welfare policies

Member of Parliament, Chairman Foreign Policy Committee, **Ms. Yildiz Akdogan**, briefed Members of Youth Parliament Pakistan about functions of Foreign Affairs Committee and Denmark's stand on different

global issues. The current refugee crisis, the role of EU and non-European countries in political grounds were also discussed in detail. The MP also expressed her wish to visit Pakistan in the near future.

The Head of Section of EU Information **Ms. Nina Porst Moller** had a very interactive session with the delegation later in the afternoon. The Honourable MP talked about the electoral system and the upcoming Referendum in Denmark. Members of Youth Parliament Pakistan were informed about process of conducting elections and precautions taken to ensure transparency.

Later, **Ms. Ulla Sandbaek**, MP Danish Parliament and representative of 'The Alternative Party', presented the manifesto of The Alternative Party that revolves around green transition, renewable energy, recycling and awareness of climate change. She also clarified the party's support in taking more refugees in Denmark.

The Youth Parliament delegation was informed about the structure and function of committees in accordance to the Constitution of Denmark by **Mr. Morten Villumsen**, Advisor, The Committee Secretariat.

At the end of the day the Delegation Members were given a brief tour of the Parliament building by **Mr. Kenneth Finsen**, Higher Executive Officer, The International Department.

The 7th Youth Parliament Pakistan Study Visit to London & Denmark concluded successfully on December 05, 2015. On the last day of the 4 day visit to Copenhagen, the delegation visited one of the oldest schools, Vigerslev Alle Skole, where the Head of Pedagogical Department **Mr. Jacob Buchvald Hansen** comprehensively explained the working of the school and dynamics involved in designing the curriculum and how Danish schools are promoting, encouraging and motivating the pupils with respect to knowledge based learning, inculcating democratic values, nurturing civic and social sense with an emphasis on inter faith harmony. The delegate met school children and interacted with them in the areas of mutual interest.

YPP delegation called on **Mr. Jon Rantzau Harne**, (Students Assistant, Hvidovre Municipality) who addressed the members of the delegation on Decentralization and the role of municipalities and functioning of different committees. The delegation met Mayor of Hvidovre, **Ms. Helle Moesgaard Adelborg** from Social Democratic Party who welcomed the delegation and gave brief overview of her municipality.

Later in the day, a detailed presentation was given by **Ms. Anne Wallberg**, (Chief of Secretariat of the Mayor's office) on School System and how Danish public schools are functioning which follows the social welfare model and students are getting education regardless of social class and Danish schools are playing major role in promoting inter class harmony and decreasing the social gap that exist normally among the students.

The Delegates also had an interactive session with **Mr. Jesper Moller Sorensen**, Former Danish Ambassador to Pakistan and Political Director at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Denmark.

The day ended with a sum up evaluation of the study visit where the delegates were divided into 3 groups. Later a dinner was hosted by **Pakistan's Ambassador to Denmark, H.E. Masroor Ahmed Junejo** at the Pakistan Embassy, Denmark for the Delegation.

Alumni Elections: 7th Youth Parliament Pakistan 2015

First time using the online voting medium, Alumni Elections were held on January 28 by YPP Secretariat.

5th Session of 7th Youth Parliament Pakistan

Youth Parliament Pakistan to advise PML-N, PPP & PTI on 2018 Election strategy

Top 15 MYPs from each of the 4 sessions of Youth Parliament Pakistan, representing crème de la crème of the 7th batch were assigned to recommend three largest political parties of Pakistan: Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N), Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) to improve their performance and image and position suitably for the next General Election due latest by 2018. The initiative was undertaken so as to challenge young people to address and engage in political issues in a real-world setting. The recommendations arrived at by the Youth Parliament were presented to a panel of senior leaders of each political party.



Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, *Chairman Senate Defence Committee* addressing the members on Pakistan-US relations

Federal Minister Khurram Dastgir urges Youth Parliament Pakistan Members to stand firm with democracy and value the democratic procedures

February 01, Islamabad; Federal Minister of Industry and Commerce, Honourable Mr. Khurram Dastgir, MNA addressed the 5th session of 7th Youth Parliament of Pakistan on 'My Political Journey'. Speaking on the occasion, the Honourable Federal Minister emphasised on the continuation and smooth democratic consolidation and expressed his desire to see the youth taking a lead and promote democracy and encourage democratic practices. "Be committed to Democracy as it is directly connected with your self-respect", he highlighted while answering the question on the general perception that educated people are tend to be pro-dictatorship. He urged the House, that voices of the voters should be heard and respected as the revolution; through ballot box is the revolution he wishes to see. "We dispense dignity to voters", he further added.

Enlightenment about Constitutional Evolution - Members of Youth Parliament interact with Chairman GALLUP Pakistan

Members attending the fifth session of 7th Youth Parliament Pakistan had an opportunity to learn from the insights provided by **Dr. Ijaz Shafi Gillani** who is currently the Chairman GALLUP Pakistan and has been affiliated with National Defence College and Pakistan Institute of Development Economics. His unique way of maintaining an informal method of interaction throughout the session ensured keen interest of young Members of Youth Parliament Pakistan.

Youth Special Committees present and discuss their reports in the House

Members attending the fifth & final session of the 7th Youth Parliament Pakistan discussed the recommendations to be proposed to Review Panel. The

day began with the Committees meeting together to finalize their proposals that are to be presented on February 04, 2016. Young Members engaged in fruitful discussions to add 5 key changes to the manifestos of PML-N, PPP & PTI.

Student Unions are the nursery of Politics: Senator Raza Rabbani

The Members from the 5th session of the 7th Youth Parliament began the day by a visit to the Senate where they met the Senate Chairman, **Honourable Mian Raza Rabbani**, and toured the Senate Hall. The Members of Youth Parliament were given a brief introduction on the history and purpose of the Senate where they were informed about the roles of the Senators and the secretariat. The youth representatives also learned that the Senate is now also called the 'House of Federation'.

Media and Civil Society are the new power centers: Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed

Honourable Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Defence addressed and held a highly interactive session with the Members of Youth Parliament on February 05, 2016. He talked about vision and ideology of the founding fathers of Pakistan. He also talked about the strategic importance of Pakistan due to its location and the role Pakistan has played in international diplomacy. He identified independent judiciary, media and civil society as new power centers besides the political and military establishment. Most importantly he urged the youth of the country to play an effective part in democratization of the country.

In the afternoon session, **Dr. Sania Nishtar**, Former caretaker Federal Minister during a lecture on 'National Security & Good Governance: Dynamics & Challenges Facing Pakistan' highlighting key governance challenges



(L-R) Mr. Jakob Jakobsen, Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Denmark and Mr. Wazir Ahmed Jogezi, Former Deputy Speaker National Assembly of Pakistan/Speaker YPP during an interaction with the young Members

said that corruption and bad governance are the greatest threats to national security. She explained that security is a much more comprehensive phenomenon than the conventional security. She pointed out that human security was an equally important dimension of the national security and should not be ignored. She emphasised the need to redefine the term 'treason' and recommended including corruption and willful bad governance in the new definition of treason. She underlined the need for greater transparency, more effective accountability, a better right to information law and its strict implementation and a more vigilant civil society for a better-governed and more secure Pakistan.

8th Batch of Youth Parliament Pakistan inaugurated

The 8th batch of Youth Parliament Pakistan was inaugurated on June 01, 2016 making the initiative by PILDAT since 2007, the longest running nationally representative Youth Parliament.

The 8th Youth Parliament Pakistan (www.youthparliament.pk) will give young members a fast-paced comprehensive orientation and training on democratic and political affairs of Pakistan, legislative processes and leadership skills.

Speaking at the Inauguration Ceremony, the Chief Guest, **Honourable Senator Mian Raza Rabbani**, Chairman Senate of Pakistan said: "PILDAT's initiative to train young Members in democratic practices and working of Parliament is a significant step. The ban of student unions since 1970s has blocked ways for the youth to take part in active politics, therefore such initiatives providing young women and men a platform like Youth Parliament Pakistan will play pivotal role in engaging youth in the political and democratic awareness. Senator Rabbani suggested to establish a Youth Senate in which the issues related to provinces and nationalities could be addressed".

Touching upon the subject of corruption, Senator Rabbani said that two systems of accountability can not work in the country. Each citizen, be it a politician or belonging to military have to be answerable to same system of accountability.

Addressing the Inaugural ceremony of the 8th Batch of Youth Parliament Pakistan, the Guest of Honour, **Mr. Jakob Jakobsen**, Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Denmark said that although the future was always uncertain, what was certain was that it will be the young people of Pakistan who determine what the future of Pakistan will be. Speaking to the young members, Mr. Jakobsen said, "The Youth Parliament program is a great opportunity for you to learn about civic responsibility, team work, tolerance and respect for other people's opinion. This is where democracy starts from."

Earlier, speaking at the ceremony, **Ms. Aasiya Riaz**, Joint Director PILDAT said that the 8th Youth Parliament would have a life of one year while its 4 sessions will meet for five days in Islamabad. A new batch of 60 people will be called in for each of the first four sessions. Sessions 1- 4 covers training and skill building under a standardised curriculum as well as debate and presentations of policy recommendations by the young members. The Youth Parliament Pakistan has its own 2- party system, Leader of the House and Opposition, as well as an augmented system of Parliamentary Committees with Committee Chairpersons.

An oath taking ceremony was held at the first plenary session of the first session of 8th Youth Parliament Pakistan.

Elections were held for the offices of Leader of the House, Leader of the Opposition and Deputy Speaker. **Mr. Faizan Daud**, YP1-15-Punjab04 was elected as the Leader of the House, **Mr. Saad Ashiq**, YP1-31-Punjab01 was elected as the Leader of the Opposition, while **Mr. Muhammad Ejaz Abbasi** YP1-07-KP03 was elected as the Deputy Speaker of the first session of 8th Youth Parliament Pakistan.

An independent Steering Committee of Youth Parliament oversees the selection process and the effective functioning of the Youth Parliament Pakistan. The Committee comprises **Senator S. M. Zafar**, Chairman Youth Parliament Pakistan Steering Committee; **Mr. Wazir Ahmed Jomezai**, Former Deputy Speaker, National Assembly of Pakistan; **Ms. Nafeesa Inayatullah Khattak**, MNA; **Mr. Shehryar Afridi**, MNA; **Senator Dr. Karim Ahmed Khawaja**, Member Senate of Pakistan, **Mr. Omar Ayub Khan**, Former MNA/State Minister of Finance, **Mr. Ghazi Salahuddin**, Senior Journalist & Literary Figure and **Mr. Ahmed Bilal Mehboob**, Secretary General Youth Parliament Pakistan/President PILDAT.

Representation of People Act needs to be restored to its original form

"The Representation of People Act needs to be restored to its original form as in 1973", said **Honourable Ms. Shazia Marri**, MNA, PPP, while speaking on Module IV 'Entry and Advancement in Politics' during the First Session of the 8th Youth Parliament Pakistan on June 02, 2016. Governments such as have amended the Act to make difficult the entry of the common man into mainstream politics, much of which happened during the 1980s in a bid to de-politicise the Pakistani people".

Earlier in the day, **Mr. Iftikharullah Babar**, Former Secretary Senate, addressed the House on 'How Parliament Works?'- Module I of the 8th YPP. He apprised the Members in details on the functions Parliament performs and what Legislative instruments and processes are available to Parliamentarians.

Ms. Ammara Durrani, Strategic Communications Expert also briefed Members of Youth Parliament on the importance of having a communications strategy as individuals while navigating a professional environment or political scene. Ms. Durrani was addressing the Members on Module II 'Communication Skills and Media Management'. She said that Parliamentarians do not operate in a vacuum as they once did, legislation now happens in the public sphere with influence and pressure groups affecting law-making at every stage through communications.

Suo Moto Notices are necessary but Judiciary should not be pandering

"Suo Moto notices are necessary but Judiciary should not

be pandering to Media", said the **Honourable Chief Justice of Pakistan, Justice Anwar Zaheer Jamali** while addressing the 8th Batch of Youth Parliament Pakistan. Young Members called-on the Honourable Chief Justice at the Supreme Court of Pakistan on June 03, 2016.

The Chief Justice was responding to a question posed by the Youth Leader of the House on the practice of the Supreme Court taking Suo Moto notice of matters, which has gained much currency in the recent past. The Honourable Chief Justice also said that he wants to keep a low profile and does not believe in personal publicity. There have been various instances where the Supreme Court exercised Suo Moto Notices but only wherever the Court deemed necessary to take such an action. He also stressed that he does not accept the idea to impede in the working of legislature and the executive, where the law does not allow the Supreme Court to interfere and also would not accept any interference in the working of the Supreme Court.

While responding to an earlier question on the Terms of Reference for the Inquiry Commission for the Panama Leaks Case, the Honourable Chief Justice reiterated that identification of the number of people to be investigated under is an issue and owing to the fact that Pakistan has no mutual treaty with Panama, acquiring the requisite information required for a thorough investigation is a hurdle. Hence, the Commission cannot be realistically constituted under the Inquiry Commission Act 1956.

He also lamented that the Government investigation institutions are virtually paralyzed in investigating such cases.

The Honourable Chief Justice said that we as citizens should not fall into the trap of blaming systems for national issues. The machinery of the Government, the legal regimes that we have inherited are not flawed, yet we continue to hide corrupt practices under the cover of pointing out flaws in the system. He quoted the example of structure of the lower courts as being an appropriate structure for the administration of justice in a district. The introduction of parallel courts, such as Narcotics courts and Labour courts has overlaid the superior courts with frivolous cases on problems of jurisdiction. and was hopeful for a brighter future for Pakistan.

Talking to the young Members, the Honourable Chief Justice of Pakistan hoped for a brighter and prosperous future of Pakistan, as he believed that getting trained in the legislative and democratic processes of Pakistan at an early age would help the young Members to think critically and help build a positive future of Pakistan. He encouraged the Members of Youth Parliament to step forward and try to understand the problems our society is facing. He also emphasised that Pakistan is one of the

luckiest countries, which is full of natural resources and hardworking citizens, but unfortunately we could not define our priorities and set a direction where Pakistan could fully exploit its resources; problems existed in the leadership.

The Members of the 8th Batch of Youth Parliament Pakistan received an honorary shield from the Honourable Chief Justice of Pakistan as a token of appreciation.

Renowned Politician and a Senior Constitutional Expert, **Senator Dr. Babar Awan** addressed the first session of the 8th Youth Parliament Pakistan on Module IV 'An Overview of Constitution of Pakistan- with special emphasis on 18th Amendment'. He said that he is pushing for legislation in the Senate that calls for appointment of female judges on the bench of the Supreme Court such that they make up one third of the total membership.

Quota for special citizens should be increased from 2% to 5% in institutions

In a resolution put forward on the floor of the House, young members of 8th Batch of Youth Parliament Pakistan, **Ms. Huda Tayyab** (YP1-17-Punjab-06), **Mr. Muhammad Ahmed** (YP1-24-Punjab-13) and **Mr. Muhammad Hammad** (YP1-25-Punjab-14) asked that issues pertaining to special citizens of Pakistan should be addressed in order to provide them with their basic rights. They recommended that the Government should provide with an easy and expeditious procedure to the special people in getting "District Assessment Board Registration Certificate". The Members also proposed that the quota for the special citizens should be increased from 2 % to 5 %. Furthermore, the Government should establish more rehabilitation centres, improve facilities and give special training to the staff appointed there. The resolution was unanimously adopted in the House.

Mr. Saleem Safi, Senior Journalist, while addressing the Members on Module VI Civil-Military Relations said that the rift between civilian and Military not only exists but has strengthened over time and has affected the institutions badly. He suggested to make Constitutional arrangements in which both the Civil Government and Military could maintain a balance in their role in the Government. Pakistan should seek examples from Turkey and Indonesia on establishing a Constitutional equation in Civil-Military relations.

Ambassador (Retd.) Masood Khan, Director General Institute of Strategic Studies, while speaking on Foreign Policy of Pakistan discussed Pakistan-India Relations, Pakistan- Afghanistan relations and opportunities for Pakistan from China Pakistan Economic Corridor. He emphasised that CPEC would promote connectivity within South East Asia which will, in turn, help promote empowerment and development in Pakistan. Ambassador (Retd.) Masood Khan was of the view that until the resolution of Kashmir issue, both Pakistan and India need to discuss it along with maintaining diplomatic endeavours. Pakistan should continue to reach out to India and discuss all issues as dialogue is the only way to constructive relations between both countries.

Youth Standing Committees presented their recommendations on the floor of the House.

Top performing Members of Youth Parliament qualify for the 5th session

On June 05, 2016 top performing Members of the first session of 8th Youth Parliament were selected for participation in the fifth and final session of YPP after conclusion of the first session. The members were evaluated through a merit-based, transparent and multi-level evaluation process that covered various aspects of their performance over the course of the five-day session. Certificates were distributed.

PILDAT's take on Key Issues

In addition to its work in various fields relating to strengthening of democracy and democratic institutions, PILDAT plays special focus on dissemination of its analysis through newsmedia. While PILDAT perspective is covered through our analysis in news media in the shape of news stories, media analysis and talk shows, PILDAT continues to write op-eds on key issues. A list and synopsis of published news paper articles in this period is showcased below:

Faults of the Electoral System; September 05, 2015

Recognizing the importance of a fair and transparent Electoral System, Mr. Ahmed Bilal Mehboob said that that the ECP and other stakeholders seriously should take stock of the electoral process and its flaws. Political parties may continue with their point-scoring but should seriously worry about the integrity of the system, and correct its faults, before we are faced with the next general election. Full Article can be accessed at: <http://www.dawn.com/news/1204959/faults-of-the-electoral-system>

Whither NSC? November 29, 2015

In another piece Mr. Ahmed Bilal Mehboob, President PILDAT shared some thoughts on the establishment of a formal mechanism for civil-Military exchange.

Though, the present Government should be credited with the first serious attempt to create a National Security Committee in 2013, duly supported by a secretariat in the shape of a National Security Division led by an experienced federal secretary, however the committee has hardly met and has been practically marginalised for the past one year. Efforts should be done to hold regular meetings of the NSC. The full version can be visited at: <http://www.dawn.com/news/1223069/whither-nsc>

The Calculus of Ordinances; December 15, 2016

PILDAT emphasised that the need of the promulgation of the Pakistan International Airlines Corporation (Conversion) Ordinance on Dec 7, merely 48 hours before the National Assembly was to begin its session stoked debate on how democratic is the practice of

legislating through presidential decree. Ideally, the provision of ordinances in the Constitution should be abolished. Till such time, Governments should limit the use of this instrument to the absolute minimum and during real emergencies when it is not practical to convene a session of Parliament. For full article, please visit: <http://www.dawn.com/news/1226413/the-calculus-of-ordinances>

Absent from the House; January 05, 2016

Despite some noticeable improvements in the working of Parliament in 2015, Members, in general though with some highly respectable exceptions, continued to display a low level of involvement in the business of Parliament, be it legislation, policy debates or holding the executive to account. This lack of involvement manifests itself in many ways including poor attendance, lack lustre debates, short sittings. Complete version of the article can be found at:

<http://www.dawn.com/news/1230860/absent-from-the-house>

The Right to Information; February 20, 2016

This Column generally gives an overview and analysis of the importance of implementation of Right to Information Act. This article says that it is now time for the passage of a progressive, effective and international class RTI act, not only at the federal level but also in the remaining two provinces, even as an open discussion between policymakers and civil society continues on exactly how this system will balance concerns of the public and the executive. International experience indicates a strong link between effective RTI laws and good governance. Details can be accessed at: <http://www.dawn.com/news/1240632/the-right-to-information>

Transparent Leaders; April 26, 2016

In the wake of Panama scandal, the system of declaring assets and liabilities should be reformed as it suffers from some serious weaknesses. The structure of 'Form XXI' as given in the Representation of the People Rules (Conduct of Election), 1977 should be modified to

No.	Title	Newspaper Column	Date
1.	Faults of the electoral system	The Dawn	September 05, 2015
2.	Whither NSC?	The Dawn	November 29, 2015
3.	The calculus of ordinances	The Dawn	December 15, 2015
4.	Absent from the House	The Dawn	January 05, 2016
5.	The Right to Information	The Dawn	February 20, 2016
6.	Transparent leaders	The Dawn	April 26, 2016
7.	The awaited electoral reforms	The Dawn	May 24, 2016

remove ambiguities. For example, the 'cost of assets' and 'present value of property' has been left to the imagination of the filer. This ambiguity alone can make or break the very system of assets declaration. A uniform system needs to be adopted to assess the present value of elected officials' assets. Details can be accessed at: <http://www.dawn.com/news/1254360>

The Awaited Electoral Reforms; May 24, 2016

In a follow-up article published in the Dawn, Mr. Ahmed Bilal Mehboob emphasised the importance of speedy and practical implementation of Electoral Reforms. The major challenge is the effective enforcement of election laws and the management of the election process by the ECP. While electoral reforms are important, the real test will be the ECP's ability to rigorously enforce these reforms and establish its institutional credibility. A judicious selection of new members of the ECP is therefore of paramount importance. Details can be accessed at: <http://www.dawn.com/news/1260216/the-awaited-electoral-reforms>



BY AHMED BILAL MEHBOOB

One after another

THE recent multiparty conference (MPC) convened by the prime minister on Oct 3 set, among other things, that the National Security Committee of Parliament be reconstituted to coordinate efforts.

Parliament already has at least four standing committees which directly relate to national security. We have a 12-member Senate Standing Committee on Defence headed by Senator Mubshaid Hussain and a 21-member National Assembly Standing Committee on Defence under the chairmanship of MNA Shahid Raza Khan. Two similar standing committees on the interior — one each in the Senate and National Assembly — also exist and, since internal security falls within the purview of the interior ministry, these two committees are responsible for overseeing matters of internal security.

Each committee is assisted by staff of the respective house, although there is a need to improve both the research and administrative staffing in those of other parliamentary committees. Currently, one official acts as the secretary to two or three committees — with the exception of Public Accounts Committee or Special Committee on Kashmir, which have dedicated secretaries. Ideally, each committee should have a dedicated secretary and researchers.

Despite deficient research and administrative support, each committee chair is provided with a chauffeur-driven, state-maintained car, as well as personal assistant and secretary. Each committee needs its own office and meeting room but, at present, only committee chairs are provided with offices. Like other parliamentary committees, they are supported by taxpayers' money, yet their performance needs improvement.

While the Senate committee on defence has met regularly and engaged in greater oversight than its counterparts, the parliamentary committees' performance in general and the national security committees in particular need improvements — all four committees have failed to monitor progress on the National Action Plan's implementation in a meaningful way.

The MPC now wants another committee on national security. Why do we need another committee when we already have four?

Do we need more committees on national security?

First, this was largely due to the dynamic and untiring leadership of Senator Raza Rabbani. Formed after a joint session of parliament passed a resolution on national security on Oct 22, 2008, the committee was entrusted with overseeing the implementation of the resolution of the joint session. Rabbani, now chairman of the Senate, will not be available this time around.

This time, the MPC has resolved to constitute a parliamentary committee to 'coordinate on national security efforts'.

Prime focus, this is a function of the executive and can best be served by the National Security Committee (chaired by the prime minister) with the National Security Division as its permanent secretariat which, as per official notification in April 2014, is the "principle decision-making body on all national security issues" and an "apex forum that provides opportunity to all state institutions to provide inputs on that key national security-related decisions are taken through collective thinking process. The short, medium and long-term strategic interests of the country in a rapidly changing regional and global security environment".

As a matter of fact, the NSC's terms of reference include coordination of national security efforts. Parliamentary committees can exercise oversight of such efforts but coordination is to be left to the executive branch.

If a new committee is constituted, it is bound to have overlapping functions with other committees, which may lead to tensions. Chances are that the existing four committees may become redundant if the newly proposed one turns out to be as dynamic as the committee led by Rabbani. Unfortunately, there is an increasing tendency in our public institutions to create new bodies and institutions when existing ones don't deliver. Instead of reforming existing institutions by selecting the right people, and providing adequate resources and funding, we constitute new ones.



BY AHMED BILAL MEHBOOB

Transparent leaders

The ECP must make it easier for citizens to access the financial statements of their elected representatives.

LEGISLATORS' statements of assets and liabilities are once again in the news, after the leaked Panama Papers raised serious questions about the financial transparency of political leadership in Pakistan. Despite a critical need for transparency, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) took seven months to release the statements of assets and liabilities on April 21.

The Representation of the People Act, 1976 was amended in 2002 by then Gen Pervez Musharraf's government, to make it obligatory upon national and provincial legislatures to submit annual statements of assets and liabilities to the ECP by Sep 30 each year. The law also requires the ECP to publish these statements in the official gazette. The intent of this law is to ensure greater transparency of the financial affairs of our elected representatives. Although many critics of the law claim that this requirement was added by a military regime in order to tighten the screws on politicians, similar requirements are found in the laws of many democratic countries. For example, India's Representation of People Act, 1951 also requires its parliamentarians to submit statements of assets and liabilities.

Some of the parliamentarians in Pakistan have included the law as discretionary, as assets and liabilities statements of civil and military officials, and judges, are not required to be made public. The case of state employees is, however, different from that of elected representatives; therefore, a comparison may not be fair. Various government departments and bodies do have a system for receiving employees' statements of assets and liabilities, and are then supposed to be scrutinised at the departmental level.

An annual increase in assets is supposed to trigger a disciplinary action. Since elected representatives do not have a hierarchy of reporting, and are generally not answerable to their constituents — so that these enable voters to judicious exercise of their right to vote in subsequent elections.

The system of declaring assets and liabilities, however, suffers from some serious weaknesses; if this statute is expected to be meaningful, the system needs to be reformed. First, the structure of Form XXX as given in the Representation of the People Bill (Conduct of Elections), 1977 should be modified to remove ambiguities. For example, the 'net of assets' and 'present value of property' has been left to the imagination of the filer. This ambiguity alone can make or break the very system of assets declaration. A uniform system needs to be adopted to assess the present value of elected officials' assets.

Second, there is not much merit in seeking details and value of their inherited property. If the market value of an old asset or property has increased, it should not give the false impression of an abnormal or suspicious increase in assets. It should be sufficient to ask filers to give details of their new assets acquired during the reporting period, along with the actual price paid. This will eliminate the need for arbitrary estimations or assessments of the value of assets and property.

Third, there is not much merit in seeking details and value of their inherited property. If the market value of an old asset or property has increased, it should not give the false impression of an abnormal or suspicious increase in assets. It should be sufficient to ask filers to give details of their new assets acquired during the reporting period, along with the actual price paid. This will eliminate the need for arbitrary estimations or assessments of the value of assets and property.

Fourth, there is not much merit in seeking details and value of their inherited property. If the market value of an old asset or property has increased, it should not give the false impression of an abnormal or suspicious increase in assets. It should be sufficient to ask filers to give details of their new assets acquired during the reporting period, along with the actual price paid. This will eliminate the need for arbitrary estimations or assessments of the value of assets and property.

Currently, the ECP does not seem to check for accuracy, completeness or even legibility of the statements which have been submitted. The ECP merely seals the form as discretionary, and issues a photocopy of the statement in the official gazette. An overview of completed forms, as printed in the gazette, indicates serious gaps, inaccuracies and cases of illegibility of handwritten figures and words. It is important that the ECP have the legal authority, and the capacity, to review submitted statements — at least for their completeness and legibility.

Availability of the official gazette which carries statements of assets and liabilities is another issue. It is a matter of public interest that the statements remain a copy of this gazette. The whole idea of making them available to the public is to ensure that a number of citizens should have access to the details submitted by their representatives, for transparency and effective accountability.

If a piece of information is widely circulated, chances are that the filers will be more circumspect while filing their statements. A limited circulation can defeat the very purpose of making these statements public. Modern information technology can be a great help in disseminating this information transparently. After a long struggle, the ECP finally agreed to place statements on its website, accessible to all citizens without the need to file a request or purchase a printed copy of the gazette through complex procedures. However, it is a pity that the ECP recently took the regressive step of removing statements from its website on the flimsy pretext that they were not legally bound to disclose these statements online.

When the law was amended, technology was not so popular nor advanced as it is today; it is now both inexpensive and efficient to release the statements online. After all, there is no law that requires the ECP to have its own website — but they claim, like many other state institutions, to have a dedicated website for a more efficient dissemination of information. In this day and age, it is difficult to imagine why an entity would not use information technology to disseminate such information which it is obliged to share with the public.

The ECP takes a very long time to make the statements public through gazette notification. The statements made public by the ECP on April 21, 2016 pertain to the period Jan 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015. The deadline for submitting statements to the ECP was Sep 30, 2015. It is inconceivable why the ECP should take seven months just to publish these documents without making a single amendment. After all, published statements are not subject to scrutiny and vetting of papers. There is no power and need to vet information which is not current. The ECP should not only reverse its decision to remove the statements of assets and liabilities from its website, it should also consider publishing a number of statements monthly in the official gazette.

The writer is president of Pakistan Institute of Legislative Development And Transparency.



BY AHMED BILAL MEHBOOB

The calculus of ordinances

Successive governments have resorted to ordinances as a convenient tool of legislation.

THE promulgation of the 18th Amendment of the Constitution (Constitutional Amendment No. 18) by the President of Pakistan on August 12, 2010, was a landmark event in the history of the country. It was the first time since the independence of Pakistan in 1947 that the constitution was amended. The 18th Amendment was a significant step towards the democratisation of the country. It was a landmark event in the history of the country. It was the first time since the independence of Pakistan in 1947 that the constitution was amended. The 18th Amendment was a significant step towards the democratisation of the country.

Successive governments have resorted to ordinances as a convenient tool of legislation. The 18th Amendment was a landmark event in the history of the country. It was the first time since the independence of Pakistan in 1947 that the constitution was amended. The 18th Amendment was a significant step towards the democratisation of the country.



BY AHMED BILAL MEHBOOB

Faults of the electoral system

The NA-122 and NA-154 poll tribunal orders showed much that needs to be corrected.

THE decisions of the two election tribunals hearing poll petitions on the NA-122, Liaquat and NA-154, Ludhiana constituencies were announced in quick succession last month. They have raised much political dust. Recently, no other striking has been attempted of the flaws and irregularities in the electoral system that has been painstakingly investigated by the tribunals in the two orders.

Earlier, the 2013 general election inquiry commission report had met with the same casual reaction by almost all stakeholders. Much of the overwhelming body of commentaries on the three tribunal orders, especially the public reaction levelled by a federal minister against a judge of the Lahore election tribunal, Kameez Ali Malik, this was unworthy of the honourable minister.

Another minister went to the extent of accusing him of setting personal scores because his close relation was allegedly denied a ticket by the PML-N in the general elections. All these charges were denied by the honourable judge who took the unprecedented step of going to the electronic media to respond to the charges.

Such reactions by themselves indicate the level of animosity that so many of our leaders show during times of tension. The scope of the inquiry commission was broad as it dealt with the entire 2013 election. The tribunals, on the other hand, deal in depth with constituency-specific matters. It is surprising the fact that these constituency-specific orders, where a number of findings unmistakably point to the casual approach adopted by a tribunal, when it comes to the conduct of elections. The only silver lining that this writer sees is that the level work and high level of detailed analysis undertaken by the inquiry commission and the election tribunals in putting together the report

and the voters.

It is not being suggested that the remaining 12 tribunals have done any less or that their orders do not deserve equal respect. But it is through the examination of these two orders that we wish to highlight the need for serious examination of electoral laws and the need to reform the system.

An in-depth reading of the inquiry commission report and the two orders leaves one with the unmistakable impression that the conduct of the election, that merited a careful, serious approach, has in general been taken lightly.

Exceptions are flaws, of course, but the three documents are a clear reflection of the casual approach that dominated the entire process and system of election, handled by the Election Commission of Pakistan, the caretaker governments, the district returning officers, the returning officers, the polling officials, contractors and their respective political parties. The inquiry commission report says that it is a matter of regret that the ECP's responsibility in preparing for the 2013 elections and that it had ample time to do so. But the evidence before the commission has suggested poor planning on the part of the ECP.

The election tribunal in Lahore in its order on the NA-122 polls had described a number of flaws. The conduct of voters has been specifically criticised. The district authority has been accused of misquoting the tribunal by 'offering' 'voted' showing to the tribunal in its order. The tribunal also noted that the ECP had described a number of flaws. The conduct of voters has been specifically criticised. The district authority has been accused of misquoting the tribunal by 'offering' 'voted' showing to the tribunal in its order. The tribunal also noted that the ECP had described a number of flaws.

Then 1,220 ballot papers which were issued by the polling staff could not be recovered from the ballot boxes; the tribunal was slightly perturbed about such a large number of ballots going missing. Respectively, 1,715 counterfoils carried no thumb impressions of voters which was an important condition of a valid vote. But the polling staff concealed such votes as valid. Also, 253 voters were able to cast their ballot multiple times and get away with it. All such duplicate votes were counted as valid.

Additionally, 570 voters were not on the constituency list but were still allowed to vote. A total of 315 ballot papers and their counterfoils had already been used in the constituency. The tribunal also noted that the ECP had described a number of flaws. The conduct of voters has been specifically criticised. The district authority has been accused of misquoting the tribunal by 'offering' 'voted' showing to the tribunal in its order. The tribunal also noted that the ECP had described a number of flaws.

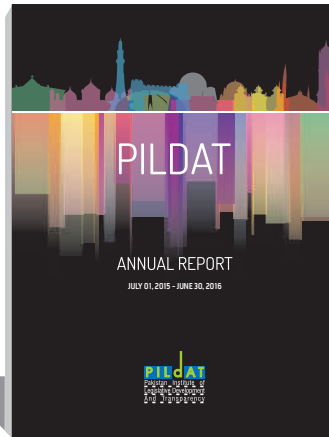
The writer is president of Pakistan Institute of Legislative Development And Transparency.

PUBLICATIONS & DISSEMINATION



PILDAT Publications July 01, 2014 to June 30, 2015

Annual Report



PILDAT Annual Report 2014-2015

December 2015
English

Background Papers




More Effective Right to Information
Legislation and its Implementation in
Pakistan

August 2016
English



More Effective Right to Information
Legislation and its Implementation in
Pakistan

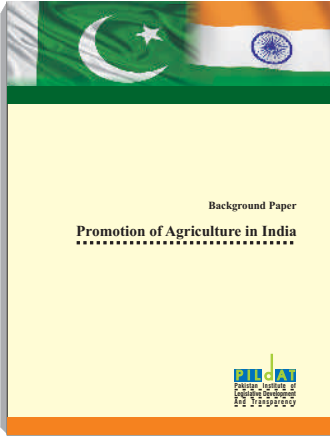
August 2016
Urdu



The cover features an orange background. At the top, the website address 'WWW.PILDAT.ORG' is printed. Below it, the Urdu text 'پس منظر رپورٹ' (Background Paper) is visible. The main title in Urdu, 'پاکستان پر جان تائين رسائي جي حق لاءِ اثرائتي قانون سازي ۽ عمل در آمد', is centered. The PILDAT logo is at the bottom left.

More Effective Right to Information Legislation and its Implementation in Pakistan

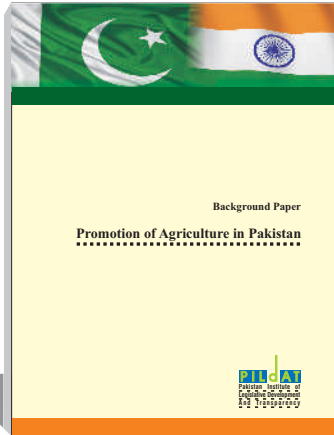
August 2016
Sindhi



The cover features a yellow background with a banner at the top showing the Indian and Pakistani flags. The text 'Background Paper' and 'Promotion of Agriculture in India' is centered. The PILDAT logo is at the bottom right.

Promotion of Agriculture in India

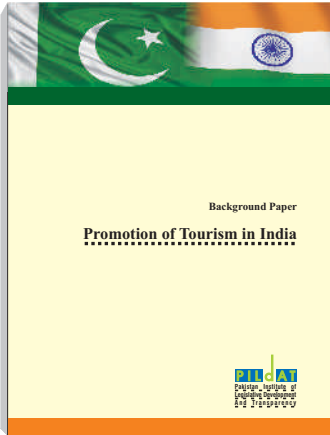
October 2016
English



The cover features a yellow background with a banner at the top showing the Indian and Pakistani flags. The text 'Background Paper' and 'Promotion of Agriculture in Pakistan' is centered. The PILDAT logo is at the bottom right.

Promotion of Agriculture in Pakistan

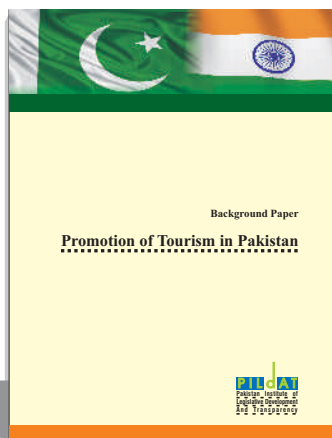
October 2016
English



The cover features a yellow background with a banner at the top showing the Indian and Pakistani flags. The text 'Background Paper' and 'Promotion of Tourism in India' is centered. The PILDAT logo is at the bottom right.

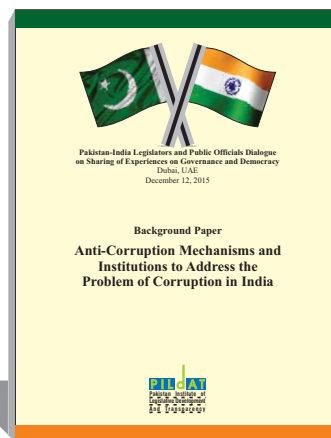
Promotion of Tourism in India

October 2016
English



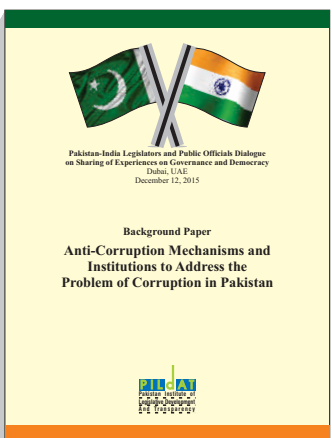
Promotion of Tourism in Pakistan

October 2016
English



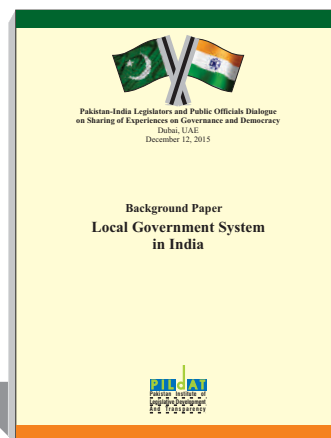
Anti-Corruption Mechanisms and Institutions to Address the Problem of Corruption in India. (Dec, 2015)

December 2016
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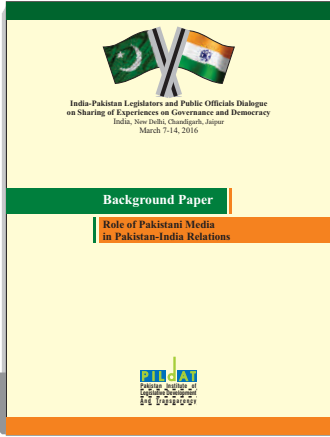
Anti-Corruption Mechanisms and Institutions to Address the Problem of Corruption in India.

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Local Government System in India

December 2016
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India-Pakistan Legislators and Public Officials Dialogue
on Sharing of Experiences on Governance and Democracy
India, New Delhi, Chandigarh, Jaipur
March 7-14, 2016

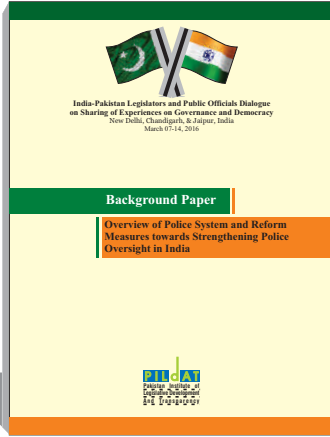
Background Paper

**Role of Pakistani Media
in Pakistan-India Relations**

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Role of Pakistani Media in Pakistan-India Relations India-Pakistan Legislators and Public Officials Dialogue on Sharing of Experiences on Governance and Democracy Chandigarh, & Jaipur, India March 07-14, 2016

March 2016
English



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Background Paper

**Overview of Police System and Reform
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Overview of Police System and Reform Measures towards Strengthening Police Oversight in India India-Pakistan Legislators and Public Officials Dialogue on Sharing of Experiences on Governance and Democracy New Delhi, Chandigarh, & Jaipur, India March 07-14, 2016

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Background Paper


How Indian Media Cover Pakistan

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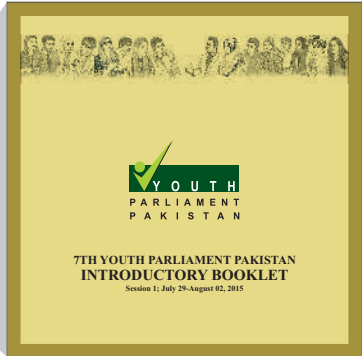
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RTI Case Studies:
The case studies based on RTI Complaints:
Compiled by PILDAT using Orders by the
Punjab information Commission

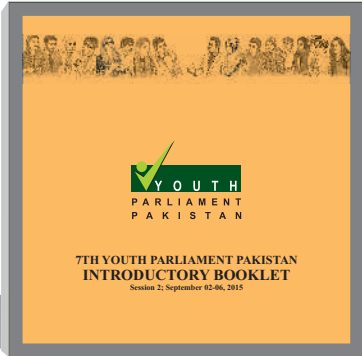
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Introductory Booklets



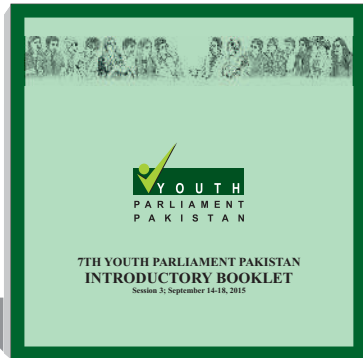
7th Youth Parliament Pakistan
Session 1, July 29-August 02, 2015

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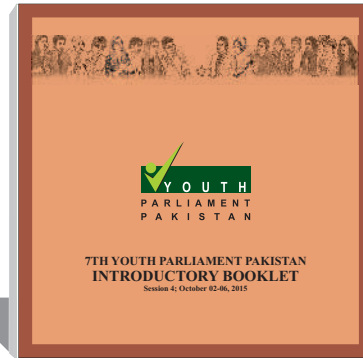
7th Youth Parliament Pakistan
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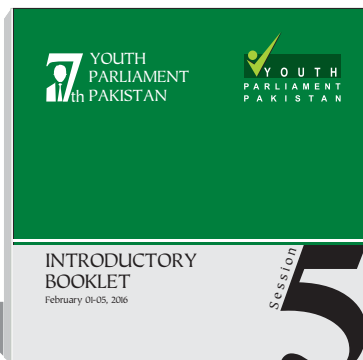
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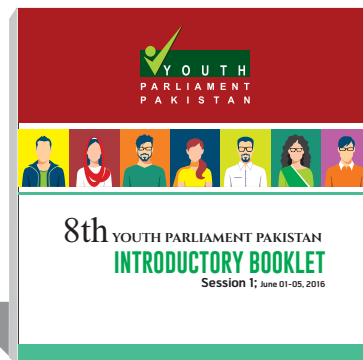
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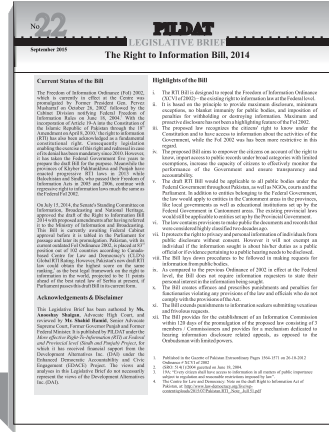
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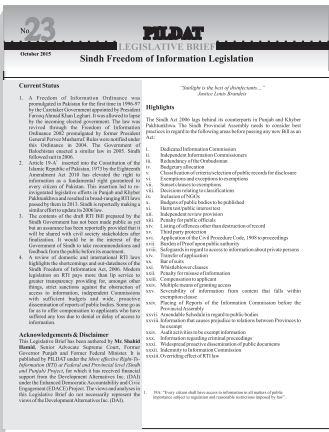
The Right to Information Bill, 2014

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The Right to Information Bill, 2014

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Sindh Freedom of Information Legislation

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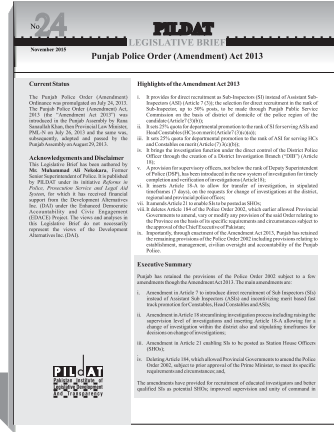
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Sindh Freedom of Information Legislation

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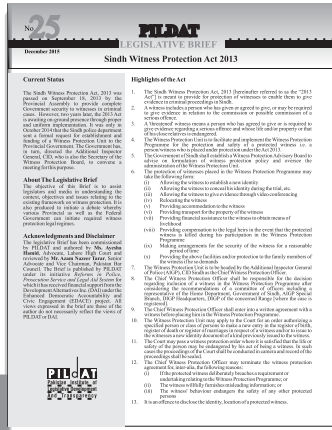
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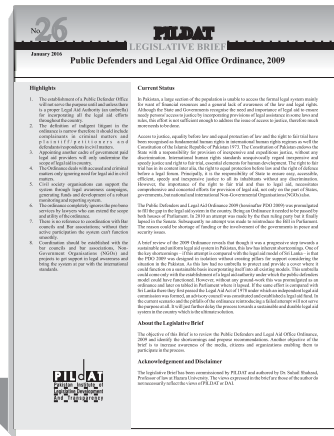
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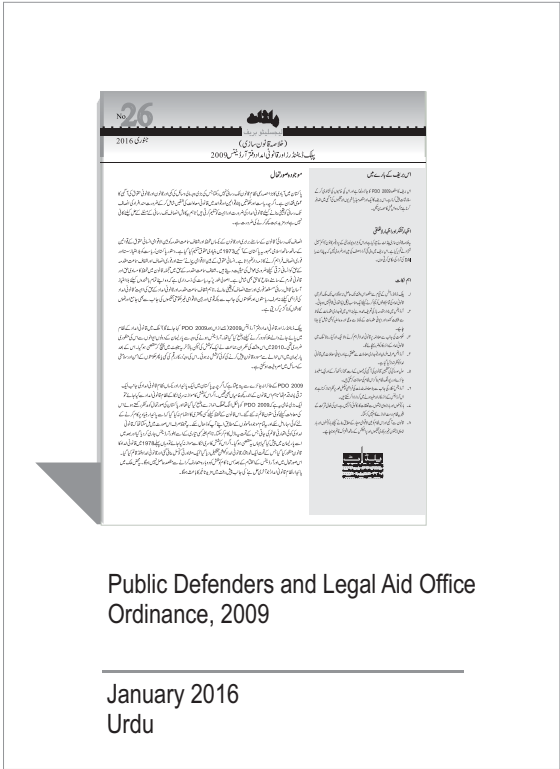
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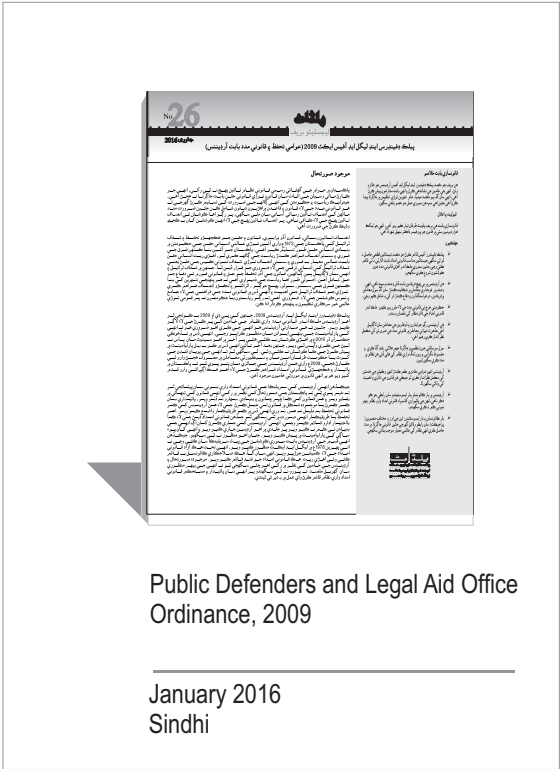
Public Defenders and Legal Aid Office Ordinance, 2009

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Public Defenders and Legal Aid Office Ordinance, 2009

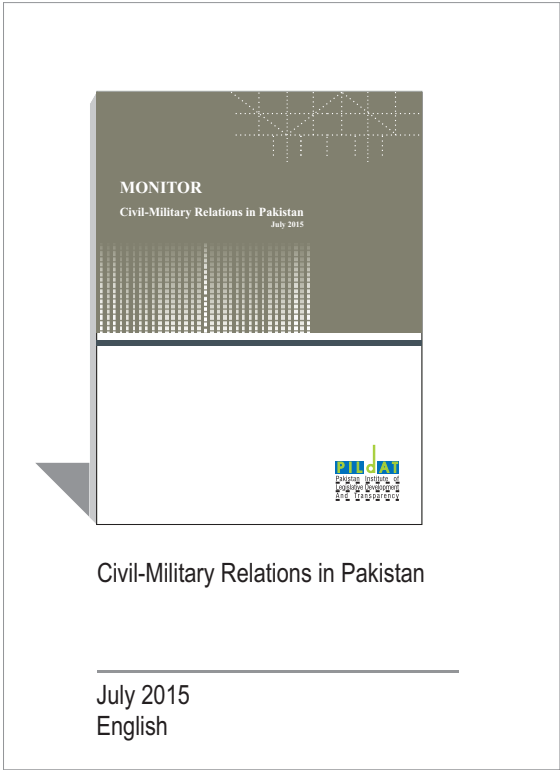
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Public Defenders and Legal Aid Office Ordinance, 2009

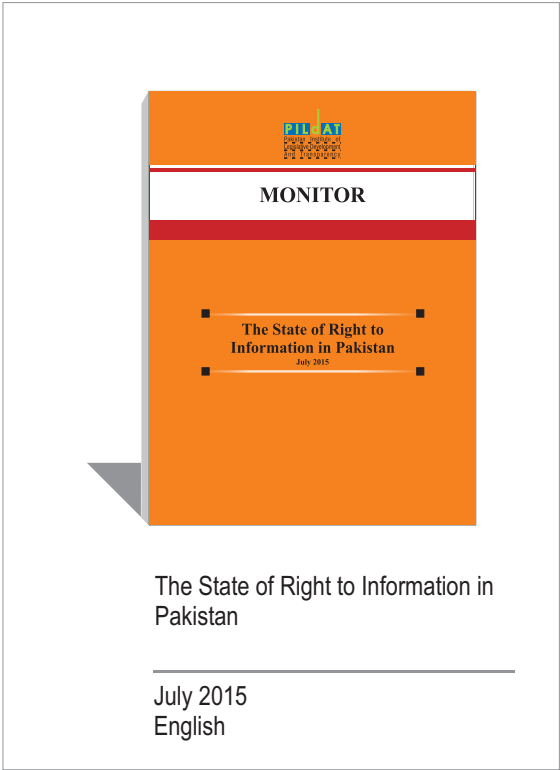
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Monitors



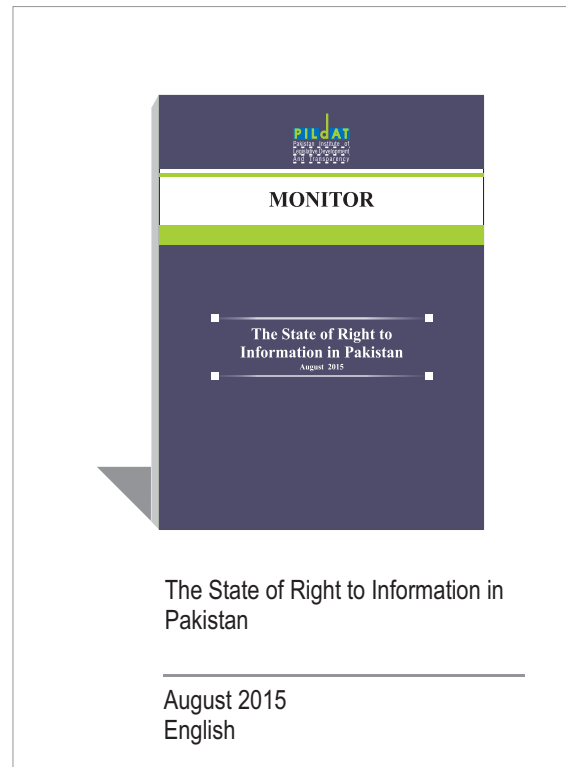
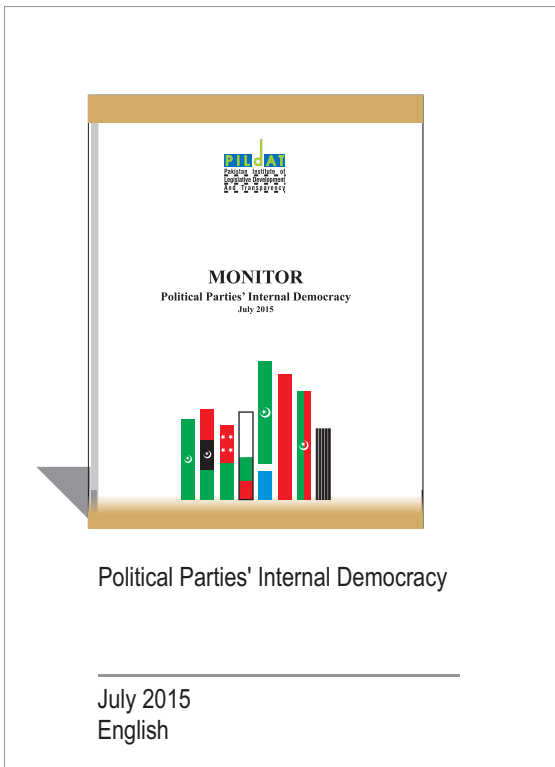
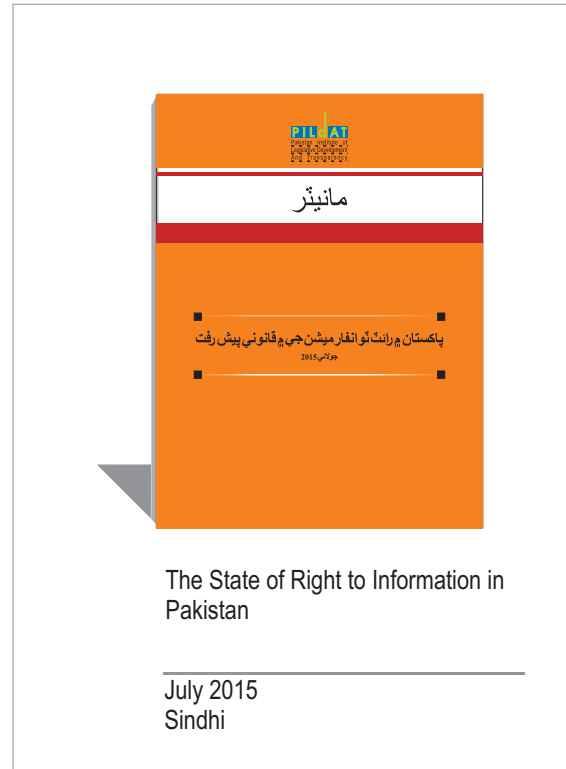
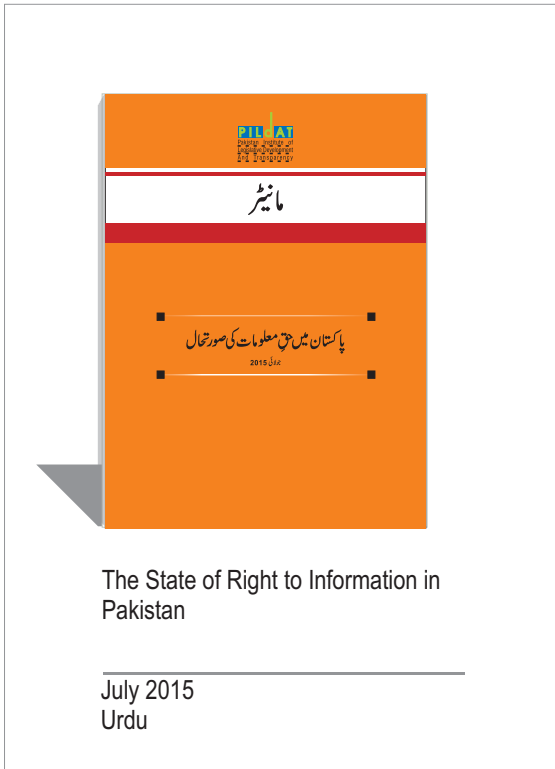
Civil-Military Relations in Pakistan

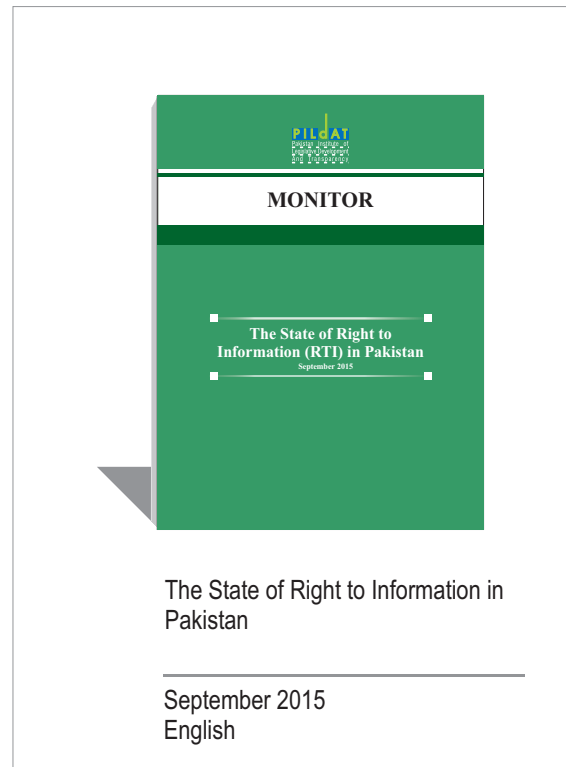
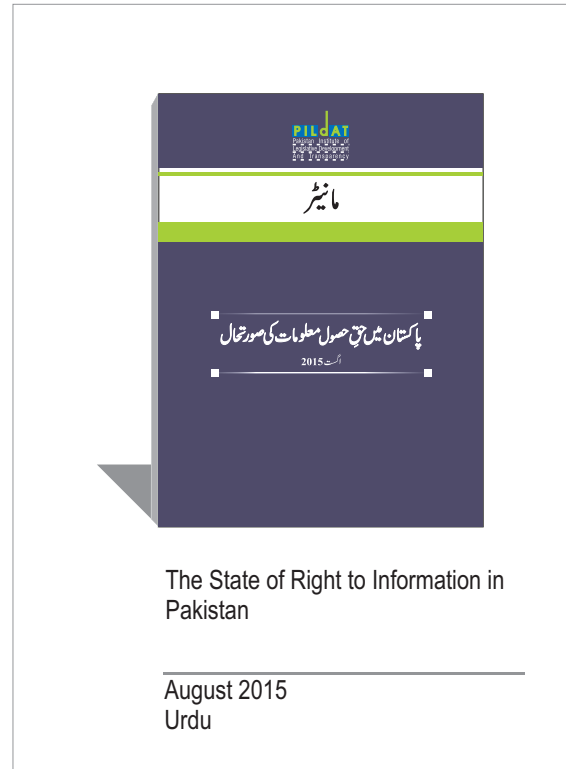
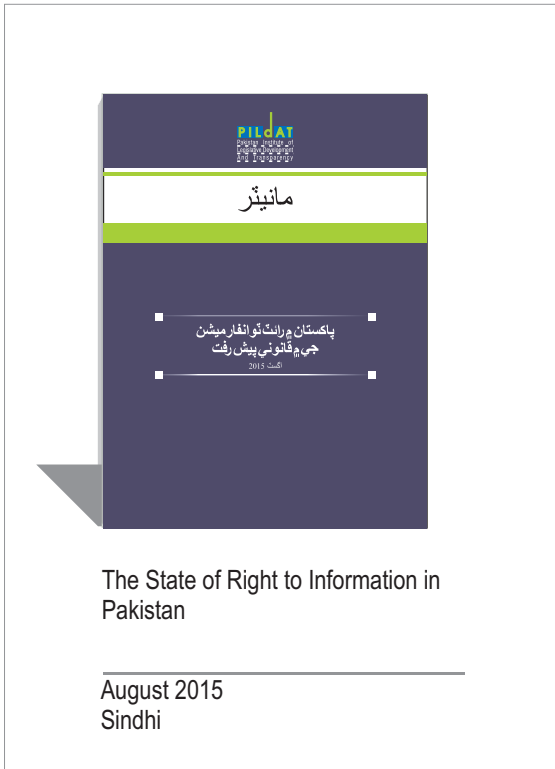
July 2015
English

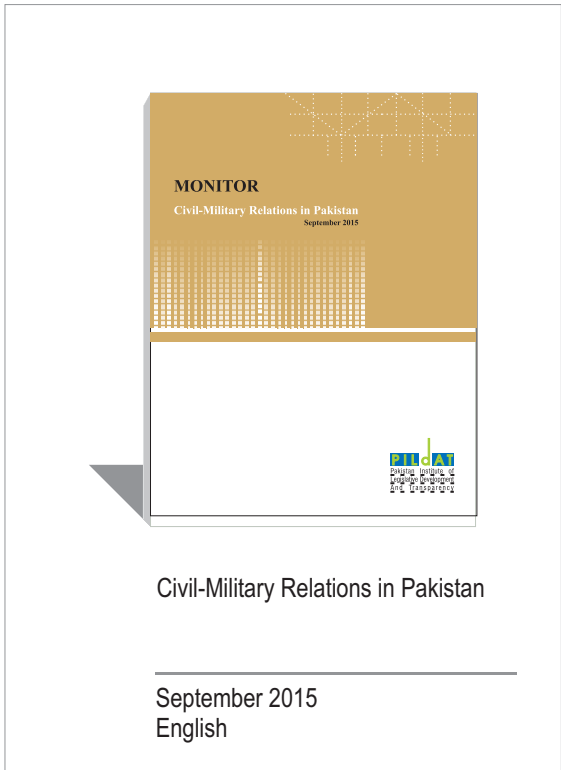
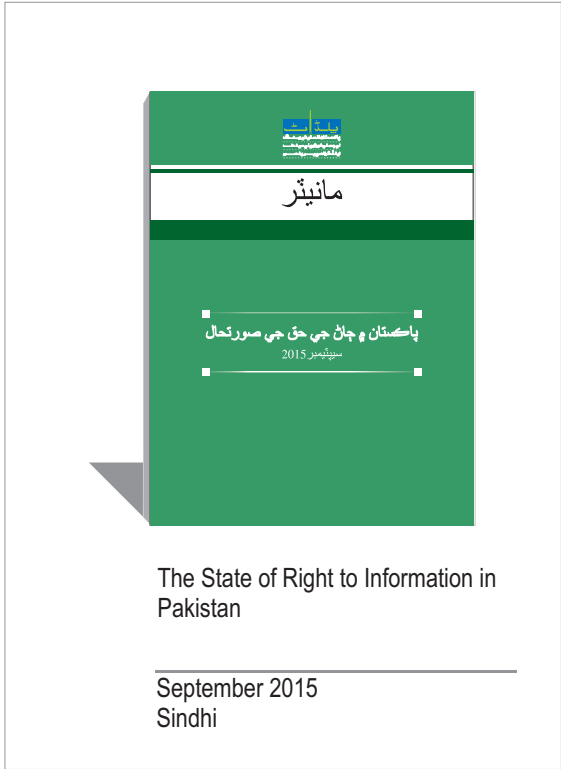
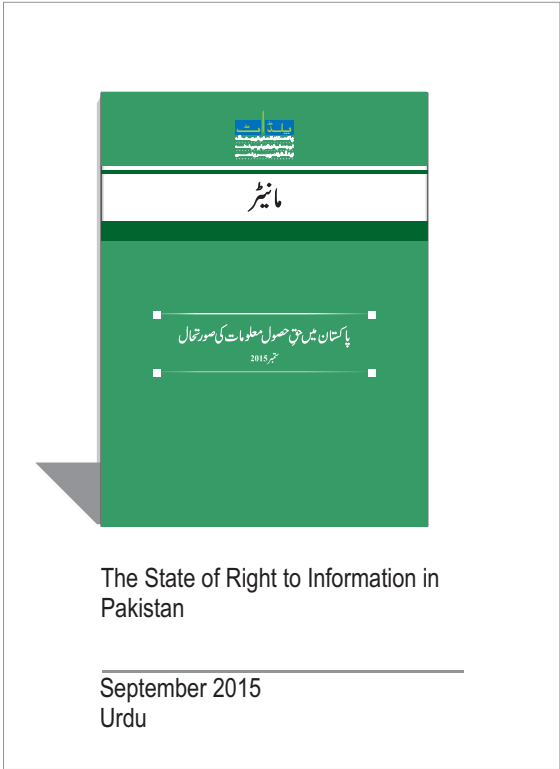


The State of Right to Information in Pakistan

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Knowing your Right to Information

October 2015
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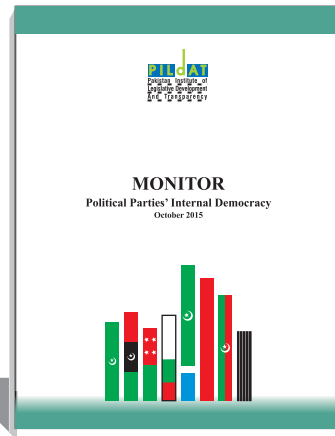
Knowing your Right to Information

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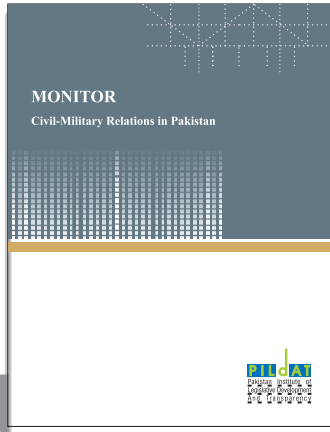
Knowing your Right to Information

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Sindhi



Political Parties' Internal Democracy

October 2015
English



Civil-Military Relations in Pakistan

October 2015
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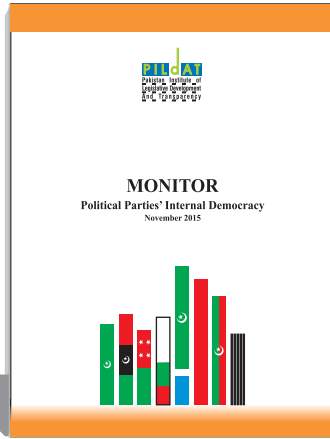
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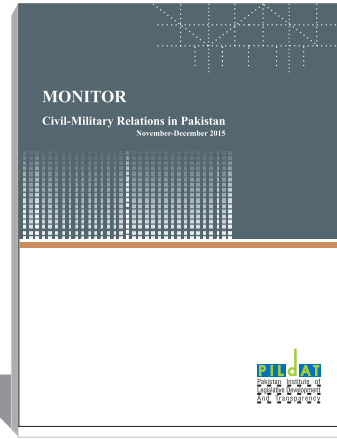
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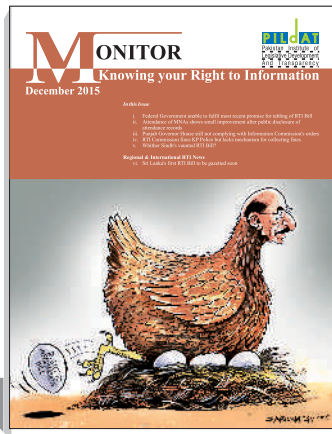
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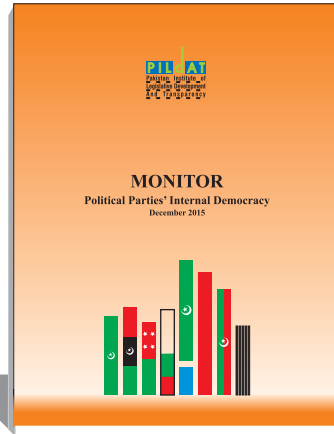
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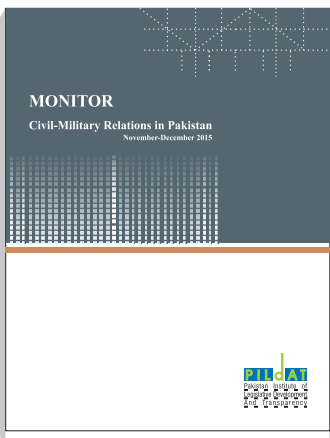
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December 2015
Sindhi



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December 2015
English



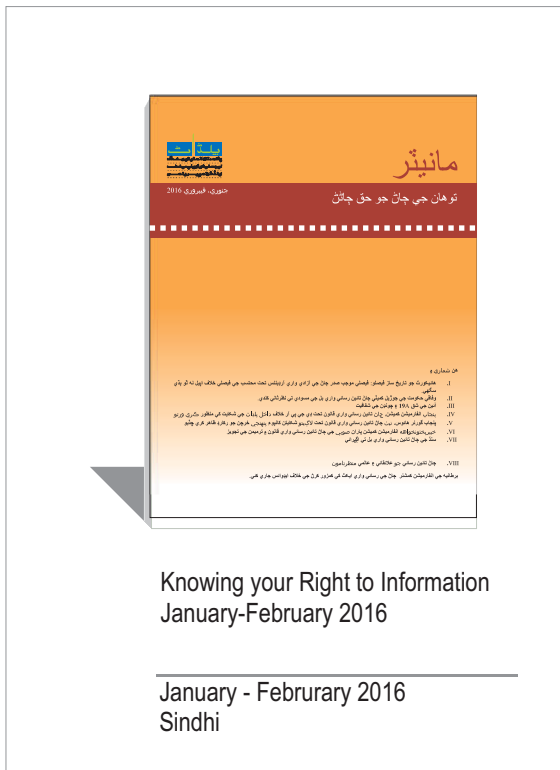
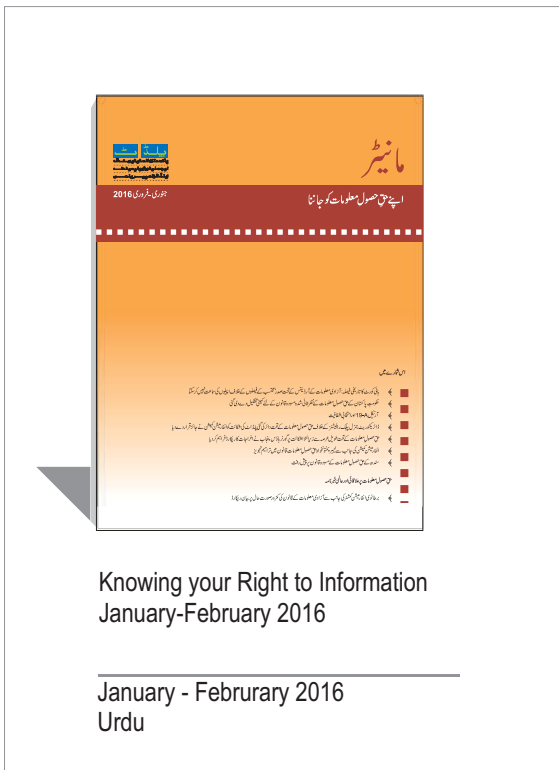
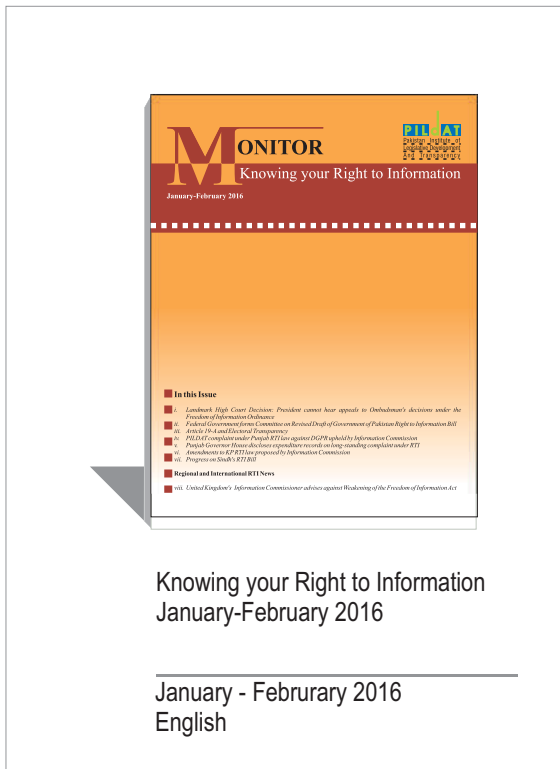
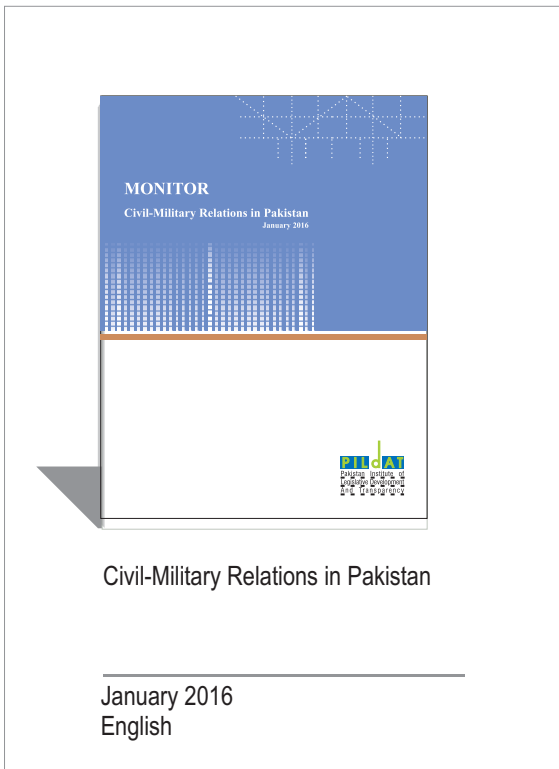
Civil-Military Relations in Pakistan

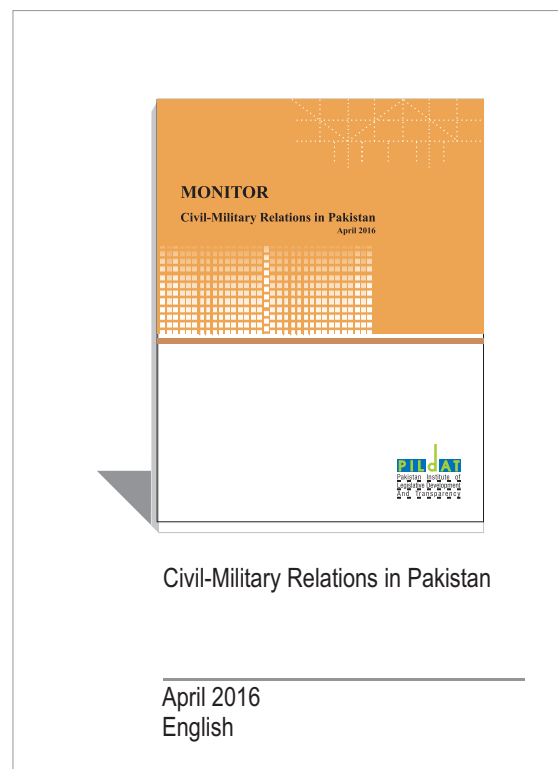
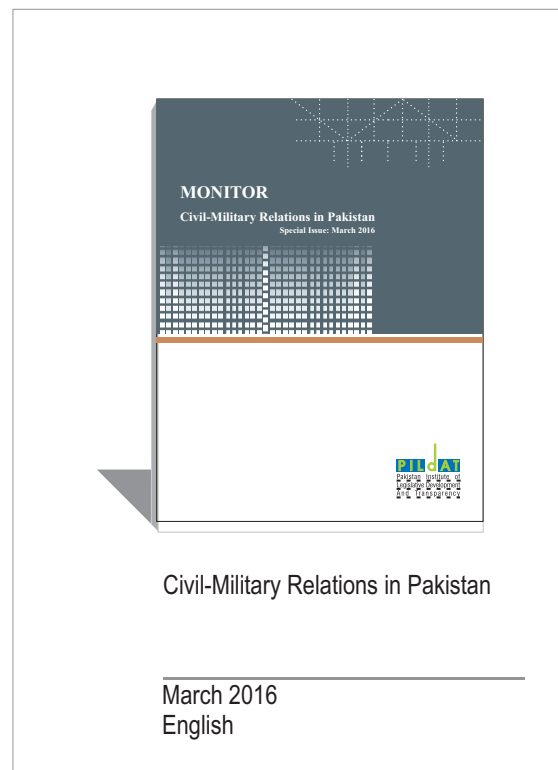
December 2015
English

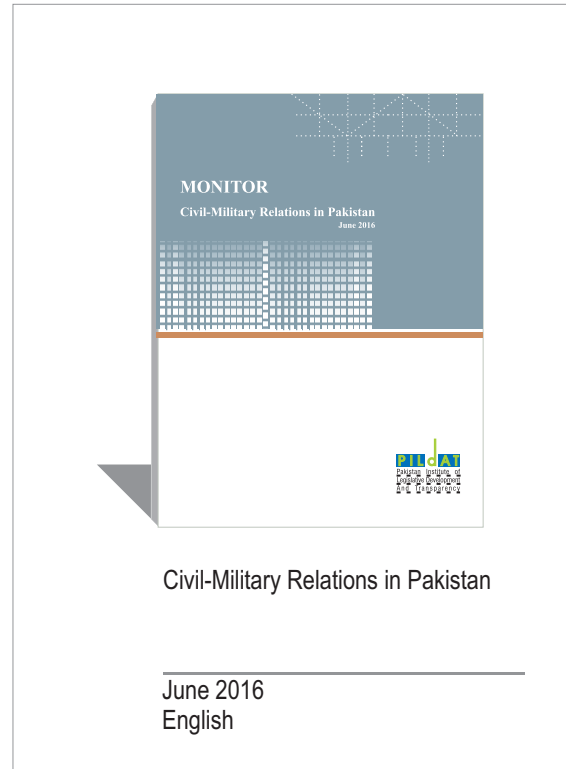
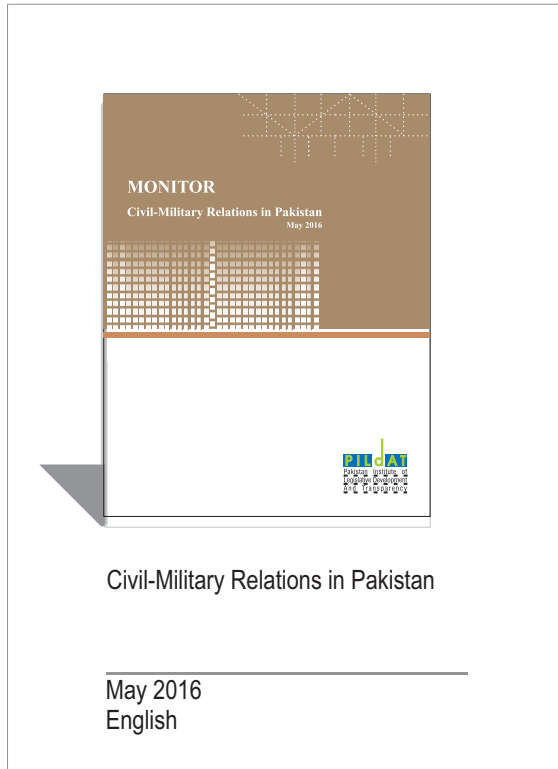


Political Parties' Internal Democracy

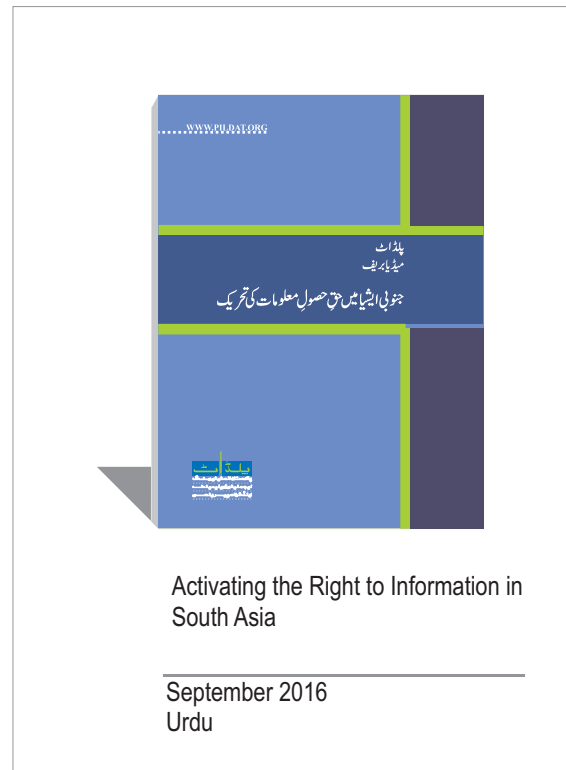
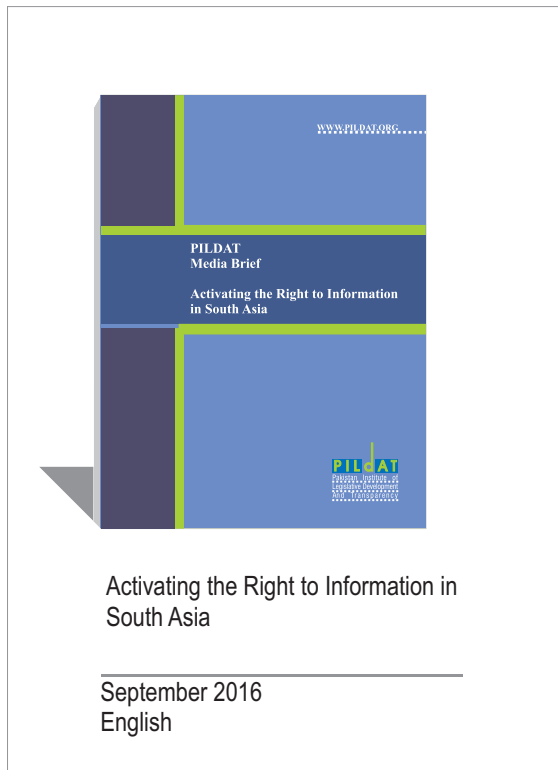
January 2016
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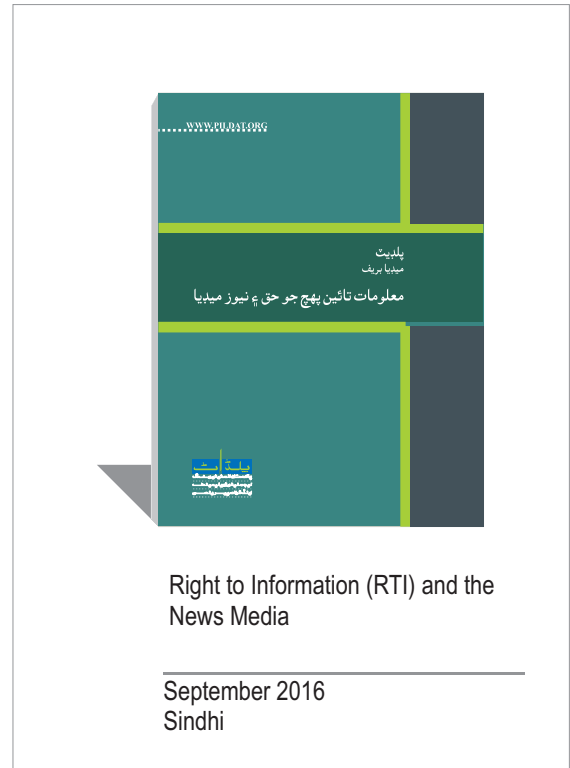
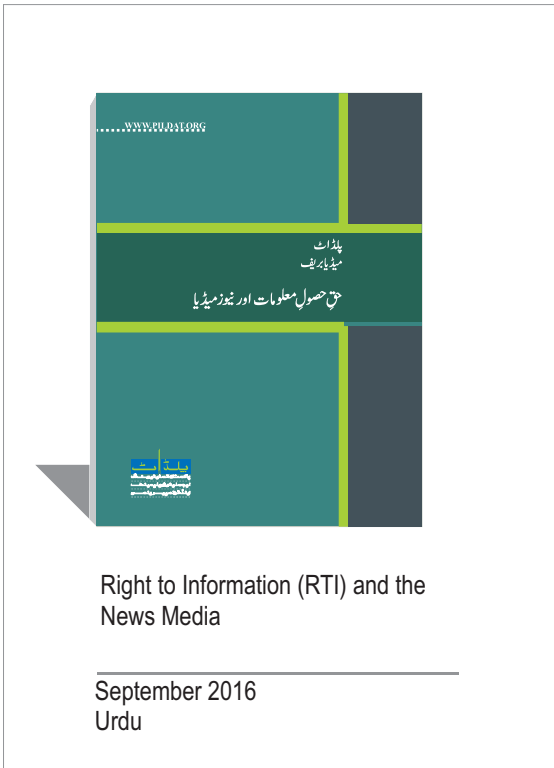
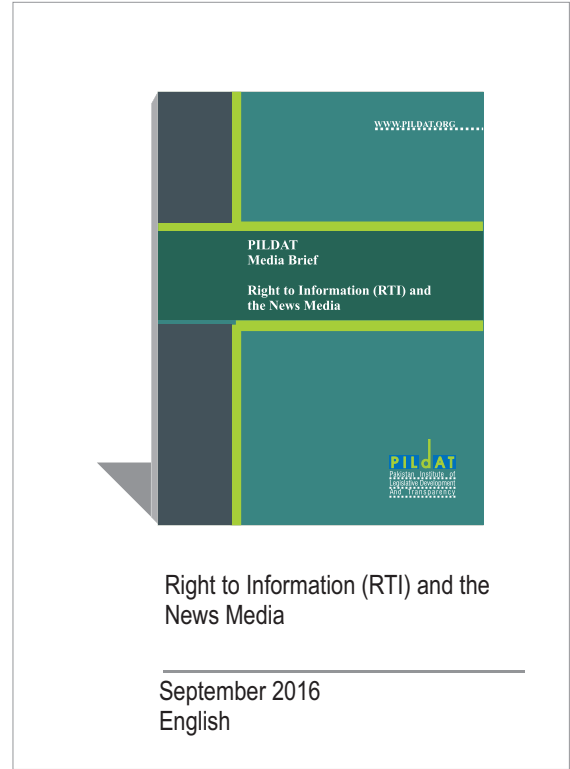
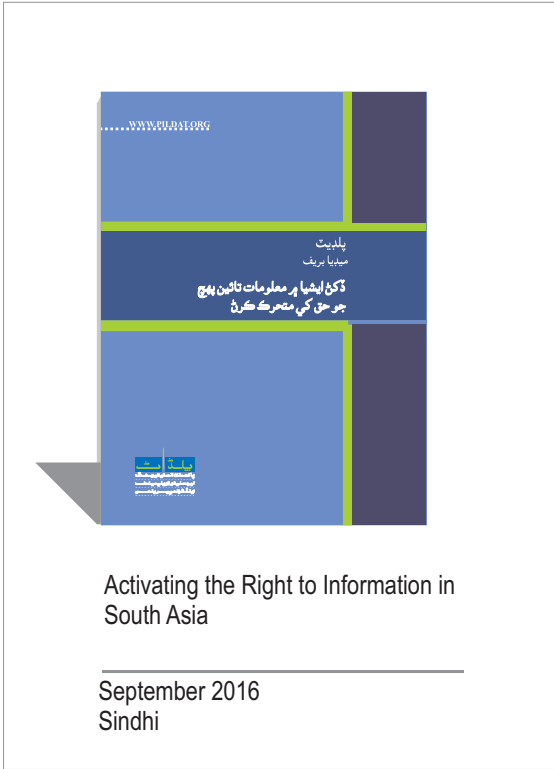


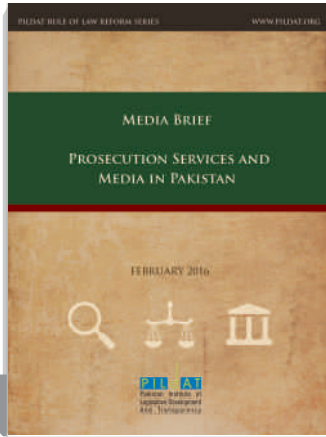




Media Briefs







Prosecution Services and Media in Pakistan

February 2016
English



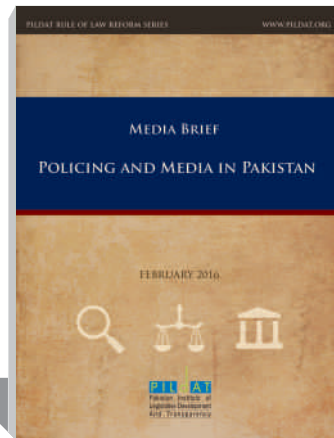
Prosecution Services and Media in Pakistan

February 2016
Urdu



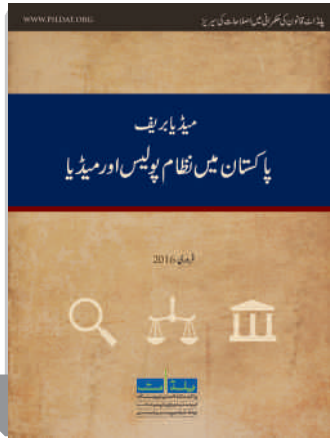
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February 2016
Sindhi



Policing and Media in Pakistan

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English



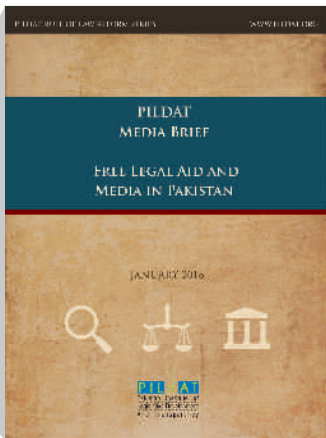
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February 2016
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February 2016
Sindhi



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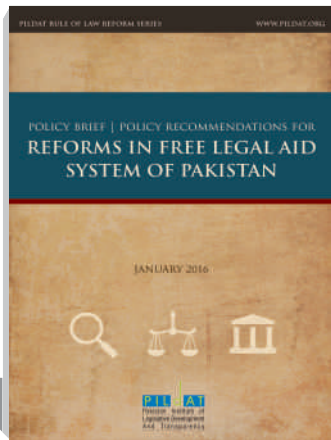
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Urdu



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February 2016
Sindhi

Policy Briefs



Policy Recommendations for Reforms
in Free Legal Aid System of Pakistan

January 2016
English



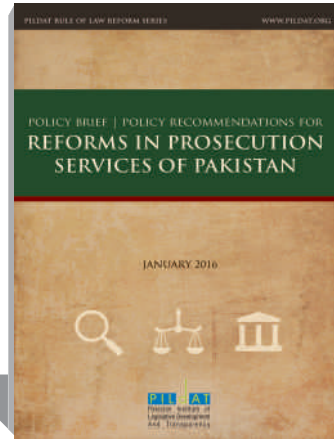
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January 2016
Urdu



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Sindhi



Policy Recommendations for Reforms in Prosecution Services of Pakistan

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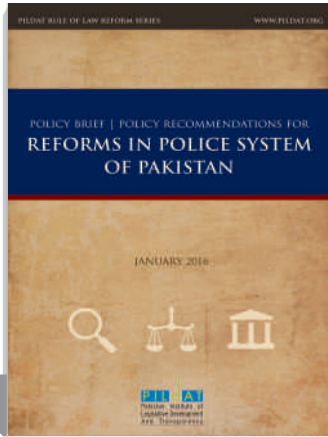
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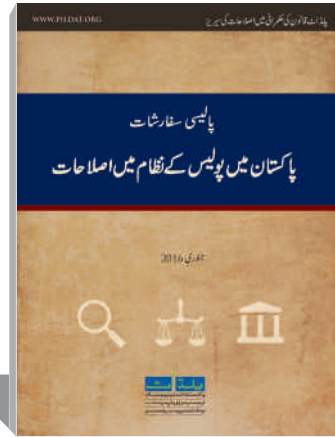
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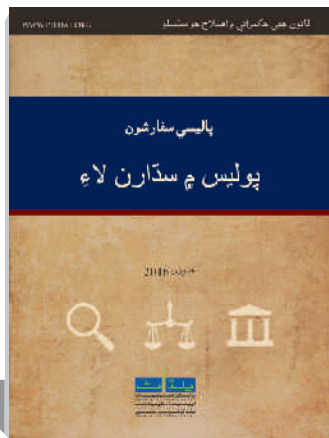
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Policy Recommendations for Reforms in Police System of Pakistan

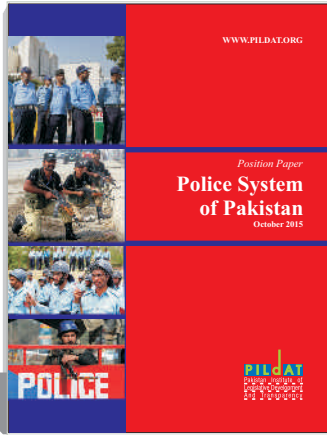
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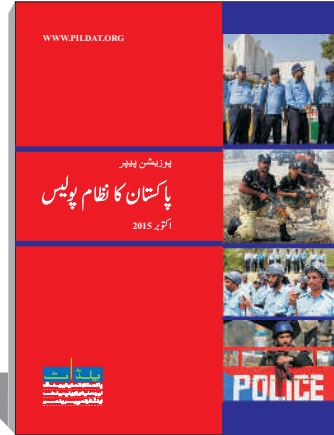
January 2016
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Position Papers



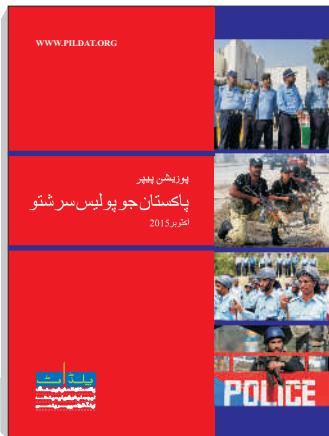
Police System of Pakistan

October 2015
English



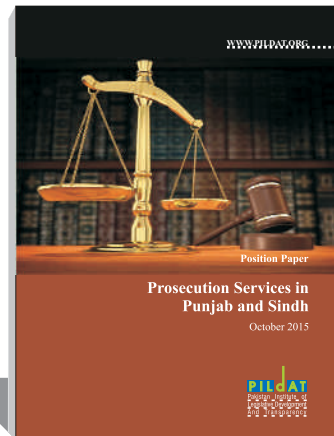
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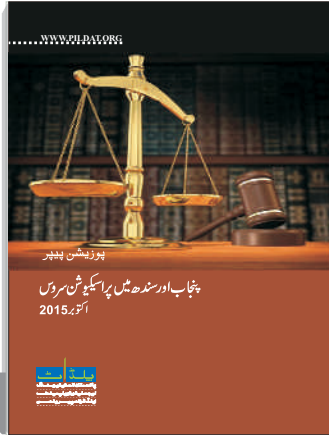
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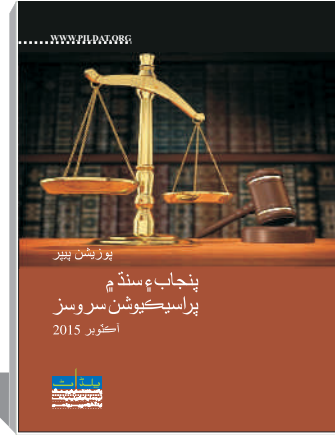
Prosecution Services in Punjab and Sindh

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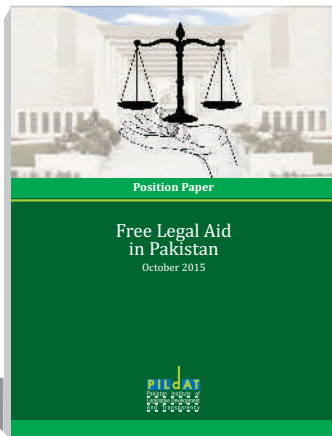
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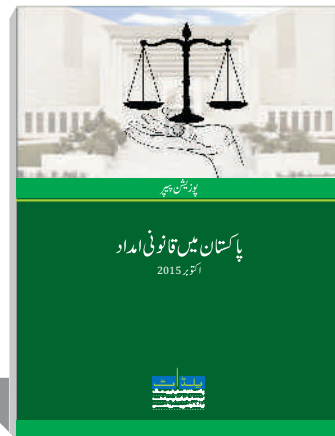
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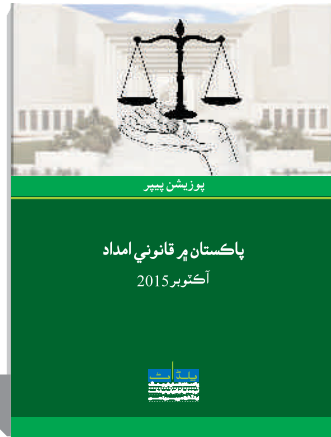
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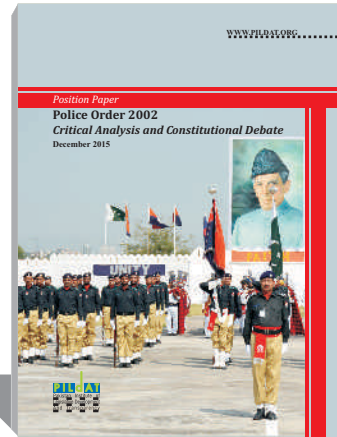
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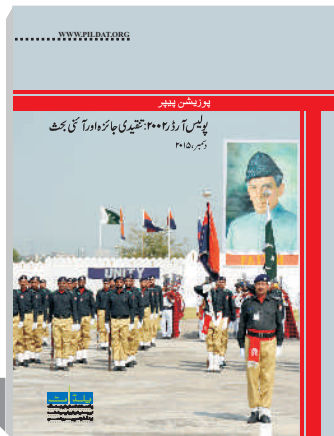
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October 2015
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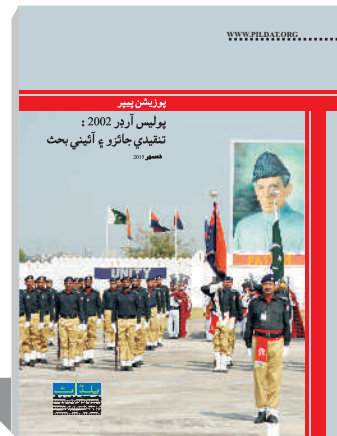
Police Order 2002 Critical Analysis and Constitutional Debate

October 2015
English



Police Order 2002 Critical Analysis and Constitutional Debate

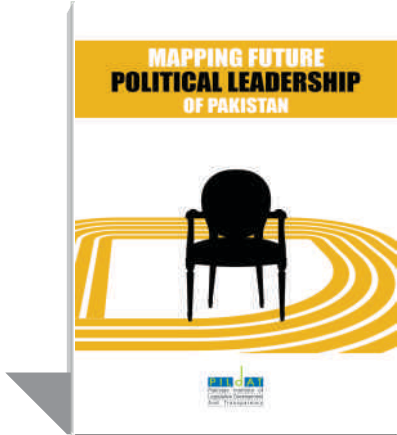
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Reports



**MAPPING FUTURE
POLITICAL LEADERSHIP
OF PAKISTAN**

Mapping Future Political Leadership of Pakistan (July-2015)

July 2015
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Pakistan Institute for Leadership, Democracy and Governance

The Democratic Development of Pakistan's National and Provincial Assemblies: An International Perspective

July 2015
English



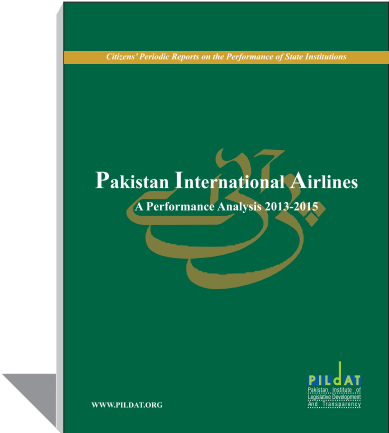
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پاکستان کی قومی اور صوبائی اسمبلیوں
کا جمہوری ارتقا:
عالمی تناظر میں

PILDAT
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The Democratic Development of Pakistan's National and Provincial Assemblies: An International Perspective

July 2015
Urdu



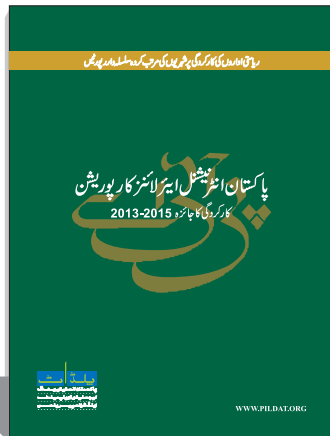
Citizens' Periodic Reports on the Performance of State Institutions

Pakistan International Airlines
A Performance Analysis 2013-2015

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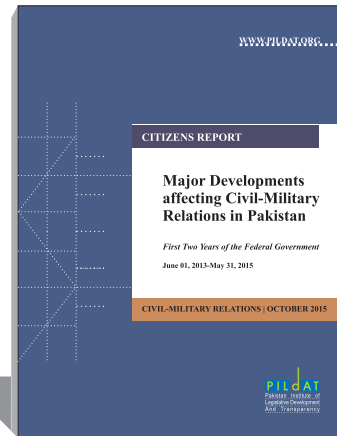
Citizens' Periodic Reports on the Performance of State Institutions Pakistan International Airlines A Performance Analysis 2013-2015

October 2015
English



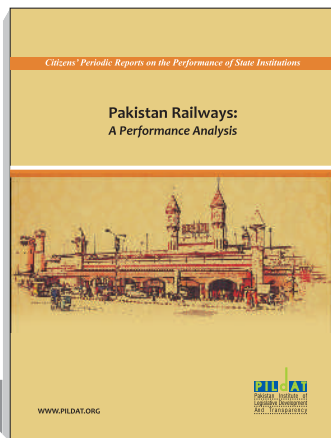
Citizens' Periodic Reports on the Performance of State Institutions Pakistan International Airlines A Performance Analysis 2013-2015

October 2015
Urdu



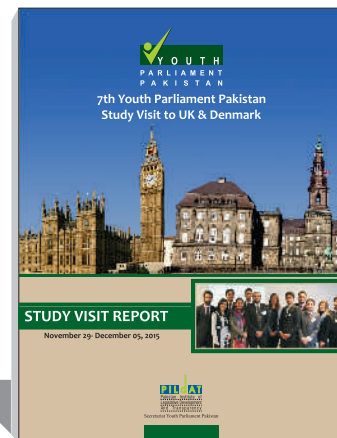
CITIZENS REPORT Major Developments affecting Civil-Military Relations in Pakistan First Two Years of the Federal Government June 01, 2013-May 31, 2015

October 2015
English



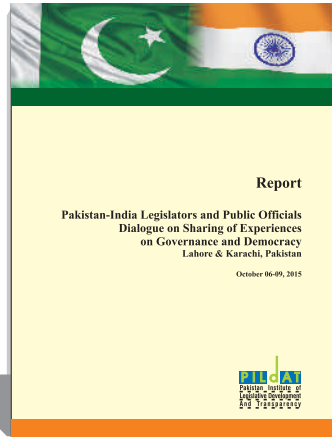
Citizens' Periodic Reports on the Performance of State Institutions Pakistan Railways: A Performance Analysis (December 2015)

December 2015
English



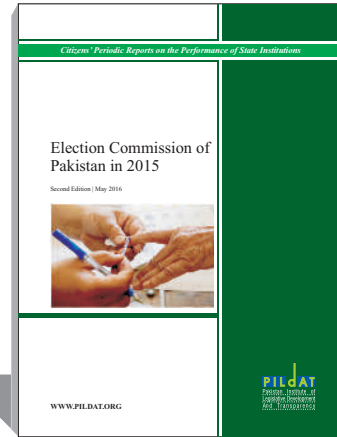
STUDY VISIT REPORT: 7th Youth Parliament Pakistan Study Visit to UK & Denmark (November 29- December 05, 2015)

December 2015
English



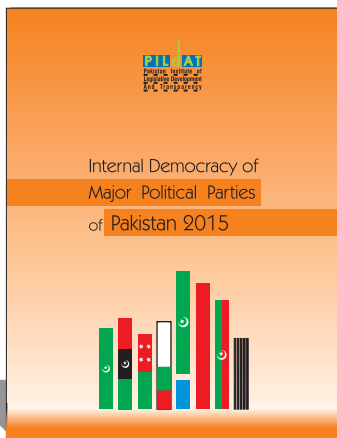
Pakistan-India Legislators and Public Officials Dialogue on Sharing of Experiences on Governance and Democracy Lahore & Karachi, Pakistan (October 06-09-2015)

December 2015
English



Citizens' Periodic Reports on the Performance of State Institutions Election Commission of Pakistan in 2015

January 2016
English



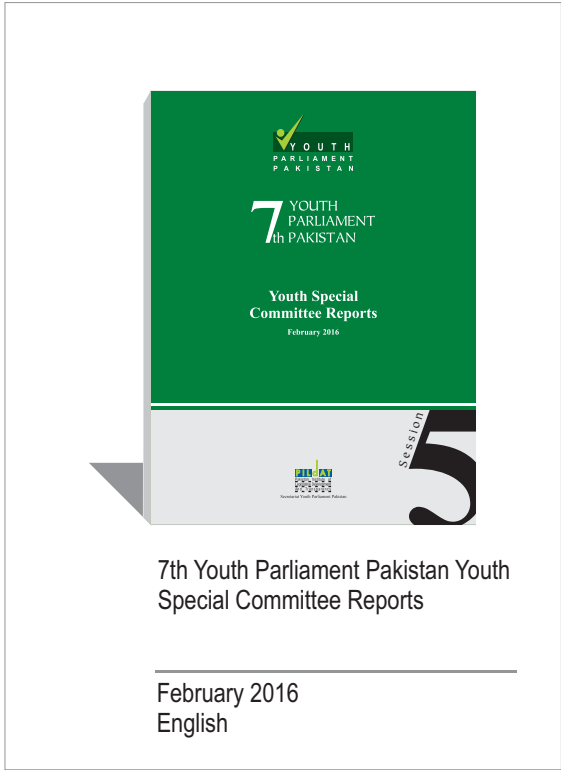
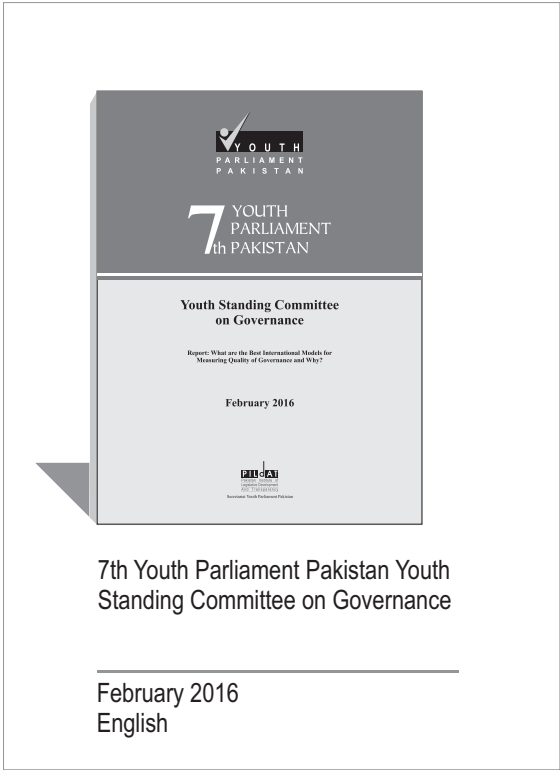
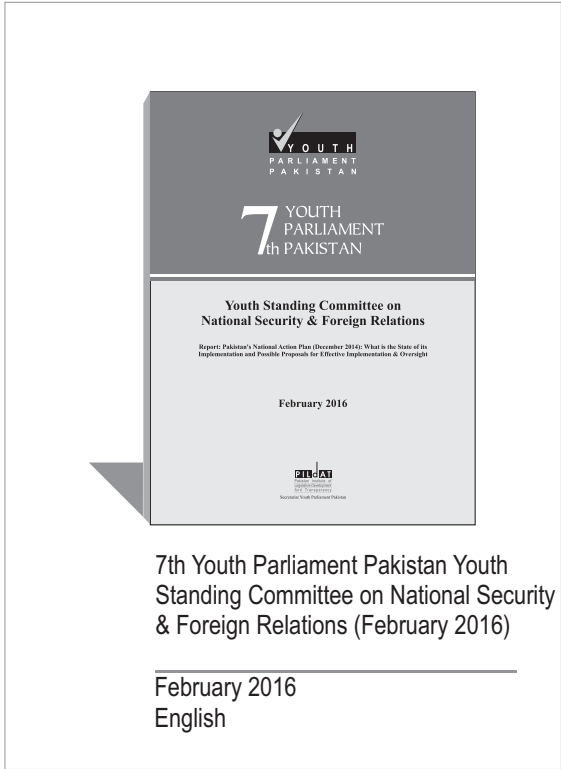
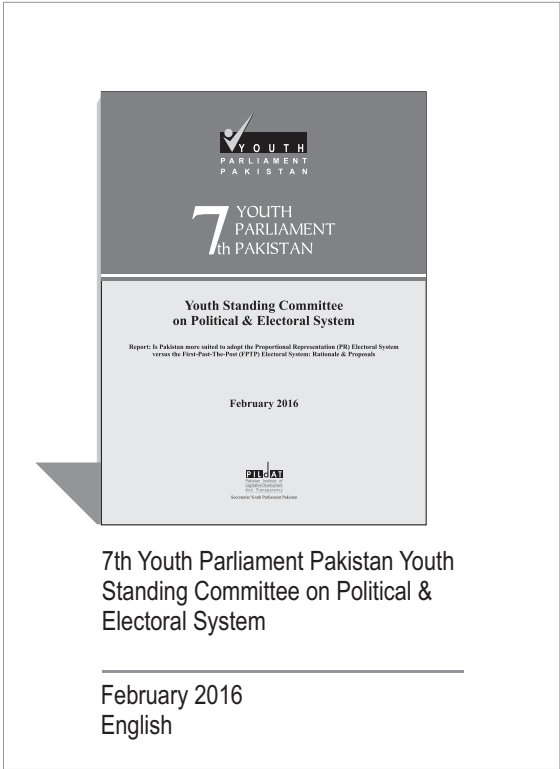
Internal Democracy of Major Political Parties of Pakistan 2015

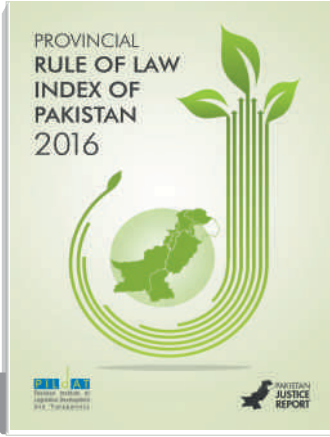
February 2016
English



Internal Democracy of Major Political Parties of Pakistan 2015

February 2016
Urdu





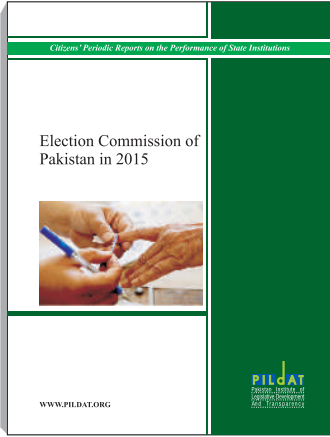
The cover features a green background with a stylized map of Pakistan inside a circular frame. A green plant with three leaves grows from the top right of the map. The text 'PROVINCIAL RULE OF LAW INDEX OF PAKISTAN 2016' is at the top. Logos for PILDAT and Pakistan Justice Report are at the bottom.

PROVINCIAL
RULE OF LAW
INDEX OF
PAKISTAN
2016

PAKISTAN
JUSTICE
REPORT

Provincial Rule of Law Index of
Pakistan- 2016

March 2016
English



The cover has a white background with a green vertical bar on the right. It features a photo of hands holding a pen. The text 'Citizens' Periodic Reports on the Performance of State Institutions' is at the top, followed by 'Election Commission of Pakistan in 2015'. The PILDAT logo is on the green bar. The website 'WWW.PILDAT.ORG' is at the bottom left.

Citizens' Periodic Reports on the Performance of State Institutions

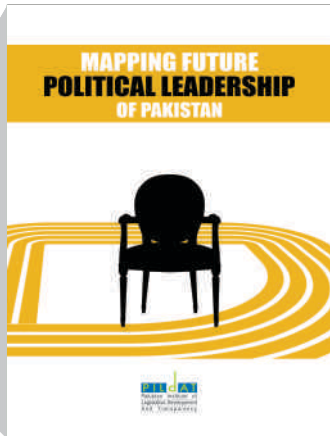
Election Commission of
Pakistan in 2015

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Citizens' Periodic Reports on the
Performance of State Institutions
Election
Commission of Pakistan in 2015
Second
Edition

May 2016
English



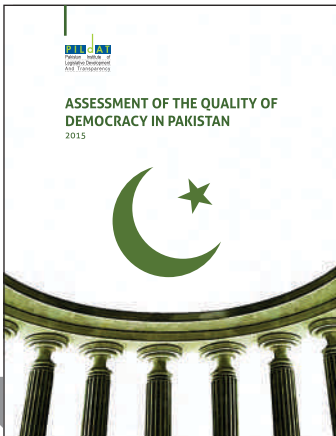
The cover has a white background with a yellow banner at the top. It features a black silhouette of a chair on a yellow path. The text 'MAPPING FUTURE POLITICAL LEADERSHIP OF PAKISTAN' is on the banner. The PILDAT logo is at the bottom.

MAPPING FUTURE
POLITICAL LEADERSHIP
OF PAKISTAN

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Mapping Future Political Leadership of
Pakistan

July 2015
English



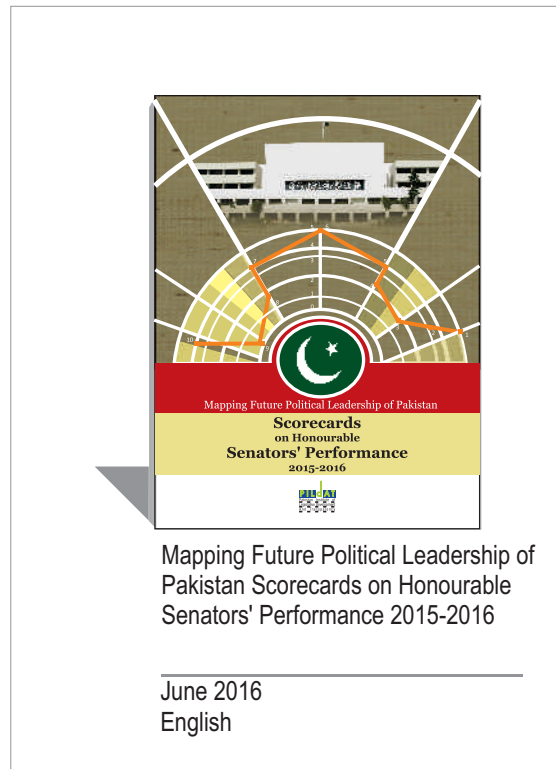
The cover has a white background with a green crescent moon and star. It features a photo of a classical building with columns. The text 'ASSESSMENT OF THE QUALITY OF DEMOCRACY IN PAKISTAN 2015' is in the center. The PILDAT logo is at the top left.

ASSESSMENT OF THE QUALITY OF
DEMOCRACY IN PAKISTAN
2015

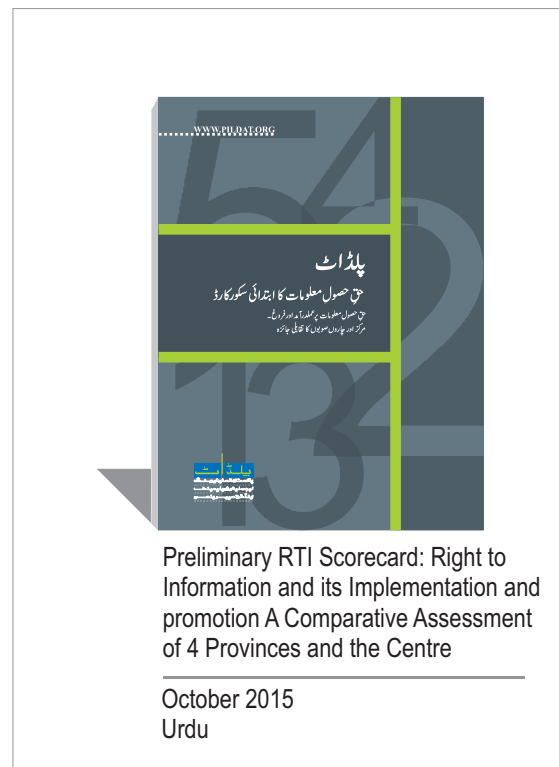
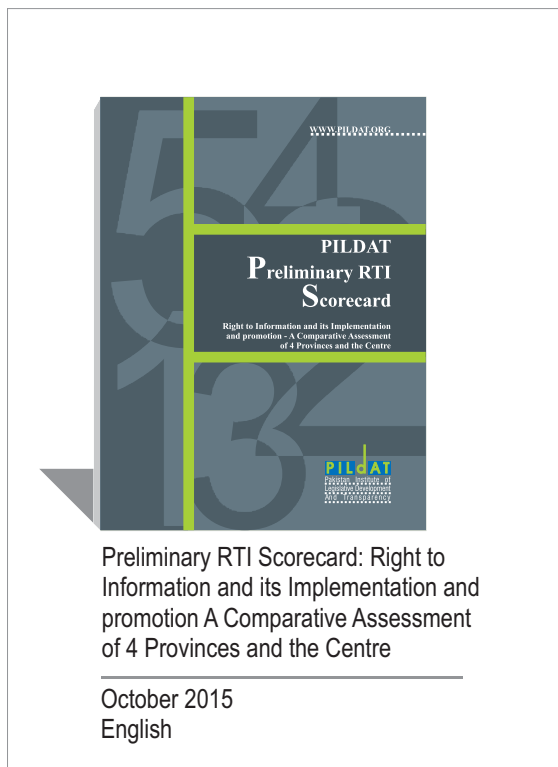
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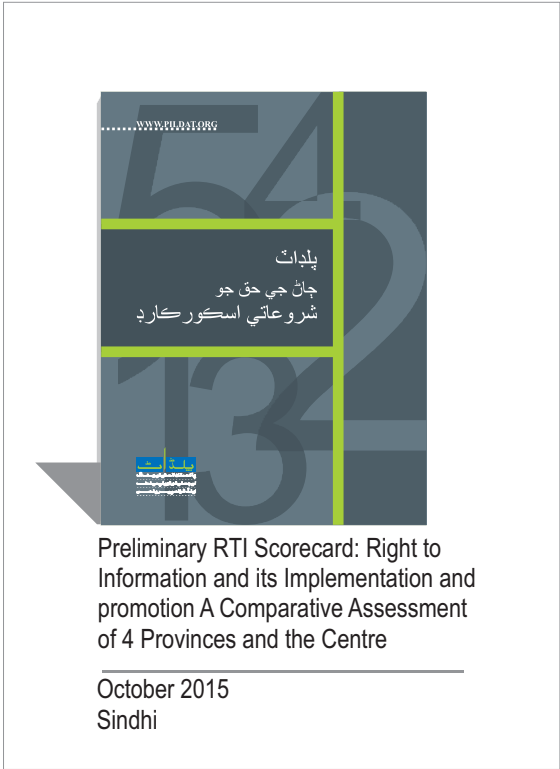
Assessment of the Quality of
Democracy in Pakistan, 2015

May 2016
English



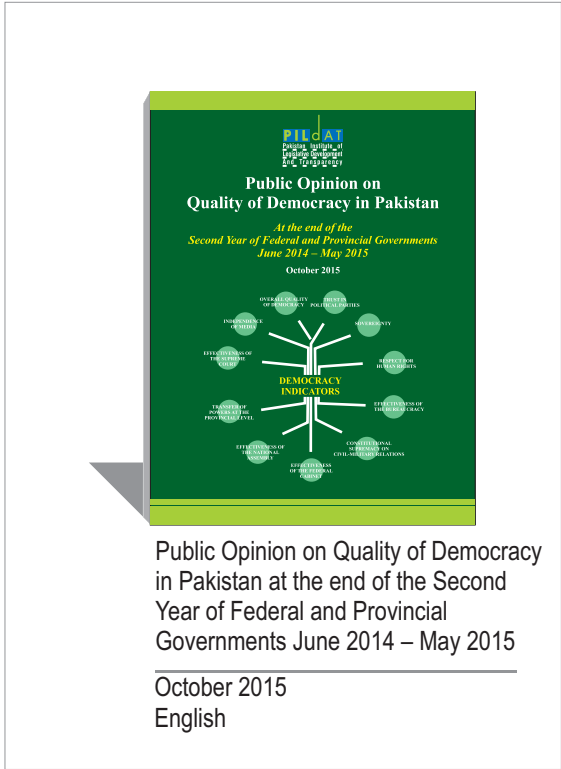
Score Cards





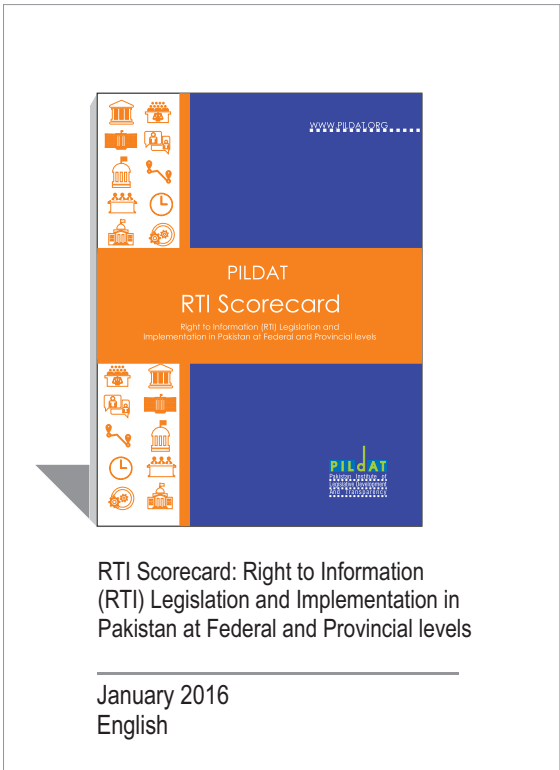
Preliminary RTI Scorecard: Right to Information and its Implementation and promotion A Comparative Assessment of 4 Provinces and the Centre

October 2015
Sindhi



Public Opinion on Quality of Democracy in Pakistan at the end of the Second Year of Federal and Provincial Governments June 2014 – May 2015

October 2015
English



RTI Scorecard: Right to Information (RTI) Legislation and Implementation in Pakistan at Federal and Provincial levels

January 2016
English



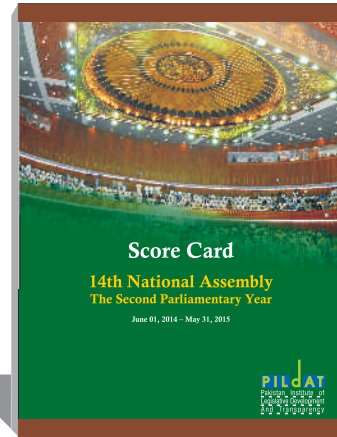
RTI Scorecard: Right to Information (RTI) Legislation and Implementation in Pakistan at Federal and Provincial levels

January 2016
English



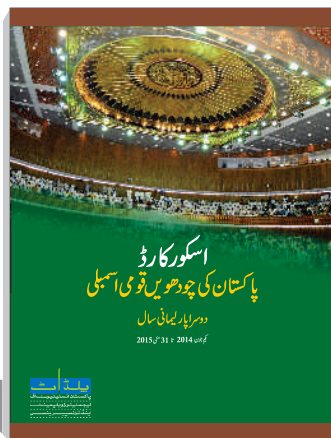
RTI Scorecard: Right to Information (RTI) Legislation and Implementation in Pakistan at Federal and Provincial levels

January 2016
Sindhi



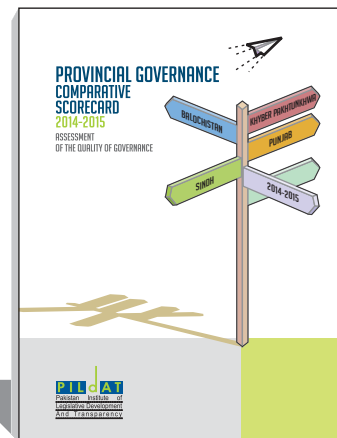
Score Card Second Year of the Federal Government June 05 - 2014 | June 04 - 2015

March 2016
English



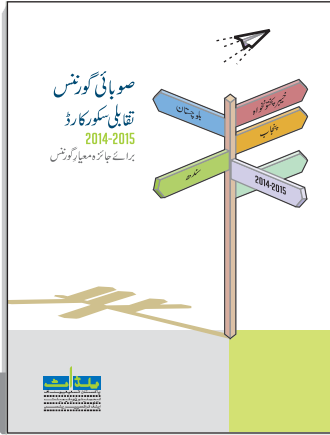
Score Card Second Year of the Federal Government June 05 - 2014 | June 04 - 2015

March 2016
Urdu



Provincial Governance Comparative Scorecard 2014-2015 Assessment of the Quality of Governance Balochistan Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Punjab Sindh


March 2016
English



صوبائی گورننس
تقابلی سکور کارڈ
2014-2015
برائے پاکستان کے صوبائی گورننس

Provincial Governance Comparative
Scorecard 2014-2015 Assessment of the
Quality of Governance Balochistan
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Punjab Sindh

March 2016
Urdu




SCORE CARD
Second Year of the Provincial Government
June 07 - 2014 | June 06 - 2015

Assessment of the Quality
of Governance
BALUCHISTAN

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Legislative Development
And Transparency

Score Card on the Assessment of Quality
of Governance: Second Year of the
Government of Balochistan: June 7,
2014 – June 6, 2015

March 2016
English




SCORE CARD
Second Year of the Provincial Government
May 31 - 2014 | May 30 - 2015

Assessment of the Quality
of Governance
KHYBER
PAKHTUNKHWA

PILDAT
Pakistan Institute of
Legislative Development
And Transparency

Score Card on the Assessment of Quality
of Governance: Second Year of the
Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa:
May 31, 2014- May 30, 2015

March 2016
English



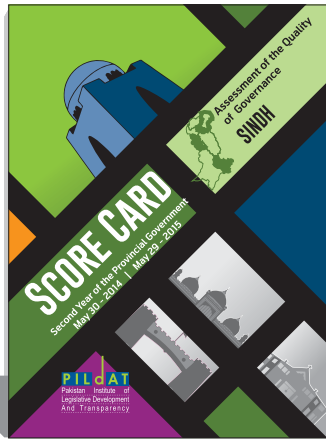
SCORE CARD
Second Year of the Provincial Government
May 30 - 2014 | May 29 - 2015

Assessment of the Quality
of Governance
PUNJAB

PILDAT
Pakistan Institute of
Legislative Development
And Transparency

Score Card on the Assessment of Quality
of Governance: Second Year of the
Government of Punjab: May 30, 2014-
May 29, 2015

March 2016
English



Score Card on the Assessment of
Quality of Governance: Second Year of
the Government of Sindh: May 30,
2014- May 29, 2015

March 2016
English



Auditors Report and Financial Statements

Nadeem Safdar & Co. **Chartered Accountants**

Office No. 2, 1st Floor,
Vip Square, I-8 Markaz
Islamabad, Pakistan
Direct: +92 (51) 8431604
Ph: +92 (51) 8431609
Email: nsafdar66@gmail.com

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Pakistan Institute of Legislative Development and Transparency ("the Society") which comprise of the balance sheet as at June 30, 2016 and the related income and expenditure account, statement of cash flows and statement of changes in accumulated fund for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

The Board of Directors is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with the approved accounting standards as applicable in Pakistan, and for such internal control as the Board of Directors determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with the approved auditing standards as applicable in Pakistan. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from any material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal controls relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Pakistan Institute of Legislative Development and Transparency as at June 30, 2016 and of its financial performance, its cash flows and changes in accumulated fund for the year then ended in accordance with the approved accounting standards as applicable in Pakistan.



Chartered Accountants
Engagement Partner: Nadeem Safdar

Date:
Islamabad

PAKISTAN INSTITUTE OF LEGISLATIVE DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSPARENCY
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT JUNE 30, 2016

	Note	2016 (Rupees)	2015
ASSETS			
NON CURRENT ASSETS			
Property and equipment	5	116,518,116	88,664,086
Intangible assets	6	33,691	129,971
		<u>116,551,807</u>	<u>88,794,057</u>
CURRENT ASSETS			
Loans and advances	7	267,682	7,379,774
Deposit and short term prepayments	8	1,368,581	1,342,114
Advance tax		7,414,519	7,497,264
Receivable from donors		2,873,733	-
Cash and bank balances	9	631,618	18,403,800
		<u>12,556,133</u>	<u>34,622,952</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		<u><u>129,107,940</u></u>	<u><u>123,417,009</u></u>
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES			
FUND			
Accumulated fund		85,160,200	99,778,573
NON CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Deferred grants	10	-	8,684,454
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	11	43,947,740	14,953,982
TOTAL LIABILITIES		<u>43,947,740</u>	<u>23,638,436</u>
TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES		<u><u>129,107,940</u></u>	<u><u>123,417,009</u></u>
CONTINGENCIES AND COMMITMENTS	12		

The annexed notes from 1 to 20 form an integral part of these financial statements.



Secretary General

NEW



Chairman

PAKISTAN INSTITUTE OF LEGISLATIVE DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSPARENCY
 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2016

	Note	2016	2015
		(Rupees)	
Income	13	227,786,744	135,677,793
Expenditure			
Workshop and seminar expenses	14	149,670,187	75,390,705
Operational support service and administrative expenses	15	92,586,314	69,356,815
Finance costs	16	148,616	113,705
		242,405,117	144,861,225
(Deficit) for the year		<u>(14,618,373)</u>	<u>(9,183,432)</u>

The annexed notes from 1 to 20 form an integral part of these financial statements.

NSR

Secretary General

Chairman

PAKISTAN INSTITUTE OF LEGISLATIVE DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSPARENCY
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOW
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2016

	Note	2016	2015
		(Rupees)	
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
(Deficit) for the year		(14,618,373)	(9,183,432)
Adjustments for:			
Depreciation		5,953,433	3,871,522
Amortization of intangible		96,280	96,280
Loss/(gain) on disposal of property and equipment		137,370	(68,993)
Finance costs		148,616	113,705
		6,335,699	4,012,514
Cash generated from operations before working capital changes		(8,282,674)	(5,170,918)
Working capital changes:			
Decrease in loans and advances		7,112,092	4,568,521
(Increase)/decrease in deposits and short term prepayments		(26,467)	1,223,008
(Increase) in receivables from donors		(2,873,733)	-
Increase in trade and other payables		28,993,758	9,002,557
		33,205,650	14,794,086
Cash generated from operations		24,922,976	9,623,168
Finance costs paid		(148,616)	(113,705)
Adjustment against advance tax		82,745	-
Net cash from operating activities		24,857,105	9,509,463
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Additions to property and equipment		(81,929,498)	(6,480,517)
Capital work in progress		47,848,665	(46,154,112)
Addition to intangible asset		-	-
Proceeds from disposal of property and equipment		136,000	1,757,431
Net cash (used in) investing activities		(33,944,833)	(50,877,198)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
(Decrease)in deferred grant		(8,684,454)	(9,855,376)
Net cash (used in) financing activities		(8,684,454)	(9,855,376)
Net (Decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		(17,772,182)	(51,223,111)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		18,403,800	69,626,911
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	9	631,618	18,403,800

The annexed notes from 1 to 20 form an integral part of these financial statements.



Secretary General



Chairman

**PAKISTAN INSTITUTE OF LEGISLATIVE DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSPARENCY
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN ACCUMULATED FUND
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2016**

	(Rupees)
Balance as at July 01, 2014 - as restated	108,962,005
Deficit for the year	(9,183,432)
Balance as at June 30, 2015	<u>99,778,573</u>
Balance as at July 01, 2015	99,778,573
Deficit for the year	(14,618,373)
Balance as at June 30, 2016	<u>85,160,200</u>

The annexed notes from 1 to 20 form an integral part of these financial statements.

N/S



Secretary General



Chairman



Islamabad Office: P. O. Box 278, F-8, Postal Code: 44220, Islamabad, Pakistan

Lahore Office: P. O. Box 11098, L.C.C.H.S, Postal Code: 54792, Lahore, Pakistan

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