Punjab prisons record 10-point rise in literacy rate under CM's programme

By Asif Mehmood Butt

LAHORE: Punjab's prison literacy rate has increased by 10 percentage points in the first six months of the Chief Minister Prisoners Literacy Programme (CMPLP), with 10,849 inmates successfully completing basic literacy education and the proportion of illiterate prisoners falling from 53 per cent to 43 per cent, despite a rise in the province's overall prison population.

The programme's performance report, a copy of which is available with Daily Jang, shows that 19,578 prisoners have been enrolled since its launch on April 30, while 10,849 have passed the prescribed examinations. Another 4,118 inmates are currently enrolled in literacy classes, and examination results of 4,014 prisoners who appeared in October are awaited. The department has also reported 4,280 released prisoners under the P-2 category.

The comparative figures demonstrate the scale of the educational challenge as well as the progress recorded under the initiative. Before the programme's launch, Punjab's prisons housed 60,048 inmates, including 32,285 literate prisoners, representing 47 per cent of the total, while 36,763, or 53 per cent, were illiterate.

By November 1, the prison population had increased to 72,335. Based on the literacy percentages provided in the performance report, approximately 41,231 inmates, or 57 per cent, were literate, while around 31,104, representing 43 per cent, remained illiterate. This translates into an estimated increase of 8,946 literate prisoners and a reduction of approximately 5,659 illiterate inmates, even as the total prison population grew by 3,287.

The improvement is particularly significant because the literacy rate has risen despite the expansion in the number of prisoners, indicating that the initiative has sought to address an educational deficit within an expanding correctional system rather than merely improving the percentage through a declining prison population.

Launched on April 30, 2026, the Chief Minister Prisoners Literacy Programme aims to provide inmates who have never attended school or have limited educational backgrounds with opportunities to acquire basic reading, writing and other elementary educational skills. The initiative seeks to transform prisons from institutions primarily associated with custody and confinement into environments that also promote learning, personal development and rehabilitation.

Under the programme, literacy centres and designated classrooms have been established inside prisons to provide structured learning opportunities. The educational intervention is intended not only to enable inmates to read and write but also to promote self-confidence, discipline, positive thinking and a sense of responsibility, helping them prepare for their eventual return to society.

A key feature of the initiative is its institutional collaboration with the Literacy and Non-Formal Basic Education Department. The Chief Minister Prisoners Literacy Programme is being implemented in coordination with the department, which conducts examinations to assess the educational progress of participating inmates. Successful candidates are formally notified as literate by the Literacy Department on a monthly basis, providing an assessment and certification mechanism for their newly acquired skills.

The arrangement gives the programme a structured evaluation system, with literacy status linked to examination performance rather than enrolment or attendance alone. Monthly certification also enables the authorities to recognise educational achievements and maintain a record of prisoners who successfully complete the prescribed learning requirements.

The programme covers inmates involved in cases relating to narcotics, robbery, theft and other offences. Its broader objective is to strengthen the rehabilitation process by addressing illiteracy, equipping prisoners with basic knowledge and preparing them to become productive and law-abiding members of society following their release.

In a significant policy intervention, the Punjab government has also linked successful acquisition of basic literacy skills with a one-month remission in the sentences of eligible convicted prisoners. The government has issued a notification and amended the Pakistan Prison Rules, 1978, to establish a formal legal basis for granting the concession to prisoners who successfully complete the literacy requirements and pass the prescribed examination.

The incentive represents an attempt to make education an integral part of prison management by connecting academic achievement with a tangible benefit during incarceration. Rather than relying exclusively on voluntary participation, the government has introduced a mechanism through which inmates can earn sentence remission by demonstrating measurable educational progress.

According to the Punjab Prisons Department, remission cases involving approximately 450 convicted prisoners are currently under process. Their cases are being examined for the grant of the one-month concession under the amended rules.

The initiative addresses a longstanding challenge in the correctional system, where prisoners with limited educational backgrounds often face additional barriers to employment, access to public services and social reintegration after completing their sentences. Basic literacy can improve their ability to understand official documents, communicate effectively and pursue opportunities that may otherwise remain inaccessible.

The programme's stated objectives go beyond reducing the number of illiterate inmates. It seeks to encourage constructive behaviour, develop a learning culture inside prisons and equip prisoners with the knowledge and confidence needed to resume their lives as responsible citizens. By combining classroom-based instruction, formal examinations, monthly literacy certification and sentence-related incentives, the initiative has established multiple institutional mechanisms to encourage participation and measure progress.

The October examination results of 4,014 candidates are now awaited, while 4,118 prisoners remain enrolled in the programme. Their progress, together with the processing of pending remission cases, will be important in determining the programme's next phase and the extent to which its educational gains can be sustained.

With the prison literacy rate rising from 47 to 57 per cent within six months, the initiative has recorded measurable progress in addressing illiteracy behind bars. Its longer-term effectiveness, however, will depend on expanding access to education, maintaining regular assessments and ensuring that literacy acquired during imprisonment translates into better rehabilitation and reintegration opportunities after release.

INVITATION TO BIDS Notice # 117(28-27)

Supply and installation of UPS for Lifts and Printing Department

NTS Pakistan invite sealed bids from reputed GST/NTN registered firms, OEMS, Authorized Dealers/ Distributors for Supply and installation of UPS for Lifts and the Printing Department.

Tender/bid Document can be obtained from address below, bids/tenders shall be submitted on or before **December 04, 2026** which will be opened on the same date. **(DETAILS ON NTS WEBSITES).**

NTS

National Testing Service - Pakistan
NTS, Plot # 96, Street # 4, Sector H-8/1, Islamabad.
website: www.nts.org.pk

PID(I)4569/26

PTI yet to decide on joining electoral reforms committee

By Mumtaz Alvi & Asim Yasin

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chief Whip in the National Assembly Aamir Dogar on Thursday said that the decision on whether or not to join the Parliamentary Committee on Electoral Reforms will be made by the parliamentary leadership.

Speaking to the media following a meeting with Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Dr Tariq Fazal Chaudhry, he explained that they had discussed the letter previously sent to the leader of the opposition on electoral reforms. He noted that during their meeting, the minister requested that the list of names from the opposition be provided for incorporation into the proposed committee.

Dogar said that he informed the federal minister that this decision must be taken during a meeting of their parliamentary party. He said the meeting of their parliamentary party was scheduled for last Monday but could not take place.

Aamir Dogar added that the letter recently written by the PTI founder to the chief justices would also be discussed within the parliamentary party. As regards the creation of new provinces, he noted that the PTI founder has, on several occasions in the past, spoken about the smaller provinces. Dogar said his party leadership wanted national consensus prior to going for the establishment of new provinces.

Speaking to the media at the Parliament House after the meeting, Minister Tariq Fazal urged the PTI to join the electoral reforms panel, assuring that its positive proposals would be incorporated into the final draft. He said the formation of the committee was being delayed because the opposition had yet to submit its nominations and urged the opposition parties to finalise their names at the earliest.

He said the government and its allied parties had submitted all their nominations, adding that the only hurdle in the committee's formation was the opposition's failure to provide its names. The NA Speaker would issue the notification for the committee's formation as soon as the opposition nominations were received, he added.

Tariq Fazal said that if the PTI wanted to return to mainstream politics, it should become part of the electoral reforms process and present its position through the committee instead of raising its concerns in talk shows and on the floor of the assembly. He said the committee would provide the PTI an opportunity to address its reservations on the next general elections. The party's positive proposals would be incorporated into the final electoral reforms draft, he said.

The minister said the committee could also discuss the political situation alongside matters related to the next general elections, adding that the government was providing the PTI a forum to present its position and proposals on electoral reforms.

NATIONAL GRID PAKISTAN

Walk-in Interview Schedule

Recruitment Under Balochistan Quota

Ref: NationalGrid-Pakistan's advertisement dated 08 November 2026

NationalGrid-Pakistan is holding walk-in interviews from 20 November to 06 December 2026, across various districts of Balochistan for posts under the Balochistan Quota, advertised on 08 November 2026. In 1st phase, the interviews will be held for candidates belonging to Quetta, Khuzdar, Wadh, Hub, Lasbela, Awaran, Chagai, Kharan, Washuk, Kech, Panjgur, Tump and Gwadar.

#	DISTRICT	DATE	VENUE	TIMING
01	Quetta	20 NOV 2026 FRI	• Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering and Management Sciences (BUITEMS), Takatu Campus, Quetta	09:00 am – 05:00 pm
02	Khuzdar	22 NOV 2026 SUN	• DC Office, Hub	09:00 am – 05:00 pm
03	Wadh	23 NOV 2026 MON	• DC Office, Hub	09:00 am – 05:00 pm
04	Hub	23 NOV 2026 MON	• DC Office, Hub	09:00 am – 05:00 pm
05	Lasbela	24 NOV 2026 TUE	• DC Office, Hub	09:00 am – 05:00 pm
06	Awaran	25 NOV 2026 WED	• DC Office, Hub	09:00 am – 05:00 pm
07	Chaghi	27 NOV 2026 FRI	• IT Hub, DC Office, Dalbandin	09:00 am – 05:00 pm
08	Kharan	28 NOV 2026 SAT	• IT Hub, DC Office, Dalbandin	09:00 am – 05:00 pm
09	Washuk	29 NOV 2026 SUN	• IT Hub, DC Office, Dalbandin	09:00 am – 05:00 pm
10	Kech	01-02 DEC 2026 TUE–WED	• Circuit House, Turbat	09:00 am – 05:00 pm EACH DAY
11	Panjgur	03 DEC 2026 THU	• Circuit House, Turbat	09:00 am – 05:00 pm
12	Tump	04 DEC 2026 FRI	• Circuit House, Turbat	09:00 am – 05:00 pm
13	Gwadar	06 DEC 2026 SUN	• Pak-China Vocational Institute	09:00 am – 05:00 pm

IMPORTANT NOTES

1. Interviews for the remaining districts shall be announced at a later stage.
2. All those candidates who have not applied on the National Job Portal shall also be considered for walk-in interview.
3. Candidates must come with the original documents for the interview.
4. All candidates are required to bring 1 attested set of all relevant documents, i.e., educational documents, CNIC, experience certificate (if required) and 2 x recent passport-size pictures.
5. No TA/DA shall be admissible for the recruitment process.
6. NationalGrid-Pakistan reserves the right to cancel the process at any stage without assigning any reason thereof.

Director General (Field Operations) Quetta
NationalGrid-Pakistan

PID(L) 1283/26

PAA Pakistan Airports Authority

PAKISTAN AIRPORTS AUTHORITY (PAA)

INVITATION TO BID

Pakistan Airports Authority (PAA) invites bids from eligible Constructors for the following works:

NAME OF WORK	EARNEST MONEY	DATE & TIME OF SUBMISSION	DATE & TIME OF OPENING
REHABILITATION OF AIRSIDE INFRASTRUCTURE AT SEHWAN SHARIF AIRPORT	2,500,000/-	04-12-2026 at 11:00 Hrs	04-12-2026 at 11:30 Hrs

Terms & Conditions:

1. Licensed Constructors registered with PEC in **Category C-4** or above having specialization code CE-01 and having valid / active NTN are eligible to participate in the tender for abovesaid works.
2. E-Bidding document, containing detailed terms & conditions, specifications and requirements etc., are available for download on e-Pak Acquisition and Disposal System (EPADS) at **https://vendors.epads.gov.pk/.**
3. Bids must be submitted electronically on PPRA's E-PADS v2.0 portal **https://vendors.epads.gov.pk/** as per conditions guidelines provided by PPRA from time to time. The bidding shall be conducted in line with the single stage one envelope procedure prescribed under Public Procurement Rules 2004, e-Pak Procurement Regulations, 2023 and any Regulations, Regulatory Guides, Procurement Guidelines or Instructions issued by the PPRA (from time to time), and is open to all potential eligible bidders registered in the EPADS v2.0.
4. Original instrument of Bid Security must be submitted on or before the date and time of opening of bids, and a scanned copy must be attached to the bid to be submitted on E-PADS v2.0. No bid will be considered if bid security in the shape of Pay Order / CDR/ Banker's cheque, is not attached with the bid or any false information / document is provided. Bid Security shall be in favour of PAA DEVELOPMENT.
5. Conditional tenders will not be acceptable. In case the bidder does not accept the corrected / evaluated amount of bid, their bid will be rejected, and the bid security shall be forfeited. PAA reserves the right to reject any or all bids in accordance with PPRA Rule 45.
6. **Warning:** Pay Order / Bank Drafts or any other financial instrument submitted by the 'Bidders' and 'Contractors' as 'Bid Security,' if found fake or dishonoured by Issuing Bank / Financial Institution at any Pre- or Post Stage of the case would call for blacklisting and legal action as per law of the land.

DIVISIONAL ENGINEER ES (CIVIL)
CATI DIVISION, HYDERABAD AIRPORT, HYDERABAD. PHONE: 022-9260334

PID K.1649/26

LAHORE ELECTRIC SUPPLY COMPANY

Conserve Electricity to Reduce Load Shedding

INVITATION TO BIDS

1. This Invitation to Bids follows the Procurement Notice for the Procurement which appeared in National Newspapers.
2. The Procuring Agency has reserved the funds under own resources and deposit works for the procurement planned during the financial year 2026-27. It is intended that part of the proceeds of the fund will be used to cover eligible payment under the contract for the procurement of STG material.
3. LESCO (Lahore Electric Supply Company), invites e-Bids through E-Pak Acquisition and Disposal System (EPADS) on National Competitive Bidding (NCB) suppliers/manufacturers with LESCO/DISCOs/NTDC/GENCOs registered with Income Tax & Sales Tax Departments for NCB tenders for supply of following material conforming to WAPDA/NTDC Specifications (amended to date) through open tender as per the following quantity, financed under LESCO's Local funds on FCS basis (Delivery to Consignee's Store LESCO warehouse Chichokimallian District Sheikhupura).

Sr. No.	Tender No.	Material Description	UoM	QTY.	LOT	E-Bid documents submission date & time	E-Bid Opening date & time
01	768/ PMU-I	11KV Outgoing Switchgear Panel	Nos.	64	-	07-12-2026 at 10:00 am	07-12-2026 at 10:30 am
02	775/ PMU-I	11KV Incoming Panel for 40MVA	Nos.	07	I	07-12-2026 at 10:00 am	07-12-2026 at 10:45 am
		11KV Capacitor Control Panel	Nos.	06			
		11KV Incoming Panel for 20/26MVA T/F	Nos.	05			
		Control Panel-50	Nos.	01	II		
		Control Panel-30	Nos.	08			
		Relay Panel-03	Nos.	04			
		Relay Panel-04	Nos.	01			
		A.C/D.C Auxiliary Service Panel	Nos.	01			
03	776/ PMU-I	Distance Relay	Nos.	02	-	07-12-2026 at 10:00 am	07-12-2026 at 11:00 am
		Differential Relay for Transformer	Nos.	04	-		
04	777/ PMU-I	HT Type CT/PT operated 3-Phase 4 Wire 3x63/110V, 5/10Amp, 50Hz class 0.5s TOU smart AMR Energy Meters 4G GSM/GPRS (LDIP)	No	500	-	07-12-2026 at 10:00 am	07-12-2026 at 11:15 am
05	779/ PMU-I	ACSR Rail Conductor	KM	126	-	07-12-2026 at 10:00 am	07-12-2026 at 11:30 am
06	782/ PMU-I	11KV Neutral C.T	Nos.	05	-	07-12-2026 at 10:00 am	07-12-2026 at 11:45 am
		Battery Charger 110V DC 25A	Nos.	04	-		
07	788/ PMU-I	D.C Hi-Pot Test set (80-KV)	No	01	I	08-12-2026 at 10:00 am	08-12-2026 at 10:30 am
		Megger Test Set (15KV)	Nos.	04			
		SFRA Test Set	No	01	II		
		Winding Resistance Test Set (03-Phase)	No	01			
08	789/ PMU-I	132KV Column 13.1 meter	Nos.	22	I	08-12-2026 at 10:00 am	08-12-2026 at 10:45 am
		132KV Beam	Nos.	02			
		11 Kv steel Structure for transformer with P/T height 3.85 meter	Nos.	01			
		Earth Rod 16mm Dia 3m Long	Nos.	366			
		Earthing Platform	Nos	117			
		Grounding Sets	Nos.	06	II		
		Mould Handle	Nos.	05			
		Cartridges Type A	Nos.	659			
		Mould for Cartridges Type A	Nos.	04			
		Cartridges Type B	Nos.	100			
		Mould for Cartridges Type B	No.	02			
		Cartridges Type C	Nos.	90			
		Mould for Cartridges Type C	No.	03			
09	790/ PMU-D	132KV Circuit Breaker with SSS	Nos.	02	-	08-12-2026 at 10:00 am	08-12-2026 at 11:00 am
		Control Mechanism (Sieyuan)	Nos.	02	-		
10	791/ PMU-D	132KV Line CT (Ratio 1200:600/5) for Line Bays	Nos.	06	-	08-12-2026 at 10:00 am	08-12-2026 at 11:15 am
11	792/ PMU-D	132KV Metering P'Ts with SSS	Nos.	06	-	08-12-2026 at 10:00 am	08-12-2026 at 11:30 am
		132KV Metering CTs with SSS	Nos.	06	-		
12	793/ PMU-D	Earth Wire 9mm²	km	8.65	I	08-12-2026 at 10:00 am	08-12-2026 at 11:45 am
		Al. Conductor 600 mm² (Hawthorn)	km	0.425			
		Grounding Conductor 95 mm² (Copper)	km	01	II		
		Control Cables 4×2.5 mm²	km	1.950			
		Control Cables 8×2.5 mm²	km	0.820			
		Control Cables 16×2.5 mm²	km	0.40			
		Control Cables 4x6 mm²	km	1.250			
13	794/ PMU	Over Current and Earth Fault Relay	Nos.	400	-	09-12-2026 at 10:00 am	09-12-2026 at 10:30 am
14	795/ PMU-D	132KV Steel Tubular SPA Poles	No.	01	-	09-12-2026 at 10:00 am	09-12-2026 at 10:45 am
		132KV Steel Tubular SPD Poles	Nos.	08	-		
		132KV Steel Tubular SPG Poles	Nos.	13	-		
15	796/ PMU-D	Disc Insulator 100KN	Nos.	4,799	I	09-12-2026 at 10:00 am	09-12-2026 at 11:00 am
		Disc Insulator 80KN	Nos.	1,273			
		132KV Post Insulator with SSS	Nos.	06	II		
		132KV Bus Isolator	Nos.	04			
		132KV Line Isolator	Nos	02			
16	797/ PMU	Repair of Power Transformer 132/11.5KV 31.5/40MVA lying at Batapur Grid Station PEL Make (Sr. 1160024)	No.	01	-	09-12-2026 at 10:00 am	09-12-2026 at 11:15 am
		Repair of Power Transformer 132/11.5KV 31.5/40MVA lying at Daroghawala Grid Station Siemens Make (Sr. 10900045)	No.	01	-		
17	798/ PMU-D	Single Tension Fitting for RAIL	Sets	589	-	09-12-2026 at 10:00 am	09-12-2026 at 11:30 am
		Single Suspension Fitting for RAIL	Sets	106	-		
		Mid Span Joint for RAIL	Nos.	28	-		
		Repair Sleeve for RAIL	Nos.	26	-		
		Stock Bridge Damper for RAIL	Nos.	546	-		
		PG Clamp for RAIL	Nos.	38	-		
		Single- Tension Fitting for Earth wire	Sets	96	-		
		Single Suspension Fitting for Earth wire	Sets	26	-		
		Mid Span Joint for Earth wire	Nos.	20	-		
		Repair Sleeve for Earth wire	Nos.	08	-		
		Stock Bridge Damper for Earth wire	Nos.	89	-		
		Connector TMRH	Nos.	12	-		
		Connector TDMHH(2×1)	Nos.	20	-		
		Connector TMHH	Nos.	12	-		
		AL. Pipe 63mm Dia, 4Mtr Long	Nos.	03	-		
18	799/ PMU	Under Frequency Relay	Nos.	10	-	09-12-2026 at 10:00 am	09-12-2026 at 11:45 am

4. Only e-bids are acceptable, all the interested Bidders are directed to apply through E-Pak Acquisition & Disposal System (E-PADS 2.0) Portal Online (https://www.epads.gov.pk) and also upload all the mandatory information as required in the bidding documents.
5. The bidding shall be conducted in line with the Single Stage - One Envelope procedure of the Public Procurement Rules 2004 and any Regulations, Regulatory Guides, Procurement Guidelines or Instructions issued by the Authority (from time to time), and is open to all potential bidders.
6. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in an acceptable form in the fixed amount as mentioned in BDS-19 & 20 of the bidding document. The original bid security under sealed envelope shall reach to the address office of Chief Engineer Development (PMU) LESCO 132-KV Qartaba Grid Station, Mozang Lahore. **Ph: +92-42-99214410, Fax: +92-42-99214412**, Website: www.lesco.gov.pk before the bid submission date & time, failing which the bid(s) shall be considered non-responsive.
7. The standard bidding document can be downloaded from https://www.epads.gov.pk free of cost. Bids should be submitted electronically ONLY through EPADS 2.0. Manual submission of bids is NOT allowed.
8. The bids will be opened promptly thereafter in public and in the presence of bidders' authorized representatives (authorization letter must be available on demand by tender opening committee) who choose to attend the opening at the office of Chief Engineer Development (PMU) LESCO 132-KV Qartaba Grid Station Mozang Lahore.
9. This advertisement is also available on LESCO website at www.lesco.gov.pk and PPRA website at www.ppra.org.pk. All Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) rules & regulations, SROs etc. amended to date shall be applicable.
10. LESCO reserves the right to accept or reject all bids without justifying the grounds of annulment as per PPRA Rule-33 (1).
11. **The Pre-Bid Meeting will be held on Thursday, 26th November 2026, at 11:30 AM in the Office of the Chief Engineer (Development), PMU, LESCO. All prospective bidders are requested to attend the meeting at the scheduled date and time.**

CHIEF SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT OFFICER, LESCO
132-KV QARTABA GRID STATION MOZANG LAHORE Tel: 99214410 Fax: 99214412

PID(L)1225B/26 **LAHORE ELECTRIC SUPPLY COMPANY** LESCO-117/2026-27