



PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PUNJAB



MONTHLY E-CIRCULAR JULY 2026

During July 2026, the Provincial Assembly of the Punjab expanded its international and professional engagement through participation in specialized legislative, parliamentary and youth programmes in Singapore, Chicago and Sydney. The month also featured parliamentary diplomacy marking 75 years of Pakistan-China relations, a cumulative snapshot of legislative performance and continued contribution to Commonwealth parliamentary knowledge-sharing.

INTERNATIONAL & PARLIAMENTARY ENGAGEMENTS

Punjab Assembly Participates in CALC Conference 2026 in Singapore

The Provincial Assembly of the Punjab participated in the Commonwealth Association of Legislative Counsel (CALC) Conference 2026, held in Singapore from 15 to 17 July under the theme “Legislating in a Changing World.”



The Assembly was represented by Mr Usama Khawar and Malik Taimoor Ahmed Khan. The engagement provided an opportunity for professional exchange on contemporary legislative drafting, law reform and the evolving challenges facing legislative counsel across Commonwealth jurisdictions.

CALC Conference 2026 - Singapore

Legislating in a Changing World | 15-17 July 2026 | The Fullerton Hotel Singapore

Commonwealth Association of Legislative Counsel

CALC Conference 2026, Singapore. Official conference website and programme imagery reviewed. [Official source / photo gallery](#)

Punjab Assembly Participates in 2026 NCSL Legislative Summit in Chicago

The Provincial Assembly of the Punjab participated in the 2026 National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) Legislative Summit, held in Chicago, United States, from 27 to 29 July 2026.



The Assembly was represented by Syed Mohsin Bukhari, Special Secretary (Legislation). The Summit brought together legislators and legislative staff for collaboration, innovation and bipartisan dialogue across a wide range of contemporary policy and institutional issues.

Participation supported comparative learning on legislative administration, institutional resilience, emerging technologies and modern legislative practice.

2026 NCSL Legislative Summit

Chicago, United States | 27-29 July 2026

Collaboration | Innovation | Bipartisan Dialogue

2026 NCSL Legislative Summit, Chicago, 27-29 July 2026. Official NCSL Summit imagery and event resources. [Official source / photo gallery](#)

Punjab Represented at 13th Commonwealth Youth Parliament in Sydney

The Punjab Assembly participated in the 13th Commonwealth Youth Parliament, hosted by the Parliament of New South Wales in Sydney, Australia, from 26 to 31 July 2026. The Punjab Branch was represented by Mr Muhammad Uzair.

The programme brought together 56 young people from 35 jurisdictions and focused on “democracy in the age of Artificial Intelligence.” Participants experienced parliamentary roles, question time and committee work, and debated the Artificial Intelligence and Democratic Integrity Bill 2026.



Punjab's participation complemented the Assembly's own commitment to youth engagement, democratic education and the development of future parliamentary leaders.

13th Commonwealth Youth Parliament

Sydney, New South Wales, Australia | 26-31 July 2026

Democracy in the Age of Artificial Intelligence

13th Commonwealth Youth Parliament, Sydney, July 2026. CPA Headquarters publishes official photographs from the programme.

[Official source / photo gallery](#)

PARLIAMENTARY DIPLOMACY

Punjab Assembly Marks 75 Years of Pakistan-China Diplomatic Relations

In July 2026, the Punjab Assembly marked the 75th anniversary of Pakistan-China diplomatic relations through parliamentary and youth engagement. Hon. Speaker Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan presided over an engagement of the Young Parliamentarians Forum with young diplomats of the Chinese Consulate in Lahore, with Consul General Mr Sun Yan participating as Guest of Honour. The Assembly also hosted a three-day Pakistan-China Friendship photo exhibition, jointly inaugurated by the Speaker and the Consul General, highlighting historic milestones, strategic cooperation and people-to-people ties between the two countries.



لاہور: سپیکر پنجاب اسمبلی ملک محمد احمد خاں اور چین کے قونصل جنرل سن یان پنجاب اسمبلی میں پاک چین سفارتی تعلقات کی 75 ویں سالگرہ کے موقع پر منعقدہ تصویری نمائش کا افتتاح کر رہے ہیں۔ (16 جولائی، 2026)

LEGISLATIVE & PARLIAMENTARY PERFORMANCE

Punjab Assembly: Parliamentary Business at a Glance

As of 21 July 2026, the present Provincial Assembly had held 44 sessions spanning 250 session days and 188 actual sittings. The cumulative parliamentary record included 212 Government and Private Bills introduced, of which 179 had been passed; 804 notices of Resolutions, with 150 Resolutions passed; 1,471 Adjournment Motion notices; and 6,620 Starred Question notices.



لاہور: ڈپٹی سپیکر ملک ظہیر اقبال چتر پنجاب اسمبلی کے رواں بجٹ اجلاس کی صدارت کر رہے ہیں۔ (27 جون، 2026)

These figures are cumulative from the commencement of the present Assembly in February 2024 and are presented as an institutional performance snapshot rather than as activity confined to July 2026. They reflect the continuing scale of legislative business, representation and executive oversight undertaken by the House.

Legislative Work Continues on Public-Interest Reforms

Legislative activity continued to address governance and social-policy priorities. Institutional reporting during the period highlighted measures concerning child marriage restraint and protection of ownership of immovable property, alongside the Assembly's wider legislative work across governance, social protection, education, health, environment and institutional development.

INTERNATIONAL OBSERVANCES

Punjab Assembly Observes World Youth Skills Day

On 15 July 2026, the Provincial Assembly of the Punjab observed World Youth Skills Day, highlighting the importance of equipping young people with contemporary, technical and professional skills and strengthening opportunities for meaningful youth participation in economic, civic and democratic life. The observance complemented the Assembly's wider emphasis on youth engagement, including its Young Parliamentarians Forum and participation in the Commonwealth Youth Parliament.

PARLIAMENTARY KNOWLEDGE & THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

Punjab MPA Contributes to The Parliamentarian 2026: Issue Two

The Provincial Assembly of the Punjab continued to strengthen its contribution to Commonwealth parliamentary knowledge-sharing through The Parliamentarian, the journal of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.

INCLUSIVE EDUCATION
IN PAKISTAN

ADVANCING INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

A Legislative perspective on Dyslexia in Punjab, Pakistan

Introduction: Inclusion as a Legislative Imperative

Inclusive education is increasingly recognised across the world as both a moral responsibility and a legislative imperative. Many Commonwealth countries are reforming educational systems to better accommodate diverse learning needs and ensure that children are not excluded simply because they learn differently. This global movement also reflects the principles of the UN Sustainable Development Goal 4, which calls for equitable and quality education for all.

In Pakistan, however, awareness regarding learning differences such as dyslexia remains limited. While discussions surrounding autism and special education have gained greater visibility in recent years, dyslexia continues to remain one of the least understood and least addressed educational challenges. As a result, many children struggle silently in classrooms where their difficulties are often mistaken for carelessness, weak academic ability or lack of effort.

This issue deserves greater legislative and policy attention because its consequences extend beyond academic performance alone. Undiagnosed learning differences can affect confidence, emotional well-being, classroom participation and long-term educational outcomes. An education system that fails to recognise diverse learning needs risks leaving behind many capable and creative young minds.

At the same time, encouraging progress is emerging in Pakistan, particularly in Punjab, where increasing attention is being given to learner-centred systems and support mechanisms for children with different educational

needs. These efforts reflect an important recognition that education systems must evolve to accommodate diverse learners rather than expecting every child to fit within one rigid model of learning.

As a Parliamentarian, I believe this conversation requires stronger legislative engagement, institutional support and public awareness. For me, however, this issue is not only a policy concern; it is also deeply personal.

Understanding Dyslexia Beyond Misconceptions

Dyslexia is a neurodevelopmental learning difference that affects reading, writing, spelling and language processing. Importantly, it is not linked to intelligence. Yet due to limited awareness and inadequate educational support systems, many children continue to be misunderstood during their formative years.

In Pakistan, many schools still lack structured screening mechanisms, specialised teacher training and classroom accommodations for children experiencing learning differences. Consequently, students are often labelled weak or inattentive when, in reality, they may simply require different learning approaches and educational support.

Several Commonwealth jurisdictions have introduced structured screening and classroom accommodation frameworks for learning differences at the primary level. Early intervention and awareness must therefore become integral to education policy reform in Pakistan as well.

Personal Perspective: From Silent Struggles to Understanding

For most of my life, I did not know that I had dyslexia. I only knew that despite

studies for long hours, my academic results rarely reflected my effort. Words became scrambled, spellings confused me, and written expression often felt far more difficult for me than it appeared for others.

Yet even during those years, my teachers recognised that my difficulties were not linked to intelligence. One of my teachers lovingly used to call me "Aristotle's Child" because she believed my thinking was deeper than my age. My Principal once told me after reading something I had written that my ideas were powerful, but my writing appeared "tangled". At that time, however, awareness regarding dyslexia simply did not exist around us.

Like many children with undiagnosed learning differences, I worked extremely hard to keep pace academically. I could spend hours studying and even remember where formulas appeared in textbooks, yet examinations remained difficult because information often became disorganised in my mind under pressure.

Despite these challenges, I remained determined to continue learning and growing. I pursued higher education, completed a Master's degree in Islamic Studies, earned a B.Ed degree, undertook Montessori and phonics training, and later became a professional Arabic calligrapher.

Creativity became a source of confidence and self-expression for me. As a mother, I remained deeply committed to my children's education. Even before fully understanding dyslexia, I instinctively focused on concept-based learning, repetition and confidence-building rather than rote memorisation alone. Looking back now, I realise many of those efforts

were shaped by my own educational experiences and struggles.

It was only much later in life that I fully understood the nature of the challenges I had carried for decades. That understanding transformed not only my personal perspective, but also my sense of public responsibility towards children experiencing similar struggles today.

Legislative and Policy Gaps in Pakistan

Pakistan currently lacks a comprehensive framework to effectively address dyslexia and related learning differences. While important work is being undertaken in broader special education sectors, significant policy and institutional gaps remain.

Some of the major challenges include:

- Limited formal recognition of dyslexia within education policy frameworks
- Lack of structured early screening systems in schools
- Insufficient teacher training regarding learning differences and equitable classroom practices
- Limited classroom accommodations and flexible assessment methods
- Minimal public awareness regarding dyslexia and related misconceptions

In many cases, children are identified only after years of academic struggle and declining confidence. Earlier intervention could significantly improve educational outcomes and emotional well-being.

This is why Parliamentarians, education departments, teacher training institutions and policymakers must collectively recognise educational inclusion as a national investment rather than a secondary welfare issue.

Policy Recommendations for Educational Inclusion

Meaningful progress requires both institutional commitment and legislative direction. Several practical reforms could help Pakistan move toward a

more accessible and equitable education system:

1. **Formal Policy Recognition:** Dyslexia and other learning differences should be formally recognised within national and provincial education policy frameworks.
2. **Early Screening Mechanisms:** Primary schools should gradually introduce age-appropriate screening systems to identify learning difficulties at earlier stages.
3. **Teacher Training and Capacity Building:** Teacher training institutions should include modules on learning differences, equitable classroom management and differentiated learning approaches.
4. **Flexible Assessment Methods:** Assessment systems should evolve beyond rigid memorisation-focused models and incorporate concept-based and adaptive learning approaches where appropriate.
5. **Public Awareness Campaigns:** Greater public awareness is essential to reduce stigma and misconceptions surrounding dyslexia and learning differences.
6. **Emotionally Safe Learning Environments:** Schools should prioritise confidence-building and compassionate educational practices so that children feel supported rather than discouraged.

The Role of Parliamentarians and Public Institutions

Parliamentarians have an important responsibility in shaping conversations around learning accessibility and educational reform. Legislative forums can help bring visibility to issues that often remain overlooked within mainstream policy discussions. Greater collaboration between Assemblies, Education Ministries, teacher

training institutions and civil society organisations can help build stronger frameworks for educational inclusion. As policymakers, we must recognise that many children who struggle academically may possess exceptional creativity, analytical thinking, leadership qualities and problem-solving abilities that remain unnoticed because traditional systems fail to accommodate different learning styles.

Educational inclusion is therefore not merely about access to schooling. It is about protecting dignity, confidence and opportunity for every child.

Conclusion

Dyslexia is not a limitation of intelligence. It is a different way of learning and processing information. Behind many struggling children are capable minds that simply require understanding, support and opportunity. My own journey has convinced me that awareness, compassion and timely intervention can change lives. No child should spend decades believing they are inadequate simply because their learning differences were never recognised.

Through stronger legislation, informed policymaking, teacher awareness and compassionate educational reform, Pakistan can move toward a more inclusive future where every child is given the opportunity to learn with dignity and confidence.

The time to strengthen this conversation, both legislatively and socially, is now.



Hon. Shagufta Faisal, MPA is a Member of the Provincial Assembly of Punjab in Pakistan since 2024.



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In The Parliamentarian 2026: Issue Two, Ms Shagufta Faisal, MPA Punjab, authored “Advancing Inclusive Education - A Legislative Perspective on Dyslexia in Punjab, Pakistan.” The article brought a legislative perspective to dyslexia and inclusive education and highlighted the role of Parliament in advancing more inclusive education policy.

The publication reflects the growing contribution of Punjab Assembly Members to policy dialogue and parliamentary thought leadership across the Commonwealth.

THE PARLIAMENTARIAN 2026: ISSUE TWO

Advancing Inclusive Education - A Legislative Perspective on Dyslexia in Punjab, Pakistan

Ms Shagufta Faisal, MPA Punjab

The Parliamentarian 2026: Issue Two - article by Ms Shagufta Faisal, MPA Punjab. [Official source / photo gallery](#)

The Provincial Assembly of the Punjab remains committed to democratic governance, parliamentary effectiveness and constructive engagement across the Commonwealth.
