

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
LAHORE CHAMBER OF SMALL TRADERS & SMALL INDUSTRY
DATE: JANUARY 27, 2026 TIME: 4PM
AT CONFERENCE ROOM, ALLAH MALIK BUILDING, JAIL ROAD, LAHORE

Following was present:

Sr. No	Name	Designation	Firm/Company Name
1	Muhammad Amjad Chaudhry	President (in chair)	Trade Channels
2	Syed Azmat Ali	SVP	Azmat International
3	Masood Alam Wyne	Vice President	Sanasu International
4	Muhammad Rashad Rasheed	E.C Member	Punjab Car AC Centre
5	Muhammad Najam ur Rehman	E.C Member	Najam Impex
6	Rao Khurshid Ali	E.C Member	Chemical House
7	Mirza Pervaiz Manzoor Baig	E.C Member	Baig Brothers Auto Store
8	Muhammad Ajaz Ghauri	E.C Member	Sea Falcon Logistics
9	Zain Chaudhry	E.C Member	Z&N Traders
10	Khawaja Ansar Munir Saigol	E.C Member	Ansar Traders
11	Main Haroon Rasheed	E.C Member	H.R. Traders
12	Mohid Amjad Chaudhry	E.C Member	Macafat International (Pvt.) Ltd
13	Muhammed Nadeem Aslam	E.C Member	M/s Nishat Tiles and Sanitary ware
14	Abdual Wahab Khan	E.C Member	Noor Traders
15	Mrs. Shabnum Zafar	E.C Member	Elegance International
16	Farheen Ejaz	E.C. Member	M/s Bright Kinds
17	Muhammad Anis	E.C Member	M/s Impodel Plastic Machinery
18	Mirza Qasim Baig	E.C Member	M/s Mirza Sons
19	Shahid Hussain	E.C Member	M/s Shahid Auto Store
20	Asif Siddique	E.C Member	M/s Al-Jasim Traders
21	Sardar Usman Ghani	Special Invitee	Founder Director

Moin ud din Siddiqui Secretary General

1. Recitation from the Holy Quran

The meeting formally commenced with the recitation from the Holy Quran, seeking blessings for the newly elected Executive Committee and the chamber's future endeavors.

2. Leave of Absences

Leave of absence was granted to the following members;

1.	Mr. Muhammad Asif	Noor Enterprises
2.	Mr. Saber Ashraf	Solo International
3.	Mr. Rustam Khan	Rustam Flowers & Gift Centre
4.	Mr. Zaman Naseeb	Zaman Cloth House

3. Approval of Minutes of Previous EC Meeting

The Chair sought approval of the minutes of the previous meeting held on December 13, 2025, the house approved the minutes without any change.

4. Welcome Address & Opening Remarks by the President

The Chair briefed the house about purpose of today's meeting and sought proposals from the Executive Committee members to be presented to the Chief Minister Punjab.

4.1 Khawaja Ansar Munir Saigol strongly criticized the undue collection of taxes through electricity bills. He was of the view that the small industry sector contributes more than 65 percent to taxes, employment, and other key segments of the national economy. He proposed that the government should remove additional taxes from LESCO electricity bills and reduce the basic electricity tariff for small industries, enabling them to continue supporting the country's economic health.

He further proposed that the government should provide small industrial plots ranging from one kanal to four kanals at subsidized rates. He suggested that such schemes should be implemented through the Lahore Chamber of Small Traders and Small Industry to ensure transparency and effective execution.

4.2 Mr. Abdul Wahab Khan congratulated Mr. Amjad Chaudhry, President LCSTSI, for his continuous efforts in highlighting the issues faced by small traders and small industries. He stated that import-related banking services are becoming increasingly difficult due to the unhealthy attitude of banks, forcing small businesses to pay undue and unjustified charges to get their routine work done.

He expressed deep sorrow over the very unfortunate incident of Gul Plaza and offered heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and departed souls. He urged that the matter of unfair banking practices be taken up with the State Bank of Pakistan, as such practices are severely hurting small businesses and traders

4.3 Muhammad Najam-ur-Rehman highlighted the persistent issues of parking shortages and traffic congestion in major commercial markets of Lahore. He pointed out that ongoing road widening and reconstruction activities in and around these markets have caused significant hardship for traders and businesses. He stressed the urgent need for an efficient and well-managed traffic system in key commercial areas, including Urdu Bazar, Shah Alam Market, Brandreth Road, and Anarkali (Old and New).

Furthermore, he suggested that the Government of Punjab be approached with a proposal to include small traders and small industries in its internship programme, based on recommendations from the Lahore Chamber of Small Traders and Small Industry (LCSTSI). He also proposed engaging the provincial government to allocate dedicated funds for vocational and skills training programs through LCSTSI, to support capacity building and workforce.

4.4 Mian Rashad Rasheed highlighted that the business community is facing numerous difficulties while dealing with government departments, particularly local government

bodies such as the Lahore Waste Management Company. He stated that there is confusion regarding which department is responsible for the cleaning of roads and streets. Businesses make payments to one department, yet another authority later approaches them to collect cleaning charges. He proposed that this issue should be taken up with the relevant government departments to obtain a clear understanding of responsibilities, ensure compliance with government rules, and support the efforts of the Punjab Government.

- 4.5 Mr. Muhammad Nadeem Aslam** appreciated the beautification work carried out by the Provincial Government in Ichhra Bazar and expressed his gratitude for these efforts, undertaken for the benefit of the business community and general consumers.

He drew the attention of the Traffic Engineering Department, Parks and Horticulture Authority (PHA), and the local administration toward the damaged and missing railings along both sides of Ferozpur Road, from Shama Stop to the Muslim Town area. He pointed out that drug addicts are involved in stealing these iron railings, which has left pedestrians exposed to serious accidents while attempting to cross the road amid fast-moving traffic.

He requested the Chair to formally take up the matter with PHA and other concerned departments for the immediate restoration of the safety fence to prevent loss of innocent lives.

In response, Mr. Muhammad Amjad Chaudhry, President, LCSTSI, assured his full support and stated that a letter would be sent on a priority basis to PHA and the Office of the Deputy Commissioner to address the issue.

- 4.6 Mr. Pervaiz Manzoor Baig Mirza** complained about undue harassment by various government departments, stating that the majority of goods are cleared from Karachi Port after payment of all applicable taxes before the consignment is released. Despite this, the goods are intercepted during transportation to up-country. He said the situation has worsened further, as even goods dispatched to buyers are now being confiscated from goods transporters' godowns. He requested the President of LCSTSI to take up this serious issue with the concerned departments, as conducting business is becoming increasingly difficult day by day.

Mirza Pervaiz Manzoor Baig also expressed grave concern over the insufficient parking facilities in the Bilal Ganj market area and demanded that this issue be resolved on a priority basis. He further highlighted the problems related to non-functional street lights and the poor condition of roads in the area.

- 4.7 Mr. Qasim Baig Mirza** appreciated the efforts being made to improve the system through the use of IT. However, he pointed out that despite these upgrades, the issue of digital invoicing is adversely affecting business transactions. He explained that goods sold are being returned by customers due to delays in the issuance of digital invoices. As a result, businesses are forced to spend excessive time on tax-related activities instead of

focusing on business development and promotion. He proposed that this matter should be taken up with the relevant department for an early resolution of the digital invoicing issue.

- 4.8 Mr. Shahid Hussain** stated that small industry in Pakistan has been severely affected due to the closure of the Afghan border. He cited the example of the auto parts sector, which was exporting more than 80 percent of its total production to Afghanistan. According to his information, nearly 1,500 containers were crossing the border on a daily basis prior to the closure. He added that similar adverse conditions are being faced by exporters of shoes, fruits, and vegetables.

He emphasized that due to the prolonged closure of the border, small and medium industrial units are facing immense hardship, leading to factory shutdowns and a rapid increase in unemployment. He urged that this critical issue should be taken up immediately with the federal and provincial governments to prevent the collapse of local industry and to safeguard jobs.

- 4.9 Rao Khurshid Ali** mentioned the issues of International Market M-Block Model Town Ext. He strongly criticized the role of the PERA Force in Lahore, stating that goods are confiscated in the morning, but after unofficial settlements with vendors, the display of goods resumes within a couple of hours. The law must be strongly promulgated without such underhand settlements.

He also drew attention to the ongoing sewerage system works, pointing out that roads damaged during construction are not being repaired at all, causing serious difficulties for traders, workers and the general public in the market. Yet the sewerage is still oozing out of the gutters/ manholes.

He further highlighted the trimming of trees and cutting of the unwanted bushes along main roads turns and urged the Parks and Horticulture Authority (PHA) to take immediate action to prevent any unfortunate accidents which often happens on such corners.

Speaking of the issue of chemicals, he said that Sulphuric acid is a basic chemical widely used in industry and small manufacturing, yet the government has imposed a ban on its sale and purchase without a licence issued by the Narcotics Control Department, Islamabad, which is not easily accessible. He noted that traders and manufacturers dealing in Sulphuric acid without a licence are charged under Section 9-C, which is a non-bailable offence. This Section 9-C must be immediately waived off. Traders and manufacturers are bonafide businessmen, they must not be treated as criminals via Section 9-C.

He added that the situation has further worsened after the provincial government established another department, the Counter Narcotics Force (CNF), creating confusion among traders. He proposed that the government should clearly define the authority of the

concerned departments and start issuing licences in Lahore instead of Islamabad to facilitate legitimate businesses

4.10 Mrs. Farheen Ijaz expressed her gratitude to the office bearers of LCSTSI and stated that her business is primarily related to online education. She said that her organization is connected with people—especially women—from around the globe. She highlighted the serious issues related to the banking system and poor internet speed in Pakistan, which are creating hurdles for digital businesses. She was of the view that a negative approach towards new ideas and concepts is one of the most discouraging factors for growth. She emphasized that to meet the challenges of the new world order, there is a strong need to reform our education system with greater focus on skills development.

4.11 Mrs. Shabnam Zafar was of the view that due to the closure of borders with India and Afghanistan, there is a dire need to explore new markets for Pakistani products, particularly dates and *chhoharay* (dried dates). She requested the President of LCSTSI to take up this important issue with the Federal Ministry of Commerce for identifying and developing new export markets for Pakistani products.

4.12 Sardar Usman Ghani, Founder Director of the Lahore Chamber of Small Traders and Small Industry (LCSTSI), extended his greetings to the management of LCSTSI and stated that nearly 80 percent of economic activity in the country is driven by the small and medium industry sector.

He proposed that key issues such as double taxation, vocational training, nomination of representatives on government department boards and advisory committees, establishment of an effective dry ports system in up-country areas, and the revival of railway goods transport from Karachi to up-country regions should be taken up on a priority basis.

He also announced a donation of one hundred thousand rupees for the Lahore Chamber of Small Traders and Small Industry and requested all Executive Committee members to actively contribute towards strengthening the Chamber.

4.13 Mian Haroon Rasheed pointed out that despite government efforts to control crime in Punjab and Lahore, incidents of snatching have been increasing in the Bilal Ganj, Ravi Road, and Shah Alam Market areas. He stated that the police advise markets to engage private security guards; however, when private guards are deployed, the police administration frequently summon them to police stations, disrupting security arrangements. At the same time, local police authorities do not extend adequate cooperation to market leaders.

4.14 Responding to these concerns, **Syed Azmat Ali, Senior Vice President LCSTSI**, assured complete support and committed to taking up the issue at the highest levels of the Punjab Government.

4.15 Mr. Muhammad Anis thanked the President, Senior Vice President, and Vice President for their dedicated efforts in making the Lahore Chamber of Small Traders and Small Industry an effective and credible platform for small traders and small industries.

He highlighted critical issues related to import and export business, stating that while there is constant emphasis on export promotion and import reduction, the ground realities and the anti-business approach of the banking system are often ignored. He pointed out that at the time of import, banks charge exchange rates based on the open currency market, whereas export proceeds are released at the official exchange rate. This disparity makes exports financially unviable for the business community.

Moreover, he regretted that certain banks allegedly harass and blackmail their clients by demanding undue payments for performing routine and legal banking transactions.

Mr. Anis also raised concerns regarding the jurisdictional conflict between LDA and RUDA, particularly in relation to the collection of commercialization fees and the demand for unlawful measurements within industrial areas. He proposed that this matter should be taken up with the Chief Minister Punjab to formulate a clear and consistent policy, enabling small industries to operate in a peaceful and business-friendly environment.

4.16 Mr. Muhammad Ajaz Ghauri proposed that the Chief Minister Punjab may be approached to allocate a share of SME loans amounting to Rs. 3 million, to be disbursed on the recommendation of the Lahore Chamber of Small Traders and Small Industry. He further suggested that importers should be protected from excessive demurrage and detention charges by allowing them to purchase containers, which would help reduce undue pressure and high costs on imported goods. He also pointed out that the burden of strikes is ultimately being shifted to consumers without any defined criteria. He strongly opposed such unfair increases and emphasized that a robust mechanism should be developed to safeguard end consumers from this unjustified burden. Additionally, he endorsed the proposal of a stable and supportive exchange rate mechanism for both importers and exporters.

4.17 Mr. Masood Alam Wyne, Vice President LCSTSI, informed the meeting that letters are being written to all relevant government departments seeking representation on their boards. He was of the view that traders must also acknowledge their own responsibilities and suggested arranging firefighting equipment in all markets rather than placing the entire burden on the government. He also endorsed the concerns regarding the banking system and the behavior of bank staff, and requested that the matter be taken up with the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

4.18 Mr. Masood Alam Wyne proposed a fee structure for different services of LCSTSI. He informed the House that, as per the approval of DGTO, the membership fee for a new member is Rs. 3,000/-, while the annual renewal fee is Rs. 1,500/-. Under this arrangement, the membership certificate will be issued after 30 days, subject to the approval of the Executive Committee.

He further proposed that an additional fee be charged in case members require the membership certificate on an urgent basis. According to his proposal, 50% extra charges will apply if the certificate is issued within 15 days, and 100% extra charges will apply if the certificate is issued within three working days, in line with the practice of the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Mr. Wyne also sought approval for the fee of attestation services and visa-related documents, which included: Certificate of Origin form (100 pages packet) Rs. 500/-, Attestation of Certificate of Origin Rs. 250/-, extra page charges Rs. 50/- per page, Visa Recommendation Letter Rs. 2,000/- per person, Visa Invitation Letter Rs. 2,000/- per person, and Profile Letter fee Rs. 1,000/-.

The House approved the proposed fee structure to remain effective until further changes by the Executive Committee.

4.19 Muhammad Amjad Chaudhry, President of LCSTSI, acknowledged the discussions and issues highlighted by the Executive Committee members. He stated that merely highlighting problems is not enough; rather, solid solutions must be proposed in the form of working papers and a clear way forward.

Mr. Muhammad Amjad Chaudhry asked the members to share concrete proposals so that practical solutions to these issues could be suggested to the government. He also proposed that a detailed report, including identified problems along with their possible solutions, be prepared and submitted for onward submission to the relevant government authorities

He emphasized that LCSTSI is arranging meetings with various government departments to provide maximum support to small traders and small industries. Expressing his strong resolve, he said that within the next two years, the stature of LCSTSI will match that of the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

He also expressed serious concern over the recent incidents of snatching in markets, stating that the business community is loyal to the country, yet much of its energy is wasted in proving that businessmen are not thieves. He reaffirmed that LCSTSI will play its due role in resolving these issues.

He further said that all issues will be taken up with the Chief Minister Punjab, and if any matter does not fall under the jurisdiction of the Punjab Government, she can endorse it to the relevant department for appropriate action.

4.20 President LCSTSI Mr. Muhammad Amjad Chaudhry stated that the Lahore Chamber of Small Traders and Small Industry has now gained significant momentum in its activities. He observed that, keeping in view the growing participation and the need to host large meetings and high dignitaries, the existing meeting room is no longer sufficient. Therefore, he has initiated the construction of a new and more spacious hall to cater to these requirements. He informed the Executive Committee that the estimated cost of this new facility is approximately Rs. 2 to 3 million, which he is financing from his own pocket. He further shared that the monthly operational expenses of running the LCSTSI office amount to Rs. 700,000, and emphasized that it is the collective responsibility of all members to ensure the smooth and sustainable functioning of the Chamber.

Following the President's remarks, Executive Committee members announced financial contributions as a token of their participation and commitment to the Chamber. Mr. Muhammad Najam Ur Rehman, Mr. Muhammad Ajaz Ghauri, Mr. Pervaiz Manzoor Baig Mirza, Mr. Khawaja Ansar Munir Saigol, Mr. Abdul Wahab Khan, Mr. Shahid Hussain, Mr. Syed Azmat Ali, Mr. Masood Alan Wyne, Mr. Asif Siddique, Sardar Usman Ghani and Mr. Mian Haroon Rasheed each announced a contribution of Rs. 100,000 for the Lahore Chamber of Small Traders and Small Industry (LCSTSI).

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the chair.

MOIN UD DIN SIDDIQUI
Secretary General

January 31, 2026