

FEDERAL PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

PRESS RELEASE

Competitive Examination for CSS 2026 is being conducted from 4th February to 15th February at 136 centres established across Pakistan. Prior to commencement of examination, in order to facilitate the candidates, FPSC changed the policy of two compulsory papers in a day to one paper in a day only. Moreover, to facilitate candidates, start time of examination for compulsory papers was also changed from 9 am to 11 am.

On 4th February 2026, a reported incident of not allowing timely entry to the candidates into Examination Centre established at Punjab Public Service Commission Lahore was highlighted. FPSC immediately ordered an inquiry into the reported incident. Facts brought out by the inquiry based on hard and irrefutable evidence of the entire incident and its handling by FPSC are summarized below.

One of the largest examination centres for CSS 2026 has been set up in Lahore at Punjab Public Service Commission Examination Centre, a purpose-built exam facility with 23 exam halls, which are well-equipped with required facilities. This exam centre is well-situated and conveniently accessible to the candidates. A total of 4110 candidates were registered to appear at this exam centre. As per exam instructions, candidates were to be seated 50 minutes prior to the start of the paper and the paper was to start at 11 a.m. It is noteworthy to mention that all major competitive examinations e.g. MDCAT require the candidates to be seated at least an hour before start of the paper. This allows the exam conducting organizations to ensure a number of steps prior to paper commencement.

FPSC staff deputed for conduct of exam reached the centre well in time and made necessary preparations as per exam SOPs. Main gate of the compound and doors of exam halls were opened at 9:40 am to allow entry to the candidates. By 10:10 am, most of the candidates had entered the exam centre. At 10:14 am, only the main gate of the compound was closed as per the instructions and SOPs. However, it was learnt that some 1000-1200 late arriving candidates were on the main gate and requesting the entry. After evaluating the situation, Chief Supervisor who was present on ground, allowed the gate to be opened at 10:27 am and facilitated entry of late arriving candidates. Thereafter, main gate was again closed at 10:32 am.

After that, another group of approximately 150 late arriving candidates reached the main gate and started banging the door and made a forced entry at 10:47 am. FPSC Chief Supervisor talked to them that they are late but they harassed the FPSC staff and forcefully entered the exam centre. The main gate was closed again at 10:52 but a small group of about 15 candidates came even after that and made a forced entry at 10:55 am. Despite all this, FPSC staff was able to start and finish the paper as scheduled.

The inquiry board, after examining all available evidence and witnesses, has conclusively established that FPSC had laid down clear, unambiguous and realistic timeline instructions for the candidates, available on its website and also mentioned in bold on each candidate's admission certificate that **“you will be required to be seated at least 50 minutes before start of paper on your allotted seat. Late entry will not be allowed”**. Moreover, it was a clear day and traffic was moving uninterrupted. Main gate was closed at 10:14 am as per instructions and exam SOPs and candidates who arrived at the main gate after gate closure were late beyond any doubt. Despite late arrival, FPSC allowed all candidates to appear in the exam.

During this entire episode, FPSC has firmly abided by its exam SOPs while also ensuring that candidates don't suffer. Unfortunately, some individuals and entities particularly those linked to CSS coaching academies have misreported the incident without any evidence and are exploiting it continuously through social media projecting themselves as the voice of the candidates.

FPSC would like to affirm here that it would continue to abide by the laid down policies on the subject and exam SOPs. Irrefutable evidence of the entire incident is available and FPSC reserves the right to take legal course of action against those trying to misreport and exploit the incident.