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## PRESS RELEASE

Institute for Public Opinion Research (IPOR), Islamabad.

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### **IPOR Democracy Tracker Series Report # 1—Strong Support, Fragile Landscape (July 2025)**

**Islamabad, July 8, 2025** — The Institute for Public Opinion Research (IPOR) has released the first report in its new Democracy Tracker Series, "*Strong Support, Fragile Landscape*", offering a nationwide snapshot of public opinion on democracy, political governance, and institutional legitimacy in Pakistan. The survey, conducted from May to June 2025, captures views from 1,104 adult respondents across all provinces, using Computer-Assisted Telephonic Interviews (CATI) based on a national phone panel of 425,820 individuals. The sample was selected through multi-stage probability sampling with proportional allocation and systematic random selection. The survey maintains a  $\pm 3-5\%$  margin of error and a 95% confidence level.

#### **Key Findings:**

- 76% of Pakistanis consider democracy "very important" for national stability and development.
- Despite this, 54% express dissatisfaction with the current democratic system, with 43% completely dissatisfied.
- 65% support democracy as the best system for Pakistan's future, compared to 19% favoring an Islamic system and 10% supporting military-led governance.
- 42% believe military interference has been harmful to Pakistan's politics; only 21% consider it beneficial.
- 58% of respondents say their province does not receive adequate attention or development funds from the federal government. Dissatisfaction is highest in Sindh (74%) and Balochistan (68%).
- The majority (66%) agree that people in their area are deprived of genuine representation.
- Political deprivation (33%) and lack of development (21%) are cited as the primary causes behind separatist sentiments.
- 28% identify strengthening democratic institutions as the most important step toward national unity and stability. Other priorities include fair resource distribution (19%), ending military interference (16%), and protecting human rights (15%).

The findings indicate a complex public mood: while democratic ideals remain widely valued, there is deep frustration with political delivery, representation, and inclusiveness. The data reflects a fragile democratic environment, where institutional reforms and more responsive governance are urgently needed to bridge the gap between public expectations and political performance.

The IPOR Democracy Tracker Series is a recurring initiative aimed at informing public discourse, supporting democratic accountability, and providing evidence-based insights for policymakers and civil society.

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