

Core Structure of Government in Pakistan

The government of Pakistan is structured into three main branches, each with distinct roles and responsibilities. This separation of powers is essential for maintaining a balanced and functional government.

A. Executive Branch

➔ Prime Minister:

-> **Role:** The Prime Minister is the Head of Government and holds the title of Chief Executive of the Republic.

-> Responsibilities:

- Leads the executive branch and oversees the implementation of laws and policies.
- Manages economic growth and development initiatives.
- Directs internal and foreign policy decisions.
- Heads the Council of Common Interests, which addresses issues between the federal government and provinces.
- Commands the nuclear arsenal, holding significant national security responsibilities.

-> **Appointment:** The Prime Minister is elected by the members of the National Assembly through a voting process.

-> **Cabinet:** The Prime Minister is supported by the Federal Cabinet, which consists of ministers, state ministers, and advisers. Cabinet members are appointed by the President on the advice of the Prime Minister.

➔ President:

- **Role:** The President serves as the ceremonial Head of State and acts as a figurehead in the government.

- Responsibilities:

- Acts as the civilian Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces.

- Is kept informed by the Prime Minister regarding internal and foreign policy matters.
- Has the constitutional authority to grant pardons and reprieves.
- Consults with the Prime Minister for military appointments, which require the Prime Minister's approval.
- **Limitations:** The President does not have the authority to run the government directly, ensuring that the Prime Minister and the elected legislature hold the primary governing power.

B. Legislative Branch (Majlis-i-Shoora)

- **Structure:** The legislative branch is bicameral, consisting of two houses:
 - **Senate (Upper House):**
 - **Composition:** The Senate is composed of members elected by the provincial assemblies, providing equal representation from each of Pakistan's four provinces.
 - **Term:** Senators serve staggered terms, ensuring continuity within the legislative process.
 - **Powers:**
 - Participates in the legislative process, capable of initiating and passing legislation (except for finance bills).
 - Cannot be dissolved by the President, providing stability.
 - The Chairman of the Senate can act as interim President if the presidential office becomes vacant.
 - **National Assembly (Lower House):**
 - **Composition:** Members are elected through universal adult suffrage, with seats allocated based on population. There are reserved seats for minorities (5%) and special seats for women (50+).
 - **Term:** Members serve a five-year term unless the Assembly is dissolved earlier.
 - **Powers:**
 - Holds exclusive authority to approve the federal budget and finance bills.
 - Initiates legislation on various issues, subject to the Senate's approval.
 - Represents the electorate, making it a crucial component of democratic governance.

C. Judicial Branch

- *Hierarchy of Courts:*

- **Supreme Court:**

- **Role:** The Supreme Court is the highest court in Pakistan, serving as the final arbiter of legal disputes.

- **Jurisdiction:** It has original, appellate, and advisory jurisdiction, addressing constitutional matters and significant legal questions.

- **Appointment of Judges:** The Chief Justice is appointed by the President, while other judges are appointed after consultation with the Chief Justice.

- **Tenure:** Judges serve until the age of 68, ensuring experience and stability within the judiciary.

- **Provincial High Courts:**

- Serve as the highest courts within each province, handling appeals from lower courts and significant legal matters.

- **District & Sessions Courts:**

- Handle civil and criminal cases at the district level, ensuring access to justice for citizens.

- **Civil and Magistrate Courts:**

- Address specific civil and criminal cases, functioning as lower-tier courts within the judicial system.

- **Federal Shariat Court:**

- **Role:** This court examines whether laws comply with Islamic Shari'a law.

- **Composition:** Composed of 8 judges, including 3 Ulema (Islamic scholars), appointed by the President after consulting the Chief Justice.

- **Function:** Ensures that legislation aligns with Islamic principles, reflecting Pakistan's identity as an Islamic republic.

Conclusion

The core structure of the government in Pakistan is designed to ensure a balanced distribution of power among the executive, legislative, and judicial branches. This framework aims to uphold democratic principles while accommodating the country's unique cultural and religious context. Each branch plays a vital role in governance, contributing to the overall function and stability of the state.