**Government and Its Branches**

The **Government of Pakistan** is a [federal government](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federal_government) established by the [Constitution of Pakistan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constitution_of_Pakistan) as a constituted [governing](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Governing) authority of the [four provinces](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Administrative_units_of_Pakistan) of a proclaimed and established by the [parliamentary democratic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parliamentary_democracy) [republic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parliamentary_republic), constitutionally called the [Islamic Republic of Pakistan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pakistan).

Effecting the [Westminster system](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Westminster_system) for governing the state, the government is mainly composed of the [executive](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Executive_branch), [legislative](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Legislative_branch), and [judicial](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Judicial_branch) branches, in which all powers are vested by the [Constitution](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constitution_of_Pakistan) in the [Parliament](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parliament_of_Pakistan), the [Prime Minister](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prime_Minister_of_Pakistan) and the [Supreme Court](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Supreme_Court_of_Pakistan). The powers and duties of these branches are further defined by acts and amendments of the Parliament, including the creation of executive institutions, departments and courts inferior to the [Supreme Court](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Supreme_Court_of_Pakistan).[]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Government_of_Pakistan#cite_note-Government_of_Pakistan-2) By constitutional powers, the [President](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/President_of_Pakistan) promulgates ordinances and passes bills.

The President acts as the ceremonial [figurehead](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Head_of_State) while the [people-elected](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elections_in_Pakistan) [Prime Minister](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prime_Minister_of_Pakistan) acts as the [chief executive](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chief_executive) (of the executive branch) and is responsible for running the federal government. There is a bicameral Parliament with the [National Assembly](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Assembly_of_Pakistan) as a [lower house](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lower_house) and the [Senate](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Senate_of_Pakistan) as an upper house. The most influential officials in the Government of Pakistan are considered to be the [federal secretaries](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federal_Secretary), who are the highest ranking [bureaucrats](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Civil_Services_of_Pakistan) in the country and run cabinet-level ministries and divisions. The judicial branch systematically contains an apex [Supreme Court](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Supreme_Court_of_Pakistan), [Federal Shariat Court](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federal_Shariat_Court), [high courts](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/High_Courts_of_Pakistan) of [five provinces](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Administrative_units_of_Pakistan), district, [anti-terrorism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anti_Terrorism_Court_of_Pakistan), and the green courts; all inferior to the Supreme Court.[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Government_of_Pakistan#cite_note-Government_of_Pakistan-2)

The full name of the country is the *Islamic Republic of Pakistan*. No other name appears in the Constitution, and this is the name that appears on money, in treaties, and in legal cases. The "Pakistan Government" or "Government of Pakistan" are often used in official documents representing the federal government collectively.[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Government_of_Pakistan#cite_note-Government_of_Pakistan-2) Also, the terms "Federal" and "National" in government institutions or program names generally indicate affiliation with the federal government. As the [seat of government](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seat_of_government) is in [Islamabad](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamabad), "Islamabad" is commonly used as a [metonym](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Metonym) for the federal government.

**Branches of government**

**Legislative branch**

The legislative branch is known as the [parliament](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parliament_of_Pakistan), a term for legislature [inherited from the United Kingdom](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_heritage_of_Pakistan). The function of the legislature is to make laws for the country. The parliament has two houses;

* The [National Assembly](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Assembly_of_Pakistan) is the [lower house](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lower_house) and has 342 members. 272 are elected directly by the people, while 70 seats are reserved for women and religious minorities.
* The [Senate](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Senate_of_Pakistan) is the [upper house](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Upper_house) and has 104 senators elected indirectly by members of provincial assemblies for six-year terms.

The Parliament enjoys [parliamentary supremacy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parliamentary_sovereignty). All the Cabinet ministers as well as the Prime Minister must be members of Parliament (MPs), according to the constitution. The Prime Minister and the Cabinet Ministers are jointly accountable to the Parliament. If there is a policy failure or lapse on the part of the government, all the members of the cabinet are jointly responsible. If a [vote of no confidence](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vote_of_no_confidence) is passed against the government, then the government collapses and a new one must be formed.

**Executive branch**.

By general definition, the [executive branch](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Executive_branch) of government is the one that has sole [authority](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Authority) and [responsibility](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moral_responsibility) for the daily administration of the [state bureaucracy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pakistan_Civil_Services). The division of power into separate branches of government is central to the republican idea of the [separation of powers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Separation_of_powers). The separation of powers system is designed to distribute authority away from the executive branch – an attempt to preserve individual liberty in response to tyrannical leadership throughout history.

**Judicial branch**[

The third branch of government is judiciary. The function of judiciary is to safeguard the constitution. It also explains the laws of the state. Judiciary is the custodian of the laws.

The judiciary consists of the Supreme Court of Pakistan, Provincial [High Courts](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/High_Courts_of_Pakistan), [District Courts](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/District_Courts_of_Pakistan), [Anti-terrorism courts](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anti_Terrorism_Court_of_Pakistan), [*Sharia* courts](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federal_Shariat_Court), and Environmental courts all over the country; Supreme Court being the superior court. The [Supreme Court of Pakistan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Supreme_Court_of_Pakistan) consists of a Chief Justice, and [Senior Justices](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Justices_of_the_Supreme_Court_of_Pakistan) appointed by the President after consultation with the [Chief Justice of Pakistan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chief_Justice_of_Pakistan). The Constitution does not fix the number of justices of the Supreme Court, though it can be fixed by Parliament through an act signed by the President.