

Discover the Parliament of Pakistan

PAKISTAN INSTITUTE FOR PARLIAMENTARY SERVICES

YOUTH GUIDE

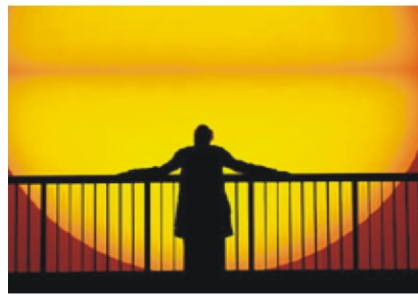


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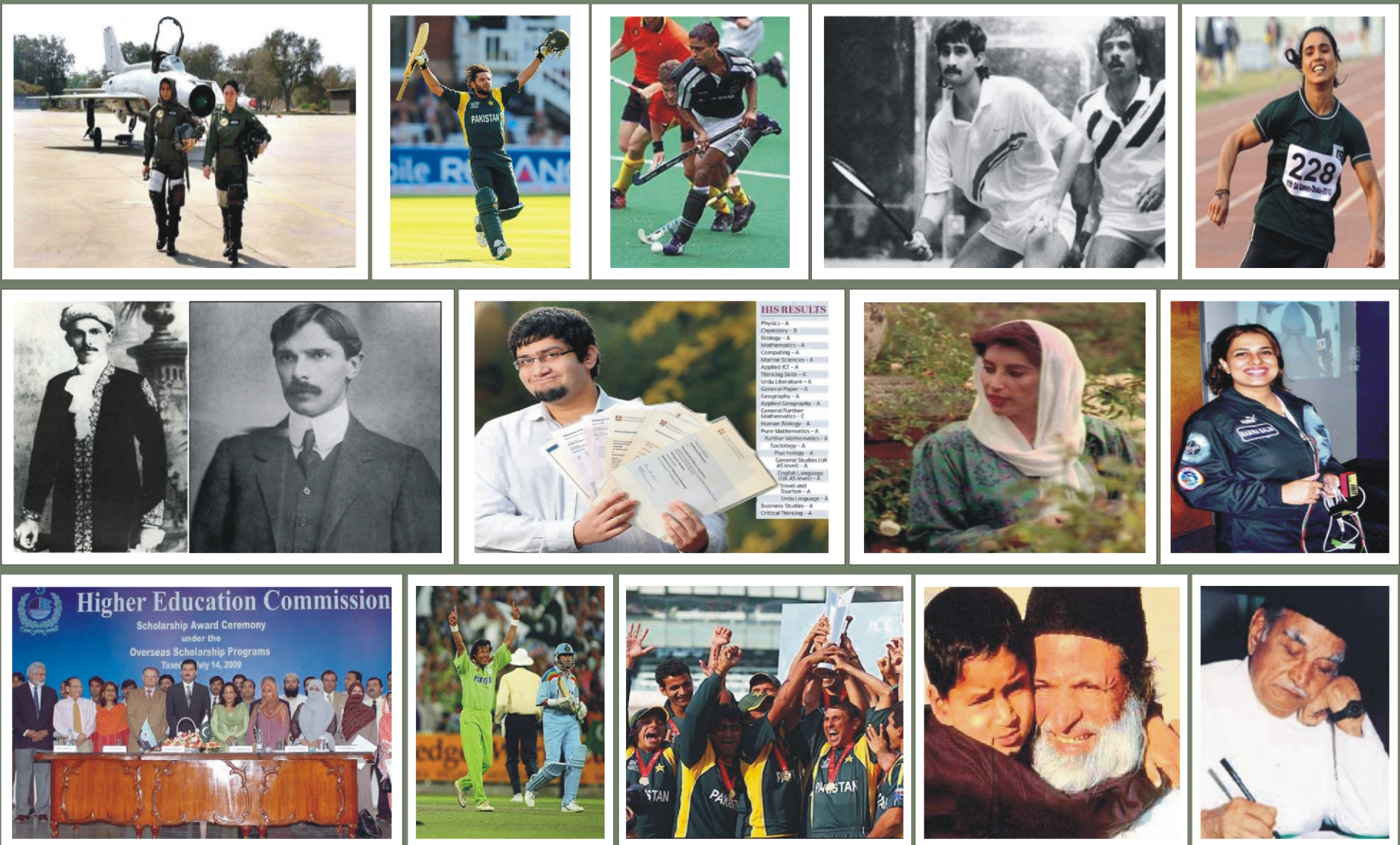
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Three Generations of Pakistan (1947 - 2010)

WHAT IS CONSTITUTION?

A written/traditional instrument embodying the basic principles and laws of a nation, state, or social group that determine the powers and duties of the government and guarantee certain rights to the people in it.¹



The historic Sindh Assembly hall where the Quaid-e-Azam addressed the inaugural session of Constituent Assembly on August 11, 1947



Quaid's Quote

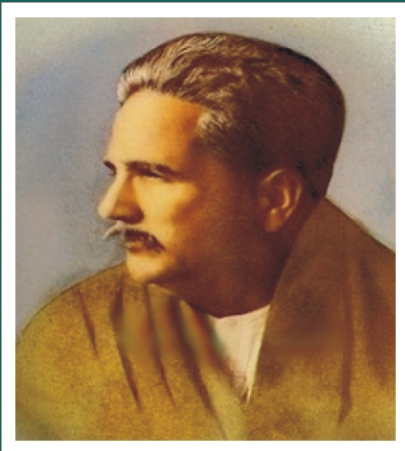
"You are free; you are free to go to your temples, you are free to go to your mosques or to any other place of worship in this State of Pakistan. You may belong to any religion or caste or creed that has nothing to do with the business of the State... We are starting in the days when there is no discrimination, no discrimination between one community and another, no discrimination between one caste or creed or another. We are starting with the fundamental principle that we are all citizens and equal citizens of one State."

August 11, 1947, Karachi



"Humanity needs three things today a spiritual interpretation of the universe, spiritual emancipation of the individual and basic principles of a universal import directing the evolution of human society on a spiritual basis."

Allama Dr. Muhammad Iqbal in his book, Reconstruction of Islamic Thought



PREAMBLE OF THE CONSTITUTION

The Objectives Resolution, 1949, became the Preamble of the 1973 consensus Constitution. It lays down the foundations of the Constitution on the principles of Islam, the concepts of welfare state ensuring human rights for all citizens and a federal parliamentary democracy as the system of the state. The text is as under:

Whereas sovereignty over the entire universe belongs to Allah Almighty alone and the authority which He has delegated to the State of Pakistan, through its people for being exercised within the limits prescribed by Him is a sacred trust;

This Constituent Assembly representing the people of Pakistan resolves to frame a Constitution for the sovereign independent State of Pakistan;

Wherein the State shall exercise its powers and authority through the chosen representatives of the people;

Wherein the principles of democracy, freedom, equality, tolerance and social justice as enunciated by Islam shall be fully observed;

Wherein the Muslims shall be enabled to order their lives in the individual and collective spheres in accordance with the teachings and requirements of Islam as set out in the Holy Quran and the Sunnah;

Wherein adequate provision shall be made for the minorities to freely profess and practice their religions and develop their cultures;

Wherein the territories now included in or in accession with Pakistan and such other territories as may hereafter be included in or accede to Pakistan shall form a Federation wherein the units will be autonomous with such boundaries and limitations on their powers and authority as may be prescribed;

Wherein shall be guaranteed fundamental rights including equality of status, of opportunity and before law, social, economic and political justice, and freedom of thought, expression, belief, faith, worship and association, subject to law and public morality;

Wherein adequate provisions shall be made to safeguard the legitimate interests of minorities and backward and depressed classes;

Wherein the independence of the Judiciary shall be fully secured;

Wherein the integrity of the territories of the Federation, its independence and all its rights including its sovereign rights on land, sea and air shall be safeguarded;

So that the people of Pakistan may prosper and attain their rightful and honored place amongst the nations of the World and make their full contribution towards international peace and progress and happiness of humanity.²

NATURE OF 1973 CONSENSUS CONSTITUTION

Islamic

The first two Articles of the Constitution introduce the name of the state to be **Islamic Republic of Pakistan**, and **Islam to be the state religion of Pakistan**. The 1949 Objectives Resolution, which is the Preamble of the Pakistani Constitution acknowledges the universal Sovereignty of Allah and puts the responsibility on the people of Pakistan and their chosen representatives to build Pakistan on the principles of Islam and social welfare. The Article 227 of the Constitution states that *All existing laws shall be brought in conformity with the Injunctions of Islam as laid down in the Holy Quran and Sunnah, in this Part referred to as the Injunctions of Islam, and no law shall be enacted which is repugnant to such injunctions.*

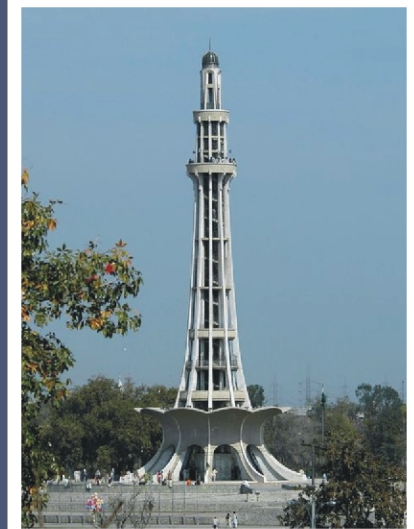
In this context, the Rules of Procedures and Conduct of Business of the National Assembly and the Senate allow its Members to refer any Bill felt repugnant to Islam to the Council of Islamic Ideology for advice, upon which the House takes a decision.



Quaid's Quote

Democracy, equality and liberty a Muslim Belief

"Democracy is in the blood of *Musalmans*, who believe in fraternity, equality and liberty."
London, December 14, 1946





Quaid's Quote

"Of course, an oath is only a matter of form; what is more important is the true spirit and the heart. But it is an important form and I would like you to take the opportunity of refreshing your memory by reading the prescribed oath to you:....As I have said just now, the spirit is what really matters. I should like you to study the Constitution which is in force in Pakistan at present and understand its true constitutional and legal implications when you say that you will be faithful to the Constitution...the executive authority flows from the Head of the Government of Pakistan...therefore any command or orders that may come to you cannot come without the sanction of the Executive Head. This is the legal position."

Address to the Officers of the Staff
College Quetta, June 14, 1948

NATURE OF 1973 CONSENSUS CONSTITUTION

Federal

The Article 1 states Pakistan to be a Federal State comprising following territories:

- a) The Provinces of Balochistan, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the Punjab and Sindh;
- b) The Islamabad Capital Territory, hereinafter referred to as the Federal Capital;
- c) The Federally Administered Tribal Areas; and
- d) Such States and territories as are or may be included in Pakistan, whether by accession or otherwise.
- e) Majlis-e-Shoora (Parliament) may by law admit into the Federation new States or areas on such terms and conditions as it thinks fit

These federating units offer diversity and variety in terms of languages, levels of social and economic development, population density and climatic conditions. In this context, the Constitution, in the wake of 18th amendment clearly lays down the jurisdiction and legislative areas of Federal and Provincial legislators. While the National Parliament and the Federal government manages the areas of financial budgeting, foreign relations, external and internal security, all other issues such as education, health, transportation and communication is managed on their own by the federating units (provinces).

The seat of Federal Government is in Islamabad while the capitals of provinces are Karachi for Sindh, Quetta for Balochistan, Lahore for Punjab, Hunza for Gilgit Baltistan, Peshawar for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Muzaffarabad for Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

Parliamentary Democracy

1. The Constitution, which was passed unanimously by the National Assembly in April 1973, provides a federal parliamentary system of government, with:

- a) The President as the head of the state
- b) An elected Prime Minister as the head of the government.
- c) We the people of Pakistan elect the Members of the National Assembly and the provincial assemblies through free vote in accordance with law to represent us and manage the country in accordance with our aspirations and the Constitution.

NATURE OF 1973 CONSENSUS CONSTITUTION

Welfare State

In the chapters 1 and 2 on the Fundamental Rights and the Principles of Policy, the Constitution holds the State to be responsible viz a viz provision of its citizens' basic rights. The Fundamental rights for all citizens of Pakistan³ include the following:

- a) Security of person- Article 9
- b) Safeguards as to arrest and detention – Article 10
- c) Slavery, forced labor, etc prohibited – Article 11
- d) Protection against retrospective punishment- Article 12
- e) Protection against double punishment – Article 13
- f) Inviolability of man – Article 14
- g) Freedom of Movement – Article 15
- h) Freedom of Assembly – Article 16
- i) Freedom of Association – Article 17
- j) Freedom of trade, business and profession – Article 18
- k) Freedom of Speech – Article 19
- l) Freedom to profess religion and to manage religious institutions – Article 20
- m) Safeguards against taxation for purposes of any particular religion – Article 21
- n) Safeguards as to educational institutions in respect of religion, etc – Article 22
- o) Provision as to property – Article 23
- p) Protection of Property Rights – Article 24
- q) Equality of Citizens – Article 25
- r) Non discrimination in respect of access to public places – Article 26
- s) Safeguards against discrimination in services – Article 27
- t) Preservation of language, script and culture – Article 28

The Chapter 2 on Principles of Policy clearly expresses the state's strong resolve to promote local government institutions, discouragement of parochial, racial, tribal, sectarian and provincial prejudices, promoting full participation of women in national life, protection of family and minorities and last but not the least promotion of social justice and eradication of social evils, etc.⁴ The Constitution also mentions that it would be the responsibility of each organ of the State to act in accordance with the Principles in so far as they related to the function of the organ or authority.⁵

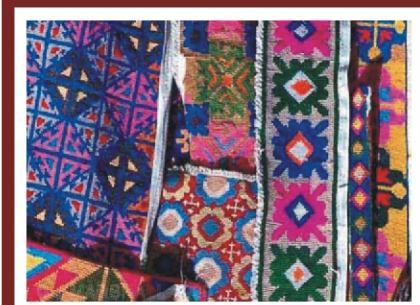


Quaid's Quote

Human Rights

"No man should lose his liberty and be deprived of his liberty, without a judicial trial in accordance with the accepted rules of evidence and procedure."

Speech on Criminal Law Emergency Bill, February 6, 1919

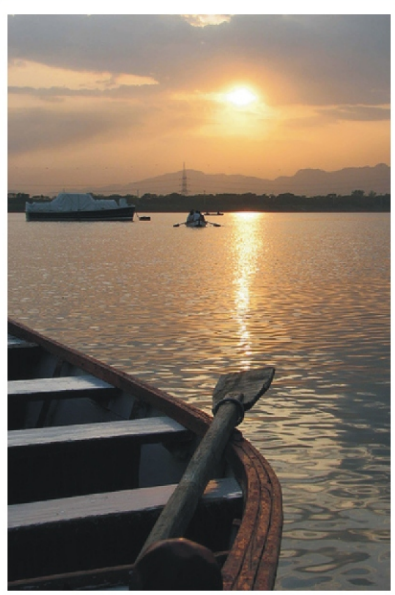




Quaid's Quote

Human Rights

"Brotherhood, equality and fraternity of man are all the basic points of our religion, culture and civilization and we fought for Pakistan because there was a danger of denial of these human rights in this Sub Continent."



AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION

A Bill to amend the Constitution may originate in either National Assembly or the Senate. When the Bill has been passed by the votes of not less than two-thirds of the total membership of the House, it is sent to the other House. In case it is passed by the other House also by the votes of no less than two thirds, the President signs it and the amendment is passed. A Bill to amend the Constitution which would have the effect of altering the limits of a Province shall not be presented to the President for assent unless it has been passed by the Provincial Assembly of that Province by the votes of not less than two-thirds of its total membership.⁶



WHAT IS PARLIAMENT?

In Pakistan, the Parliament consists of:

1. The President of Pakistan is the Head of State and represents the unity of the Republic as he is chosen by a secret ballot through an Electoral College comprising the Members of the Senate, National Assembly and the Provincial Assemblies.⁷ The President acts in accordance with the advice of the Cabinet (or the Prime Minister).⁸ The President is one of the three entities comprising the Parliament.⁹ A person who is a Muslim and not less than 45 years of age and is qualified to be elected as a Member of the National Assembly can contest the Presidential election. The President is elected for a term of 5 years. It is the duty of Chief Election Commissioner to conduct elections to the office of the President in a special session of Parliament and all the Provincial Assemblies in accordance with the provisions of Second Schedule to the Constitution.
2. The federal legislature, which is a bicameral Majlis-e-Shoora (Parliament), comprising two Houses:
 - a) The National Assembly (342 elected Members of National Assembly or MNAs); and
 - b) The Senate (100 Senators, elected by electoral college comprising members of National and Provincial Assemblies).¹⁰



Did you know?

The Majlis-e-Shoora (Parliament) in Pakistan comprises the President, the National Assembly and the Senate. The Arabic term, Majlis-e-Shoora refers to a Consultative Council or a Council of Advisers. Its tradition dates back to the times of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and the four pious Caliphs, whereby it comprised the most wise, knowledgeable and pious among the Believers. It then enjoyed the status of being the top decision making body to run the state.





Quaid's Quote

Duty of the Government

"You will no doubt agree with me that the first duty of a government is to maintain law and order, so that the life, property, and religious beliefs of its subjects are fully protected by the State.

...If we want to make this great State of Pakistan happy and prosperous we should wholly and solely concentrate on the well being of the people, and especially of the masses of the poor."

Address, Constituent Assembly of Pakistan, Karachi, August 11, 1947.



WHAT IS PARLIAMENT?

What does Parliament do?

Parliament is responsible for making and changing the laws of the Islamic Democratic Republic of Pakistan and for checking (scrutinizing) the work of the Government (Executive).

- a) The Parliament makes laws to bring about desired social changes in behavior of its citizens.
- b) The Parliament debates, reviews and approves decisions regarding policies drafted by the government and matters of National Interest.
- c) Through debates, adjournment motions, question hour, and Standing Committees, the Parliament keeps a check on the government. It ensures the government functions within the parameters set out in the Constitution, and does not violate the people's fundamental rights.
- d) Parliament scrutinizes public spending and exercises control of expenditure incurred by the government through the work of the relevant Standing Committees. The Public Accounts Committee has a special role to review the report of the Auditor General.
- e) The Parliament manages and resolves any internal crisis and conflicts.
- f) Only the parliament can amend the Constitution by two-thirds majority vote separately in each House.

Why do we need Parliament?

We all have a say in how our Pakistan is run. We do this by electing our Members of the National Assembly, MNAs, to represent our views in the National Assembly – the part of Parliament which has the greatest political power. The expertise and independence of members of the Senate complement the work of the National Assembly and ensures greater participation of all federating units of the country in running it.

PARLIAMENT AND THE GOVERNMENT (EXECUTIVE)

What is the Government?

The Government (Executive) is like the management of the country. It is made up of:

1. **The Prime Minister**, who is the Leader of the House in the National Assembly, is elected through a majority vote. The Prime Minister is the Head of the Government.
2. **The Cabinet:** The Prime Minister's team of Ministers which should not be more than 11% of total membership of the National Assembly (after the 18th amendment) and these are either MNAs or Senators. However, the number of federal ministers and ministers of state, who are Senators, shall not at any time, exceed one-fourth of the total numbers of federal ministers.¹¹
3. **Bureaucracy and government officials:** Experts in their respective fields, also termed as government officials are appointed in various government departments and ministries after competitive procedure of selections and promotions. They are expected to work in a transparent and accountable manner to implement the decisions of the Cabinet as they remain under public scrutiny of Parliament.
 - a) **Civil Services:** The appointments to and conditions of civil service in Pakistan is determined by an act of parliament, (Majlis-e-Shoora) for the services of the Federation and by acts of respective provincial assemblies for the provinces.¹²
 - b) **Command of Armed Forces:** The federal government has control and command of the armed forces. The President is the Supreme Commander of the armed forces. Every Member of the armed forces takes an oath as set out of the Third Schedule of the Constitution, whereby they pledge to uphold the Constitution and not to engage in political activities whatsoever.¹³
4. **Parliamentary Committees and the Executive:** A committee of the Parliament can check the working of respective government department in any way. It can undertake detailed oversight of all policies and actions of the respective department.

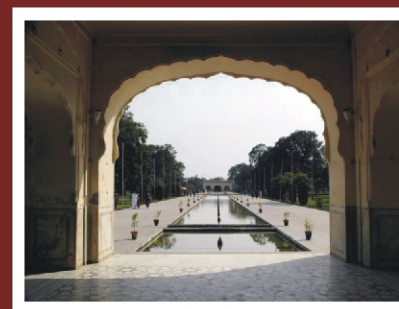


Quaid's Quote

Duty of the Government

"Those days have gone when the country was ruled by the bureaucracy. It is people's government, responsible to the people more or less on democratic lines and parliamentary practice...Make the people feel that you are their servants and friends, maintain the highest standard of honour, integrity, justice and fair play."

March 25, 1948, Chittagong





Quaid's Quote

Duty of Civil Servants to the State and Citizens

"You have to do your duty as servants; you are not concerned with this or that political party; that is not your business....You do not belong to the ruling class; you belong to the servants."

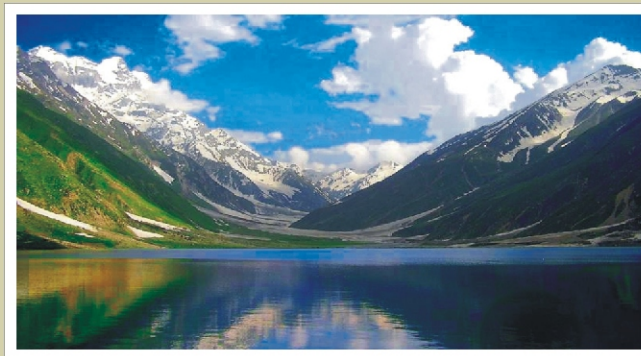
Address to Gazetted Officers,
Chittagong, March 25, 1948.



PARLIAMENT AND THE GOVERNMENT (EXECUTIVE)

What is the difference between Parliament and Government?

While the job of the Government is to run the country, the job of Parliament is to check if the Government is carrying out its role properly and effectively. To do this, Parliament has powers to limit the Government and prevent it from becoming too powerful. Government is accountable to the Parliament for all its actions. In simpler terms, Allah is the Master (see Article 227) of the country its people and their representatives in Parliament are the vicegerents whereas government is the manager which is always answerable to Parliament and the people.



THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

What is the National Assembly?

The National Assembly is made up of three hundred and forty-two Members (MNAs), including seats reserved for women and non-Muslims.¹⁴ MNAs are elected by the voters (the electorate) to each represent an area of Pakistan which is known as a Constituency. We all live in a constituency and have an MNAs to represent us in the National Assembly.

Electorate: Every citizen aged 18 years or above who has a sound mind and is registered as a voter, votes and elects the following Members:

Province / Area	General Seat	Women	Total
Balochistan	14	3	17
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	35	8	43
Punjab	148	35	183
Sindh	61	14	75
FATA	12	-	12
Federal Capital	2	-	2
Minorities	-	-	10
Total	272	60	342

The seats in the National Assembly have been proportionally allocated to each Province, the Federally Administered Tribal Areas and the Federal Capital on the basis of population in accordance with the last preceding census officially published.

- the constituencies for the general seats is single member territorial constituency and the members to fill such seats is elected by direct and free vote in accordance with law;
- each Province is a single constituency for all seats reserved for women which are allocated to the respective provinces under this principle; in accordance with law through proportional representation system of political parties' lists of candidates on the basis of total number of general seats secured by each political party from the Province concerned in the National Assembly;
- the constituency for all seats reserved for non-Muslims is the whole country; and
- The total number of general seats won by a political party includes the independent returned candidate or candidates who may duly join such political party within three days of the publication in the official Gazette of the names of the returned candidates.



Did you know?

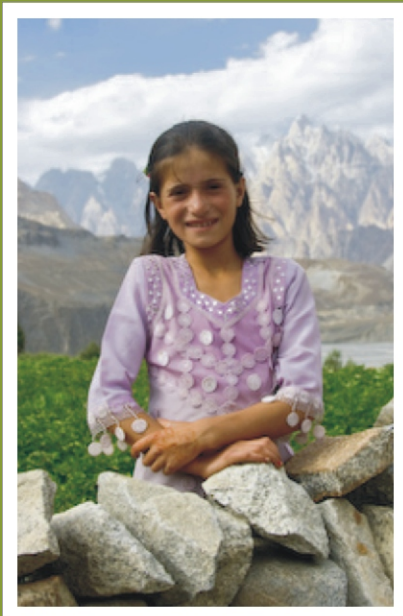
From 1972 onward, the State Bank auditorium in Islamabad functioned as the National Assembly of Pakistan. The Interim Constitution of Pakistan was adopted here in April 1972. It was here that the first bi-cameral legislature of Pakistan was also born after the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan was adopted in 1973. It was again here that the Martial Law, imposed in July 1977, was revoked on December 30, 1985.





Did you know?

Pakistan's 13th National Assembly took oath in March 2008 after general elections held on February 18, 2008.



THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Where does the National Assembly meet?

The National Assembly meets in a special chamber within the Parliament House at the Constitutional Avenue in Islamabad. The building's façade has the Arabic words written on it that mean: "There is none but one Allah and the Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) is Allah's Rasool (Prophet)".



SENATE

The Senate has equal representation from the federating units balancing the provincial inequality in the National Assembly, where the number of members is based on population of the provinces.

- a. An Electoral College comprising the National Assembly and the provincial assemblies elect the Senators from their respective Provinces.
- b. The Senate numbers a total of 104 members who serve six-year terms which are alternated so that half the senators are up for re-election by the Electoral College every three years.
- c. The Senate's role is to promote national cohesion and harmony, and work as a stabilizing factor of the federation.

What does a Parliamentarian (MNA or Senator) do?

A parliamentarian is expected to play the following roles:

- a. An enactor of effective legislation and one who assesses and reviews laws.
- b. An overseer of government's policies and implementation of Parliament's decisions.
- c. A communicator and a representative of the people.
- d. A decision maker on matters of National Interest.
- e. A crisis and conflict manager.



Did you know?

The President, from time to time, summons either House or both the Houses of Parliament under Article 54(1) of the Constitution. However, on a requisition made by at least one-fourth of the total membership of the Assembly, the Speaker can also, under Article 54(3), summon the National Assembly. Only the Speaker can prorogue the House summoned by him. Even when the National Assembly is dissolved, the Speaker continues to hold this office till a new Speaker is elected.





Did you know?

The Senate and the National Assembly - have acquired a permanent abode in the present Parliament House, which was inaugurated on May 28, 1986. The Hall was renovated on the orders of the Speaker and inaugurated by the Prime Minister of Pakistan on November 3, 1996.



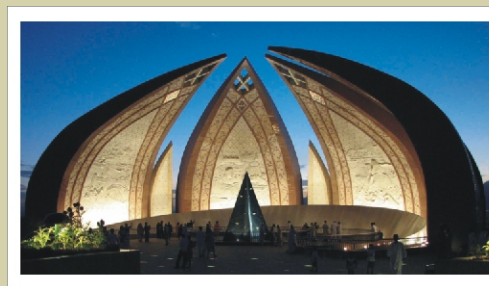
SENATE

Election to the Senate

The Senate consists of 104 members (after the 18th Amendment), of whom 14 members are elected by each Provincial Assembly, 8 members are elected from Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) by the Members of National Assembly from these areas, 2 members, 1 woman and 1 technocrat is elected from the Federal Capital by the Members of National Assembly, 4 women and 4 Technocrats are elected by the members of each Provincial Assembly. The breakup of seats allocated to each Province, FATA, Federal Capital, Women and Ulema/Technocrats, is as under:

NUMBER OF SEATS				
Province / Area	General Seats	Seats reserved for		Total
		Women	Technocrats and Ulema	
Federal Capital	2	1	1	4
Punjab	14	4	4	22
Sindh	14	4	4	22
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	14	4	4	22
FATA	8	-	-	8
Balochistan	14	4	4	22
Total	66	17	17	100

As per the 18th Constitutional Amendment Act , four non-Muslims, one from each Province, shall be elected by the members of each Provincial Assembly, making the Total Strength of Senate equal to 104.



ELECTIONS

What are General Elections?

Free and fair elections are an essential part of democracy, allowing the people to have a say in how they want their country to be governed. A general election is held when the National Assembly is dissolved (closed) by the President on the advice of the Prime Minister. There is no minimum length of a National Assembly but the maximum time is five years. Senate can never be dissolved. Elections are held within 90 days of the dissolution of the National Assembly by an independent Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) in accordance with the election laws envisaged in the Constitution and as passed by the Parliament.

What happens at election time?

Pakistan is divided into electoral areas termed as constituencies. We have numerous bigger and smaller parties. Each party that wants to win a constituency will select one person to be their candidate and will try to persuade people to vote for that person and their policies. There may also be independent candidates.

To be a candidate in a general election you must be aged 21 or over and a citizen of Pakistan. Some people have jobs where they need to be politically impartial (such as judges, police officers, military men and civil servants) so are disqualified. However, any of them can only compete for election two years after completion/retirement from service. All candidates must pay some security deposit which they will only get back if they secure at least 5% of the votes cast in their constituency.

Who can vote in parliamentary elections?

To be able to vote you must be

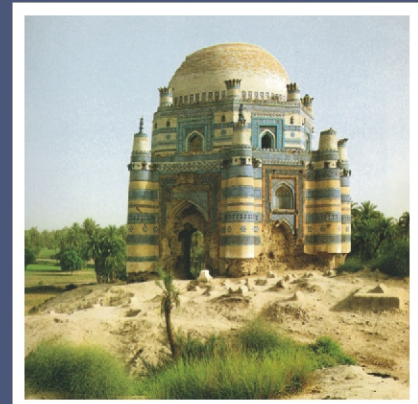
- a. A citizen of Pakistan.
- b. Aged 18 years or above.
- c. Having sound mind.
- d. Registered as a voter in the Electoral Rolls.¹⁵

Voting is not compulsory. You can vote in person or by post.



Did you know?

The Election Commission of Pakistan, ECP, holds national elections. The Election Commission of Pakistan is an independent and autonomous constitutional body charged with the function of conducting transparent, free, fair and impartial elections to the National and Provincial Assemblies. . It was created on 23rd March 1956.





Quaid's Quote

"The vital contest in which we are engaged is not only for the material gain but also the very existence of the soul of Muslim nation, Hence I have said often that it is a matter of life and death to the Musalmans and is not a counter for bargaining."
Presidential Address delivered at the Special Pakistan Session of the Punjab Muslim Students Federation, March 2, 1941



ELECTIONS

What happens on elections (polling) day?

There is a 45-day election campaign time during which all the parties and candidates try to persuade voters to vote for them by putting up posters, sending out leaflets, knocking on doors and holding public meetings. General Election voting starts at 8 am and continues till 5 pm throughout the constituency known as the polling station. These are often schools and village halls, etc. Each voter has one vote which they cast for the candidate of their choice. The counting starts in presence of polling agents of all candidates and the one with the largest votes, becomes an MNA for the Constituency. This voting system is called "first past the post". If a Member dies, retires or is disqualified between elections then by-election (an election only in a particular constituency without MNA) is held. All MNAs take an oath on the inaugural session of the new National Assembly.

What is the Electoral Procedure?¹⁶

- For the conduct of elections to the National and Provincial Assemblies, the Election Commission appoints a District Returning Officer for each District and a Returning Officer for each constituency, who are drawn from amongst the officers of the Judiciary, the Federal/Provincial Government and Local Authorities. Returning Officers are mostly Additional District & Sessions Judges.
- The list of polling stations is prepared by the Returning Officers and approved by the District Returning Officer. No polling station can be located in the premises of a candidate.
- The list of Presiding Officers, Assistant Presiding Officers and polling staff is prepared by the Returning Officer and sent to the District Returning Officer for approval at least 15 days before the polls. The Presiding Officer is responsible for conducting polls at the Polling Station and maintaining law and order. He is assisted by the Assistant Presiding Officers and Polling Officer.
- After the publication of Election Schedule by the Election Commission, nomination papers are invited from interested contesting candidates.
- Scrutiny of nomination papers is carried out by the Returning Officers and nomination papers are accepted/rejected.

ELECTIONS

- Appeals against rejection/acceptance of nomination papers are filed with the appellate tribunal, who decide such appeals summarily within such time as may be notified by the Commission and any order passed thereon shall be final.
- Final list of contesting candidates is prepared and published in the prescribed manner by the Returning Officer after incorporation of the decisions on appeals and after withdrawal of candidature by the candidates, if any.
- Election symbols are also allocated to the candidates by the Returning Officer according to their party affiliation or as an individual candidate, from the list of Election symbols approved by the Election Commission. The Returning Officer also publishes the names of the contesting candidates arranged in the Urdu alphabetical order specifying against each the symbol allocated to them.
- The Election Commission of Pakistan provides each Returning Officer copies of voter's list for his constituency who distributes it amongst the Presiding Officers in accordance with the polling scheme and assignment of voters to each polling station/booth.
- Voters cast their votes at specified polling stations according to their names in an electoral rolls. Since the election for both National and Provincial Assemblies constituencies are held on the same day, the voter is issued two separate ballot papers for each National Assembly and Provincial Assembly constituency.
- When an elector presents himself at the polling station to vote, the Presiding Officer shall issue a ballot paper to the elector after satisfying himself about the identity of the elector through his identity card.
- Polling is held for nine hours on the polling day without any break.
- Immediately after the close of the poll, votes are counted at the polling stations by the Presiding Officers in presence of the candidates, their Election Agents, and Polling Agents.
- After counting the ballot papers, the Presiding Officer prepares a statement of the count indicating the number of votes secured by a candidate, and send it to the Returning Officer along with the election material, un-used ballot papers, spoilt ballot papers, tendered ballot papers, challenged ballot papers, marked copies of the electoral rolls, the counter-foils of used ballot papers, the tendered votes lists, and the challenged votes lists.
- The Presiding Officers also announce the result of count at the polling stations and paste a copy of the result outside the polling stations.



Did you know?

The old Sindh Assembly Building became seat of Parliament of Pakistan on August 10, 1947. In its historic hall Quaid-e-Azam addressed the inaugural session of Pakistan's Constituent Assembly.





Quaid's Quote

"Pakistan not only means freedom and independence but the Muslim Ideology which has to be preserved, which has come to us as a precious gift and treasure and which, we hope other will share with us"
Message to Frontier Muslim Students Federation, June 18, 1945



ELECTIONS

- After the receipt of statement of counts from the Presiding Officers of the polling stations, the Returning Officer compiles the preliminary unofficial result and intimates the results to the Election Commission through fax for announcement on print/electronic media.
- After the announcement of unofficial result, the Returning Officer serves a notice to all the contesting candidates and their election agents regarding the day, time and place fixed for consolidation of the result. In the presence of the contesting candidates and election agents, the Returning Officer consolidates the results of the count furnished by the Presiding Officers in the prescribed manner, including postal ballot received by him before the polling day.
- Immediately after preparing the consolidated statement, the Returning Officer submits a copy to the Election Commission in the prescribed form which publishes the names of the returned candidates in the official Gazette.



WHO'S WHO IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY?

The leader of the political party with the most seats (MNAs) in the NA becomes the Prime Minister. He or she chooses a number of senior members of the party to become ministers. Ministers sit on the front bench in the left side of the National Assembly Chamber. They lead the debates and answer questions about their ministries in the Question Hour.

The party with the second largest number of seats in the National Assembly, that chooses to oppose the government, is known as the Opposition. Its leader is known as the Leader of the Opposition. He along with other members of Opposition sits on the front bench right of the government/treasury benches.

All the other smaller parties accordingly choose to support or oppose the government and thus sit on the left or right side of the NA chamber respectively.

The National Assembly also has an elected Speaker and a Deputy Speaker, who preside the proceedings and run the House according to the already laid down Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business of the National Assembly. The Speaker and/or the Presiding Officer sit at the Head Chair facing the Members in the centre pedestal beneath the large portrait of Founder of the Nation, the Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

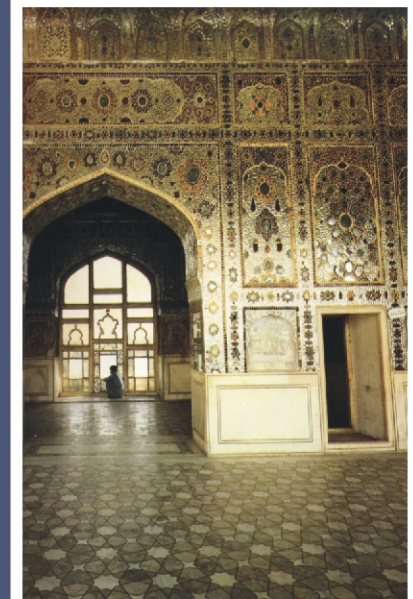
The NA Chamber consists of:

1. Speaker's Chair
2. Secretariat Table
3. Government Benches
4. Opposition Benches
5. Guest Galleries
6. Press Gallery
7. Telecasting Unit
8. Division Lobbies



Did you know?

The Speaker is termed so as he or she speaks on behalf of the National Assembly and keeps the chamber in order. Thus, he or she is unable to participate in debates or ask questions, etc.





Did you know?

The business of the National Assembly is done as it appears on the Orders of the Day, unless the Speaker directs otherwise. The Secretary prepares the Orders of the Day and makes its copy available for use of every member and any other person entitled under the Constitution to speak or participate in the proceedings.



WHAT DOES THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DO?

Making Laws

New laws are required to deal with our ever changing society, therefore, the National Assembly spends a lot of time in either improving older legislations or introducing new laws to bring desirable changes in the behavior of actors in the society to resolve a particular issue/s.

Debates

The National Assembly remains the top forum to debate the challenges faced by the state. Different arguments and opinions are expressed on a particular matter of national importance to finally being about the best possible solutions. The debate helps develop a national consensus on issues and at the end of the debate sometimes MNAs give their opinion by voting either aye (yes) or no.

Budget

The government needs money and resources to run the country. It collects taxes and earns from various sources including exports and foreign remittances, etc. Each year, usually in March or April, the Government ministries finalize their development schemes and spending for each area. This is known as the budget preparation which is finally put in the House for approval in June. There are four stages of a budget process which is cyclical in nature. As soon as one cycle is completed, the next begins. These are:

1. **Formulation** - Preparation of budget proposals by the executive/government.
2. **Enactment** - Formal authorization by the parliament/legislator.
3. **Execution** - Implementation to ensure that expenditures reflect the enacted budget.
4. **Audit** - Examination and verification of both receipts and expenditures at the end of the financial year (1st July 30th June)

The National Assembly has a duty on behalf of people of Pakistan to make sure that the Government is not raising taxes without good reason and spending the money wisely. In this context, the Standing Committees must call for presentations as early as March every year from respective ministries regarding their next year's allocations, resources and schemes, etc.

WHAT DOES THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DO?

Oversight of Government

The Parliament has two effective tools to check the working of the government, the Parliamentary Committees and the Question Hour.

Committees¹⁷

Strong, active committees are instrumental in dealing with the complex, varied and demanding nature of parliamentary business. The Committees check the work of government departments. There is a Committee for every department generally. Each Committee has 17 members who meet together to conduct enquiries into areas of the work of their particular department. At the end of such enquiries the Committee issues a Report, which every one can read and which may be debated in the Parliament.

Types of Committees

1. **Standing Committees** in the National Assembly corresponds to the number of Ministries.
2. **The Public Accounts Committee** has a special mandate specifically to oversee the implementation of the state budget by reviewing and acting upon the reports of the Auditor General.
3. **Functional Committees** deal with the business of the House (Finance, House and Library, Rules, Privileges, Government Assurances, etc.)
4. **Select Committees** may be created on a motion passed by the Assembly to review new and amend existing legislative proposals.

Membership of Committees

The Members of all the Committees are elected by the respective Houses. Committees have parliamentarians both from the ruling and opposition parties, generally reflecting the same proportions of Members in the House. The membership of each committee in the National Assembly is limited to 17 Members.



"Committees are Eyes, the Ears, the Hands and very often the Brains of the House."

Speaker Reed of United States Congress

"Congress in session is Congress in Exhibition, while Congress in its Committee Room is Congress at work."

Joseph P. Haris in his book, Congress and the Legislative Process





Did you know?

The Speaker is the most important and the highest office-holder in the National Assembly. He is the principal spokesman of the House in its relations with the other parts of the Majlis-e-Shoora (Parliament) - the Senate and the President, the other arms of government - the Executive and the Judiciary, and with other outside bodies and people. In this role, Speakers are expected to maintain the authority of the House, and to protect its rights and privileges. The Speaker occupies the fourth position in the Warrant of Precedence, after the President, the Prime Minister and the Chairman Senate. He is also second in the line of succession to the President.

WHAT DOES THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DO?

Powers of the Committee

A Committee can examine expenditures, administration, delegated legislation, public petitions and policies of the Ministry concerned and its associated public bodies. It may forward its report of findings and recommendations to the Ministry, and the Ministry should submit its reply to the Committee. A Committee has powers to enforce the attendance of any person and compelling the production of documents.

Term of Office

The Standing and functional committees are established for the entire term of the House. Select and special committees are dissolved after the task for which they were formed has been completed.

Sittings of Committees

The Chairman may fix the sittings of a Committee ordinarily held within the precincts of the Parliament, but meetings and hearings may be held in an appropriate off-site location related to the Committee's agenda.

Characteristics of Effective Committees

The following four characteristics are most important to make the Committees more effective:

1. Committees need to exercise their suo motto powers, should have a recommending status in policy decisions and need to be given more powers.
2. Committees must have professional human and financial resources to function effectively.
3. Committee proceedings must be more open, allowing access to media & public and require dissemination of Committee reports on regular and timely basis to stakeholders for greater efficacy.
4. Committees need to build linkages with educational institutions and academia for research and technical support. The more knowledgeable members of a Committee are, the better check they can put on government.

WHAT DOES THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DO?

Question Hour¹⁸

Question Hour allows the parliament to hold the government answerable to the public and make the MNAs and Senators aware of the activities of the ministries and divisions. MNAs can also seek any information on matters of national significance, as well as draw the attention of the government to public grievances so as to get them addressed.

Notice of Questions

A Member can ask a question through a 15-day written notice. The question must be addressed to the concerned minister and should be precise and to the point.

Time for Questions

The first hour of every sitting, (except on Tuesdays in National Assembly),¹⁹ after recitation from the Holy Quran, is available for asking and answering of questions.

Kinds of Questions

Each Member may ask two (2) starred and two (2) unstarred questions in a day's sitting.

1. **Starred Question:** It is a question to which a written reply is read out by the minister. The Member who asks a starred question has to distinguish it with an asterisk (*). When a question has been answered, any Member may ask upto two supplementary questions for further explaining the answer, if the Speaker allows as per the admissibility in rules.²⁰
2. **Unstarred Question:** In this the written reply is not read out. After reply by the minister, a Member may ask upto two more supplementary questions to elaborate different dimensions of a question and/or its reply.
3. **Short Notice Questions:** In case of a matter of immediate public importance, a Member may ask a question on shorter notice with permission of the Speaker and the concerned minister.



Quaid's Quote

"No nation can rise to the height of glory unless your women are side by side with you. We are victims of evil customs. It is a crime against humanity that our women are shut up within the four walls of the houses as prisoners. There is no sanction anywhere for the deplorable condition in which our women have to live."

Speech at a meeting of the Muslim University Union, Aligarh, March 10, 1944





Quaid's Quote

"I insist you to strive. Work, Work and only work for satisfaction with patience, humbleness and serve thy nation."

All India Muslim Students
Conference, Jalandhur, November
15, 1942



WHAT DOES THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DO?

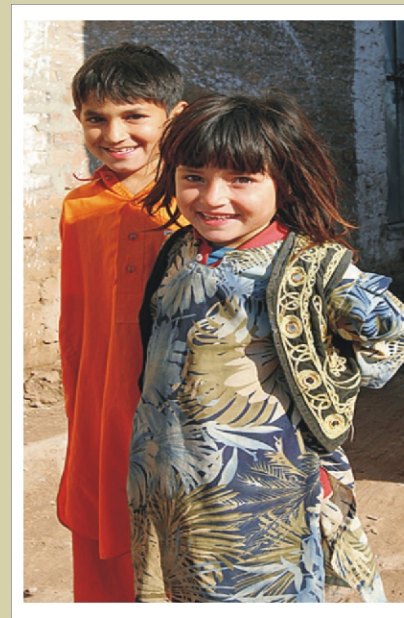
4. **Call Attention Notice:** A Member can call attention of a minister to any matter of urgent public importance and the minister may make a brief statement or ask for time to make statement at a later hour or date.²¹ In the National Assembly, **notice of Calling Attention** shall be given one day before the day on which the notice is to be considered.

Notices to Lapse

All the notices which have not been taken up at the sitting for which they have been given shall lapse at the end of the sitting.

Translation

Members can submit questions in Urdu or English; the Secretariat translates Urdu questions into English before sending them to ministries and divisions. An Urdu translation of replies sent by the ministries and divisions is also arranged for Members.

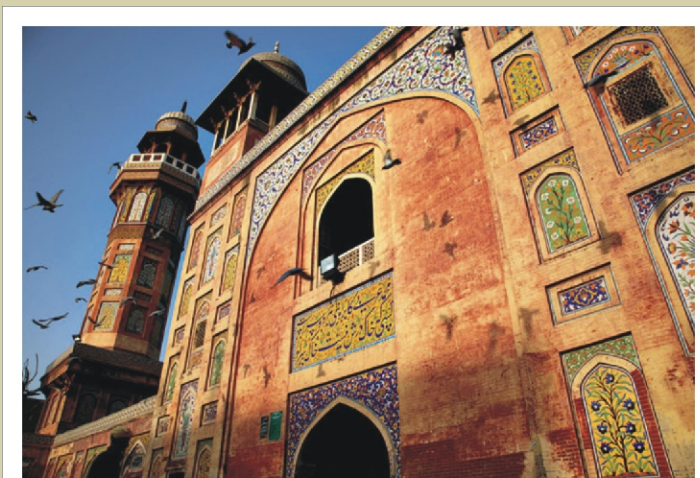


HOW ARE LAWS MADE?

No new law can be made unless it has completed a number of stages in both the National Assembly and the Senate and has been signed by the President of Pakistan. A proposed new law is known as a Bill and can only become an Act of Parliament, and the law of the land, once it has completed all of its stages. **Legislation or Law-Making** is the fundamental responsibility performed together by the two Houses of Majlis-e-Shoora (Parliament), i.e. the Senate and the National Assembly.²³

Types of Bills

1. **Government Bills:** Introduced by a minister and passed by simple majority.²⁴
2. **Private Member's Bill:** Introduced by any Member of the House & passed by simple majority.²⁵
3. **Constitutional Amendment Bill:** A bill for amendments in the Constitution requires two-thirds majority of both Houses to pass it and also that of other Houses (in some cases).²⁶ It can originate in either House.
4. **Money Bill:** A government bill dealing with matters of income and spending; it originates in the Assembly. It is sent to the Senate within seven days. It is the prerogative of the National Assembly to pass the bill with or without incorporating recommendations of the Senate.²⁷



Quaid's Quote

"My message to you all is of hope, courage and confidence. Let us mobilize all our resources in a systematic and organized way and tackle the grave issues that confront us with grim determination and discipline worthy of a great nation."

Eid-ul-Azha Message to the Nation,
October 24, 1947





Did you know?

The role of a Legislator is to: read and understand bills presented to his / her legislature; assess whether those bills will advance the public interest; ask questions to get the needed facts to debate whether those bills' detailed provisions will serve the public interest; oversee the administration of the laws in order to ensure that the laws as enforced advance the public interest; and communicate meaningfully with his / her constituents about the kinds of laws they need to improve the quality of their lives.



HOW ARE LAWS MADE?

From a Bill to an Act

Step 1: Introducing a Bill

Three copies of the bill along with a Statement of Objectives and reasons accompany a 10-day written notice to the secretary of the Assembly to move a bill.

Step 2: Order of The Day

Motion to introduce private Member's bill are set down on the Orders of the day for private Member's day and its copies are circulated to all Members.

Step 3: Bills Repugnant to Islam

Such a Bill is referred to the Council of Islamic Ideology for advice.

Step 4: 1st Reading - Discussion on Principles of Bill

Bill circulated among Members for getting their opinion and discussing its principles.

Step 5: Motion of Consideration by Member in Charge.

Step 6: Reference to Committees

All bills other than the Money Bill are referred to the concerned Standing Committee or Select Committee for recommendations.

Step 7: Committee's Recommendation

The committee can approve the bill or suggest changes.

HOW ARE LAWS MADE?

Step 8: 2nd Reading - Amendments

A member has to give one-day notice for moving amendments in a bill. The whole bill is read clause by clause.

Step 9: 3rd Reading - DEBATE

Members argue on general character of a bill either in support or to reject the bill. It may be noted that only verbal amendments can be moved at this stage.

Step 10: Vote

After debate, the Speaker puts the motion for the decision of the House.

Step 11: Transmission of Bills to Senate

Once a bill (other than Money Bill) is passed by the House in which it originated, it is sent to the other House. The bill undergoes a similar process of debate and committee scrutiny and when it is passed, it is sent to the President for approval.

Step 12: Authentication and Submission of Bills for Assent

When a bill is passed by the National Assembly, without amendment, an authenticated copy signed by Speaker is transmitted to the President.

Step 13: Promulgation

When a bill is approved by the President, the secretary shall immediately ensure its publication in the Gazette as an **ACT of Majlis- e- Shoora**.²⁸



Did you know?

When Bills arrived for him to sign, the Quaid-e-Azam would go through them sentence by sentence. "Clumsy and badly worded," he would complain... He would tell his Secretary, "Split it up into more clauses!" "This should go back and be rewritten!" When the Secretary pleaded, "Sir, you will be holding up a useful piece of legislation," he would relent. But his vigilance did not weaken. "They can't hustle me," he would say, "I won't do it." (February 1948 ... page 193: Hector Bolitho, Jinnah, Creator of Pakistan)



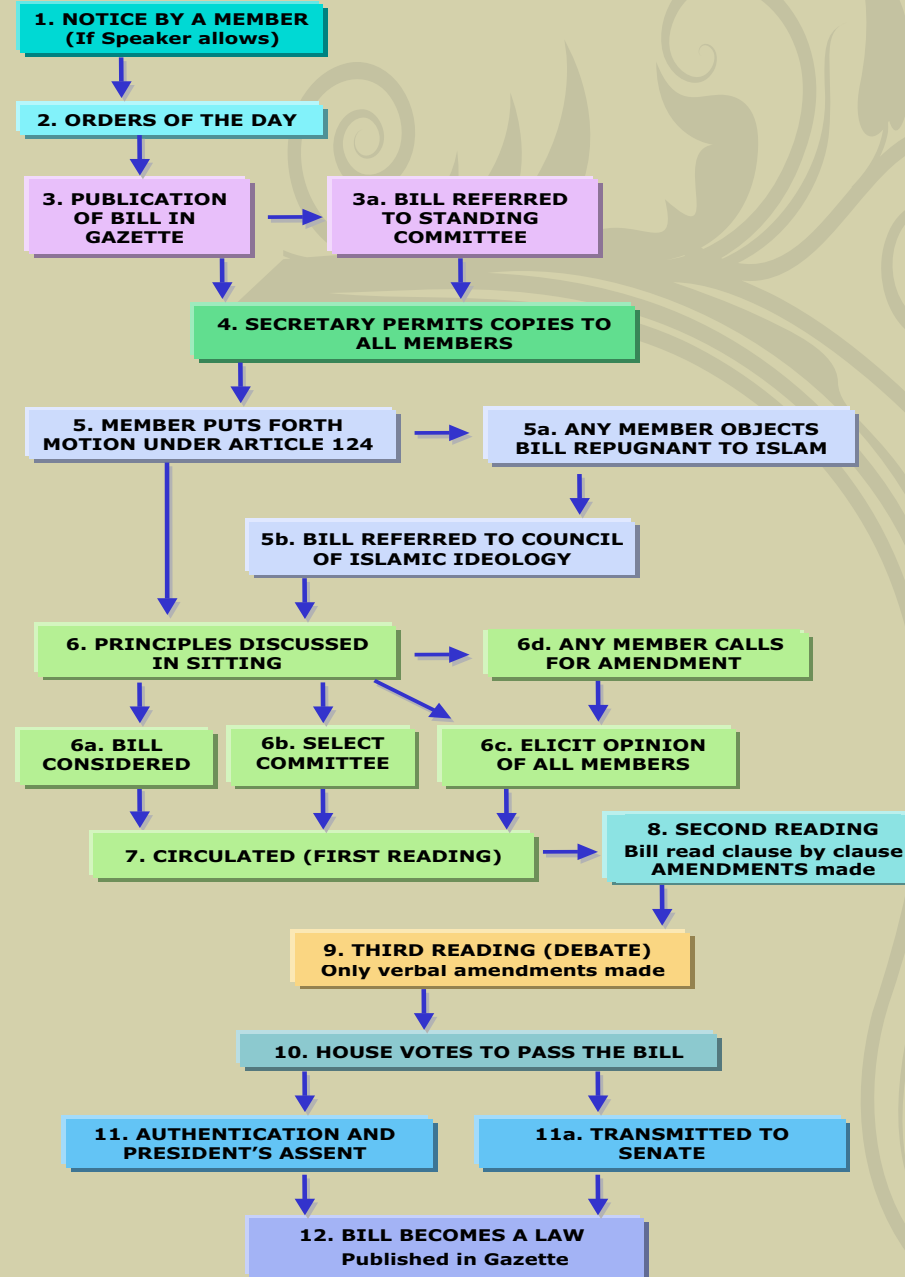


Did you know?

The only time that the three parts of Parliament meet together is for the Presidential Address at the opening of the new Parliamentary year.



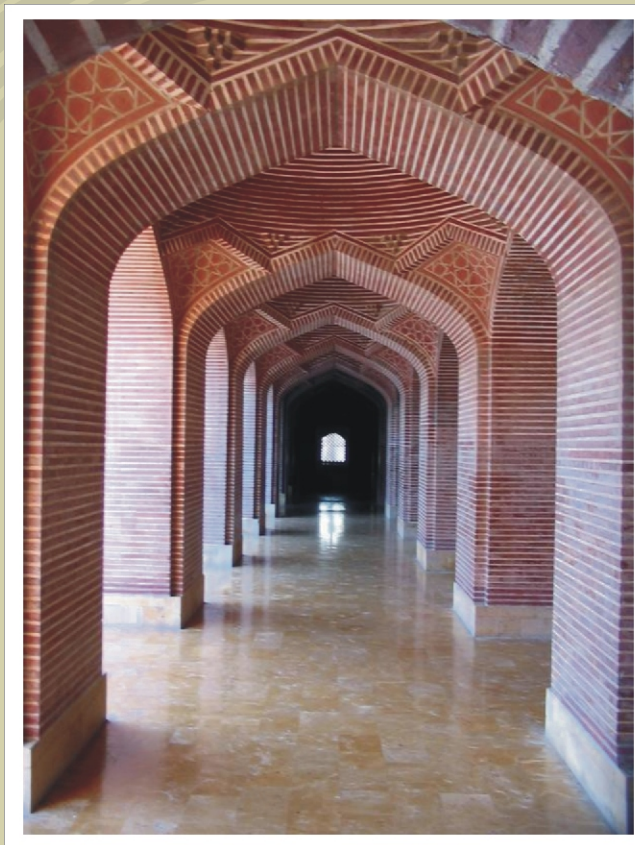
HOW ARE LAWS MADE?



HOW ARE LAWS MADE?

Ordinances

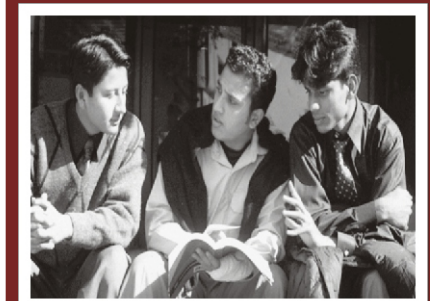
The President may promulgate an Ordinance, having the same effect as an Act when the Assembly is not in session. It remains valid for four months and it is put forth in both Houses (only National Assembly for Money Bill) for acceptance or rejection within four months of promulgation. Additionally, the President can withdraw the Ordinance.²⁹ The President cannot repromulgate an Ordinance.



Quaid's Quote

"The prosperity and advancement of a nation depend upon its intelligentsia, and Muslim India is looking forward to her young generation and education classes to give a bold lead for our guidance and a brilliant record of historical achievements and traditions. Islam expect every Muslim to do this duty, and if we realise our responsibility time will come soon when we shall justify ourselves worthy of a glorious past."

December 24, 1940

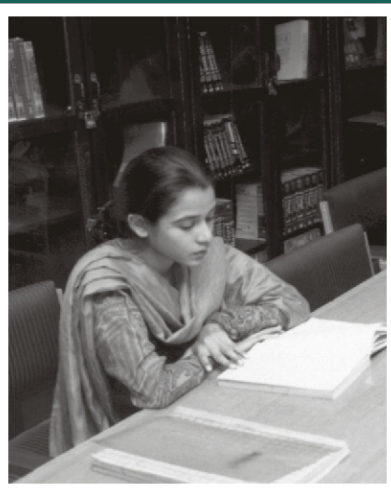




Quaid's Quote

"My young friends, students who are present here, let me tell you as one who has always had love and affection for you, as one who has served you for ten years faithfully and loyally; let me give you this word of warning. You will be making the greatest mistake if you allow yourself to be exploited by one political party or the other."

March 1948, Dacca



POLITICAL PARTIES OF PAKISTAN

A "Political Party" is an association of citizens or a combination or group of such associations formed with a view to propagating or influencing political opinion and participating in elections for any elective public office or for membership of a legislative body.³⁰

Role of Political Parties in a Parliamentary Democracy

Political parties have a central role in a democratic dispensation, as they provide the leadership of mobilizing people regarding formulation of a common vision and a platform to take forth the peoples' aspirations and finally compete in the race for running the affairs of the state. Political Parties undertake the following roles in a parliamentary democracy:

1. **Means of Pluralism:** Parties ensure Representation of the people from all walks of life, all cross sections and geographical areas of the country. Different parties provide different visions to run the state through their manifestos. In Pakistan, there are centre-left parties like PPP which are flag bearer of democratic socialism, parties like PML N and PTI which have a centre-right orientation, they are committed to democratic system with an ideological ethical vision to run the country. At the same time, we have left wing parties like ANP and rightist parties like JI, MMA and JUI (F), in addition to nationalist parties like BNP, etc. All these political parties are manifestation of democratic pluralism where everyone has freedom of thought and expression.
2. **Mean of Freedom of thought, mutual tolerance and peaceful co existence:** Political parties provide a perpetual means for dialogue. They base their working on the famous maxim - WE AGREE TO DISAGREE, which means parties try solving controversial and difficult challenges, only through peaceful dialogue. Violence and dictatorship has little place in a society which possesses strong and democratic parties.
3. **Manifestation of Parliamentary System** leading to a popularly elected Legislature, majority Executive and an independent Judiciary.
4. **Means of ACCOUNTABILITY** of parliamentarians, cabinet of Ministers as well as public office holders. Parties have an inbuilt watch dog role to oversee their members.

POLITICAL PARTIES OF PAKISTAN

What parties are expected to do to compete in ELECTIONS?

It is lawful for anybody of individuals or association of citizens to form, organize, and continue or set-up a political party under a distinct name. A political party shall have a distinct identity of its structures at the national, provincial and local levels, wherever applicable.³¹

Each political party or a coalition of political parties, which is interested to compete in general elections, is required to submit certain documents including:

1. Their respective Constitutions to the Election Commission to qualify for allotment of symbol.
2. The party candidates have to submit a certificate that it has held internal elections to the ECP, in addition to
3. A detail statement of his/her property and financial statements.

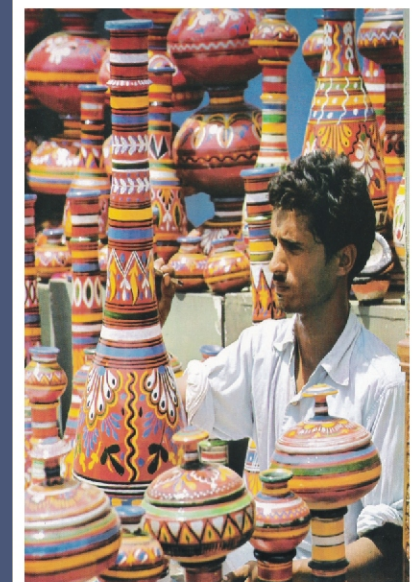
In addition, political parties have a role in every stage of an Election, before, during and after as under:

1. Reflecting peoples' aspirations and a joint party vision through detailed MANIFESTO
2. Assisting people in preparation of CNICs and registration of new voters
3. Nomination of Candidates
4. Political Campaigning
5. Assisting voters on Election day with regard to identification if names in electoral rolls
6. Provision and training of polling agents for candidates on polling day
7. Decision making regarding sitting in government or opposition benches
8. Providing Offices to candidates in Constituencies for maintenance of day to day interaction with public
9. Providing party lines and policy to elected candidates as parliamentarians so as to enable them play their role in representing, legislation and oversight as well as taking up matters of national interest
10. Nominating parliamentary leaders, names of women MPs proportional to percentage of seats they win in the general elections in addition to candidates for election of Standing Committee Chairs.



Did you know?

In the February 2008 general elections for the National Assembly, there were 110 registered political parties. Only 10 of these succeeded in winning seats. There were also a number of independent candidates; and 16 of them were elected as MNAs.





Did you know?

The 18th Constitutional Amendment 2010 was passed by unanimous consensus of all political parties in the Parliament. It restored the parliamentary democracy in Pakistan by improving the balance of power between President and the Prime Minister. It paved way for provincial autonomy by abolishing Concurrent list and creating clear areas of control for the federal and provincial domains. that promises to improve relations among federating units.



POLITICAL PARTIES OF PAKISTAN

Reserved Seats and Proportional Representation for Women

Reserved seats have been kept for women and non-Muslims in the National as well as in the provincial assemblies. In the National Assembly there are (60 seats out of 332) reserved for women and (10 seats) for the non-Muslims.³²

(c) the constituencies for the seats reserved for women and technocrats shall be such that each Province forms one constituency with as many such seats as are allocated to the Provinces under clause (2); and
*(d) the members to fill seats reserved for women and technocrats which are allocated to a Province under clause (2) shall be elected simultaneously through proportional representation system of open political parties' lists of candidates on the basis of total votes secured by the candidates of each political party contesting elections to the general seats.*³³

The political parties contesting elections for such seats, file separate lists of their women and non-Muslim candidates in order of priority at a fixed date after the announcement of general election results. The lists are published at the time of nomination of party candidates. Each party then gets its respective share of women seats proportional to the percentage of total votes secured by party candidates in general elections. The women highest in the priority list of the party published earlier are taken as elected Member of the Parliament under the Constitution.



WHAT IS PAKISTAN INSTITUTE FOR PARLIAMENTARY SERVICES, PIPS?

The Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services, PIPS, is a state-of-the-art research and training institute aimed at providing Members and Senators with accurate, credible and timely information and analysis to assist them in taking important national decisions objectively. The institute was officially created through an Act of Parliament passed in December 2008 no matter the idea for its creation was first proposed by parliamentarians and speakers of the assemblies in 2005. Through the Pakistan Legislative Strengthening Project, PLSP - USAID, the United States Government provided support for training, interim research services and senior staff for the institute. The PIPS institute intends to further that support and serve as an independent research and training center for all of Pakistan's legislative Houses to enable them to better serve the people of Pakistan.

Former National Assembly Secretary General, Khan Ahmed Goraya was approved as PIPS' founding Executive Director in February 2010 by the PIPS Board of Governors, which is chaired by the Speaker of the National Assembly and has 8 MNAs and 4 Senators as its members in addition to Speakers of the four provincial assemblies and the Federal Minister of Parliamentary Affairs.

What does PIPS do?

The salient functions of PIPS as mentioned in its Act include:

1. Conducting professional development and orientation programs for elected parliamentarians and the staff of the national parliament and provincial assemblies;
2. Gathering and organizing data, required by the parliamentarians in their work;
3. Informing parliamentarians by conducting or commissioning independent research on topical issues; and
4. Providing support services to members.



Quaid's Quote

"An opposition party or parties are good correctives for any party, which is in power."

November 8, 1945





Did you know?

The Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah chose Lincoln's Inn, when he saw the name of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) encrypted among the top and most influential law givers in history, on a gigantic mural covering one entire wall in the main dining hall of Lincoln's Inn.



WHAT IS PAKISTAN INSTITUTE FOR PARLIAMENTARY SERVICES, PIPS?

PIPS has to date developed with the support of Pakistan Legislative Strengthening Project, PLSP, Training Modules in 20 areas of Parliamentary significance since 2006. These include modules on Legislative Research, Assessing and Drafting Legislation, Question Hour, Parliamentary History, Conflict Resolution, Business of the House, Budget Process, Parliamentary Committees, Parliamentary Privilege, etc. and this Youth Guide on Parliament. Accordingly no less than 285 workshops for parliamentarians, journalists and media men, members of civil society and staff of the six Houses, have been held. One of the niches created by PIPS remains its Research on Request Services, which has produced 62 research papers exclusively for MNAs, Senators as well as MPAs working in various Standing Committees of different Houses.

Where is PIPS located?

PIPS is presently working in an interim centre at the Parliament Lodges, Islamabad. A state-of-the-art PIPS building is under construction on a 4.5 acre land in sector F-5 on Ataturk Avenue, south of Margalla Road. The four-floor 55,000 sq. ft. structure will house researchers' and trainers' offices, seminar rooms, a library and a multi functional auditorium. It will take approximately 18 months to complete. The building has been designed by one of Pakistan's most renowned architects, Nayyar Ali Dada who is responsible for such Pakistan landmarks as the Al Hamra Arts Complex and Theatre in Lahore, as well as the Serena Hotel and Fatima Jinnah Park in Islamabad. Construction has been undertaken by Habib Rafiq (Pvt.) Ltd. The firm has to its credit some of the most visible projects in Pakistan, including the Convention Center in Islamabad and the Islamabad Stock Exchange Building. While the PIPS building construction commenced in April 2010, the official construction launch was held on June 17, 2010.



HOW CAN YOUTH ENGAGE PARLIAMENTARIANS?

Keep yourself informed: Youth must learn to read and know more. To understand the working of Parliament, the following need to be consulted by all citizens in general and the youth in particular:

1. Constitution of Pakistan, and books on parliamentary history;
2. Speeches and works of the founding fathers Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and Allama Dr. Muhammad Iqbal;
3. Proceedings of Assembly sessions in the newspapers;
4. Rules of procedures and code of conduct of different Houses; and
5. Parliamentary websites.

Register as a Voter: Get yourself a Computerized National Identity Card and become a registered voter in the Election Commission of Pakistan Electoral Rolls as soon as you attain 18 years of age.

Always vote: Youth must express their vote to elect their representatives.

Write to them: It is our responsibility to keep track with our representatives. Mail your concerns, suggestions and questions to your representative/s (parliamentarians) on a regular basis. The email addresses are available on Senate and National Assembly websites. You can otherwise simply send letters written in decent precise text. Avoid writing long letters.

Advocacy and Facilitation: Parliamentarians represent thousands of citizens and they are often very busy or they may not have complete understanding of a social problem or an issue that we want them to raise in the Parliament. We should find ways to facilitate them. We can do so by:

1. Giving them prepared questions to ask in Parliament;
2. Providing them research support in drafting bills; or
3. Sending facts and advocacy material for legislative debates in favour of positions that we consider as correct, just and important.



Quaid's Quote

"Get out of tranquility and step in the practical life. Dedicate your faculties to seek improvement in every field to make the condition of people. It is only then we can be strong enough to counter threats to our nation and defeat our enemies."

Message to Bohar Students of Karachi, January 13, 1941

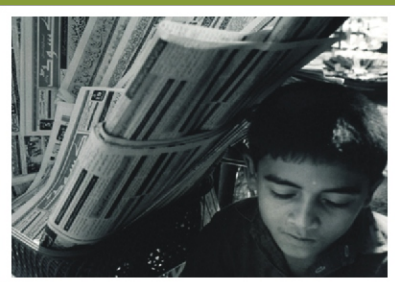




Quaid's Quote

"You have to stand guard over the development and maintenance of Islamic democracy, Islamic social justice and the equality of manhood in your own native soil. With faith, discipline and selfless devotion to duty, there is nothing worthwhile that you cannot achieve."

Address to the officers and men of the 5th Heavy Ack Ack and 6th Light Ack Ack Regiments in Malir, Karachi
February 21, 1948



HOW CAN YOUTH ENGAGE PARLIAMENTARIANS?

Appreciation and Criticism: While we must criticize the poor performance of the representatives, we must also openly and loudly appreciate good initiatives by individual members or groups of parliamentarians. This attitude on the part of citizens and civil society groups can significantly contribute to improving performance of parliamentarians. This would also help in warding off the anti-democratic forces, which are always bent upon maligning and undermining the democratic institutions. Accountability is a must in a parliamentary plural democratic State and youth has a responsibility to steer this effort.

Follow up: You are the most dynamic group of the society. Actively follow up with your representatives (parliamentarians) by:

1. **Frankly expressing your views in Letters to the Editor** in English and Urdu dailies as well as those in regional languages.
2. **Regularly sharing information** among each other and with parliamentarians.
3. **Drafting Public petitions and organizing Public Hearings with the Standing Committees:** Youth can act as community leaders and draft public petitions on a social problem faced by the society. Post the same to the respective Standing Committee Chairperson in National or provincial assembly. A Petition should be drafted precisely and signed by numerous citizens with their contact numbers mentioned against their name. This would enable the Standing Committees to contact and ask for a public hearing on the matter.
4. **Holding meetings among youth groups and joining hands with other citizens and civil society groups** to mobilize support and put adequate pressure on Parliamentarians to affect the desired change. Keep a track of the WHATS ON section in the newspaper to interact at such forums.
5. **Participating in National Life and voluntarism:** Youth must engage themselves in voluntarism, such as: annual tree plantation drive, Independence Day celebrations, human rights day functions, organizing rallies on environment and water conservation days, and participation in national debates on radio and television. This opportunity not only broadens and matures the vision but provides us a chance to interact with some of our parliamentarians. Keep a track of the WHATS ON section in the newspaper to interact at such forums.

GLOSSARY OF PARLIAMENTARY TERMS

Absolute Majority - more than half the votes of the total membership of the Assembly;

Abstain - to refrain from voting for or against a motion;

Act - a Bill passed by the Parliament and assented to by the President. In the case of Provincial Assemblies it is assented to by the Governor;

Adjournment - to suspend proceedings to another time;

Adjournment Sine Die - to suspend the proceedings without fixing a time or date for the next meeting;

Adjournment Motion - a motion to adjourn the business of the Assembly³⁴ for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of immediate, urgent public importance;

Adjournment of Debate - Postponement of a debate on a Motion/Resolution/Bill on which the Assembly is then engaged to some other time or date;

Agenda - the list of business to be brought before the Assembly or Committee for consideration and decision at its sitting on any day;

Amending Act - an Act of Assembly whose sole purpose is to modify another Act or Acts;

Amendment - a motion to amend an earlier motion before that earlier motion is put to the Assembly for decision;

Ascertainment - the process to determine that which one member of the Assembly commands the confidence of the majority of the members;

Ayes and Noes - the word used for voting *ayes* for 'yes' and *noes* for 'no' in the Assembly;

Backbenchers - the members other than Ministers, Parliamentary Secretaries, Advisors and Special Assistants;

Bicameral - a Legislature that consists of two House; the Parliament of Pakistan is bi-cameral consisting of Senate and National Assembly, while in the provinces it is unicameral;

By-election - it is held when a seat in the Assembly becomes vacant during its lifetime (i.e. between two general elections) due to death, resignation, unseating or disqualification of a member;



Did you know?

After independence in August 1947, the first Constituent Assembly of Pakistan, which had been elected in December 1945 in undivided India, was assigned the task of framing the Constitution. This Assembly passed the Objectives Resolution on March 12, 1949, laying down the principles, which later became a substantive part of the Constitution. However, before it could accomplish the task, the Constituent Assembly, was dissolved in October 1954.





Did you know?

A Committee examines Bills or matters referred to it by the Assembly or the Speaker and submits its report to the Assembly or the Speaker with recommendations including suggestions for legislation. In case of a Bill, it examines whether it violates, disregards or is otherwise not in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution. It also has the right to propose amendments, which are shown in its reports with the original provisions of the Bill.



GLOSSARY OF PARLIAMENTARY TERMS

Bill - a proposal for making a new law or amending an existing one;

Budget - the statement of the estimated receipts and expenditures of the Federal or a Provincial Government for a fiscal year which the said government should lay before an Assembly in every financial year;

Bulletin - means the *Bulletin of the Assembly* containing-

- (a) A brief record of the proceedings of the Assembly at each of its sittings;
- (b) Information of any matter relating to or connected with the Assembly or other matter which in the opinion of the Speaker is to be included therein; and
- (c) Information regarding the Committees;

Business - any matter which can be brought before the Assembly under the Constitution and the Rules;

Cabinet - it consists of Ministers, with the Prime Minister or Chief Minister at its head

Call Attention Notice - a notice by which a special question of public importance may be raised;

Casting Vote - a deciding vote used by the Presiding Officer of the Assembly, when the votes on both sides are equal;

Chair - the Presiding Officer at a meeting of the House or a committee;

Chairman - it means the Chairman of the Senate and includes the Deputy Chairman or in relation to a particular Committee, a member who is performing the function of the Chairman;

Chamber - the place where the Assembly meets to transact its business;

Chief Whip - a member of a political party in an Assembly whose primary task is to ensure the presence and discipline of the members of the party in the Assembly;

Clause (of a bill) - divisions of a bill consisting of an individual sentence or statement; once a bill becomes law, its clauses are referred to as sections;

Clause-by-Clause Consideration - the stage for consideration of a Bill when it is considered clause by clause and at this stage amendment can be proposed in the clauses of the Bill;

GLOSSARY OF PARLIAMENTARY TERMS

Closure - it is one of the means by which a debate may be brought to a close by a majority decision of the Assembly, even though all members wishing to speak have not done so;

Committee - group of members who are nominated by the Assembly for special purpose or subject;

Constitution - the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan 1973;

Constituency - a constituency for Assembly delimited under the Delimitation of Constituencies Act, 1974 (XXXIV of 1974);

Constituent - a registered voter in a constituency;

Cut motions - a motion moved by a member to reduce the amount of a demand for grant;

Debate - a discussion in which the arguments for or against a subject are presented in the Assembly according to rules;

Dissolution - the bringing to an end of an Assembly, either on the expiry of its five-year term or otherwise in accordance with the provision of the Constitution;

Division - a mode of voting by dividing members into two groups (ayes and noes) in order to reach a decision;

Division Bell - the Speaker will order a Division to be held by uttering the word "Division" and shall direct that the Division bells be rung for five minutes to enable members not present in the chamber to return to their places;

Election - the process of choosing a representative by vote;

Ex-Officio Member - generally taken to be a person, who, by virtue of an office or position held, is officially attached to a committee as a non voting member;

Expunction - words used in debates, which are defamatory, indecent, un-parliamentary or un-dignified, the speaker may, in his discretion, either during the debate or subsequently, order that such words be expunged from the proceedings;

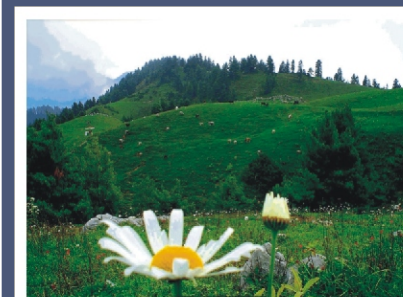
Federal and Provincial Consolidated Fund and Public Account - all revenues received by the Federal or the Provincial Government, all loans raised by that Government, and all moneys received by it in repayment or any loan, shall form part of a consolidated fund, to be known as the Federal or the Provincial Consolidated Fund;



Quaid's Quote

"I particularly appeal to our intelligentsia and Muslim students to come forward and rise to the occasion. You have performed wonders in the past. You are still capable of repeating the history. You are not lacking in the great qualities and virtues in comparison with the other nations. Only you have to be fully conscious of that fact and to act with courage, faith and unity."

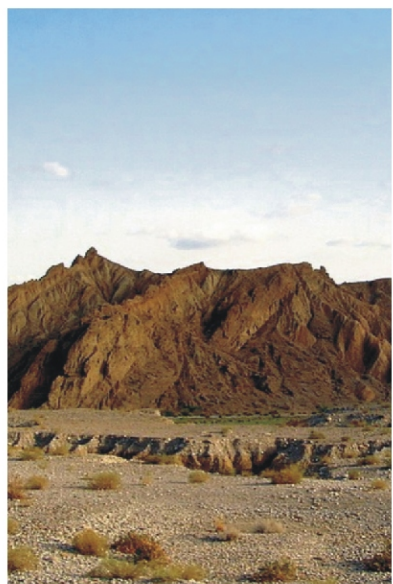
Message to Pakistan Day, issued from Delhi, March 23, 1943





Did you know?

With inherent powers to frame and amend the Constitution, the Parliament has an edge over other organs of the State, i.e., the Executive and the Judiciary.



GLOSSARY OF PARLIAMENTARY TERMS

All other moneys received by or on behalf of the Federal or the Provincial Government; or received by or deposited with the Supreme Court or High Court or any other court established under the authority of the Federation or Province; shall be credited to the Public Account of the Federation or Province;

Finance Bill - the Bill introduced in each year to give effect to the financial proposals of the Government for the next financial year, and includes a Bill to give effect to Supplementary financial proposals for any period;

Fiscal Year - the twelve month period, from July 1 to June 30, used by the Government for budgetary and accounting purposes;

Floor of the House - the part of the Chamber of the Assembly reserved for the Members and the officials of the Assembly;

Galleries - areas in the Assembly set aside for the public, the press and distinguished visitors;

Gazette - the official Gazette of the Assembly;

General discussion - a minister or a member may give notice of a motion that any policy or situation may be discussed by the Assembly;

Leader of the House - means the Prime Minister or a Minister appointed by the Prime Minister to represent Government and regulate Government business in the National Assembly or the Senate. In the Provincial Assembly the Chief Minister or a member designated by the Chief Minister to represent Government and regulate Government business in the Assembly;

Leader of Opposition - a member who, in the opinion of the Speaker, is the leader of the majority of the members in the Opposition;

Legislation - the process of making a law;

Legislative Process - the process by which bills are approved by Assembly and become laws after the assent of the President or Governor;

Limitation of Debate - a procedure preventing further adjournment of debate on any motion or on any stage of a bill and requiring that the motion come to a vote at the end of the sitting in which it is invoked;

GLOSSARY OF PARLIAMENTARY TERMS

Lobby - means the covered corridor immediately adjoining the Chamber and conterminous with it;

Guillotine - a provision in the rules which requires that the Assembly reach a decision on a given matter by a particular date or at the end of a specified period of time. It is not preceded by a motion;

Maiden speech - the first speech of a member after his election for the first time. It is a recognized parliamentary convention that a member making a maiden speech is not interrupted by another member;

Majlis-e-Shoora - also referred to as the Parliament, it comprises the National Assembly, Senate and the President under Article 50 of the Constitution;

Member - a member of the Assembly and for purposes of moving or opposing a Bill, an amendment, a motion or a resolution, includes a Minister;

Member-in-Charge - the member who introduces a Bill in the Assembly;

Minister - it means the Prime Minister, the Chief Minister, a federal minister, a minister of state or a provincial minister;

Minutes - are the instant written record of a meeting;

Money Bill - a Bill or amendment which if enacted and brought into operation would involve expenditure from the Federal or Provincial Consolidated Fund or withdrawal from the Public Account of the Federation or Province.

Mover - the member who initiates a resolution, a motion or an amendment of a Bill;

Motion - a proposal made by a member or a minister relating to any matter which may be discussed by the Assembly;

Motion of Thanks - a formal motion moved only in the Parliament, expressing its gratitude for the address delivered by the President, under Article 56 of the Constitution, to either the National Assembly or both the National Assembly and the Senate assembled together

No-Confidence Motion - a motion moved against the Prime Minister, Chairman Senate, Deputy Chairman Senate, Chief Minister, Speaker or Deputy Speaker of the National or Provincial Assembly that he has lost confidence of the majority of the Assembly;



Did you know?

The 1970 Assembly framed the 1973 Constitution, presently in vogue. It was passed on April 12, 1973 and promulgated on August 14, 1973 as the consensus Constitution of Pakistan. The Constitution provides for a bicameral parliamentary form of democracy with National Assembly and the Senate as the two Houses.





Did you know?

The Seats in the National Assembly are allocated to each Province, the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATAs) and the Federal Capital on the basis of population in accordance with the last preceding Census officially published.



GLOSSARY OF PARLIAMENTARY TERMS

Oath of Office - swearing by a member before taking seat in the Assembly

Opposition - the party or parties which do not belong to the ruling party;

Out of Order - the expression may be applied to motions, bills or to any intervention which runs contrary to the rules or procedures of the Assembly;

Panel of Chairmen - panel of members nominated by the Speaker or the Chairman to preside over the session of the Assembly in their absence;

Point of Order - a point raised during proceedings of the Assembly and relates to the interpretation or enforcement of these rules or such Articles of the Constitution that regulate the business of the Assembly and shall raise a question which is within the cognizance of the Speaker or Chairman;

Precedent - a Speaker's or Chairman's past ruling or practice of the Assembly taken as a rule for subsequent cases of a similar nature but not all decisions and practices constitute precedents;

Precincts of the Assembly - the Assembly Chamber's building, courtyard and gardens, Committee rooms appurtenant thereto, and includes the hall, members' lobbies/rooms, galleries, gardens, parking lot, the Ministers and other offices of the Government located in the Assembly Building, and the offices of the Assembly Secretariat and any other premises which are notified as such for a specified time by the Speaker or Chairman in the Gazette;

Presiding Officer - in relation to a sitting of the Assembly, means any person who is conducting that sitting;

Press Gallery - a gallery in the Assembly reserved for accredited members of the media;

Private Member's Bill - is a proposed law introduced by a private member;

Private Member - a member who is not a Minister or a Parliamentary Secretary;

Proceedings - the actions taken by the Assembly or by a committee, the most important parts of the proceedings are the decisions that are taken;

Prorogue - it ends a session of Assembly, but does not dissolve it;

Put the Question - to put a motion before the Assembly to a vote;

GLOSSARY OF PARLIAMENTARY TERMS

Question - subject to the provisions of the rules, a question may be asked for the purpose of obtaining information on a matter of public concern within the special cognizance of the Minister to whom it is addressed;

Question Hour - a time fixed under the rules for asking/answering questions;

Question of privilege - a member may, with the consent of the Speaker, raise a question involving a breach of privilege either of a member or of the Assembly or of a Committee;

Questions to Private Members - a question may be addressed to a private member provided the subject-matter of the question relates to some Bill, resolution or other matter connected with the business of the Assembly for which that member is responsible;

Quorum - is the minimum number of members of Assembly necessary to conduct the business of the Assembly. Under Article 55(2) of the Constitution, 1/4th of the total membership of the Assembly is required for Quorum;

Quorum Call - to draw the attention of the Presiding Officer to the absence of a quorum;

Referral to a Committee - the sending of a bill, a resolution, a question or any other matter to a committee for study and report. Depending on the objectives of the referral, it may be made to a standing or special committee or to a Committee of the Assembly;

Resolution - a motion for the purpose of discussing and expressing opinion on a matter of general public interest and includes a resolution specified in the Constitution;

Roll of Members - a register in which newly elected members sign, after making the oath and before taking their seats for the first time in the Assembly. It is kept on the Table of the Assembly;

Rules - the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business of an Assembly;

Secretary - the highest ranking officer of the Assembly;

Sergeant-at-Arms - is an officer appointed by a Speaker or the chairman to carry out his order in respect to keep order in the Assembly;

Session - the period commencing on the day of the first sitting of the Assembly after having been summoned and ending on the day the Assembly is prorogued or dissolved;

Sitting - a meeting of the Assembly or that of a Committee on a day;



Did you know?

A person who is a citizen of Pakistan, is enrolled as a voter in any electoral roll and in case of National/Provincial Assemblies is not less than 25 years of age and in case of Senate not less than 30 years of age, is of good character and is not commonly known as one who violates Islamic injunctions, has adequate knowledge of Islamic teachings and practices, obligatory duties prescribed by Islam as well as abstains from major sin, is sagacious, righteous and non-profligate, honest and ameen, has not been convicted for a crime involving moral turpitude or for giving false evidence, and has not, after establishment of Pakistan, worked against the integrity of the country or opposed the ideology of Pakistan, can contest the elections and become a member of the Parliament or a Provincial Assembly.



Did you know?

A person, who is a citizen of Pakistan, is not less than 18 years of age on the first day of January of the year in which the rolls are prepared or revised, is not declared by a competent court to be of un-sound mind and is or is deemed to be a resident of an electoral area, can get himself enrolled as a voter in that electoral area. The citizens registered on the electoral rolls are only eligible to cast their votes.



GLOSSARY OF PARLIAMENTARY TERMS

Speaker - is the head of a legislature who is elected from amongst the member through secret ballot and performs function as mentioned in Constitution;

Starred Question - a question for an oral answer;

State - The state, under Article 7 of the Constitution means the Federal Government, Parliament, a Provincial Government, a Provincial Assembly, and such local or other authorities in Pakistan as are by law empowered to impose any form of tax

Subcommittee - a Committee may, with the approval of the Speaker, appoint a sub-committee, for a specified function arising out of the matter referred to the Committee;

Supplementary Budget - an expenditure statement introduced to provide funds to the Government to meet new or additional expenses in a fiscal year;

Table - means the Table of the Assembly and includes its Library. It is the place where the Secretaries sit to look after the administration of the Assembly;

Un-starred question - a question for a written answer.



FIND OUT MORE

Books

1. The Constitution of Pakistan, 1973
2. The 18th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2010
3. National Assembly Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business, 2007
4. Senate of Pakistan Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business, 1998, modified upto 1994
5. Hector Bolitho, JINNAH, the CEATOR OF PAKISTAN, NY: Oxford University Press, 2009.
6. Sharif al Mujahid and Liaquat Merchant, Quotes from the Quaid, NY: Oxford University Press, 2007.

Websites

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2. Senate: www.senate.gov.pk
3. Election Commission of Pakistan: www.ecp.gov.pk
4. Punjab Assembly: www.pap.gov.pk
5. Sindh Assembly: www.pas.gov.pk
6. Balochistan Assembly: www.pabalochistan.gov.pk
7. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly: www.panwfp.gov.pk
8. Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services: www.pips.org.pk



Did you know?

The First Session of the Pakistan Constituent Assembly was held in Karachi on August 11, 1947. The Parliament of Pakistan - viz the Constituent Assembly of Pakistan - met on August 10, 1947 in the old Sindh Assembly Building at Karachi. Quaid-e-Azam Mohammed Ali Jinnah, the founder of Pakistan, was elected as its first President on August 11, 1947, who presented the outline policies and principles to govern Pakistan. It was in this venue that the Objectives Resolution, which now serves as the ground norm of Pakistan, was passed. In 1956, the first Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan was adopted in Karachi at the same Sindh Assembly building which also passed as the Parliament of Pakistan.



Quaid's Quote

"Our object should be peace within, and peace without. We want to live peacefully and maintain cordial friendly relations with our immediate neighbours and with the world at large."

Lahore , August 15th, 1947

Sources of Photographs

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- ³ <http://www.na.gov.pk/publications/constitution.pdf>
- ⁴ ibid
- ⁵ ibid
- ⁶ Articles 238 and 239, Constitution of Pakistan
- ⁷ <http://www.ecp.gov.pk/content/ERSYS.html>
- ⁸ Article 48, Constitution of Pakistan
- ⁹ Article 50, Constitution of Pakistan
- ¹⁰ ibid
- ¹¹ Article 92, Constitution of Pakistan
- ¹² Article 240
- ¹³ Article 243 and 244; Third Schedule, Constitution of Pakistan
- ¹⁴ Article 51, Constitution of Pakistan, after passing of 18th Constitutional Amendment, April 2010
- ¹⁵ <http://www.ecp.gov.pk/content/ERSYS.html>
- ¹⁶ <http://www.ecp.gov.pk/content/ERSYS.html>
- ¹⁷ Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the National Assembly 2007, Chapter XX
- ¹⁸ See Rules & Procedure for NA, Rule 69-86
- ¹⁹ NA Rule 69
- ²⁰ NA Rule 78
- ²¹ NA Rule 88
- ²² For detailed conditions of admissibility, see NA Rule 78
- ²³ See NA Chapter on Legislation, NA Rules No: 118 to 156
- ²⁴ NA Rule 120
- ²⁵ NA Rule 118
- ²⁶ NA Rule 156
- ²⁷ Article 73, Constitution of Pakistan
- ²⁸ For Steps 1-13 of Legislative Process, see chapter on Legislation, NA Rules 118-156
- ²⁹ Ordinances, Article 89, Constitution of Pakistan
- ³⁰ Political Parties Order, 2002
- ³¹ Article 3, Political Parties Ordinance, 2002
- ³² See Electoral laws - THE CONDUCT OF GENERAL ELECTIONS ORDER, 2002, www.ecp.gov.pk, browsed May 27, 2010
- ³³ ibid
- ³⁴ For the purpose of generality every House has been referred to as Assembly. This means the terminology is applicable to the Senate, National Assembly and a Provincial Assembly.



*"I say farewell to my garden, like a rose's scent,
Now I have submitted myself to the test of patience.
My desire to satiate my thirst of knowledge,
Is pushing me out of the gallery I call my homeland.
I am a solitary tree in a desert, my eyes are clung to the laden clouds,
Their shower can make me flower without the aid of the gardener.
O Lord, always keep me miles ahead of my kindred,
So that they can take me as their destination.
O Lord, grant me the chance, once again, to lay my head at the feet of my parents,
By whose blessing, I possess the secret of love."*

Thirst of Knowledge, Allama Dr. Muhammad Iqbal

