



THE DEFENSE FORCES OF PAKISTAN ACT, 2026



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THE PAKISTAN CODE

THE DEFENSE FORCES OF PAKISTAN ACT, 2026

ACT NO. XLVII OF 2026

[20th August, 2026]

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ACT

to enact the Defense Forces of Pakistan Act, 2026

WHEREAS under Article 243 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Chief of the Army Staff is concurrently the Chief of the Defense Forces and as such, is the Commander of the Armed Forces;

WHEREAS it is expedient to make necessary provisions to give effect to the constitutional mandate and ensure multidomain integration, restructuring and optimum jointness of the Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS it is expedient to provide for the establishment of the Defense Forces Headquarters and powers and functions of the Chief of the Defense Forces, in the manner and for the purposes hereinafter appearing:

It is hereby enacted as follows:—

1. Short title and commencement.— (1) This Act shall be called the Defense Forces of Pakistan Act, 2026.

(2) It shall come into force at once and shall be deemed to have taken effect from the thirteenth day of November two thousand and twenty-five.

2. Act to override other laws.— (1) The provisions of this Act, rules and regulations made, instructions, notifications and orders issued hereunder shall apply notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in any other law, rules, regulations, instructions, notifications and orders and such laws, rules, regulation, instructions, notifications and orders shall, to the extent of any inconsistency, cease to have effect.

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, no provision of the Pakistan Army Act, 1952, the Pakistan Air Force Act, 1953, the Pakistan Navy Ordinance, 1967, the Cantonments Act, 1924 or any other law relating to the members of the Armed Forces shall be construed in a manner which is inconsistent with the provisions of this Act.

3. Establishment of the Defense Forces Headquarters.— (1) There shall be established a Defense Forces Headquarters, which shall be the headquarters of the Armed Forces.

(2) The Defense Forces Headquarters shall function under the command and authority of the Chief of the Defense Forces, who shall be the principal military advisor to the Prime Minister on national security, defense and all matters relating to the Armed Forces.

(3) The Chief of the Defense Forces shall have the operational command and control of the Armed Forces, and shall be responsible to the Federal Government for all matters relating to such command and control.

4. Powers and Functions of the Chief of Defense Forces.— (1) The Chief of the Defense Forces shall exercise such powers and perform such functions as are necessary for multidomain integration, operational cohesion, coordination and oversight of all matters which have joint, tri-services and strategic implications for the Armed Forces and national security of Pakistan.

(2) The Chief of the Defense Forces may retire, release, accept or reject resignation of, or discharge from the service, or retain in service, or relax age or service limit of retirement of any person subject to the laws relating to the Armed Forces, but excluding those appointed under Article 243 of the Constitution.

(3) Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, the Chief of the Defense Forces may exercise such other powers and perform such other functions as the Federal Government may prescribe.

5. Power to make rules and regulations.— The Federal Government may, from time to time, make rules and regulations for the purposes of carrying into effect the provisions of this Act.

6. Power to issue instructions etc.— The Chief of the Defense Forces may, from time to time, issue instructions and orders for carrying into effect the provisions of this Act and the rules and regulations made hereunder.

7. Removal of difficulties.— If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of this Act and to remove any inconsistency between this Act and any other law, for the time being in force, the President may, by an order, remove such difficulty.

8. Savings.— Any rules, regulations, instructions, notifications, orders already made or issued or actions taken prior to the commencement of this Act, so far as they are not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, shall be deemed to have been validly made, issued or taken and shall take effect from the thirteenth day of November two thousand and twenty-five.