

NOTIFICATION.

No.PAB/Legis:V(08)/2026/ The Balochistan Prisons and Prisoners Correctional Service Bill, 2026 (Bill No. 08 of 2026), having been passed by the Provincial Assembly of Balochistan on 14th May, 2026, and assented to by the Governor Balochistan on 19th May 2026, is hereby published as an Act of the Provincial Assembly of Balochistan.

THE BALOCHISTAN PRISONS AND PRISONER'S CORRECTIONAL SERVICE ACT 2026
(ACT NO. XV OF 2026)

AN

ACT

to consolidates and reforms the law relating to Prisons and Prisoners Correctional Services in the Province of Balochistan. It establishes an effective system for the safe custody, care, and welfare of Prisoners, and for their reformation, rehabilitation, and reintegration into society. It further regulates probation and parole, develops Correctional and rehabilitation programmes, and strengthens Institutional mechanisms to promote good governance, safeguard public safety, protect victims' rights, reduce recidivism, and ensure improved service delivery in line with modern criminal justice standards and the needs of the Province.

Preamble.

WHEREAS it is expedient to enact a comprehensive and reformed law relating to prisons and the rehabilitation of prisoners in the Province of Balochistan, and to provide for the establishment, management, control, and security of prisons and correctional facilities, the custody and welfare of prisoners, and the regulation of all matters connected with or ancillary to the Balochistan Prisons and Prisoners Correctional Services;

AND WHEREAS the purpose of the prison system is to contribute to a just, peaceful, and safe society and to the well-being of its members by enforcing sentences awarded by competent courts; by confining prisoners in safe and secure custody while ensuring their fundamental rights guaranteed under the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, 1973, and under international instruments ratified by Pakistan; by promoting the welfare and rehabilitation of prisoners for their reintegration as law-abiding citizens; and by giving due consideration to the harm suffered by victims and their right to protection in decisions relating to the management of prisoners;

AND WHEREAS it is necessary to ensure that the objectives of this Act are achieved by maintaining a fair, peaceful, and secure society through the enforcement of lawful sentences; the protection of prisoners' fundamental rights; the promotion of their welfare, rehabilitation, and reintegration; and by taking into account the rights and protection needs of victims in all matters concerning the management of prisoners;

NOW, THEREFORE, it is hereby declared that this Act shall be interpreted and applied in accordance with its purpose and objectives.

It is hereby enacted by the Provincial Assembly of Balochistan as follows:

CHAPTER – I
PRELIMINARY

Short title, Application, Extent and Commencement.

1. (1) This Act may be called the Balochistan Prisons and Prisoners Correctional Service Act, 2026.
- (2) It shall extend to the whole of Province of Balochistan.
- (3) It shall come into force at once.

Definitions.

2. In this Act, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context:
 - (a) **“Administrative Department”** or **“Department”** means the Home Department, Government of Balochistan;

- (b) **“Breach of Discipline”** means violation or deviation from prescribed rules, regulations, or lawful orders by a Prisoner, making such Prisoner liable to punishment under this Act or the rules;
- (c) **“Chief Minister”** means the Chief Minister of Balochistan;
- (d) **“Child”** means a person up to the age of six years residing with his or her parent in a Prison;
- (e) **“Child of Prisoner”** means a dependent child lawfully residing with a female Prisoner in a Prison, up to the age as specified by rules;
- (f) **“Civil Prisoner”** means any Prisoner who is not a criminal Prisoner, including one detained in execution of a decree of a Civil Court, for debt, or for default in furnishing security;
- (g) **“Code”** means the *Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898* (Act V of 1898);
- (h) **“Commandant”** means a senior Prison Officer of the rank of Deputy Inspector General, who is the head of the Training and Research Wing of the Balochistan Prisons and Prisoners Correctional Service;
- (i) **“Competent Authority”** means the authority empowered to exercise powers under this Act, the rules, the regulations, or any other law for the time being in force;
- (j) **“Convicted Prisoner” or “Sentenced Prisoner”** means any Prisoner who has been sentenced by a Court of competent jurisdiction or by Court Martial, and includes a person detained by order of Government under any law for the time being in force;
- (k) **“Correctional Facility”** means and includes any Central Prison, District Prison, Women’s Prison, Special Prison, Juvenile Institution, Open Prison, Medical Prison, Transit facility, Subsidiary Prison, Judicial lock-up of any category, or any other place declared by the Department or Government under this Act;
- (l) **“Court”** means and includes any Court of competent jurisdiction established under law, and any Officer lawfully exercising civil, criminal, or revenue jurisdiction;
- (m) **“Criminal Prisoner”** means a Prisoner committed to custody under the writ, warrant, or order of a Court exercising criminal jurisdiction;
- (n) **“Employee”** means any member of the Service, classified as junior or senior employee, other than a Prison Officer;
- (o) **“Exigency of Service”** in relation to posting and transfer, means an urgent or unforeseen situation which, for the reasons to be recorded in writing, requires premature transfer of a Prisons Officer for performance of specific tasks or duties but not as a replacement for what should be rightly treated as an efficiency and discipline matter;
- (p) **“Government”** means the Government of Balochistan;
- (q) **“History Ticket”** means the record exhibiting prescribed information in respect of each Prisoner, maintained under this Act or the rules;
- (r) **“Inspector General of Prisons & Prisoners Correctional Service”** means the Inspector General of the Balochistan Prisons and Prisoners Correctional Service;
- (s) **“Juvenile”** means a Person defined as juvenile under the Balochistan Borstal Institution Act, 2014, the Juvenile Justice System Act, 2018 or any other law for the time being in force;

- (t) **“Law Enforcement Agency”** means any Federal or Provincial authority or organization established or maintained under law, responsible for the prevention, detention, investigation, or prosecution of offences, the maintenance of public order, or the enforcement of laws, and includes the Federal Investigation Agency, Anti-Narcotics Force, Frontier Corps, Federal Constabulary, Pakistan Coast Guards, Pakistan Rangers, National Highways and Motorway Police, Pakistan Railways Police, Islamabad Police, Balochistan Police, Balochistan Levies Force, Balochistan Constabulary, Balochistan Highway Patrolling Police, Balochistan Excise, Taxation and Narcotics Control Police, the Balochistan Prisons and Prisoners Correctional Service Department, as well as all Intelligence Agencies, officers of the District and Divisional Administration, and personnel of the Pakistan Administrative Service and Balochistan Civil Service (Executive Branch) performing law enforcement or administrative functions, together with any other Federal or Provincial law enforcement organization established, maintained, or notified by the Governments from time to time;
- (u) **“Medical Officer”** means a duly qualified Medical practitioner appointed or posted in a Prison, with such designation as may be prescribed;
- (v) **“Medical Subordinate”** means an Assistant Surgeon, Pharmacist, or any other duly qualified hospital assistant appointed in a Prison hospital;
- (w) **“Officer”** means, collectively, Prison Officers and employees of the Service;
- (x) **“Officer -in-Charge”** means the prison officer appointed by the department to exercise operational and administrative control as the head of a prison;
- (y) **“Offence”** means any violation of this Act, the rules, or the regulations, which requires prosecution or punishment;
- (z) **“Parole”** means the conditional release of a Prisoner to serve the remainder of sentence under supervision in the community;
- (aa) **“Person”** means any individual other than a Prison Officer, employee, or Prisoner;
- (ab) **“Prescribed”** means prescribed by the rules or regulations made under this Act;
- (ac) **“Prison”** means and includes any place established, maintained, notified, or declared by the Government or the Department under this Act for the lawful detention, confinement, correction, rehabilitation, treatment, training, or protective custody of persons lawfully liable to such detention or confinement, and shall comprise all categories of prisons and correctional institutions including Central Prisons, District Prisons, Women’s Prisons, Special Prisons, Juvenile Institutions, Open Prisons, Medical Prisons, Transit Facilities, Subsidiary Prisons, Jails, Sub-Jails, Boot Camps, jail wards in hospitals, Halfway Houses, Detention or Internment Centers, and Judicial Lock-ups of any category, together with all lands, buildings, premises, out-stations, branches, camps, workshops, and staff quarters used in connection therewith, whether used permanently or temporarily under general or special orders of the Provincial Government:
- Provided that “Prison” shall not include Police lock-ups or any other place under the direct control of law enforcement agencies;
- (ad) **“Prison Management Information System (PMIS)”** means the digital platform for record-keeping, case management, and administration of Prisons and Prisoners;

- (ae) **“Prison Officer”** means junior and senior Prison Officers holding ranks as set out in Schedule-I of this Act;
- (af) **“Prisoner”** means a person admitted into Prison custody either in criminal or civil proceedings, whether remanded or sentenced, or detained under any law for the time being in force;
- (ag) **“Probation”** means the conditional suspension of sentence subject to supervision, reporting and compliance with conditions imposed by a Court;
- (ah) **“Prohibited Article”** means any article the introduction or removal of which into or out of a Prison is prohibited by this Act, the rules, or the regulations;
- (ai) **“Protective Custody”** means the lawful confinement of a person by order of the competent authority for the purpose of protection, security, or welfare, not amounting to punishment;
- (aj) **“Regulations”** means the regulations made under this Act;
- (ak) **“Remission”** means deduction from a Prisoner’s sentence in accordance with this Act and the rules;
- (al) **“Rules”** means the rules made under this Act;
- (am) **“Service”** means the Balochistan Prisons and Prisoners Correctional Service constituted under this Act;
- (an) **“Statistics”** means the systematic collection, compilation, classification, analysis, and interpretation of numerical data, in both soft and hard form, relating to Prisons, Prisoners, and Correctional Services, including data pertaining to Prison operations, incidents, searches, recoveries, admission, release, escape, under-trial and convicted Prisoners, acquitted Prisoners, parolees, probationers, as well as information regarding Prison staff, security personnel, vehicles, assets, budget, and the inventory of Prison property and moveable and immoveable assets;
- (ao) **“Subsidiary Prison”** means any place, building, or enclosure declared by the Government or Department, through a general or special order, to be a subsidiary Prison for temporary detention, confinement, or safe custody of Prisoners;
- (ap) **“Un-sentenced Prisoner”** means a person committed to Prison custody pending investigation, inquiry, or trial by a Court, or detained by Government under any law until further orders; *and*
- (aq) **“Use of Force”** means all Officers and Officials of Prisons authorized to exercise legitimate use of force for maintaining order, ensuring safety of persons and premises, and preventing escape.

CHAPTER- II
PRISONS AND CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES

**Declaration,
Establishment,
Alteration and
Abolition of Prisons.**

- 3. (1) The Government, or the Administrative Department duly authorized in this behalf, may by Notification or Order published in the official Gazette: -
 - (a) declare any building, enclosure, or place to be a Prison under this Act;
 - (b) alter, extend, or change the boundaries of any Prison;
 - (c) declare any place to be a temporary Prison for the temporary or permanent detention of Prisoners;

- (d) declare that a Prison shall, with effect from a date specified in the order, cease to be a Prison, and direct the removal of Prisoners there from to another Prison specified in the order; *and*
- (e) declare the classification of Prisons in any Central Prison, District Prison, Women's Prison, Special Prison, Juvenile Institution, Open Prison, Medical Prison, Transit Facility, Subsidiary Prison, Judicial Lock-up of any category, or any other category as may be prescribed.

(2) A Subsidiary Prison shall function under the control and supervision of the Officer -in-Charge of the nearest District or Central Prison, in such manner as may be prescribed by the rules.

(3) The Department may, by notification in the official Gazette, establish, abolish, or reconstitute Subsidiary Prisons as may be deemed necessary for Prison administration, security, or the convenience of Courts.

(4) The Government or the Administrative Department duly authorized in this behalf may, by general or special order, declare any place to be a Subsidiary Prison.

Power to Regulate Adjoining Lands.

- 4. (1) Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force, the Government may, if it considers necessary in the interest of the safety or security of a Prison or the Prisoners, by order, prohibit, restrict, or regulate the use of land within a radius of five hundred yards of such Prison.
- (2) For the purposes of sub-Section (1), the Government may, in accordance with law, acquire such land and declare it to be the property of the Prison, to be managed as prescribed by the rules.

**CHAPTER- III
ADMINISTRATION, POLICY PLANNING AND OVERSIGHT**

Superintendence by Government.

- 5. (1) The superintendence and control of Prisons and Prisoners shall vest in the Government and shall be exercised through the Administrative Department.
- (2) The Government may issue such directions, policies, or standing instructions as it considers necessary for the effective administration, management, and security of Prisons and Correctional facilities.

Establishment of Prison Policy Board.

- 6. The Government shall, by notification in the official Gazette, establish a *Prison Policy Board* consisting of: -
 - (a) The Minister or Advisor Home Department, who shall be the Chairperson;
 - (b) The Additional Chief Secretary of the Administrative Department who shall act as Member-cum-Secretary;
 - (c) The Secretary Finance or his nominee not below the rank of Additional Secretary;
 - (d) One representative from Civil Society nominated by the Chief Minister through the Department;
 - (e) Not more than two co-opted members, as the Chairperson may invite for any specific agenda item;
 - (f) The Inspector General of Prisons & Prisoners Correctional Service Balochistan; *and*
 - (g) Director General Parole and Probation Balochistan.

Functions and Procedure of the Prison Policy Board.

- 7. (1) The Prison Policy Board shall: -
 - (a) develop comprehensive policy frameworks for rehabilitation, reintegration, and Prison reforms;
 - (b) review and recommend infrastructure requirements, including the construction of new Prisons or improvement of existing facilities;

- (c) promote innovation and the use of information technology in Prison administration and Correctional services;
- (d) design and oversee post-release reintegration plans for Prisoners;
- (e) recommend policy measures to Government on matters relating to Prison administration, corrections, and offender management;
- (f) advise on support mechanisms for families adversely affected by the imprisonment of a breadwinner, through schemes and procedures devised by Government; *and*
- (g) perform such other functions as may be assigned by Government, by law, or by order of a competent Court.

(2) The Board shall meet at least twice in each calendar year. The presence of not less than two-thirds of its members shall constitute quorum.

(3) The Prison Policy Board shall prepare and submit an Annual Report to the Government, outlining progress on Prison reforms, rehabilitation measures, reintegration outcomes, and policy recommendations. The Government may cause such report to be laid before the Provincial Assembly of Balochistan and publish it in such manner as may be prescribed.

Prison Oversight Committee.

8. (1) The Administrative Department shall, by notification in the official Gazette, establish an Oversight Committee for each Prison.

(2) The Committee shall consist of representatives of Civil Society, the Health Department and Social Welfare or Human Rights Department, and such other members as may be prescribed by rules.

(3) The Oversight Committee shall: -

- (a) monitor the welfare and rehabilitation programmes conducted in the Prison;
- (b) support and facilitate philanthropic initiatives for the benefit of Prisoners;
- (c) review and inspect Prison conditions relating to health, sanitation, food, accommodation, and treatment of Prisoners;
- (d) examine grievances of Prisoners relating to welfare and administration; *and*
- (e) submit periodic reports and recommendations to the Administrative Department.

(4) The Committee shall submit the inspection reports, in the model format as prescribed, to the Government, the Administrative Department, and the Inspector General of Prisons & Prisoners Correctional Service within fifteen days of the inspection.

(5) Every report of the Oversight Committee shall also be transmitted to the Prison Policy Board for Province-wide review, policy adjustment, and inclusion in its Annual Report.

(6) The Deputy Commissioner of the district where the Prison is situated shall: -

- (a) act as ex-officio Chairperson of the Oversight Committee of that Prison;
- (b) ensure coordination between the Prison administration and other district Departments for the welfare and rehabilitation of Prisoners;
- (c) provide immediate administrative assistance in case of emergency, outbreak of disease, disturbance, or natural calamity affecting the Prison; *and*

- (d) conduct at least one unannounced inspection visit of the Prison in each quarter of the year and submit a report to the Administrative Department and the Prison Policy Board.

(7) The Commissioner of the Division shall: -

- (a) exercise supervisory oversight over all Oversight Committees within the Division;
- (b) review quarterly reports submitted by the Oversight Committees in the Division;
- (c) convene divisional review meetings to address systemic issues relating to Prison administration and Prisoner welfare;
- (d) submit a consolidated divisional report to the Administrative Department for onward transmission to the Prison Policy Board; *and*
- (e) conduct at least one unannounced divisional-level inspection visit of a Prison in each quarter and forward findings to the Administrative Department and the Prison Policy Board.

(8) Where an Oversight Committee, the Deputy Commissioner, or the Commissioner identifies any serious threat to Prison security, outbreak of epidemic disease, gross abuse, or imminent risk of riot or disturbance, the matter shall be reported immediately, and in no case later than twenty-four hours, to the Government, the Administrative Department, and the Inspector General of Prisons & Prisoners Correctional Service for urgent action.

(9) The composition, tenure, powers, and procedure of the Oversight Committees shall be prescribed by rules.

Right of Visit by Justices of the Peace.

- 9. (1) A Justice of the Peace may, at any time, visit any prison within his jurisdiction to inspect its condition, review the welfare and treatment of prisoners, and record his observations or recommendations in the visitors' book maintained by the Superintendent.
- (2) The interaction of a Justice of the Peace with any prisoner shall be limited to matters relating to the treatment and welfare of prisoners, and no Justice shall visit or communicate with a prisoner under sentence of death.
- (3) The Superintendent shall present all entries and observations recorded in the visitors' book to the Prison Oversight Committee or the Board of Visitors at its next meeting for consideration and necessary action.

**CHAPTER-IV
ADMINISTRATION OF PRISONS AND PRISONERS**

Constitution of the Balochistan Prisons and Correctional Service.

- 10. (1) There shall be established a uniform service to be known as the Balochistan Prisons and Correctional Service (hereinafter referred to as the "Service").
- (2) Subject to the provisions of this Act, the Service shall consist of:
 -
 - (a) Senior Prison Officer and Junior Prison Officers of such ranks and designations as are specified in **Schedule-I**; *and*
 - (b) such other employees, whether senior or junior, with such cadres and designations as may be prescribed by the rules.
- (3) The Service shall be a disciplined Service cadre of the Province, entrusted with the custody, correction, rehabilitation, and safe management of Prisoners and Correctional facilities.

(4) The administration of the Service, including but not limited to recruitment, training, postings, promotions, transfers, discipline, performance evaluation, incentives, and work environment, shall be regulated in such manner as may be prescribed by the rules.

(5) Notwithstanding anything contained in the Balochistan Civil Servants Act, 1974, or the Balochistan Employees' Efficiency and Discipline Act, 2011, and the rules made thereunder, the provisions of this Act and the rules or regulations made under it shall prevail in respect of matters expressly provided herein, and, in the event of any inconsistency, the provisions of this Act shall have overridden effect.

Central Prisons and Prisoners Correctional Service Office, Quetta.

11. (1) There shall be established a Departmental Headquarters at Quetta, to be called the **Central Prisons and Prisoners Correctional Service Office, Balochistan** (hereinafter referred to as the "**Central Prisons Office Balochistan**"), which shall be responsible for the administration of Prisons and Prisoners under this Act.

(2) The Central Prisons Office Balochistan or Head Office shall be headed by the Inspector General of Prisons & Prisoners Correctional Service, Balochistan.

(3) The Central Office shall: -

- (a) administer, supervise, and control all Prisons, Sub-Jails, Detention Centers, and Correctional facilities;
- (b) manage custody, security, discipline, welfare, medical services, rehabilitation, training, development works, finance, procurement, and human resources of the Prisons Establishment;
- (c) maintain and operate the Prison Management Information System and ensure accurate and timely reporting;
- (d) implement Government policies, rules, and directions relating to Prisons and Prisoners; *and*
- (e) consider the Inspectorate's recommendations and report compliance to the Government within the time specified.

(4) The Inspector General of Prisons & Prisoners Correctional Service and Officers authorized in writing may:

- (a) issue binding administrative directions to Officer-in-Charge and other Officers;
- (b) inspect any Prison for administrative supervision;
- (c) call for returns, records, and explanations; *and*
- (d) take remedial, disciplinary, or legal action in accordance with law.

(5) The Government may sanction such branches, sections, and staff at the Central Prisons Office Balochistan as are necessary for efficient administration and with prior approval of the Department, the Inspector General of Prisons & Prisoners Correctional Service may establish, merge, rename, or abolish branches, sections, cells, or units.

(6) The Central Prisons Office Balochistan shall —

- (a) extend full cooperation to the Inspectorate for inspections and inquiries;
- (b) The Inspectorate's inspection and complaint-handling functions shall be exercised independently and shall not be interfered with by the Central Prisons Office Balochistan; *and*
- (c) Nothing in this Section limits the lawful administrative powers of the Inspector General of Prisons & Prisoners Correctional Service over Prison management.

(7) All Prison Officers, including the Inspector General of Prisons & Prisoners Correctional Service, Deputy Inspectors General, Superintendents, Deputy Superintendents, and Officers-in-Charge, shall prepare and submit statistical data and reports of their respective jurisdictions on a monthly, quarterly, and annual basis, which shall include the systematic indexing and profiling of Prisoners and habitual offenders for effective monitoring, analysis, rehabilitation planning, and integration into the Prisons Management Information System (PMIS). The concerned Officer shall submit their reports to the Central Prisons and Prisoners Correctional Services Office, and the Inspector General of Prisons & Prisoners Correctional Service shall compile and forward the consolidated statistical & numerical or factual data, whether in digital or physical form to the Government through the Administrative Department and by prescribed electronic means.

(8) The Central Prisons Office Balochistan shall, in all its offices, prisons, institutions, branches, division, and units, for purposes of internal documentation, record keeping, and filing, utilize the Electronic File and Office Automation System (EFOAS) or any other electronic filing and office automation system as may be prescribed by the Government. The Inspector General of Prisons, with the approval of the Administrative Department, shall authorize and issue login credentials to the prisons, offices, units, jails, and related entities in a secure manner as may be prescribed.

(9) The Central Prisons Office Balochistan shall ensure the installation of CCTV security cameras, surveillance system within and outside all its offices, prisons, institutions, branches, and units, and shall integrate such cameras and related data systems with the Safe City Authority or the Safe City cameras and database, as the case may be.

**Appointment of
Inspector General of
Prisons & Prisoners
Correctional Service &
Prisoners Correctional
Service.**

12. (1) The Chief Minister shall appoint an Inspector General of Balochistan Prisons and Prisoners Correctional Service (hereinafter referred to as the "Inspector General of Prisons") from amongst officers of the Prisons and Correctional Service not below the rank of Deputy Inspector General, or from amongst officers in Basic Pay Scale (BS)-19 or BS-20 belonging to the Pakistan Administrative Service or the Balochistan Civil Service (Executive Branch), as the case may be, in accordance with the provisions of the Balochistan Civil Servants Act, 1974 (Act IX of 1974) and the rules made thereunder, including the Balochistan Civil Servants (Appointment, Promotion and Transfer) Rules, 2009. The Inspector General of Prisons & Prisoners Correctional Service shall hold office for a fixed term of one year, extendable once for a further term not exceeding than two years.

(2) The Inspector General Prisons shall not be removed or transferred from office before the expiry of the prescribed term except:

- (a) on the grounds of misconduct, inefficiency, incapacity, or conviction for an offence involving moral turpitude; or
- (b) in circumstances of public emergency, public interest, security, exigency of service, or administrative necessity, which shall be duly recorded in writing by the Government.

(3) The Inspector General Prisons shall exercise such powers and perform such duties as are necessary for the general superintendence, administration, discipline, and management of Prisons & Prisoners Correctional Service, subject to this Act and the rules made thereunder.

(4) Without prejudice to the generality of sub-Section (4), the Inspector General Prisons shall, in particular; -

- (a) issue standing orders, codes of conduct, and directions for the professional, ethical, and uniform management of Prisons and for the conduct of Officers of the Service;
- (b) inspect and review Prisons periodically, and order audits of administration, security, discipline, welfare, and financial management;
- (c) determine staff-to-Prisoner ratios from time to time, and recommend the creation of regular or temporary posts to the Administrative Department for approval;

- (d) establish and oversee systems for record-keeping, sentence calculation, remission, parole, probation, and welfare of Prisoners;
- (e) Issue instructions, not inconsistent with this Act or the rules, for the management, security, welfare, protection, and discipline of Prisoners; *and*
- (f) exercise such administrative, financial, and operational powers as may be prescribed by this Act, the rules, or any other law for the time being in force.

(5) The Inspector General Prisons shall be responsible to the Government through the Administrative Department and shall submit such reports, numerical data, statistics, returns, or information as the Government may require.

Deputy Inspector General and Assistant Inspector General.

13. (1) The Government or the Department may appoint such number of Deputy Inspectors General *and* Assistant Inspectors General of the Service as it considers necessary for the efficient administration of Prisons and Prisoners' Correctional facilities.

(2) A Deputy Inspector General or Assistant Inspector General shall hold office for a fixed term of not less than one year and not more than two years from the date of posting, and shall not be removed, transferred, or prematurely repatriated before the completion of the term except: -

- (a) on the grounds of misconduct, inefficiency, incapacity, or conviction for an offence involving moral turpitude; or
- (b) in circumstances of public emergency, public interest, security, exigency of service, or administrative necessity, which shall be duly recorded in writing by the Government.

(3) Deputy Inspectors General and Assistant Inspectors General shall:

- (a) perform such functions and exercise such powers as may be prescribed by or under this Act, the rules, or the regulations made thereunder; *and*
- (b) discharge such responsibilities as may be assigned to them by the Government or the Inspector General Prisons, including supervision, inspection, and operational control over Prisons within their respective jurisdictions.

(4) Deputy Inspectors General and Assistant Inspectors General shall be directly responsible to the Inspector General Prisons for the due performance of their duties, and shall submit reports, numerical data, statistics, returns, and recommendations to the Central Prisons & Prisoners Correctional Service Office and Department as may be required.

(5) Deputy Inspectors General and Assistant Inspectors General shall be answerable to Government through Department.

(6) Government may, by notification, empower or delegate to the Additional Chief Secretary (Home) the powers relating to the transfer and posting of officers in the ranks of Deputy Inspector General of Police, Assistant Inspector General of Police, and all other officers and staff subordinate thereto.

Officer-In-charge of Prison.

14. (1) Every Prison shall be under the charge of an Officer of the rank of Superintendent of Prisons or Senior Superintendent of Prisons, or such other rank as may be prescribed by the rules, who shall be designated as the Officer -in-Charge.

(2) The Officer -in-Charge shall hold office for a term of not less than one year and not more than two years from the date of posting, and shall not be removed, transferred, or prematurely repatriated before the completion of such term except:

- (a) on the grounds of misconduct, inefficiency, incapacity, or conviction for an offence involving moral turpitude; or

- (b) in circumstances of public emergency, public interest, security, exigency of service, or administrative necessity, which shall be duly recorded in writing by the Government.

(3) Subject to the general superintendence and control of the Inspector General and the Deputy Inspector General concerned, the Officer -in-Charge shall be responsible for:

- (a) the security of the Prison;
- (b) its management and Correctional administration;
- (c) maintenance of good order and discipline;
- (d) the safe custody of all Prisoners lawfully committed to the Prison;
- (e) the welfare, rehabilitation, and Correctional treatment of Prisoners confined therein; *and*
- (f) supervision and management of the Prison staff under his control.

(4) The Officer -in-Charge may issue such orders as are necessary for the efficient management, discipline, and security of the Prison, consistent with the provisions of this Act, the rules, and the regulations made thereunder.

(5) The Officer-In-charge shall:

- (a) Receive and detain all persons duly committed to his custody under this Act or any other law, by any Court, Tribunal or authority of competent jurisdiction, in accordance with the exigency of the writ, warrant, or order by which such persons have been committed, and shall continue to detain them until they are lawfully discharged or removed in due course of law;
- (b) Return every writ, warrant, or order to the Court ,Tribunal or authority from which it was issued, together with a certificate duly endorsed and signed by him, specifying the manner in which it has been executed or stating the reasons for the discharge of the person committed thereby prior to execution, and after execution of such writ, warrant, or order, or after the discharge of the person committed thereby, he shall make due record thereof in the prescribed register and transmit a report of such execution or discharge to the issuing Court or Tribunal without delay; *and*
- (c) detain a Prisoner, or carry into effect the sentence awarded, strictly in accordance with law and warrant of commitment or sentence, bearing the official signature and seal of a competent Court or Tribunal, shall constitute sufficient authority for such detention or execution.

(6) Where the Officer -in-Charge entertains doubt as to the legality of any warrant, or the competence of the authority issuing it, he shall immediately refer the matter to the Provincial Government or the Department. Pending such reference, the Prisoner shall be detained provisionally, subject to the restrictions or conditions mentioned in the warrant, until instructions are received from the Provincial Government or the Department, whose decision shall be final and binding on all public Officers.

(7) The Officer -in-Charge shall, in the discharge of his duties, act in accordance with the following provisions relating to the execution of Capital Sentences:

- (a) Where any Court established under the authority of the Federal Government or Provincial Government, exercising jurisdiction beyond the ordinary territorial limits of the Provinces, has sentenced a person to death, and it appears that such sentence cannot be executed within that territory owing to the absence of secure facilities for confinement or execution, the said Court may issue a warrant of execution to the Officer in-Charge of a Prison within the Province;
- (b) The Officer -in-Charge, upon receipt of such warrant, shall execute the sentence at the place specified therein, in the same manner and subject to the same conditions as if the warrant had been issued by a Court under Section 381 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898 (Act V of 1898);
- (c) The Provincial Government may, by general or special order, notify the Prisons in which such executions shall be carried out;
- (d) For the purposes of this Section, a Court shall be deemed to be a Court established by the Federal or Provincial Government if the Presiding Judge, or at least one of the Judges, is an Officer duly authorized by the Federal Government or Provincial; and where such Tribunal consists of more than one Judge, the warrant shall be valid if signed by any Judge so authorized; *and*
- (e) Nothing contained in this Section shall prejudice or limit the powers of the Provincial Government under the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898, or under any other law for the time being in force, in relation to the execution, commutation, suspension, or remission of sentences.

Training and Research Wing.

15. (1) There shall be a Training and Research Wing of the Service, headed by a Commandant not below the rank of Deputy Inspector General, appointed or transferred by the Government.
- (2) The Wing shall:
- (a) conduct initial, refresher, and specialized training of Prison Officers and staff;
 - develop training modules on security, Correctional administration, rehabilitation, emergency response, healthcare, and gender responsive practices;
 - (b) undertake research and publish reports on Correctional practices, human rights, and Prison administration;
 - (c) collaborate with academic, research, and national or International Institutions for training and capacity-building; *and*
 - (d) evaluate training outcomes and recommend reforms.
- (3) The syllabus of the Wing shall include Prison law, human rights, security, healthcare, rehabilitation, crisis management, religious affairs, vocational & technical skills, restorative justice, and gender and child-sensitive practices.
- (4) The Government may prescribe rules for accreditation, certification, and evaluation of training programmes conducted under the Wing.
- (5) No Officer or employee of the Service shall be confirmed in service or promoted to a higher post unless he has successfully completed the prescribed training courses and obtained certification in accordance with the rules.
- (6) The mandatory training or pre-service training of Prison Officers, as may be prescribed by rules, shall be conducted at the Balochistan Civil Services Academy, Quetta, and the training of junior officers and staff shall be conducted at such registered institutions as may be prescribed by rules.

(7) The Prison Policy Board shall, at least once every three years, review the standards, curriculum, and effectiveness of the training programmes, and recommend updates to ensure alignment with International best practices and evolving Correctional needs.

Powers, Authority, Protection, and Duty to Assist.

16. (1) Every Prison Officer, by virtue of office, shall have the powers, authority, protections, immunities, and privileges conferred by this Act and the rules.

(2) The exercise of such powers may be limited, assigned, or withdrawn by written order of the Government, the Department, the Inspector General of Prisons & Prisoners Correctional Service, the Deputy Inspector General of Prisons & Prisoners Correctional Service, or the Officer -in-Charge, as the case may be.

(3) All Law Enforcement Agencies, Government Departments, bodies, and their employees shall, upon lawful requisition, extend full cooperation and assistance to Prison Officers in the discharge of their duties, and shall, in accordance with the Balochistan Government Rules of Business, 2012, provide such support as may be necessary for carrying out the purposes of this Act and the rules made thereunder.

(4) Members of the public shall render reasonable assistance when lawfully required by a Prison Officer acting in the execution of duty.

(5) Failure to comply with a lawful requirement under this Section shall be dealt with in accordance with applicable Laws, Act, and Rules.

Duties and Responsibilities of Prison Officers.

17. Every Prison Officer and other administrative and ministerial cadre staff shall:

(a) observe and enforce the provisions of this Act, the rules, regulations, standing orders, and code of conduct;

(b) ensure the security of the Prison while on duty and promptly report to the Officer -in-Charge any matter that may jeopardize the safety, discipline, or management of the Prison or the custody of Prisoners;

(c) conduct searches of persons, vehicles, or goods entering or leaving the Prison, and refuse entry where necessary, in accordance with the rules or as on directions of Department;

(d) furnish special reports on Prison management, security, or discipline, when so directed by the Government, the Inspector General Prisons, the Deputy Inspector General, or the Officer -in-Charge;

(e) comply with all lawful directions issued by superior Officers; *and*

(f) perform such other duties as may be prescribed under this Act, the rules, or the regulations.

Weapons, Uniforms and Equipment.

18. (1) Prison Officers shall be provided with such weapons, uniforms, accoutrements, and protective equipment as may be prescribed by the rules, necessary for the efficient management, protection, and security of Prisons, Prisoners, and Staff.

(2) Subject to the regulations, employees of the Service other than Prison Officers may also be issued such equipment as the Inspector General considers appropriate.

(3) Misuse, negligent handling, loss, or unauthorized use of any weapon, uniform, or equipment shall constitute misconduct and shall be dealt with in accordance with this Act, the rules, and the regulations.

(4) The Government shall regulate by rules the design, issue, use, storage, and disposal of weapons, restraints, uniforms, and equipment of Prison staff, while the Inspector General Prisons or Deputy Inspector General shall ensure their periodic inspection, audit, and record-keeping, with prescribed procedures for reporting, medical examination, and review in cases involving use of force.

(5) Weapons, uniforms, and equipment that become obsolete, unserviceable, unsafe, or otherwise unsuitable for use shall be withdrawn, disposed of, and replaced in accordance with the procedure and rules as prescribed by the Government.

**Balochistan
Inspectorate
of Prisons and
Prisoners.**

19. (1) There is hereby established an oversight body to be called the Balochistan Inspectorate of Prisons and Prisoners, referred to as the Inspectorate. It shall function independently for inspections and monitoring of all places in the Province of Balochistan where Prisoners are lawfully kept.

(2) The Inspectorate shall be headed by the Special Secretary (Home), who shall act as the Chief Inspector of Prisons and Prisoners and shall exercise the powers and perform the functions conferred by this Act and rules made thereunder.

(3) The Chief Inspector or Department shall, by written Notification, nominate the Commissioner of each Division and the Deputy Commissioner of each District as Inspecting Authorities for the purposes of this Act and rules made thereunder, and may also designate such other Officers of the Department as he deems necessary for specific inspections, reports, inquiries, or follow-up.

(4) Inspecting Authorities shall conduct both periodic and ad hoc inspections in accordance with the schedule or written directions issued by the Chief Inspector.

(5) For the purposes of an inspection, Inspecting Authorities may enter any Prison, examine and take copies or extracts of records, hold private interviews with Prisoners or staff, and require written explanations from Officers.

(6) Every inspection report shall be submitted to the Chief Inspector within seven working days of the inspection, with a copy forwarded to the Additional Chief Secretary Home and the Inspector General of Prisons & Prisoners Correctional Service.

(7) The Inspectorate shall: -

- (a) conduct periodic and ad hoc inspections of all Prisons, Subsidiary Prisons, Sub-Jails, Detention Centers, and Correctional facilities;
- (b) assess compliance with this Act, the rules and the regulations, including custody, security, welfare, health, sanitation, food, discipline, education, and rehabilitation;
- (c) receive and inquire into complaints of maladministration, abuse of authority, or violation of rights within custodial facilities;
- (d) review deaths in custody, serious injuries, escapes, riots, and use of force incidents; *and*
- (e) issue recommendations to the competent authority for remedial, disciplinary, or legal action.

(8) For the purposes of Sub-Section (7), the Chief Inspector and the Inspecting Authorities may:

- (a) enter and inspect any custodial facility without prior notice;
- (b) require the production of records, including electronic records, and take copies or extracts;
- (c) conduct private interviews with Prisoners, staff, visitors, or other relevant persons; *and*
- (d) call for reports and explanations from any Officer -in-Charge or other Officer.

(9) Where an inspection or inquiry discloses an immediate risk to life, health, or safety of Prisoners or staff, the Chief Inspector may issue binding directions to the Inspector General of Prisons & Prisoners Correctional Service or to the Government. Compliance shall be ensured within the period specified and a report shall be sent to the Chief Inspector.

(10) All Prison Officers and public authorities shall provide full assistance to the Inspectorate in the discharge of its functions. Failure to comply with any lawful requirement of the Inspectorate shall constitute misconduct under this Act and the rules. Any Prison Officer or employee who obstructs, delays, or fails to comply with the lawful directions of the Inspecting Authorities during the course of an inspection shall be deemed to have committed misconduct and shall be liable to disciplinary proceedings under the applicable service laws, in addition to any penalty prescribed under this Act or any other law for the time being in force.

(11) The Inspectorate shall have its Secretariat in the Home Department or another place notified by the Government. A separate budget head shall be provided for inspections.

(12) Inspection and inquiry reports shall be submitted to the Government with copies to the Inspector General of Prisons & Prisoners Correctional Service. A consolidated annual report shall be laid before the Provincial Assembly of Balochistan and a public summary shall be published in the prescribed manner. Integration with the Prison Management Information System shall be ensured where applicable.

(13) The Inspectorate shall not exercise executive or administrative control over day-to-day Prison management. Such control vests in the Central Prisons and Prisoners Office under Section 10 and 11 of the Act.

(14) All inspection and inquiry reports shall be recorded in the prescribed form and, where applicable, uploaded to the Prison Management Information System.

(15) The Inspector General of Prisons & Prisoners Correctional Service shall, within the period specified by the Chief Inspector, ensure compliance with recommendations and submit a written compliance report. Cases of unresolved or repeated non-compliance shall be reported by the Chief Inspector to the Government for appropriate directions.

(16) A consolidated annual report of inspections, findings, and compliance shall be laid before the Provincial Assembly and published in the prescribed manner.

(17) No suit, prosecution, or other legal proceeding lies against the Inspectorate, the Chief Inspector, an Inspecting Authority, or any Officer or employee acting under their direction, for anything done or intended to be done in good faith under this Act or the rules.

**Appointments,
Recruitment,
and Service
Conditions.**

20. (1) Appointments to the Prisons Establishment shall be made by direct appointment, promotion, or transfer, in such manner as may be prescribed by this Act and the rules.

(2) The ranks, cadre, categories, and establishment of the Prisons Establishment, including ministerial and administrative staff, shall be as prescribed by the rules.

(3) The qualifications, method of recruitment, probation, training, duties, and medical fitness of persons appointed to the Prisons Establishment shall be as prescribed by the rules.

(4) The service conditions of Prison Officer and staff, including seniority, promotion, confirmation, pay, allowances, leave, conduct, discipline, uniforms, and other terms, shall be regulated by the rules made under the Balochistan Civil Servants Act, 1974.

(5) Prison Officers and officials shall hold ranks equivalent, for purposes of pay, allowances, privileges, and service benefits, to their counterparts in the Prison services of sister Provinces, and the Government may, from time to time, revise such pay and allowances. They may also be granted cash rewards in exceptional circumstances or on the basis of performance, as prescribed by the rules.

(6) Any inquiry or investigation relating to malpractice, misuse of authority, or corruption by any Officer or employee of the Service shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Balochistan Enquiries and Anti-Corruption Act, 2010, the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1947 (II of 1947), or any other law for the time being in force, and the procedure prescribed under such laws shall apply mutatis mutandis to all inquiries and proceedings initiated under this Act; nothing contained herein shall prejudice or restrict the jurisdiction of any agency or authority competent under the aforesaid laws to take cognizance of offences pertaining to corruption, maladministration, or abuse of official powers.

**Code of Conduct for
Prison Officers.**

21. (1) Every Prison Officer shall obey and ensure compliance with the provisions of this Act, the rules and regulations made thereunder, standing orders, and all lawful directions issued by competent authority.
- (2) Every Prison Officer shall perform official duties with integrity, honesty, and impartiality, and shall neither solicit, accept, nor offer any bribe, gift, gratification, or other unlawful advantage.
- (3) Every Prison Officer shall maintain conduct befitting the dignity of the Service and shall refrain from any act or behaviour likely to bring discredit to the Service or impair discipline.
- (4) The authority vested in a Prison Officer shall not be exercised in an arbitrary, improper, or abusive manner, and the use of force shall be limited to circumstances permitted by law and in accordance with prescribed procedures.
- (5) Every Prisoner shall be treated with fairness, respect, and humanity in conformity with law, and no Prisoner shall be subjected to torture, cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment, nor to any punishment not authorized by law.
- (6) Information or material obtained in the course of official duty shall not be disclosed except as required by law or in the lawful interest of prison administration.
- (7) No Prison Officer shall report for duty while under the influence of alcohol, narcotic substance, or any intoxicant, and sleeping on duty, neglect of duty, or willful absence from duty shall constitute gross misconduct.
- (8) Every Prison Officer shall maintain political neutrality and shall not engage in any political activity, demonstration, or strike, nor exercise coercion or undue influence against the Government or superior authority.
- (9) No male Prison Officer shall enter any enclosure or premises reserved for women prisoners except as authorized by the rules, and only in the presence of a female officer.
- (10) Every Prison Officer shall remain vigilant and alert in the execution of duties and shall take all necessary measures to prevent escapes, disturbances, or the introduction of contraband into prisons.
- (11) Failure to comply with the provisions of this Section shall constitute misconduct and shall be dealt with in accordance with this Act, the rules, and any other applicable law.

**CHAPTER -V
CUSTODY, ADMISSION, ACCOMMODATION AND TRANSFER OF PRISONERS**

**Lawful Custody
of Prisoners.**

22. (1) Every Prisoner admitted to a Prison shall be deemed to be in the lawful custody of the Officer -in-Charge, and shall remain in such custody by day and by night until lawfully released.
- (2) The Officer -in-Charge shall ensure that every Prisoner committed under a warrant, order, or any law for the time being in force is confined strictly in accordance with the terms thereof, and shall discharge the Prisoner only when lawfully authorized.

(3) Prisoners who are un-sentenced shall be presumed innocent and shall be treated as such. They shall be kept separate from convicted or sentenced Prisoners in accordance with the rules.

(4) No Prisoner shall be admitted into custody without a valid warrant of commitment or lawful order of a competent authority. The Officer -in-Charge shall detain the Prisoner for the period specified therein and release the Prisoner upon lawful discharge or expiry of the order.

Admission of Prisoners.

23. (1) No Prisoner shall be received or admitted into any Prison unless accompanied by a valid warrant of commitment, judgment, or order duly issued by a competent authority in accordance with law.

(2) At the time of admission, the Officer in-Charge shall ensure the preparation and maintenance of a record containing:

- (a) the full identity of the Prisoner, including biometric particulars;
- (b) the legal authority and grounds for detention; *and*
- (c) the date and hour of admission.

(3) Upon admission, every Prisoner shall be informed, in a language understood by him:

- (a) of his rights and obligations under this Act and the rules made thereunder;
- (b) of the disciplinary requirements applicable to his category;
- (c) of the authorized channels for complaints and requests; *and*
- (d) of his right to legal representation, including access to a legal practitioner of his choice, or, where unavailable, to a panel of legal consultants provided at Government expense.

(4) Where a Prisoner is illiterate, the information required under sub-section (3) shall be explained orally by the Officer in-Charge or a designated Officer, and where necessary, through an interpreter or other suitable means.

(5) Every Prisoner admitted shall undergo a medical examination by the Medical Officer, which shall include:

- (a) screening for communicable and contagious diseases;
- (b) ascertainment of whether the Prisoner is undergoing any Medical treatment; *and*
- (c) entry of all findings in the Medical register.

(6) No Prisoner shall be admitted if found: -

- (a) dangerously ill;
- (b) unconscious; or
- (c) otherwise unfit for confinement, unless the Medical Officer certifies in writing that the Prisoner is fit to be received.

(7) Where certification under sub-Section (6) is not provided: -

- (a) the Prisoner shall be referred without delay to a hospital or Medical facility; *and*
- (b) the Officer -In-Charge shall immediately report the matter to the committing authority.

(8) No child below the minimum age of criminal responsibility under law shall be admitted to Prison.

(9) No person shall be received into Prison custody except in accordance with this Act and the rules made thereunder, and any contravention shall render the responsible Officer liable to Departmental and legal action.

(10) Before admitting any Prisoner, the Officer -in-Charge shall verify: -

- (a) the authenticity and validity of the warrant or order of commitment; *and*
- (b) the identity of the person produced.

(11) Where a warrant or order appears:

- (a) defective;
- (b) irregular; or
- (c) issued by an authority not competent under law, the Officer -in-Charge shall refuse admission and shall immediately report the matter to the Department and the committing authority.

(12) Pending clarification under sub-Section (11), such person may be kept in temporary custody only in accordance with law, and shall not be treated as an admitted Prisoner.

**Classification,
Separation,
Categories,
and Special
Confinement
of Prisoners.**

24. (1) Prisoners shall be classified and confined separately to ensure security, discipline, order, health, and the welfare of each category, in accordance with the provisions of this Act, the rules framed thereunder, and recognized International standards, and for the purpose of maintaining good order, discipline, and effective management of Prisons, such classification shall be made into categories as may be prescribed by the rules made under this Act.

(2) As far as practicable, the following categories of Prisoners shall be kept separate:

- (a) civil Prisoners and criminal Prisoners;
- (b) sentenced Prisoners and un-sentenced Prisoners;
- (c) male, female, and transgender Prisoners;
- (d) juveniles and adults;
- (e) Prisoners under sentence of death;
- (f) Prisoners suffering from communicable or contagious diseases;
- (g) vulnerable Prisoners, including the elderly, persons with disabilities, or those requiring protective custody;
- (h) children residing with mothers; *and*
- (i) such other categories as may be prescribed.

(3) Juvenile prisoners shall be confined in Borstal Institutions or Juvenile Correctional Facilities established under the law, and youthful offenders shall be kept in Reformatory Schools established and maintained by the Government. No juvenile shall be confined in any adult prison except where it is unavoidable, and in such cases, special safeguards shall be ensured for their protection, education, and rehabilitation. All such institutions shall be administered and managed separately by the Government in accordance with the prescribed rules.

(4) Women Prisoners shall be accommodated in separate Prisons or in distinct and secure enclosures within Prisons, under the charge of women Officers. They shall be provided with appropriate facilities for health, childcare, education, vocational training, and rehabilitation.

(5) A child of a female Prisoner may reside with her up to the age prescribed by rules, provided that adequate facilities for health, nutrition, education, and welfare are ensured.

(6) The Officer in-Charge may order the separate confinement of a Prisoner where, in his opinion or upon credible report, the association of such Prisoner with others is detrimental to: -

- (a) the good order or discipline of the Prison;
- (b) the prevention of offences or breaches of discipline;
- (c) the safety of the Prisoner's own life or the security of other Prisoners;
- (d) the overall security and management of the Prison, particularly in the case of dangerous, terrorist, or hardcore Prisoners; or
- (e) the health of the Prisoner himself or of other Prisoners.

(7) Separate confinement under sub-Section (6) shall not be treated as punishment. A Prisoner so confined shall continue to enjoy all privileges available to other Prisoners, subject to security considerations.

(8) Prisoners sentenced to death shall be confined in separate cells or designated areas for condemned Prisoners, in accordance with the standards prescribed by rules.

(9) Conditions of such confinement shall ensure security, discipline, and humane treatment, consistent with the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, 1973, and international standards.

(10) Every condemned Prisoner shall be provided access to: -

- (a) adequate medical care;
- (b) legal counsel and facilities for the preparation of defence or appeal; *and*
- (c) reasonable communication with family members, subject to security requirements.

(11) The Officer-In-charge of a prison shall classify convicted and under-trial prisoners into the following categories—

- (a) A prisoner shall be placed in the Executive Class (A-Class) if: -
 - (i) he is or has been a person holding a constitutional or high public office, including a Minister, Adviser, Member of the Provincial Assembly, National Assembly, or Senate of Pakistan, or has served as a mayor or Chairman of a Metropolitan Corporation or Municipal Corporation;
 - (ii) he is or has been a Judge of a Superior Court, or an officer in Basic Pay Scale-20 or above of the Federal or Provincial Government, or of an equivalent rank in the Armed Forces or Civil Services; or
 - (iii) the Government, for reasons to be recorded in writing, declares any person eligible for placement in this class on account of his office, position, or distinguished public service.
- (b) A prisoner may be placed in the Better Class (**B-Class**) if—
 - (i) he holds eighteen years equivalent or professional degree from an institution recognized by the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan;
 - (ii) he has been a regular taxpayer for at least three consecutive years, contributing not less than fifty thousand rupees per annum;
 - (iii) he is or has been a gazette officer below Basic Pay Scale-20;

(iv) he is or has been engaged in a recognized academic, professional, or business field; or

(v) he is socially accustomed to a superior mode of living.

(c) All other prisoners not classified under clause (b) or (c) of sub-section 11 of section 24 shall be placed in the Common Class **(C-Class)**.

Accommodation of Prisoners.

25. (1) The Government shall provide and maintain adequate accommodation in every Prison, constructed, equipped, and regulated in accordance with this Act, the rules made thereunder, and the standards approved by the Prison Policy Board, consistent with the International accepted humane treatment practices.

(2) All cells, dormitories, wards, or other enclosures shall be designed, constructed, and maintained so as to ensure: -

(a) sufficient floor space, cubic capacity, ventilation, lighting, heating, and cooling appropriate to the climatic conditions of Balochistan;

(b) adequate sanitation, bathing, and washing facilities; *and*

(c) conditions consistent with health, hygiene, and human dignity.

(3) Overcrowding beyond the certified safe capacity of any Prison shall not be permitted, except in cases of emergency formally declared by the Government. In such cases, temporary measures shall be adopted, including the transfer of Prisoners to other facilities or the establishment of temporary accommodations, in accordance with law.

(4) The Prisons and Prisoners Correctional Services shall, as far as practicable and in accordance with the rules, ensure the provision of basic necessities to all Prisoners, including wholesome water, suitable bedding, and seasonal clothing or other requirements necessary to preserve health and dignity.

(5) Where the number of Prisoners in any Prison exceeds the certified safe capacity and it is not feasible to transfer the excess to another Prison, or where an outbreak of epidemic disease, natural calamity, or any other emergency renders continued confinement unsafe, the Government or the Administrative Department shall make immediate arrangements for the temporary shelter and safe custody of such Prisoners.

(6) For the purposes of sub-Section (5), the Government may, by order or notification, establish temporary Prisons or shelters, or designate specially approved Correctional facilities, sub-jails, subsidiary Prison, camps, or other secure premises, in such manner as may be prescribed by rules.

(7) Every place established or approved under sub-Section (6) shall, for the period it remains in use, be deemed to be a Prison for the purposes of this Act. The Government shall appoint an Officer -in-Charge and such staff as may be necessary for its management.

(8) Transfers to and from such temporary accommodation shall be made by written order of the competent authority. Proper registers and records shall be maintained, and entries shall be uploaded to the Prison Management Information System (PMIS) where applicable.

(9) Prisoners housed in temporary accommodation shall continue to enjoy all rights and entitlements under this Act, including access to food, medical care, sanitation, communication, and legal counsel, subject only to such restrictions as are strictly necessary for safety, health, and security.

(10) The need for continued use of temporary accommodation shall be reviewed at intervals not exceeding thirty days. Upon cessation of the emergency, the accommodation shall be closed, Prisoners shall be returned to regular facilities, and a closure report shall be submitted to the Government through Department and the Inspector General of Prisons & Prisoners Correctional Service.

(11) The Government may, by rules, prescribe standards for capacity, security, staffing, sanitation, medical facilities, separation and classification of Prisoners, visits and communications, record-keeping, reporting, and all other matters connected with temporary accommodation established under this Section.

Diet, Clothing and Bedding of Prisoners.

26. (1) Every Prisoner shall be provided with adequate food of nutritional value sufficient to maintain health and strength, in accordance with the standards prescribed by rules and consistent with other recognized international standards.
- (2) Special dietary requirements shall be ensured for: -
- (a) juveniles;
 - (b) women, including pregnant and nursing mothers;
 - (c) elderly and infirm Prisoners;
 - (d) Prisoners with Medical conditions, as certified by the Medical Officer; *and*
 - (e) children residing with their mothers in Prison.
- (3) Where practicable, dietary needs consistent with religious or cultural practices shall be accommodated, and arrangements may be made, under supervision, to allow Prisoners to cook their own food.
- (4) Clean and safe drinking water shall be available to every Prisoner at all times.
- (5) Prisoners shall be supplied with clothing appropriate to the climate, season, hygiene, and human dignity, as prescribed by rules. Women Prisoners shall receive clothing suitable to their gender, dignity, and health needs. With the approval of the Officer -in-Charge, Prisoners may wear their own clothing, provided it is clean, suitable, and not prejudicial to discipline or security.
- (6) Every Prisoner shall be provided with bedding and related articles adequate for health, hygiene, and climatic conditions. Bedding shall be kept clean and replaced or renewed at intervals prescribed by rules. A Prisoner may, with the permission of the Officer in-Charge, use personal bedding if it meets sanitary and security standards.
- (7) Prisoners shall maintain personal cleanliness and keep their clothing, bedding, and living areas clean and orderly. The Service shall provide the necessary means to enable compliance.
- (8) The Government may, by rules, prescribe detailed standards for diet, clothing, and bedding, including quantity, quality, inspection, and monitoring mechanisms, ensuring conformity with principles of health, hygiene, and human dignity.
- (9) The Government or the Department shall establish, within every Prison, a canteen or tuck shop for the supply of food items, dietary supplements, and articles of daily use necessary for the welfare of Prisoners.
- (a) Prisoners may purchase such items at fair and reasonable prices not exceeding the prevailing market rates, under such conditions as may be prescribed by the rules.
- (b) The Government shall, by rules made under this Act, determine the manner of administration, supervision, and operation of the canteen, including the regulation of items to be sold, pricing, accounting, and access by Prisoners according to their classification and category.

CHPATER-VI
HEALTH CARE AND MEDICAL SERVICES

Medical Facilities.

27. (1) Every Prisoner shall be entitled to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. The Government shall ensure the provision of adequate Medical, dental, psychological, and psychiatric care in all Prisons, in accordance with this Act, the rules made thereunder, and International human rights standards, including the International humane accepted practices.
- (2) Each Prison shall have a health unit under the charge of a duly qualified Medical Officer, supported by such Medical, nursing, and auxiliary staff as may be prescribed.
- (3) Every Prison hospital or health unit shall be equipped with facilities for diagnosis, treatment, emergency care, and preventive medicine, in accordance with prescribed standards, and consistent with the best and modern practices Correctional laws of comparative jurisdictions in world.

Medical Examination.

28. (1) Every Prisoner shall undergo a medical examination by the Medical Officer immediately upon admission and thereafter at intervals prescribed by rules.
- (2) A comprehensive record of each Prisoner's health status, treatment, and special needs shall be maintained in the prescribed register and updated regularly.
- (3) Special attention shall be accorded to vulnerable Prisoners, including juveniles, women, particularly pregnant or nursing mothers, elderly persons, Prisoners with disabilities, and those suffering from mental illness, recognized international standards.

**Referrals and
Specialist Care.**

29. (1) A Prisoner requiring specialized treatment shall be referred without delay to an outside hospital or specialist Institution, in accordance with the opinion of the Medical Officer.
- (2) In cases of emergency, immediate transfer shall be made to the nearest hospital, and the Officer -in-Charge shall forthwith report such transfer to the Government and the Inspector General.
- (3) The opinion of the Medical Officer regarding the necessity of referral or transfer shall be final and binding, and no delay shall be permitted in its implementation.

**Independent
Medical Examination.**

30. (1) Subject to security requirements and Prison discipline, every Prisoner shall have the right, at personal expense or through family arrangements, to be examined by a duly qualified medical practitioner of his or her choice, in addition to the routine medical care provided by the Prison administration. This right shall be read in harmony with Articles 9 and 14 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, relating to the security of life and the inviolability of human dignity.
- (2) Such examination shall be conducted within the Prison, or, where necessary, at a designated medical facility under secure arrangements approved by the Officer -in-Charge.
- (3) The Officer -in-Charge shall permit such examination upon a written request by the Prisoner or his authorized representative, subject to the following conditions: -
- (a) the medical practitioner is duly registered and recognized under law;
- (b) the request is not unreasonable, frivolous, or vexatious; and
- (c) the examination does not compromise Prison security or discipline.
- (4) A written record of every independent examination, including diagnosis and treatment recommended, shall be filed with the Prison Medical Officer and, where appropriate, made available to the Prisoner, his legal counsel, or the Court.
- (5) Where an independent examination discloses evidence of torture, inhuman or degrading treatment, neglect, or denial of care, the Medical Officer and the Officer -in-Charge shall immediately report the matter to the Department, Inspector General and the competent Magistrate for inquiry in accordance with law.

(6) Any unjustified refusal, obstruction, or failure by the Officer -in-Charge to permit such examination shall constitute misconduct and shall render him liable to disciplinary proceedings under the relevant service laws, in addition to any penalty provided under this Act or any other law for the time being in force.

Deaths in Custody.

31. (1) In every case of death in custody, the Medical Officer shall immediately record the circumstances of illness, treatment, diet, and work assigned to the deceased, and shall report the case without delay to the Officer -in-Charge, the Deputy Inspector General, the Inspector General, the competent Magistrate and Department.

(2) A post-mortem examination shall be mandatory in all cases of suicide, violence, accident, or where suspicion of foul play exists.

(3) The Officer in-Charge shall notify the next of kin of the deceased without delay. In the case of an unclaimed body, the Government shall arrange burial or cremation in accordance with the religious belief of the deceased.

(4) All deaths in custody shall be subject to independent oversight by the Chief Inspector, in conformity with the Nelson Mandela Rules and other recognized international standards.

Prohibition of Experimentation.

32. (1) No Prisoner shall be subjected to Medical, scientific, or psychological experimentation, research, or clinical trial without his or her free and informed consent and without informing the competent Magistrate.

(2) Any such activity shall require the prior written approval of the Government and shall be subject to the oversight of a duly constituted and independent ethics committee.

(3) Participation in any approved research shall be voluntary, and refusal or withdrawal of consent shall not result in any punishment, loss of privileges, or adverse consequences.

(4) All experimentation or research involving Prisoners shall comply with the principles of human dignity, safety, and international standards.

Duties of Medical Officer and Health Staff.

33. (1) The Medical Officer shall: -

- (a) examine every Prisoner on admission, record his or her state of health, and enter all relevant medical information;
- (b) maintain complete medical records, including treatment, check-ups, and follow-up;
- (c) conduct periodic health examinations of all Prisoners and provide appropriate medical care or treatment;
- (d) monitor the health of Prisoners kept in separate confinement or under special conditions;
- (e) refer, without delay, any Prisoner requiring specialized or emergency treatment to an outside hospital, and his opinion in this regard shall be binding;
- (f) prepare and submit medical reports to the Officer -in-Charge, the Deputy Inspector General, or the Inspector General, as and when required;
- (g) maintain registers relating to health, treatment, communicable diseases, causes of death, and post-mortem examinations;
- (h) upon the death of a Prisoner, record the circumstances of illness, treatment, diet, work assigned, and cause of death;

- (i) submit a report of such death forthwith to the Officer -in-Charge, the Deputy Inspector General, the Inspector General, and the next of kin of the deceased;
- (j) in the case of an unclaimed body, ensure that Government authorities arrange funeral rites in accordance with the religious belief of the deceased; *and*
- (k) where death occurs by suicide, violence, accident, or under suspicious circumstances, ensure that the Officer -in-Charge informs the competent Magistrate, who shall hold an inquiry under the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898 (Act V of 1898), and that a post-mortem examination is carried out.

(2) Assistant Surgeons, Pharmacists, and other subordinate medical staff appointed in Prison hospitals or health units shall assist the Medical Officer in the discharge of his duties, in such manner as may be prescribed by rules.

(3) All Medical information and records of Prisoners shall be treated as confidential and shall not be disclosed, except where disclosure is required by law, ordered by a competent Court, or necessary for the protection of life, health, or security.

CHAPTER-VII

TRANSFER AND REMOVAL OF PRISONERS

Transfer of Prisoners.

34. (1) The Government, or the Administrative Department, by written order, direct the transfer of a Prisoner from one Prison to another within the province, or to any other place of lawful detention, in accordance with this Act and the rules made thereunder.

(2) A transfer may be ordered on grounds of security, health, medical examination or treatment, rehabilitation, convenience of trial or production before a Court, or for effective management and administration of Prisons.

(3) A sentence of imprisonment lawfully imposed upon a Prisoner may be served partly in one Prison and partly in another, subject to such orders as may be issued under this Act or the rules.

Transfer of Prisoners to Court, Hospital, Province, or Territory

35. (1) The Officer -in-Charge shall cause a Prisoner to be produced at the time and place specified in any lawful order of a Court, or at any other place where the Prisoner's presence is required under such order. Upon adjournment or conclusion of the proceedings, the Prisoner shall be returned to Prison custody without delay.

(2) Where a Prisoner is required to be produced before a Court outside Balochistan, and cases of the Prisoner are also pending within the Province, the Inspector General shall refer the matter to the Balochistan High Court for approval. The High Court may decide the matter in consultation with the High Court of the concerned Province or territory, and the decision shall be communicated to the Prison administration within fifteen days of initiation.

(3) Where a sentenced Prisoner has no pending cases within Balochistan, the Inspector General may, with the approval of the Government, order transfer of such Prisoner to another Province or territory on reciprocal arrangements, through a mechanism devised in consultation with his counterparts in the other Province or territory. The Administrative Department shall facilitate the implementation of such orders.

(4) Where a Prisoner requires medical treatment or admission to a specialized healthcare facility not available in Balochistan, the Inspector General may, with the approval of the Government, arrange for transfer of such Prisoner to another Province or territory's Prison or hospital, in coordination with the authorities concerned. The Administrative Department shall assist in the execution of such orders.

(5) A Prisoner may, during transfer outside Prison custody, be restrained by mechanical, electronic, plastic, or nylon restraints, in accordance with security requirements and the rules made under this Act, provided that such restraints shall not be excessive, degrading, or cause unnecessary pain or humiliation.

(6) Where required for reasons of security or administrative necessity, arrangements may be made for trial to be conducted within the Prison premises or through secure video-link facilities, subject to the orders of the competent Court.

(7) All transfers of Prisoners under this Section shall be carried out in a manner consistent with the principles of human dignity and International human rights standards. Transfers shall not unduly restrict or impair a Prisoner's right to a fair trial, access to legal counsel, communication with family members, or access to medical care.

International Transfers and Consular Access of Prisoners.

36. (1) The Transfer of Offenders Ordinance, 2002, the Extradition Act, 1972, or any reciprocal treaty or arrangement between Pakistan and another country, a foreign national Prisoner sentenced by a competent Court in Pakistan may, with his written consent and the agreement of the receiving country, be transferred to that country to serve the whole or remaining portion of his sentence in accordance with the laws of that country.

(2) A Prisoner awaiting transfer under sub-Section (1) shall remain in lawful custody in Pakistan until the transfer is completed.

(3) The transfer of a Prisoner under this Section shall not prejudice or extinguish his right under Pakistani law to appeal against conviction or sentence before a competent Court in Pakistan.

(4) A citizen of Pakistan belonging to the Province of Balochistan who has been sentenced by a competent Court of a foreign country may, subject to reciprocal arrangements, be transferred to a Prison in Balochistan to serve the whole or unexpired portion of his sentence. Upon such transfer, he shall be deemed to be serving a sentence imposed by a competent Court in Pakistan and shall be subject to this Act.

(5) Every foreign national Prisoner shall be entitled to communicate with, and be visited by, the diplomatic or consular representatives of the country of his nationality, in accordance with international law and subject to security requirements. The Officer in-Charge shall, upon admission of such Prisoner, promptly notify the Prisoner's Embassy or Consulate unless the Prisoner expressly requests otherwise in writing. Consular representatives shall have the right to visit their nationals at reasonable times, to communicate with them confidentially under appropriate supervision, and to arrange legal representation, Medical care, or welfare assistance in accordance with law.

(6) Nothing in this Section shall affect the application of reciprocal arrangements or international treaties to which Pakistan is a party, including the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, 1963.

Custody, Escort and Transfer of Prisoners.

37. (1) Where a Prisoner has been ordered to be released by one Court but his production is simultaneously required under a warrant or production order of another competent Court, the Officer -in-Charge shall not release the Prisoner until clear directions are received from the Court concerned.

(2) The Officer in-Charge shall cause any Prisoner to be taken to such place where his presence is lawfully required under this Act, any other law for the time being in force, or by order of a competent authority or Court. Whenever a Prisoner is outside Prison for such purposes, he shall be deemed to remain in lawful custody and shall continue to be subject to the provisions of this Act, the rules, and the regulations.

(3) Whenever a Prisoner is required to be taken outside Prison for production before a Court, Medical treatment, transfer to another Prison, or any other lawful purpose, the Officer in-Charge shall arrange prisons vehicle and an escort composed of Prison Officers or staff, where necessary, Police or other law enforcement personnel. Escorts shall remain responsible for the custody, safety, and discipline of the Prisoner during the entire period of transfer.

(4) Prisoners under transfer may be restrained by mechanical, electronic, plastic, or nylon restraints, as prescribed by rules, where reasonably necessary to prevent escape or ensure safety. Restraints shall not be excessive, degrading, or cause unnecessary pain, humiliation, or injury, and their use shall conform to standards of dignity and humane treatment.

(5) Escorts shall take all necessary precautions to prevent escape, attack, rescue, or harm to the Prisoner, the escort, or the public. The Inspector General may issue standing orders prescribing escort formations, equipment, vehicles, and procedures for the transfer of high-risk Prisoners.

(6) The Officer in-Charge shall maintain records of every transfer, including the purpose, destination, time, personnel assigned, restraints used, and return to Prison. Any escape, attempted escape, injury, or extraordinary incident during transfer shall be reported immediately to the Inspector General and the Administrative Department.

(7) Whenever any emergency, natural calamity, unforeseen situation, or other unavoidable circumstance arises during the transfer or production of prisoners, the escorting Officer shall immediately shift such prisoners to the nearest police station for temporary custody. The concerned Station House Officer and the Head of District Police shall be responsible for providing all necessary assistance and shall ensure that the prisoners are kept in the police lock-up under safe and secure custody until further orders of the Officer-In-charge.

CHAPTER-VIII

Discharge and Release of Prisoners

Discharge of Prisoners.

38. (1) A Prisoner shall be discharged at the time determined by the Officer in-Charge on the day the Prisoner's sentence expires, or when the sentence otherwise terminates by order of a competent Court or lawful authority, in accordance with this Act and the rules.

(2) Where a Prisoner who is due for release remains under medical treatment by the Medical Officer, he or she shall be discharged directly into the custody of a designated medical facility outside the Prison, as prescribed by rules. The Inspector General may, by regulations, establish a mechanism for the transfer, follow-up, and oversight of such cases.

Early Release of Prisoners

39. Subject to this Act and the rules, a sentenced Prisoner may be released prematurely by the Officer in-Charge with the approval of the Prison Policy Board on humanitarian grounds, including the following circumstances:

- (a) where the Prisoner is incapacitated or suffering from an incurable disease, as certified by the Medical Officer;
- (b) where a female Prisoner has attained the age of sixty years, or a male Prisoner has attained the age of sixty-five years, and is found infirm;
- (c) where the Prisoner has completed at least one-half of the substantive sentence, excluding remission, and has demonstrated rehabilitation and capacity for reform; or
- (d) where a juvenile or woman, being a first-time offender, is not considered dangerous to society and has not been convicted of a heinous offence or an offence relating to terrorism.

CHAPTER-IX

RIGHTS, OBLIGATIONS, WELFARE, REHABILITATION, VISITS AND COMMUNICATION OF PRISONERS

Fundamental Rights and Obligations of Prisoners.

40. (1) Every Prisoner shall, subject to the requirements of security, order, and discipline, enjoy the following rights:

- (a) to life, dignity, and respect for inherent human worth;
- (b) to be free from torture, cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment;
- (c) to be free from discrimination on the basis of race, colour, gender, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth, disability, or any other status;
- (d) to practice, profess, and observe religion in accordance with law, with facilities for worship and access to recognized spiritual leaders, as far as practicable;

- (e) to respect for cultural and traditional practices, unless inconsistent with law, security, or discipline;
- (f) to adequate food, safe drinking water, clothing, bedding, sanitation, and health care consistent with human dignity and prescribed standards;
- (g) to medical examination upon admission and to ongoing Medical, dental, psychological, and psychiatric care, including mental health services;
- (h) to consult legal counsel of choice, to receive legal aid, where entitled by law, and to have access to legal documents and proceedings;
- (i) to maintain contact with family, relatives, and friends through visits, correspondence, or other lawful means, subject to prescribed security restrictions;
- (j) to education, vocational training, and rehabilitation programmes aimed at reintegration into society;
- (k) to make complaints regarding ill-treatment, abuse of authority, or violation of rights, to the Officer -in-Charge, the Inspector General, or the Inspectorate, and to seek redress as prescribed; *and*
- (l) to receive such privileges, incentives, and welfare support as may be provided under the rules.

(2) Confinement of a Prisoner, whether sentenced or un-sentenced, shall restrict liberty of movement as required by law, but shall not entail denial of any other rights except where necessary for security, good order, or discipline.

(3) Every Prisoner shall: -

- (a) obey all lawful orders of Prison Officers and comply with this Act, the rules, regulations, and standing orders;
- (b) maintain good conduct, discipline, and respect for Prison staff, fellow Prisoners, and visitors;
- (c) refrain from acts of indiscipline, violence, abuse, or disruption of Prison security;
- (d) refrain from receiving, possessing, or attempting to introduce contraband or prohibited articles into the Prison;
- (e) perform Prison labour, vocational training, or community service honestly and diligently, as prescribed, provided that un-sentenced Prisoners may engage in work voluntarily;
- (f) preserve Prison property and facilities and refrain from causing damage or misuse; *and*
- (g) make truthful complaints and refrain from submitting frivolous, vexatious, or false grievances.

(4) Any violation of the rights guaranteed, or breach of the duties prescribed under this Section, shall be dealt with in accordance with this Act, the rules, and any other law for the time being in force, and in the case of breach of duties, shall constitute a Prison offence subject to disciplinary provisions.

Visits, Correspondence, and Communication.

- 41.** (1) Every Prisoner shall, subject to security requirements and the rules, have the right to maintain contact with family, legal counsel, and other permitted persons through visits, correspondence, and approved electronic means. Prisoners may send or receive letters, parcels, emails, and may make or receive audio or video calls only through facilities provided by the Service.
- (2) The number, frequency, duration, and manner of visits, correspondence, and communications shall be prescribed by rules, ensuring a fair balance between Prison security and the Prisoner's right to maintain social, family, and legal ties.

(3) All visits, correspondence, and communications may be supervised, inspected, monitored, or recorded by Prison authorities for security purposes, except privileged communications with legal counsel, Courts, or other exempted categories which shall remain confidential subject to reasonable security requirements.

(4) Where any visit or communication is withheld, delayed, suspended, or censored for reasons of security, order, or discipline, the action shall be recorded in writing, communicated to the Prisoner, and subject to review by the Inspector General.

(5) The Officer -in-Charge or the Department may permit special visits on humanitarian grounds, including serious illness or death of a close relative or other compelling reasons. The Government may, by rules, prescribe the conditions, frequency, and duration of such visits, and may also allow extended or conjugal visits for married Prisoners under secure and controlled arrangements.

(6) Every Prisoner shall be entitled, at a minimum, to one family contact per month, either through a physical visit, correspondence, or an approved electronic means, which shall not be denied except in extraordinary circumstances of security or discipline, and any such denial shall be duly recorded and subject to review by the Inspector General.

**Legal Assistance
of Prisoners.**

42. (1) Every Prisoner shall have the right to consult and be defended by a legal practitioner of his or her choice.

(2) Where a Prisoner lacks the means to engage legal counsel, legal aid shall be provided at State expense, in accordance with law and the rules, through the District Legal Aid Committee, Public Defender, or such authority as may be prescribed.

(3) Prisoners shall be granted reasonable access to legal materials, law books, and, where practicable, digital resources necessary for the preparation of their cases.

(4) Communication between Prisoners and their legal counsel shall be privileged and confidential, subject only to reasonable conditions of security, and shall not be monitored, intercepted, or interfered with except in accordance with law.

(5) Any Prisoner aggrieved by an order of the Judicial Magistrate, or by the findings of the Review Board established under this Act, shall have the right to prefer an appeal before the Court of Session within thirty days. The Court of Session shall decide such appeal expeditiously, ensuring due process and the principles of natural justice.

(6) No Prisoner shall be denied access to legal assistance or legal aid on the basis of race, religion, gender, disability, social or political status, or the nature of the offence for which he or she is undergoing sentence.

(7) The Officer -in-Charge of every Prison shall ensure that each Prisoner, at the time of admission, and prior to any judicial or quasi-judicial proceedings, is clearly informed in writing and verbally, in a language understood by the Prisoner, of his or her right to legal assistance and legal aid under this Act. A record of such communication shall be maintained in the Prisoner's file.

(8) Every Prison shall prominently display, on notice boards in accessible areas including admission Sections, barracks, and legal aid offices, the rights of Prisoners to legal assistance and legal aid under this Act, in Urdu, English, and the principal local languages of the province.

(9) The District and Sessions Judge, or an Officer designated by him, and representatives of the Human Rights Department and Home Department shall conduct periodic inspections of Prisons to verify compliance with the provisions of this Section, including the availability of legal aid, the maintenance of records, and the public display of rights. Inspection reports shall be submitted to the Government, and non-compliance shall attract disciplinary or administrative action as prescribed.

(10) A Legal Aid Committee shall be established by the Administrative Department at District, Divisional and Provincial Level for providing legal aid and assistance to prisoners in such manner as may be prescribed by the rules. The Service may also encourage and facilitate the participation of governmental and non-governmental organizations for the provision of legal aid services to needy prisoners.

Health Care of Prisoners.

43. (1) All Prisoners shall retain their fundamental right to physical and mental health and shall be entitled to a standard of medical care equivalent to that available in the general community. The Service shall, within its available resources, provide adequate health care services, including physical, mental, and preventive care, based on the principles of primary health care.
- (2) On the recommendation of the Inspector General, the Government may establish Prison Wards in Government Hospitals for the specialized treatment of Prisoners.
- (3) With the permission of the Officer in-Charge, any Prisoner may be visited and examined by a Medical Officer or by a qualified healthcare practitioner employed in a Government or private medical facility of the Prisoner's choice, and may receive treatment from such practitioner, provided that the cost of such consultation or treatment shall be borne by the Prisoner.
- (4) Prisoners with special needs, including disabilities or chronic conditions as determined by the Medical Officer or a qualified healthcare practitioner, shall be provided with appropriate treatment, facilities, and care by the Service.
- (5) To meet the requirements of sub-Section (4), all Prisons shall, as far as practicable, be constructed, modified, or developed in a manner that ensures accessibility, dignity, and adequate facilities for Prisoners with disabilities or special conditions.

Education, Vocational Training, Exercise and Recreation of Prisoners

44. (1) The Service shall, as far as practicable, provide or facilitate education, vocational training, exercise, and recreation for Prisoners, in order to promote rehabilitation and reintegration. The content, standards, and implementation of such programme shall be prescribed by rules.
- (2) Basic literacy, continuing education, and, where feasible, primary, secondary, and higher education shall be made available, with priority given to juveniles, women, and illiterate Prisoners:
- (a) Libraries and study materials may be provided, including controlled access to information technology and online resources through secure official channels;
 - (b) Computer laboratories may be established to support technical and vocational courses certified by recognized authorities; *and*
 - (c) Prisoners may sit for examinations conducted by recognized Boards, Universities, or Training Authorities, and may receive incentives including remission, stipends, wages, or other benefits, as prescribed by rules.
- (3) Vocational training centers may be established in Prisons or in collaboration with the Balochistan Technical Education and Vocational Training Authority or other authorities, and bodies recognized by Government.
- (a) Prison industries and skills programme may be organized with public or private partners, within Prisons or at approved premises under supervision, to impart employable skills and generate productive work.
- (4) Prisoners engaged in education, vocational training, or Prison industries shall be entitled to stipends, wages, remissions, commutations or other incentives, as prescribed by rules:

Provided that with the Prisoner's consent, a portion of such earnings may be remitted to family members or credited to the Prisoner's account for use during confinement or upon release.

(5) Every Prisoner shall be allowed at least one hour of daily exercise in the open air, subject to good order, health, and security.

- (a) Indoor and outdoor sports and physical activities may be organized under supervision as prescribed by rules;
- (b) Special arrangements shall be made for juveniles to support healthy physical and mental development; *and*
- (c) No Prisoner shall be deprived of exercise except during separate confinement or under a lawful disciplinary order.

(6) Prisoners shall have access to recreational, cultural, religious, and social activities consistent with security and discipline. Such activities shall aim to support mental health, constructive behaviour, and social reintegration.

(7) The Service may collaborate with public or private Institutions, industries, and organizations, within Pakistan or abroad, to enhance the scope, quality, and certification of education and vocational programmes subject to the Rules.

**Work and Labour
of Prisoners.**

45. (1) Sentenced Prisoners may be required to engage in work suitable to their age, health, and physical capacity, under conditions prescribed by rules.

(2) No Prisoner shall be assigned work of an afflictive, degrading, or exploitative nature, and all prescribed occupational safety and health measures shall be strictly observed.

(3) Un-sentenced Prisoners shall not be compelled to work, but may voluntarily participate in educational, vocational, or Labour programme offered by the Service.

(4) Prisoners engaged in work or Prison industries shall be entitled to fair wages, stipends, or other prescribed benefits. A portion of such earnings may, with the consent of the Prisoner, be remitted to the Prisoner's family or dependents, and the balance credited to the Prisoner's account for use during custody or upon release.

**Remission,
Commutation
and Suspension
of Sentences.**

46. (1) To promote correction and rehabilitation, remission in sentence may be granted to any Prisoner, without discrimination, in accordance with the provisions of this Act and the rules.

(2) Remission may be ordinary or special, and shall be awarded on the basis of good conduct, industry, educational achievement, vocational training, or other rehabilitative efforts.

(3) All remissions shall be recorded transparently in the Prison Management Information System (PMIS), and details of remission earned shall be communicated to the Prisoner concerned.

(4) The Department or the Government may grant special remissions to Prisoners on occasions or events declared by the Government, in accordance with this Act and the rules.

(5) The Government may, in the exercise of its lawful powers, commute a sentence of death, imprisonment for life, or any other sentence, to a lesser punishment, on such terms and conditions as it deems fit.

(6) The Government may suspend the execution of a sentence, in whole or in part, for a specified period and on such terms and conditions as may be prescribed, including for reasons of health, humanitarian grounds, or public interest.

(7) Remission, commutation, or suspension shall not be granted in cases expressly excluded under law, the rules, or judicial order.

(8) The grant, denial, or withdrawal of remission shall be subject to review by the Department.

(9) Any decision relating to remission, commutation, or suspension that allegedly violates fundamental rights shall be open to judicial review.

**Rehabilitation
and Reintegration
of Prisoners.**

47. (1) Every Prisoner shall have the right to access rehabilitation and reintegration programme designed to support personal reform, reduce recidivism, and prepare for successful reintegration into society, subject to security, resources, and the rules
- (2) The Government or the Department shall establish, within the Service, a Corrections Wing responsible for the welfare, rehabilitation, and reintegration of Prisoners, which shall perform such duties and functions as may be prescribed by rules.
- (3) Rehabilitation programme shall include counselling, psychological support, addiction treatment, skills development, vocational training, education, and post-release planning, and may also extend to community-based initiatives such as restorative justice practices and supervised reintegration schemes, in such manner as may be prescribed by rules.
- (4) The Service, through the Corrections Wing, shall maintain liaison and collaboration with civil society organizations, non-Governmental organizations, welfare Institutions, relevant Government Departments, and other registered bodies or authorities to support the correction, rehabilitation, and reintegration of Prisoners, as prescribed by rules.
- (5) The Service, through the Corrections Wing, shall implement post-release support and supervised reintegration programme to reduce recidivism and promote public safety, including assistance with employment, housing, healthcare, documentation, referrals, counselling, and continued treatment; the Government may establish halfway houses or community hostels in collaboration with civil society, provide special support for vulnerable groups, and prescribe rules on standards, eligibility, and accountability.
- (6) The Corrections Wing shall function under the supervision of the Department, the Chief Inspector, and the Inspector General of Prisons & Prisoners Correctional Service and Correctional Services, and shall submit quarterly and annual reports of its activities and performance to the Inspector General and the Department.
- (7) The Government shall allocate sufficient funds in the annual budget of the Service for rehabilitation and reintegration programme, to be used exclusively for welfare, rehabilitation, and reintegration activities; non-Governmental organizations, donor agencies, charities, authorities, and members of the public may also provide contributions for this purpose, and all such funds shall be recorded, audited, and reported annually to the Department to ensure transparency and accountability; misuse, diversion, or misappropriation of such funds shall constitute misconduct and an offence punishable under this Act and any other applicable law.

**Prisoners' Welfare
and Rehabilitation
Endowment Fund.**

48. (1) There shall be established a *Prisoners' Welfare and Rehabilitation Endowment Fund* for the support of needy Prisoners and their eligible families, and for programmes aimed at the rehabilitation and reintegration of Prisoners.
- (2) The Fund shall consist of:
- (a) grants made by the Government;
 - (b) donations, endowments, or contributions from individuals, institutions, or organizations;
 - (c) income derived from Prison industries, vocational programmes, or other lawful sources; *and*
 - (d) such other receipts as may be prescribed.
- (3) The Fund shall be managed and administered by a *Prisoners' Welfare and Rehabilitation Fund Committee* constituted by the Government which shall consist of:
- (i) the Inspector General of Prisons & Prisoners Correctional Service, as Chairperson;
 - (ii) the Chief Inspector, as Member;

- (iii) one representative each from the Finance Department and the Social Welfare Department, as Members;
 - (iv) one representative of the Department, not below BPS-18, as Member-cum-Secretary; *and*
 - (v) such other members, including representatives of recognized civil society organizations, welfare Institutions, or experts, as the Government may nominate.
- (4) The Committee shall:
- (a) determine eligibility and approve disbursements from the Fund;
 - (b) ensure utilization of the Fund strictly for purposes prescribed under this Act and the rules;
 - (c) monitor and evaluate welfare, rehabilitation, and reintegration projects financed through the Fund;
 - (d) maintain accounts and records of receipts and expenditures; *and*
 - (e) prepare and submit annual reports on the Fund to the Department and the Provincial Assembly.
- (5) The Committee shall regulate its meetings, quorum, decision-making process, and other procedural matters in such manner as may be prescribed by rules.
- (6) The accounts of the Fund shall be maintained in the prescribed manner, audited annually by the Auditor General or such authority as the Government may direct, and may also be subject to review by an independent auditor or third-party evaluator appointed by the Government, whose findings shall be laid before the Provincial Assembly.
- (7) Any member of the Committee who misuses, misappropriates, negligently manages, or willfully defaults in the administration of the Fund shall be personally liable and subject to disciplinary action, removal from office, and prosecution under this Act or any other applicable law.
- (8) No action, suit, or proceeding shall lie against any member of the Committee for acts done in good faith in the discharge of duties under this Act or the rules.

CHAPTER-X
AUTHORIZED ABSENCE OF PRISONERS FROM PRIONS

Authorized Absence from Prison.

49. (1) Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force, the Government may, by rules, prescribe the circumstances, conditions, and procedures under which a sentenced or un-sentenced Prisoner may be granted authorized absence from Prison, having due regard to the rights of Prisoners and the nature of their offences.
- (2) Authorized absence may be granted for the following purposes:
- (a) Medical examination, assessment, or treatment in a Government or private hospital, as advised by the Medical Officer or any duly qualified healthcare provider;
 - (b) appearance in educational examinations;
 - (c) attendance at the funeral or last rites of a family member or blood relative; *and*
 - (d) any other purpose as may be prescribed by rules.
- (3) Every Prisoner under authorized absence shall remain in the lawful custody of the Police or such authority as may be designated, and shall not be deemed released from imprisonment during the period of absence.

(4) No Prisoner shall be allowed to leave Prison except under lawful authority provided by this Act, the rules, or an order of a competent Court. All authorized absences shall be recorded in the Prison Management Information System (PMIS) or such other register as may be prescribed.

(5) The Government may, by rules, permit short-term leave of absence for Prisoners on exceptional humanitarian grounds, including serious illness or death of a close relative, family emergencies, or other compelling reasons.

(6) Such leave may be granted by the Inspector General or an Officer duly authorized by him, subject to conditions of security, duration, and supervision.

(7) Any misuse or violation of the terms of leave shall render the Prisoner liable to cancellation of leave, disciplinary action under this Act, and withdrawal of future eligibility.

Parole and Probation.

50. (1) Parole may be granted to eligible Prisoners for purposes of good conduct, rehabilitation, or reintegration, subject to such conditions and rules as may be prescribed.

(2) A Prisoner released on parole shall remain under the supervision of parole Officers, or such authority as the Government may prescribe.

(3) Any violation of parole conditions shall entail cancellation of parole and recommitment of the Prisoner to custody, without prejudice to any other legal consequences provided under this Act or any other law for the time being in force.

(4) Probation may be granted to Prisoners in accordance with the orders of a Court empowered under the provisions of the Parole and Probation Act, or any other law for the time being in force.

(5) The provisions relating to Parole and Probation under this Act shall be subject to, and read in conformity with, the Parole and Probation Act, or any other applicable law for the time being in force.

Temporary Release.

51. (1) The Government or the Department may authorize temporary release of Prisoners for specific purposes including education, vocational training, participation in community service, or other reintegration measures.

(2) Temporary release shall be subject to conditions of reporting, supervision, and recall as may be prescribed.

Production before Courts and Authorities.

52. (1) A Prisoner shall not be taken outside the Prison except pursuant to a production warrant issued by a competent Court or Tribunal, or for appearance before lawful authorities as may be required under law.

(2) The Officer in-Charge shall ensure adequate security arrangements during the transfer of Prisoners, and shall maintain a proper record of the production, movement, and return of such Prisoners in the prescribed register.

(3) The Government shall provide dedicated Prisoner vans or vehicles, along with fuel (POL) and other necessary requirements, for the secure and safe transportation, shipment and production of Prisoners.

(4) The Officer -in-Charge shall depute Prison staff to accompany the Prisoners during transfer, and shall coordinate with the local Police for additional security where required.

(5) The Head of District Police and the Station House Officer of the concerned Police Station shall be responsible for providing adequate security within their respective jurisdiction for the production of Prisoners before the Court or lawful authority, in accordance with the provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898, and any other applicable law:

Provided that, in cases involving Prisoners charged with offences relating to terrorism, organized crime, or any other matter of extraordinary security concern, the Government or the Home Department may requisition the services of paramilitary forces, specialized units, or any other law enforcement agency, as deemed necessary, to ensure safe and secure production of the Prisoner before the competent Court or authority.

(6) In the event of failure by the Police to provide the required security, disciplinary proceedings shall be initiated against the Head of District Police and the concerned Station House Officer under the Police Rules and Police Act or any other law for the time being in force.

Medical Leave and Treatment Outside Prison.

53. (1) Where a Prisoner requires specialized or emergency Medical treatment not available within the Prison, the Medical Officer shall certify such necessity and the Officer -in-Charge shall arrange transfer to a Government hospital or other approved medical facility.

(2) The opinion of the medical Officer shall be binding in determining the need for outside medical treatment.

(3) The period of absence for medical treatment shall be deemed part of the Prisoner's lawful custody.

Emergency Powers to Suspend Authorized Absence.

54. (1) Notwithstanding anything contained in this Chapter, the Government or Department may, in situations of public emergency, epidemic, natural disaster, Prison riot, security threat, or any other extraordinary circumstance, by general or special order, suspend or restrict the grant of leave, parole, temporary release, or any other authorized absence.

(2) The Officer -in-Charge may, with the prior approval of the Inspector General or Deputy Inspector General concerned, temporarily withhold or recall a Prisoner on authorized absence where there exists an imminent threat to security, public order, or the safety of the Prisoner.

(3) Every suspension, restriction, or recall under this Section shall be recorded in writing with reasons, communicated to the Prisoner concerned, and reported forthwith to the Government for review.

Eligibility and Exclusions.

55. (1) Eligibility for leave, parole, temporary release, or any other authorized absence shall be determined in accordance with this Act and the rules, taking into account the conduct, discipline, and rehabilitation potential of the Prisoner.

(2) The following categories of Prisoners shall ordinarily be excluded from eligibility, unless otherwise directed by the Government for special reasons to be recorded in writing:

- (a) Prisoners convicted of terrorism, espionage, anti-state offences, or offences against national security;
- (b) Prisoners convicted of murder, rape, kidnapping for ransom, or other heinous crimes punishable with death or imprisonment for life;
- (c) habitual offenders with a record of repeated serious offences or Prison misconduct;
- (d) Prisoners who attempted escape, instigated riot or mutiny, or committed acts of serious violence inside Prison; *and*
- (e) Prisoners whose release is considered a threat to public safety, order, or security, as certified by the Inspector General.

(3) Nothing in this Section shall restrict the grant of medical leave in cases of life-threatening illness or emergency treatment certified by the Medical Officer, provided adequate security arrangements are made.

(4) The Government may, by notification, expand or modify the list of exclusions given in sub-Section (2), subject to consistency with the principles of justice, security, and rehabilitation.

**Prisoner's
Obligations
during
Authorized
Absence.**

56. (1) During the period of authorized absence, every Prisoner shall:
- (a) strictly comply with all conditions specified in the order granting such absence; *and*
 - (b) produce a copy of the said order for inspection whenever required by a Police Officer or Prison Officer.

(2) Upon receipt of a report from any Prison Officer or Police Officer regarding breach of the conditions of an order of authorized absence, such order may be revoked in the manner prescribed by rules, and the Prisoner shall be recommitted to custody without prejudice to any other legal consequences.

(3) Any breach of the conditions of authorized absence shall constitute a Prison offence and shall be punishable in accordance with the provisions of this Act relating to Punishments for Prison Offences, whether minor or major, as the case may be, in addition to any other penalty provided under law.

**Surrender upon
Expiration of
Authorized Absence
and Related
Safeguards.**

57. (1) Upon expiry of the period of authorized absence, the Prisoner shall voluntarily surrender himself to the Officer -in-Charge of the Prison to which he is lawfully committed.

(2) If a Prisoner fails to surrender in accordance with sub-Section (1), or is found to have absconded, he may be apprehended by any Police Officer without warrant and shall, without undue delay, be produced before a Magistrate.

(3) The Magistrate shall order that the Prisoner: -

- (a) undergo the unexpired portion of the sentence originally imposed; *and*
- (b) in addition, be liable to punishment with imprisonment for a term which may extend to two years, or with fine, or with both.

(4) The arrest, custody, and recommitment of a Prisoner under this Section shall be carried out with full respect for human dignity and fundamental rights as recognized under the Constitution, International conventions, and the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners.

(5) Provided that, where the failure of a Prisoner to surrender is established to be due to valid medical reasons, natural calamity, or other exceptional humanitarian circumstances beyond his control, the Judicial Magistrate may, for recorded reasons, condone the delay and direct the continuation of the authorized absence in accordance with rules.

(6) For the purposes of sub-Section (5), the Government shall establish a Medical and Humanitarian Review Board, comprising:

- (a) a Medical Officer not below the rank of Civil Surgeon;
- (b) a representative of the District and Sessions Court nominated by the District and Sessions Judge;
- (c) a representative of the Human Rights or Social Welfare Department;
- (d) a representative of the Home Department; *and*
- (e) any other member as may be prescribed by rules.

(7) The Review Board shall verify and certify the genuineness of the Medical or humanitarian grounds, and its findings shall be placed before the Magistrate for consideration.

**CHAPTER-XI
CHAPTER USE OF FORCE**

Authority to Use Force.

58. (1) A Prison Officer may employ force only when it is strictly necessary, reasonable, and proportionate to achieve a legitimate objective, and such use of force shall cease immediately once that objective has been accomplished.

(2) Subject to sub-Section (1), force may be used solely for the following purposes:

- (a) to prevent the escape of a Prisoner or a Prison break;
- (b) to suppress violence, riot, mutiny, or disorder within the Prison;
- (c) to protect any person, including Prisoners, visitors, or staff, from imminent harm;
- (d) to prevent the commission of an offence, breach of discipline, or serious damage to property;
- (e) to ensure compliance with a lawful order issued under this Act, the rules, or the regulations; or
- (f) to remove or expel any person lawfully ordered to leave Prison premises.

(3) Force shall not be used as a form of punishment, intimidation, coercion, or retaliation against any Prisoner or person, and any such misuse shall constitute a Prison offence and disciplinary misconduct, without prejudice to other legal consequences.

(4) Every incident involving the use of force shall be immediately reported in writing by the Prison Officer concerned to the Officer -in-Charge.

- (a) The Officer -in-Charge shall review the incident without delay, record findings as to necessity and proportionality, and submit the report to the Inspector General or such authority as may be prescribed; *and*
- (b) All records of the use of force shall be subject to periodic inspection by judicial authorities, the Human Rights or Social Welfare Department, or any oversight body notified by the Government.

(5) Every Prisoner against whom force has been used shall undergo an immediate medical examination by a qualified Medical Officer, and the report shall record the nature, extent, and cause of any injury.

(a) A copy of the medical report shall be attached to the incident record and made available to the oversight authorities referred to in sub-Section (4).

(b) Where necessary, the Prisoner shall be provided appropriate medical treatment without delay.

(6) Every Prisoner shall have the right to lodge a complaint regarding excessive, unlawful, or disproportionate use of force.

- (a) Such complaints shall be recorded, investigated promptly and impartially by an independent authority, and the findings shall be communicated in writing to the complainant; *and*
- (b) No Prisoner shall be subjected to retaliation or adverse consequences for exercising the right to complain under this Section.

Solitary Confinement.

59. (1) Solitary confinement may be imposed only as a measure of last resort, when strictly necessary, proportionate to the gravity of the offence, and in accordance with this Act and the rules made thereunder.

(2) No order of solitary confinement shall: -

- (a) exceed seven consecutive days;
- (b) be imposed for more than fifteen days in the aggregate within any period of three months; or
- (c) be imposed for more than forty-five days in the aggregate within any calendar year.

- (3) No order of solitary confinement exceeding seven consecutive days shall take effect without prior approval of a Judicial Magistrate of the First Class or higher.
- (4) Before granting approval under sub-Section (3), the Magistrate shall examine the recorded reasons, hear the Prisoner where necessary, and consider the Medical Officer's report.
- (5) Every Prisoner undergoing solitary confinement shall be visited daily by the Medical Officer, who shall examine and record the Prisoner's physical and mental health.
- (6) Where the Medical Officer certifies that continuation of confinement endangers health, the confinement shall be terminated forthwith.
- (7) A record of every order of solitary confinement, including reasons, duration, judicial approvals, and Medical reports, shall be maintained in the prescribed manner.
- (8) All orders under sub-Section (7) shall be reviewed by the Deputy Inspector General of Prisons & Prisoners Correctional Service, Department or any other authority prescribed by the Government.
- (9) Solitary confinement shall not be imposed on: -
- (a) Prisoners under eighteen years of age;
 - (b) female Prisoners;
 - (c) Prisoners with mental illness, intellectual disability, or
 - (d) serious medical conditions; or
 - (e) any Prisoner for whom the Medical Officer certifies that solitary confinement would pose a risk to life or health.
- (10) Every order imposing solitary confinement shall, within twenty-four hours, be notified with copies of the order, reasons, and the latest medical report to the Provincial Social Welfare and Human Rights Department, the Provincial Ombudsman, Chief Inspector Prisons or any independent oversight body notified by the Government.
- (11) The Officer -in-Charge shall maintain a register of notifications made under sub-Section (10) and make it available for inspection by the said bodies and by judicial authorities.
- (12) Failure to notify under sub-Section (10) shall constitute misconduct and attract disciplinary action as prescribed.
- (13) Every Prisoner released from solitary confinement shall be provided access to counselling, psychological support, and reintegration programmes aimed at rehabilitation, correction of behaviour, and prevention of recurrence.

Schedule of Approved Equipment.

- 60.** (1) The types of restraints and firearms that may lawfully be issued, possessed, or used by Prison Officer under this Act shall be limited to those specified in the Schedule.
- (2) The Government may, by notification in the official Gazette, amend, substitute, add to, or delete any entry in the Schedule, having due regard to the requirements of Prison security, the welfare and dignity of Prisoners, and applicable human rights standards.
- (3) No Prison Officer or employee shall issue, possess, or use any restraint or firearm not authorized in the Schedule, except with the prior written approval of the Government.
- (4) The use of chains, irons, fetters, or any instrument of restraint that is inherently cruel, inhuman, or degrading, or that constitutes torture, is strictly prohibited in the premises of Prison.
- (5) All restraints and firearms permitted under this Section shall be used strictly in accordance with the principles of necessity, proportionality, and humanity, and their use shall be recorded, monitored, and subject to oversight as prescribed.

(6) The Schedule of approved equipment shall be reviewed at least once every two years by an Independent Oversight Committee, comprising representatives of the Judiciary, Medical Officers, Human Rights Institutions, the Home Department and the Prisons administration. The Committee shall recommend amendments to ensure that the Schedule remains consistent with international standards and best practices.

(7) Where firearms are used against a Prisoner, the Prisoner concerned, and in the event of death or serious injury, the Prisoner's family or legal representative, shall be informed without delay of the circumstances, reasons, and consequences of such use, and a copy of the report prepared under this Section shall, after the conclusion of the judicial inquiry, be made available to them in accordance with law.

Use of Restraints.

61. (1) Mechanical or electronic restraints may be applied only in the following circumstances: -

- (a) as a precaution against escape during transfer;
- (b) on medical grounds, as certified by the Medical Officer;
- (c) to prevent self-harm or injury to others; or
- (d) to control violent or uncontrollable behaviour that threatens safety or security.

(2) Restraints shall never be used as a form of punishment, intimidation, or coercion, and shall be applied in a humane manner so as not to cause unnecessary pain, injury, or humiliation.

(3) Every use of restraints shall be recorded in the prescribed register or the Prison Management Information System (PMIS), including the reasons for use, the type of restraint applied, the duration, and the name and designation of the authorizing Officer.

(4) Restraints shall be removed at the earliest possible time once the risk or circumstance necessitating their use has passed, and in no case shall they be applied for longer than strictly necessary.

(5) Any use of restraints exceeding twenty-four hours shall be subject to immediate review and written approval by the Deputy Inspector General of Prisons & Prisoners Correctional Service or such higher authority as may be prescribed, and the reasons for such approval shall be recorded and communicated to the Department and the Inspector General of Prisons & Prisoners Correctional Service.

(6) Every actual use of restraints shall be reported immediately in writing to the Officer -in-Charge, who shall notify the Inspector General of Prisons & Prisoners Correctional Service, the Department, and the Independent Oversight Committee within twenty-four hours, together with the reasons, circumstances, and any Medical report relating to the incident.

Use of Firearms.

62. (1) Firearms may be used only as a measure of last resort, and solely in the following exceptional circumstances: -

- (a) to prevent an armed escape or Prison break;
- (b) to defend life against an imminent armed attack; or
- (c) to suppress a riot or mutiny posing an immediate threat to life or a grave and immediate danger to security.

(2) The Officer -in-Charge shall ordinarily authorize the use of firearms in advance; however, prior authorization shall not be required where immediate self-defense or defence of others makes it not reasonably possible.

(3) Where practicable, a clear warning shall be given before opening fire, and any discharge shall be strictly necessary, reasonable, and proportionate to the threat faced.

(4) Firearms shall never be used as a form of punishment, intimidation, or coercion.

(5) Every use of firearms shall be reported without delay in writing to the Officer -in-Charge, who shall notify the Inspector General of Prisons & Prisoners Correctional Service, the Department, and the Independent Oversight Committee within twenty-four hours, together with the reasons, circumstances, names of the Officer involved, and any medical report relating to the incident.

(6) Every incident involving the use of firearms shall be subject to immediate review and investigation by an independent authority designated by the Government, and in cases resulting in death or serious injury, an independent judicial inquiry shall be conducted in accordance with this Act.

**Special Protection
for Vulnerable
Prisoners.**

63. (1) The use of force or restraints against vulnerable Prisoners, including juveniles, women, elderly Prisoners, and Prisoners with physical or mental disabilities, shall be strictly limited to exceptional circumstances and shall require prior authorization of the Officer -in-Charge, unless immediate action is necessary to prevent serious harm.

(2) In all such cases, the least restrictive means shall be employed.

(3) Restraints shall not be applied to:-

- (a) Prisoners under eighteen years of age;
- (b) pregnant women, women in Labour, or women who have recently given birth;
- (c) Prisoners with mental illness, intellectual disability, or serious medical conditions; or
- (d) any Prisoner where the Medical Officer certifies that restraints would pose a risk to health or life.

(4) Every incident under this Section shall be reported in writing within twenty-four hours by the Officer -in-Charge to the Deputy Inspector General and the Inspector General of Prisons & Prisoners Correctional Service, with reasons, circumstances, and any Medical report.

(5) All such incidents shall be reviewed by the Independent Oversight Committee or a designated human rights body to ensure compliance with law, human rights standards, for the Treatment of Prisoners.

(6) Where force or restraints are applied to a vulnerable Prisoner, the Prisoner concerned, and in the event of death or serious injury, the Prisoner's family or legal representative, shall be informed without delay of the circumstances, reasons, and consequences of such use, in a language they understand, in accordance with law.

(7) Where force or restraints are applied more than once to the same vulnerable Prisoner within three months, the matter shall be placed before a Magistrate or higher for automatic judicial review, and appropriate orders may be passed, including termination of the practice or directions for Medical or psychological assessment.

**Reporting and
Independent Inquiry.**

64. (1) Every incident involving the use of force, restraints, or firearms shall be reported without delay to the Officer -in-Charge, entered in the official records including the Prison Management Information System (PMIS), and a copy submitted to the Deputy Inspector General and the Inspector General of Prisons & Prisoners Correctional Service for review.

(2) Every incident involving the discharge of a firearm, or resulting in death or serious injury, shall, in addition to Departmental review, be subjected to an independent judicial inquiry by a Sessions Judge or such higher judicial authority as the High Court may designate.

(3) The inquiry under sub-Section (2) shall determine the legality, necessity, and proportionality of the use of force, and shall be commenced without delay and, unless extended for reasons recorded in writing with the prior approval of the High Court, completed within ninety days.

(4) The findings of the inquiry shall be communicated to the Government and the Prisons Monitoring Directorate, and may be published in the prescribed manner.

(5) A copy of the final inquiry report shall be provided to the Prisoner concerned, and in the event of death or serious injury, to the Prisoner's family or legal representative, in accordance with law.

(6) Where firearms are used against a Prisoner, the Prisoner concerned, and in the event of death or serious injury, the Prisoner's family or legal representative, shall be informed without delay of the circumstances, reasons, and consequences of such use.

Training of Prison Officers.

65. All Prison Officer shall undergo initial and regular in-service training in negotiation, conflict de-escalation, crisis management, and the lawful and proportionate use of force, restraints, and firearms, with specific modules on the treatment and protection of vulnerable Prisoners, and on applicable constitutional, legal, and International human rights standards.

**CHAPTER -XII
DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS, SAFEGUARDS, AND STAFF WELFARE**

Prison Offences.

66. The following acts by a Prisoner shall constitute Prison offences, which shall be classified as minor offences and major offences: –

- (a) willful disobedience of any lawful order; absconding from lawful custody or assigned duty;
- (b) damage to, destruction of, or misuse of Prison property;
- (c) assault, violence, or threat against staff, visitors, or other Prisoners;
- (d) possession of prohibited articles as mentioned in schedule-III;
- (e) participation in, or incitement to, riot, mutiny, escape, attempt, or conspiracy thereof;
- (f) participation in hunger strikes, group protests, or collective disobedience; and
- (g) indecent, disorderly, abusive, or insulting conduct; and any other act declared by rules to be a Prison offence.

Classification of Prisons Offences.

67. (1) Minor Prison Offences include: -

- (a) disobedience of lawful orders not amounting to violence or threat;
- (b) neglect of duty or idleness in work assigned;
- (c) abusive, indecent, or insulting language or gestures;
- (d) disorderly conduct or nuisance within the Prison;
- (e) possession of unauthorized but non-dangerous articles;
- (f) malingering, feigning illness, or refusal to comply with routine searches; *and*
- (g) any other act declared by rules to be a minor Prison offence.

(2) Major Prison Offences include: -

- (a) assault, violence, or threat against staff, visitors, or other Prisoners;
- (b) participation in, or incitement to, riot, mutiny, escape, attempt, or conspiracy thereof;
- (c) willful destruction of, or serious damage to, Prison property;
- (d) possession of dangerous weapons, narcotics, communication devices, or other prohibited articles;

- (e) absconding from lawful custody, assigned place, or work detail;
- (f) collective disobedience, hunger strike, or protest involving more than one Prisoner;
- (g) repeated commission of minor offences within six months; *and*
- (h) any other act declared by rules to be a major Prison offence.

Punishments for Prison Offences.

- 68.** (1) Minor Punishments may include:
- (a) formal warning or reprimand;
 - (b) forfeiture of privileges, including recreation, visits, or correspondence, not exceeding thirty days;
 - (c) extra duties not exceeding two hours per day for fifteen days;
 - (d) reduction of wages from Prison Labour, as prescribed; *and*
 - (e) any other minor punishment prescribed by rules.
- (2) Major Punishments may include:
- (a) forfeiture of remission, ordinary or special, as prescribed;
 - (b) suspension of eligibility for remission, parole, or early release;
 - (c) confinement in a separate cell for up to three months, subject to medical certification;
 - (d) transfer to a higher-security or specialized segregation facility; *and*
 - (e) any other major punishment prescribed by rules.
- (3) All punishments shall be imposed in accordance with the principles of natural justice, after affording the Prisoner a reasonable opportunity of being heard, and shall be subject to review by the Deputy Inspector General of Prisons & Prisoners Correctional Service or such higher authority as may be prescribed.
- (4) Corporal punishment, collective punishment, or any punishment amounting to torture, cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment is strictly prohibited.

Appeals.

- 69.** (1) A Prisoner may, within thirty days, appeal to the Inspector General of Prisons & Prisoners Correctional Service.
- (2) A further appeal shall lie to the Home Department or such higher authority as may be prescribed.
- (3) The Inspector General shall decide the appeal within thirty days, and the Home Department within sixty days of receipt.
- (4) In cases involving major punishments, judicial review before a competent Court shall not be barred.
- (5) Where a Prisoner lack means to engage legal counsel for an appeal involving a major punishment, legal aid shall be provided at State expense in accordance with law.

Publication of Offences and Penalties.

- 70.** (1) The Officer -in-Charge of every Prison shall display, in Urdu, English, and the local language, a notice setting forth Prison offences and prescribed punishments.
- (2) The notice shall be updated promptly upon amendment of this Act or rules.

Inquiry and Punishments.

- 71.** (1) No Prisoner shall be punished without being informed of the charge and given an opportunity to present a defence.
- (2) After due inquiry, the Officer -in-Charge may impose punishments including:

- (a) formal warning or reprimand;
- (b) change of simple labour to rigorous labour;
- (c) forfeiture of remission or privileges;
- (d) segregation or separate confinement;
- (e) transfer to another Prison on administrative grounds; or
- (f) any other penalty prescribed by rules.

(3) Solitary confinement shall not exceed seven consecutive days nor fifteen days in the aggregate within three months, and shall require daily medical supervision.

(4) Where a Prison offence constitutes a cognizable offence, it shall be referred to the competent Court.

Procedure for Conducting Enquiries.

72. (1) No Prisoner shall be punished unless informed in writing of the alleged offence in clear and simple language.

(2) The Prisoner shall be given a reasonable opportunity to state a defence, call witnesses where practicable, and submit an explanation.

(3) Inquiries shall be fair, impartial, and prompt. A written record of proceedings, evidence, and findings shall be maintained in the prescribed form.

(4) Where the offence involves injury, self-harm, or assault, the Prisoner shall be Medically examined without delay and the Medical report placed on record.

(5) The Officer -in-Charge shall communicate the decision in writing, with brief reasons.

(6) Every punishment shall be reported to the Deputy Inspector General and Inspector General for review. The Inspector General may set aside, confirm, modify, or order a fresh inquiry.

(7) Where the act alleged also constitutes an offence under the Pakistan Penal Code, 1860, or any other law, the case shall be referred to the competent Court.

Safeguards and Oversight.

73. (1) All punishments shall respect human dignity and the basic needs of Prisoners.

(2) The Government may prescribe rules for disciplinary procedures, reporting formats, use of medical examinations, and preservation of evidence.

(3) The degree of force used in enforcing discipline shall not exceed what is reasonably required in the circumstances.

(4) No act amounting to torture, cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment shall be permissible under this Act.

(5) Where use of force results in injury, the Prisoner shall be Medically examined without delay and a written report placed on record.

Security and Welfare of Prison Staff.

74. (1) The Government shall ensure the security, safety, and welfare of all Prison staff in the discharge of their lawful duties.

(2) Prison staff shall be provided with adequate protective equipment, training, and facilities necessary to safeguard their security in Prisons, during transfers, and in emergencies.

(3) Every Prison Officer shall enjoy the same legal protection, authority, and privileges as a Police Officer when acting in good faith under this Act or the rules.

(4) The Government shall establish risk insurance, healthcare, and compensation schemes for Prison staff injured, disabled, or killed in the line of duty, and shall provide psychological support and counselling in cases of trauma or high-risk incidents.

(5) The Department shall, as far as practicable, provide housing, medical care, and welfare facilities for Prison staff and their families.

(6) No action, suit, or proceeding shall lie against any Prison Officer for acts done in good faith under this Act, the rules, or lawful orders issued thereunder.

CHAPTER-XIII

OFFENCES RELATING TO ESCAPE AND PROHIBITED ACTS

Aiding Escape or Harboring Escaped Prisoner.

- 75.** (1) Any person who:
- (a) renders assistance of any kind to enable a Prisoner to escape from lawful custody; or
 - (b) aids, abets, conceals, or assists any person, knowing or having reasonable grounds to believe that such person is a Prisoner who has escaped or is unlawfully at large, commits an offence punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to two years, or with fine not exceeding forty-five thousand rupees, or with both.

(2) Where the Prisoner aided or harbored is one convicted of a heinous offence, including murder, terrorism, dacoit, kidnapping for ransom, or any offence punishable with death or imprisonment for life, the offender shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to ten years, and shall also be liable to fine.

(3) For the purposes of this Section, "person" includes a Prisoner, Prison Officer, Prison employee, or any other individual.

(4) The provisions of this Section are in addition to, and not in derogation of, Sections 212 to 216 and 224 to 225 of the Pakistan Penal Code, 1860.

Harboring Escaped Prisoner by Prison Staff.

- 76.** (1) Any Prison Officer or Prison employee who:
- (a) aids, abets, conceals, or knowingly assists a Prisoner who has escaped or is unlawfully at large; or
 - (b) willfully neglects to take reasonable measures to apprehend or report such Prisoner, commits an offence punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to ten years, and shall also be liable to fine.

(2) Where the escaped Prisoner has been convicted of a heinous offence, the offender shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term not less than five years and which may extend to fourteen years, and shall also be liable to fine.

(3) Any person convicted under this Section shall, in addition, be dismissed from service and disqualified from future public employment.

(4) No prosecution under this Section shall be instituted except with the prior sanction in writing of the Government or the Inspector General of Prisons & Prisoners Correctional Service.

(5) This Section shall operate in addition to, and not in derogation of, the relevant provisions of the Pakistan Penal Code, 1860.

Attempt to Aid or Harbour Escaped Prisoner.

- 77.** (1) Any person who:
- (a) attempts to render assistance to enable a Prisoner to escape; or
 - (b) attempts to aid, abet, conceal, or assist any person, knowing or having reasonable grounds to believe that such person is a Prisoner who has escaped or is unlawfully at large, commits an offence punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to one year, or with fine not exceeding twenty-five thousand rupees, or with both.

(2) Where the attempt relates to a Prisoner convicted of a heinous offence, the offender shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to five years, and shall also be liable to fine.

(3) For the purposes of this Section, Section 511 of the Pakistan Penal Code, 1860, shall apply in addition to the provisions of this Act.

Offences by Outsiders.

78. Any person who:

- (a) assists or attempts to assist a Prisoner to escape;
- (b) brings, attempts to bring, or delivers a prohibited article to a Prisoner;
- (c) obstructs, resists, or assaults a Prison Officer in the performance of duty;
- (d) enters a Prison without lawful authority; or
- (e) refuses to leave the Prison premises when lawfully directed, omits an offence punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to two years, or with fine, or with both.

Offences by Prison Staff.

79. Any Prison Officer or employee who:

- (a) willfully allows or conspires in the escape of a Prisoner;
- (b) delivers, or knowingly permits to be delivered, a prohibited article to a Prisoner;
- (c) demands, accepts, or obtains any gratification in connection with official duties;
- (d) willfully neglects duty in a manner likely to endanger security or discipline of the Prison; or
- (e) commits corruption, collusion, or gross misconduct; or commits an offence punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to two years, or with fine, or with both, without prejudice to departmental disciplinary action.

Offences by Visitors.

80. Any visitor or other person having access to a Prison who:

- (a) introduces, attempts to introduce, or abets the introduction of a prohibited article;
- (b) impersonates another person to obtain access to a Prisoner;
- (c) communicates, or attempts to communicate, with a Prisoner in contravention of law or rules;
- (d) gives false information to secure admission into the Prison; or
- (e) commits any act likely to prejudice security, discipline, or good order of the Prison, commits an offence punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to two years, or with fine, or with both.

Prohibited Articles and Removal of Articles.

81. (1) Any person who, without lawful authority or reasonable excuse:

- (a) brings, takes, or causes any prohibited article to be brought or taken into a Prison; or
- (b) gives, delivers, or attempts to deliver a prohibited article to a Prisoner, commits an offence punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to two years, or with fine not exceeding forty-five thousand rupees, or with both.

(2) Any person who, without prior approval of the Officer -in-Charge, removes or causes any article to be removed from a Prison commits an offence punishable with fine not exceeding twenty-five thousand rupees, subject to adjustment through Consumer Price Index (CPI) indexation.

(3) For the purposes of this Section, “person” includes a Prisoner, a Prison Officer, an employee of the Prison, or any other individual, but excludes acts lawfully performed in the course of official duty.

(4) The Government may, by notification in the official Gazette, amend, substitute, add to, or delete any entry in the Schedule annexed to this Act.

**Seizure, Reporting,
and Disposal of
Prohibited Articles.**

82. (1) Any prohibited article found in the possession of a Prisoner, visitor, or staff member, or discovered within Prison premises, shall be immediately seized by the Prison authorities.

(2) A written record of each seizure shall be entered in the prescribed register and the Prison Management Information System (PMIS), including details of the article, the circumstances of seizure, the person from whom recovered, and the Officer involved.

(3) All seized prohibited articles shall be reported within twenty-four hours to the Officer -in-Charge, who shall forward the report to the Deputy Inspector General of Prisons & Prisoners Correctional Service and the Inspector General of Prisons & Prisoners Correctional Service.

(4) Where the article constitutes evidence of a cognizable offence, it shall be handed over to the Police for investigation and prosecution.

(5) Where the article does not constitute such evidence, it shall be destroyed, disposed of, or otherwise dealt with in accordance with rules, in the presence of a designated supervisory Officer, and a record of disposal shall be maintained.

(6) Periodic reports of all seizures and disposals shall be submitted to the Home Department and the Independent Oversight Committee.

**Prisoner
Possession
of Prohibited
Articles.**

83. (1) The possession, attempted possession, use, or attempted use of any prohibited article by a Prisoner shall constitute a major Prison offence within the meaning of this Act, and shall be punishable under the disciplinary provisions of this Act, in addition to criminal liability under this Chapter and the Pakistan Penal Code, 1860.

(2) The disciplinary record of possession of prohibited articles shall be taken into account in decisions relating to parole, remission, or early release.

(3) The following shall be deemed prohibited articles within Prisons, unless expressly authorized by law, rules, or the Officer -in-Charge:

- (a) firearms, ammunition, explosives, and any article capable of being used as a weapon;
- (b) narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances, intoxicants, and alcoholic beverages;
- (c) mobile phones, SIM cards, wireless sets, communication devices, or electronic equipment not authorized by rules;
- (d) money, currency notes, coins, negotiable instruments, or any item of monetary value not lawfully permitted;
- (e) tobacco, cigarettes, bidis, and related items, except where permitted by rules;
- (f) tools, instruments, or implements capable of assisting escape or endangering security;
- (g) food, drink, medicine, or substances not authorized by Prison Medical or administrative staff;
- (h) written, printed, or recorded material, including books, letters, or digital storage devices, not authorized under rules; *and*
- (i) any article declared by rules or order of the Government to be a prohibited article.

(4) The Government may, by notification in the official Gazette, amend, substitute, add to, or delete any entry in sub-Section (3), having due regard to Prison security, Prisoner welfare, and International human rights standards.

(5) Any Prisoner found guilty of possession, attempted possession, use, or attempted use of a prohibited article shall, in addition to disciplinary punishment, be liable on conviction to imprisonment for a term which may extend to two years, or with fine not exceeding fifty thousand rupees, or with both, as provided in this Chapter.

(6) Where a Prisoner is convicted more than once within a period of three years for possession, attempted possession, use, or attempted use of a prohibited article, such Prisoner shall, on every subsequent conviction, be liable to imprisonment for a term which may extend to five years, or with fine not exceeding one hundred thousand rupees, or with both, in addition to disciplinary punishment under this Act.

Cognizance of Offences.

84. (1) No Court shall take cognizance of any offence under this Chapter except upon a written complaint made by the Officer -in-Charge of the Prison, the Inspector General of Prisons & Prisoners Correctional Service, or such other authority as may be prescribed.

(2) All Offences under this Act shall be tried by the court of competent jurisdiction as prescribed in the Code of Criminal Procedure Code 1898.

Enhanced Penalties for Grave Consequences.

85. (1) Where an offence under this Chapter results in the escape of a Prisoner convicted of a heinous offence, or in the death or serious injury of a Prisoner, Prison Officer, or any other person, the offender shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to ten years, and shall also be liable to fine.

(2) Where such offence is committed by a Prison Officer or employee, the punishment shall not be less than five years' imprisonment, in addition to dismissal from service and disqualification from future public employment.

Saving of Penal Code Provisions

86. Nothing in this Chapter shall derogate from or limit the application of the Pakistan Penal Code, 1860, and the offences defined herein shall be in addition to, and not in substitution of, offences punishable under the said Code or any other law for the time being in force.

Persons Not to Enter Prison Without Authority

87. Any person who enters, or attempts to enter, a Prison without the approval of the Officer -in-Charge commits an offence and shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to two years, or with fine not exceeding forty-five thousand rupees, or with both.

**CHAPTER-XIV
GENERAL PROVISION**

Delegation of Powers.

88. (1) The Government may, by notification in the official Gazette, delegate all or any of its powers under this Act to any Officer not below the rank of Deputy Secretary, subject to such conditions, restrictions, or limitations as may be specified in the notification.

(2) The Inspector General of Prisons & Prisoners Correctional Service may, by written order, delegate any of his powers under this Act or the rules to a Deputy Inspector General, an Officer -in-Charge of a Prison, or any other Officer of the Service not below the rank of BS-18 for the efficient functioning of the Service.

(3) A Deputy Inspector General may, by written order, delegate any of his powers under this Act or the rules to an Officer -in-Charge of a Prison or to any Prison Officer or employee under his administrative control, in accordance with rules.

(4) The Officer -in-Charge of a Prison may delegate any of his routine powers under this Act or the rules to subordinate Officers under his control, except such powers as may be expressly excluded by this Act or the rules.

(5) No delegation under this Section shall prevent the exercise of such powers by the authority delegating them, nor shall it authorize further sub-delegation, unless expressly permitted by this Act or the rules.

Power to make Rules, and to remove difficulties.

- 89.** (1) The Provincial Government may, by notification in the official Gazette, make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act.
- (2) Without prejudice to the generality of sub-Section (1), such rules may provide for the following matters, namely:
- (a) the classification, accommodation, and treatment of Prisoners;
 - (b) the maintenance of Prison discipline and specification of Prison offences;
 - (c) the regulation of visits, communications, and provision of legal assistance to Prisoners;
 - (d) remission of sentences, parole, probation, and community service arrangements;
 - (e) the appointment, training, pay, allowances, service conditions, and discipline of Prison Officer and employees;
 - (f) health care, sanitation, education, and vocational training of Prisoners;
 - (g) Prison industries, and the regulation of wages, stipends, and earnings of Prisoners;
 - (h) the use of force, firearms, mechanical restraints, electronic restraints, and other security measures;
 - (i) the maintenance of registers, records, reports, and the Prison Management Information System (PMIS);
 - (j) defining the acts which shall constitute Prison offences;
 - (k) determining the classification of Prison offences into serious and minor offences;
 - (l) fixing the punishments admissible under this Act for Prison offences, and prescribing the competent authority to award such punishments;
 - (m) declaring the circumstances in which acts constituting both a Prison offence and an offence under the Pakistan Penal Code (XLV of 1860) may or may not be dealt with as a Prison offence;
 - (n) providing for the award of marks and the shortening of sentences, provided that a sentence of imprisonment for life shall not be reduced to a term of less than fifteen years;
 - (o) regulating the use of arms or force against any Prisoner or body of Prisoners in the event of an outbreak, mutiny or attempted escape, consistent with international standards of necessity and proportionality;
 - (p) prescribing the circumstances and conditions under which Prisoners in danger of death or serious illness may be released on humanitarian grounds;
 - (q) classifying Prisons and prescribing the standards for wards, cells, and other places of detention, in line with the Nelson Mandela Rules regarding accommodation, hygiene, ventilation and space;
 - (r) regulating the number, character, and categories of Prisoners to be confined in each class of Prisons;
 - (s) governing the management and administration of Prisons, and providing for the appointment, training, discipline, and duties of Officer appointed under this Act;
 - (t) regulating the food, clothing, bedding, medical care, and sanitation for Prisoners, consistent with Rules 22 to 35 of the Nelson Mandela Rules, and with particular regard to the needs of women Prisoners under the Bangkok Rules;

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- (u) prescribing the employment, instruction, education, vocational training, and rehabilitation programmes for Prisoners, both within and outside Prison premises, with reference to Rules 96 to 108 of the Nelson Mandela Rules;
 - (v) defining articles whose introduction or removal into or out of Prisons is prohibited without due authority;
 - (w) classifying and prescribing forms of labour, ensuring that work is not of an afflictive nature, and regulating hours of work and rest in conformity with international labour standards;
 - (x) regulating the disposal of the proceeds of employment of Prisoners, ensuring that a portion is reserved for the Prisoner's dependents, savings, and post-release reintegration;
 - (y) prescribing the circumstances under which Prisoners sentenced to imprisonment for life may be confined in fetters, subject to safeguards against cruel or inhuman treatment;
 - (z) providing for the classification, separation, and treatment of Prisoners by age, sex, health condition, and criminal history, ensuring separate facilities for women and juveniles;
 - (aa) prescribing procedures for confinement under Section 28 of this Act, and for the maintenance of history-tickets and other Prison records;
 - (ab) regulating the selection, training and appointment of Prisoners to positions of responsibility within Prisons;
 - (ac) providing for rewards, incentives and remission for good conduct, educational progress, and vocational achievement;
 - (ad) prescribing rules for the transfer of Prisoners to other Provinces, subject to inter-provincial consent, including those serving sentences of life imprisonment or shorter terms;
 - (ae) regulating the treatment, transfer, and disposal of Prisoners with mental illness or criminal lunatics;
 - (af) prescribing procedures for the submission of appeals, petitions, and communications of Prisoners with their families, legal advisers, and relevant authorities;
 - (ag) providing for the appointment, duties, and powers of official and non-official visitors to Prisons, and their role in Prison oversight;
 - (ah) extending the provisions of this Act and rules to subsidiary jails, detention centers, borstal Institutions, juvenile reformatories, and any special places of confinement appointed under law;
 - (ai) regulating the admission, custody, employment, education, vocational training, treatment, health care, religious practice, and release of Prisoners;
 - (aj) establishing and regulating Prison industries and vocational training centers, and prescribing the use of profits for the welfare of Prisoners and staff, including a Welfare Fund for living and working condition improvements;
 - (ak) regulating the use of arms, force, or restraints against persons, vehicles, or objects for the defence of Prisons, Prisoners, Prison property, vehicles, and Prison personnel, ensuring compliance with principles of necessity, proportionality, and minimum use of force;

(al) prescribing standards for grievance redress mechanisms for Prisoners; *and*

(am) generally, for carrying into effect the purposes of this Act and ensuring compliance with international standards on the treatment of Prisoners.

(3) All rules made under this Section shall be laid before the Provincial Government within such period as may be prescribed, and shall be subject to modification, annulment, or approval in the manner provided by law.

(4) If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of this Act, the Provincial Government may, by Notification published in the official Gazette, make such provisions, not inconsistent with this Act, as appear necessary or expedient for removing the difficulty.

Power to Make Regulations.

90. (1) The Administrative Department may, by notification in the official Gazette, make regulations consistent with this Act and the rules made thereunder, as may be necessary or expedient for carrying out the purposes of this Act; and all such regulations shall have effect as if enacted under this Act.

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of sub-Section (1) such regulations may provide for:

(a) standing orders, codes of conduct, and administrative instructions for Prison Officers and employees;

(b) management of daily Prison administration, including custody, discipline, and welfare of Prisoners;

(c) procedures for medical examination, treatment, and health safeguards of Prisoners;

(d) security protocols, including access control, surveillance, and emergency response; *and*

(e) operational standards for training, rehabilitation, parole, probation, and reintegration programme.

Power to Issue Instructions and SOPs.

91. The Inspector General of Prisons & Prisoners Correctional Service may, with the approval of Additional Chief Secretary Home, from time to time, issue instructions and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the uniform administration of Prisons, consistent with this Act, the rules, and the regulations. Such instructions and SOPs shall be binding on all Prison Officer and employees, and copies thereof shall be circulated to all Prisons for compliance.

Indemnity.

92. (1) No suit, prosecution, or other legal proceeding shall lie against the Government, the Inspector General, any Prison Officers, or employee of the Service, for anything which is done, or intended to be done, in good faith under this Act, or the rules or regulations made thereunder.

(2) Nothing in this Section shall bar the Institution of proceedings against any person for acts done *mala fide*, negligently, or in excess of lawful authority.

Exhibition of Law

93. (1) Copies of this Act, and the rules and regulations made thereunder, shall be exhibited in every Prison in English, Urdu, and such local languages as the Government may direct.

(2) Copies shall be made available in such form and manner as may be prescribed, including in book format, electronic format, or any other suitable medium, and at the administrative offices of the Service or such other places as may be notified by the Government.

(3) Electronic copies of this Act, and the rules and regulations, shall be accessible to Prisoners, visitors, and the general public, to ensure wider dissemination and transparency.

Retention of Existing Prisons and Continuity of Service.

94. (1) Subject to Section 4, all buildings, enclosures, detention centers, and Correctional facilities in use as Prisons immediately before the commencement of this Act shall be deemed Prisons within the meaning of this Act and shall continue to function as lawfully established

Institutions until altered, reconstituted, or abolished by the Provincial Government under this Act.

(2) All persons holding any post in the Prisons Department immediately before the commencement of this Act shall stand transferred to, and be deemed appointed to, the corresponding posts in the Service without interruption of service.

(3) No person transferred under sub-Section (2) shall, by reason only of such transfer, be reduced in rank or pay, or deprived of any accrued right or benefit, and all rights relating to salary, allowances, seniority, leave, pension, gratuity, provident fund, and other service benefits shall continue as if no such transfer had taken place.

(4) All appointments, promotions, seniority lists, disciplinary proceedings, inquiries, and orders made or pending immediately before the commencement of this Act, if not inconsistent with this Act, shall be deemed to have been made or instituted under this Act and shall continue accordingly.

(5) The Government may, by notification in the official Gazette, determine the corresponding posts, cadres, and designations for the purposes of this Section.

Repeal, Savings, and Transitional Provisions.

95. (1) The Prisons Act, 1894 (Act IX of 1894) and the Prisoners Act, 1900 (Act III of 1900), insofar as they apply to the Province of Balochistan, are hereby repealed.

(2) All rules, instructions, standing orders, notifications, or proceedings made or issued before the commencement of this Act, insofar as they are not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, shall be deemed to have been made or issued under this Act and shall continue in force until altered, amended, or repealed under this Act.

(3) Anything done, order made, appointment made, or action taken under any law repealed by this Act, if not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, shall be deemed to have been done, made, or taken under the corresponding provisions of this Act and shall continue in force until altered, amended, or repealed.

(4) All cases, appeals, disciplinary proceedings, inquiries, or other legal actions pending under the laws repealed by this Act shall continue and be disposed of as if instituted under this Act, unless inconsistent with its provisions.

(5) Nothing in this Section shall affect the validity of any past act, action, order, or proceeding lawfully taken or made by the Prisons Department before the commencement of this Act.

**SCHEDULE-I
(SEE SECTION 10(1))**

S. No	Senior Prison Officer (Column-I)	Junior Prison Officer (Column-II)
1.	Inspector General	Deputy Superintendent
2.	Deputy Inspector General/ Commandant	Assistant Superintendent
3.	Senior Superintendent / AIG Prison/ Principal/Commandant Training Institute/Academy	Chief Warder/Matron
4.	Superintendent Prison	Asstt: Chief Warder/Matron /Drill Instructor
5.	Additional Superintendent Prison	Head Warder/Matron
6.		Prison Warder/Matron

SCHEDULE-II
APPROVED RESTRAINTS AND FIREARMS

(See Section 18, 37, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64 and 65 — Authority to Use Force, Restraints, and Firearms)

PART I — APPROVED RESTRAINTS

The following restraints may be issued and applied, subject to this Act and the rules: -

1. **Handcuffs** — lightweight, double-locking, and tamper-resistant models only.
2. **Plastic/nylon restraints** — disposable or reusable flex-cuffs for temporary use.
3. **Leg restraints** — lightweight leg irons designed to prevent escape without causing injury.
4. **Protective body belts or vests** — for secure movement of high-risk Prisoners.
5. **Soft restraints** — such as padded straps or medical restraints, used only on medical certification to prevent self-harm.
6. **Prohibited restraints:** chains, shackles, bar fetters, or any device causing unnecessary pain, humiliation, or impairment of dignity.

PART II — APPROVED FIREARMS AND WEAPONS.

The following firearms and weapons may be issued to Prison Officer for security duties, subject to strict storage, training, and use protocols: -

1. **Batons** — wooden or polycarbonate, non-lethal defensive weapons.
2. **Tear gas and irritant devices** — for riot control and dispersal, with prior approval.
3. **12-bore shotguns** — loaded with rubber bullets or non-lethal ammunition for crowd control; live rounds only in extreme circumstances as authorized.
4. **Semi-automatic rifles (e.g., 7.62 mm or 5.56 mm)** — for perimeter security and prevention of armed escapes, to be deployed only on the written authorization of the Inspector General.
5. **Sidearms (e.g., pistols or revolvers)** — issued to designated Officer for escort and high-risk duty.
6. **Prohibited weapons:** automatic machine guns, explosive devices, stun belts, electric shock devices, or any weapon not expressly authorized under this Schedule.

PART III — RULES FOR STORAGE, ISSUE, AND USE

1. All weapons and restraints shall be stored in secure armories or stores under double-lock system.
2. Issue and return of firearms and restraints shall be logged daily in an official register and cross-checked by the Officer -in-Charge.
3. Only trained and certified Officer may be issued firearms or specialized restraints.
4. Annual inspection and audit of stocks shall be conducted by the Deputy Inspector General and reported to the Inspector General.
5. Any loss, misuse, or damage shall be immediately reported, investigated, inquired and dealt with under this Act.

SCHEDULE -III

(See Section — 66, 81,82 and 83)

PROHIBITED ARTICLES IN PRISONS

1. Weapons and Dangerous Instruments

- (a) Firearms, ammunition, explosives, or any part thereof;
- (b) Knives, daggers, razors, scissors, or any sharp-edged instrument capable of causing harm; *and*
- (c) Clubs, sticks, or any blunt instrument likely to be used for assault.

2. Intoxicants and Narcotics

- (a) Alcoholic drinks of any kind;
- (b) Narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances, or intoxicants, whether natural or synthetic; *and*
- (c) Tobacco, cigarettes, e-cigarettes, or other smoking materials, except as permitted by Prison rules.

2. Communication Devices

- (a) Mobile phones, SIM cards, pagers, radios, or any electronic communication device; *and*
- (b) Computers, laptops, tablets, or any device capable of storing or transmitting data, unless specifically authorized.

4. Currency and Valuables

- (a) Cash, coins, or negotiable instruments; *and*
- (b) Gold, silver, jewelry, or other valuables not authorized by Prison rules.

5. Food, Medicine, and Other Substances

- (a) Food or drink not issued or authorized by the Prison authorities;
- (b) Medicines, syringes, or medical preparations not prescribed by the Prison Medical Officer; *and*
- (c) Chemicals, acids, or any other substance likely to endanger health or security.

6. Miscellaneous Articles

- (a) Tools, implements, or building materials not authorized by the Officer -in-Charge;
- (b) Matches, lighters, fuel, or any flammable material;
- (c) Books, papers, letters, or written materials not permitted under Prison rules; *and*
- (d) Any other article which the Government or Inspector General may, by notification, declare to be prohibited.

SCHEDULE-IV

(See Section — 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 84, 85, and 86)

PUNISHMENTS (CHAPTER XII – OFFENCES BY PERSONS)

Section	Offence	Maximum Punishment	Additional Penalties
75	Aiding Escape or Harbours Escaped Prisoner	"Imprisonment for a term which may extend to two years, or fine which may extend to forty-five thousand rupees, or both."	"If a heinous prisoner is involved, the punishment shall be imprisonment for a term which may extend to ten years, and fine."
76	Harbouring Escaped Prisoner by Prison Staff	The offender shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to ten years, and with fine which may extend to one hundred thousand rupees."	"If a heinous prisoner is involved, the offender shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term not less than five years but which may extend to fourteen years, and with fine; and shall further be liable to mandatory dismissal from service and disqualification from public employment."
77	Attempt to Aid or Harbour Escaped Prisoner	"The offender shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to one year, or with fine which may extend to twenty-five thousand rupees, or with both."	"If a heinous prisoner is involved, the offender shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to five years, and with fine."
78	Offences by Outsiders	"The offender shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to two years, or with fine, or with both."	—
79	Offences by Prison Staff (corruption, collusion, neglect of duty, etc.)	"The offender shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to five years, or with fine, or with both."	"The penalty shall include fine, mandatory dismissal from service, and disqualification from public employment, subject to departmental disciplinary action."
80	Offences by Visitors (contraband, impersonation, false information, etc.)	"The offender shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years, or with fine, or with both."	

Section	Offence	Maximum Punishment	Additional Penalties
84	Cognizance of Offences	—	"No court shall take cognizance of an offence under this provision except upon a complaint made by the Officer-In-charge, the Inspector General of Prisons, the Additional Chief Secretary (Home), or the Special Secretary (Home)."
85	Enhanced Penalties for Grave Consequences	"The offender shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to ten years, and with fine."	"Where the offence is committed by any member of the prison staff, the punishment shall be imprisonment for a term not less than five years, together with dismissal from service and disqualification from public employment."
86	Saving of PPC Provisions		"The offences specified under this Chapter shall be in addition to, and not in derogation of, the provisions of the Pakistan Penal Code."

TAHIR SHAH KAKAR
Secretary.

No.PAB/Legis: V (08)/2026/

Dated: Quetta, the 19th May, 2026.

A copy is forwarded to the Chief Controller, Government Printing Press, Balochistan Quetta for favor of publication in Extra –ordinary issue of Gazette of Balochistan. Before final printing, a copy thereof be sent to this Secretariat for Proof reading. Fifty copies of the Act may please be supplied to this Secretariat for record.

(ABDUL REHMAN)
Special Secretary (Legis:)

No.PAB/Legis: V (08)/2026/

Dated: Quetta, the 19th May, 2026.

Copy for information to: -

1. The Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Balochistan, Home Department, Quetta.
2. The Principal Secretary to Governor, Balochistan, Quetta.
3. The Principal Secretary to Chief Minister, Balochistan, Quetta.
4. The Secretary, Government of Balochistan, Law & Parliamentary Affairs Department,
5. The Director General, Public Relations, Balochistan, Quetta for favour of publication.
6. The System Analyst, Balochistan Provincial Assembly.

SPECIAL SECRETARY (LEGIS:)