

DESCRIPTION

Federal Courts, Special Courts and Tribunals are specialized judicial forums established under various federal laws to adjudicate specific matters throughout Pakistan. These institutions work to ensure speedy and effective dispensation of justice in technical and specialized legal matters.

Their main functions include hearing and deciding cases relating to narcotics, banking, taxation, customs, service matters, accountability and other federal laws. They provide quick resolution of disputes and ensure implementation of federal legislation.

Their duties include conducting hearings, recording evidence, issuing notices, examining witnesses, maintaining judicial record and delivering judgments in accordance with law.

These courts and tribunals exercise powers conferred upon them under relevant statutes, including summoning persons, calling for documents, granting interim relief, imposing penalties, fines or imprisonment, and issuing enforceable orders. The services provided by these institutions include specialized dispute resolution, legal remedies for aggrieved persons, protection of legal rights, enforcement of federal laws and reduction of burden on regular courts.

Thus, Federal Courts / Special Courts / Tribunals play a vital role in strengthening the judicial system by ensuring efficient, expert and timely administration of justice across Pakistan. In simple terms, Federal Courts / Special Courts / Tribunals act as specialized justice-delivery institutions dealing with technical federal matters that ordinary courts may not handle as efficiently.

FUNCTIONS, DUTIES POWERS AND SERVICES.

S. No.	Name of Courts / Tribunals	Functions, duties powers and services to the public.
1.	Federal Service Tribunal	Federal Service Tribunals are established under Service Tribunals Act, 1973 to exercise jurisdiction in respect of matters relating to the terms and conditions of service of civil servants.
2.	Special Court Offences in Bank (OIB)	Special Courts established under Offences in Respect of Banks (Special Courts) Ordinance, 1984 having powers to try cases like fraud, misappropriation, and willful default.
3.	Banking Courts	Banking Court established under the Financial Institutions (Recovery of Finances) Ordinance, 2001 for facilitating fast-track recovery of loans and handling disputes between financial institutions and customers.
4.	Anti-Dumping Appellate Tribunal	Antidumping Act 2015 (reforming the Anti-Dumping Ordinance 2000) to hear appeals

		against final determinations of the National Tariff Commission (NTC) regarding anti-dumping duties
5.	Environmental Protection Tribunal	The Environmental Protection Tribunals (EPTs) in Pakistan are specialized judicial bodies established under Section 20 of the Pakistan Environmental Protection Act, 1997.
6.	Appellate Tribunal (NEPRA)	The NEPRA Appellate Tribunal, established under Section 12A of the Regulation of Generation, Transmission & Distribution of Electric Power (Amendment) Act, 2018
7.	Medical Tribunal	The Medical Tribunal Act, 2020 is an act of the Parliament of Pakistan that aims to provide for the setting up of a special judicial tribunal to efficiently and expeditiously hear and decide disputes arising out of matters of the medical and health sectors in Pakistan.
8.	Intellectual Property Tribunal	Intellectual Property Tribunal established under the Intellectual Property Organization of Pakistan Act, 2012 .
9.	Appellate Tribunal Inland Revenue	The Appellate Tribunal Inland Revenue (ATIR) in Pakistan, established under the Income Tax Ordinance 2001, is a specialized quasi-judicial body hearing appeals on direct and indirect taxes (income tax, sales tax, federal excise)
10.	Custom Appellate Tribunal	The Customs Appellate Tribunal (CAT) in Pakistan is established under Section 194 of the Customs Act, 1969, to adjudicate disputes involving customs duties, valuation, and seizures
11.	Special Court (Central)	Special Courts (Central) in Pakistan are established under the Pakistan Criminal Law Amendment Act of 1958 to handle specialized criminal matters efficiently
12.	Accountability Court	Accountability Courts in Pakistan are specialized tribunals established under the National Accountability Ordinance (NAO) 1999 to ensure the speedy trial of corruption, misuse of authority, and misappropriation cases
13.	Special Court, Control of Narcotics Substances (CNS)	Special Courts (Control of Narcotics Substances) are specialized judicial bodies established under the Control of Narcotics Substances Act, 1997 in Pakistan to conduct speedy trials for offences related to trafficking, possession, and manufacturing of illegal drugs
14.	Special Court Commercial	Commercial Courts have been established under the Imports and Exports (Control) Act, 1950 (XXXIX of 1950) (an Act to continue powers to prohibit, restrict or otherwise control imports into and exports from Pakistan.

15.	Telecommunication Appellate Tribunal	The Establishment of Telecommunication Appellate Tribunal Act, 2024 (Act No. XXV of 2024) in Pakistan establishes a specialized, three-member tribunal to resolve telecom and IT disputes, aiming for faster, expert adjudication
16.	Gas Utility Court	Established under Gas Utility Act-2016. It provides the prosecution of the cases of gas theft and other offences relating to gas and provide a procedure for expeditious recovery of amounts payable and sums due to Gas Utility Companies and for matters ancillary and related thereto
17.	Drug Court	Drug Courts have been established under section 31 of the Drugs Act, 1976 (an Act to regulate the import, export, manufacture, storage, distribution and sale of drugs.
18.	Special Court (Anti-Terrorism) (ATC)	Special Courts (Anti-Terrorism) have been established under the Anti-Terrorism Act (ATA), 1997, to ensure speedy trials for terrorism, sectarian violence, and related offenses.
19.	Competition Appellate Tribunal	The Competition Appellate Tribunal (CAT) in Pakistan is established under Section 43 of the Competition Act, 2010, to hear appeals against orders passed by the Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP)
20.	Insurance Appellate Tribunal	Insurance Tribunals in Pakistan, established under Section 121 of the Insurance Ordinance 2000, hold exclusive jurisdiction over insurance disputes, policyholder claims, and matters arising from the Insurance Ordinance 2000
21.	Foreign Exchange Regulation Appellate Board	The Foreign Exchange Regulation Appellate Board is constituted under Section 23C of the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1947 in Pakistan. This board handles appeals against decisions made by adjudicating officers regarding violations of the Act, which regulates dealings in foreign exchange, securities, and the import/export of currency
22.	Special Court (Custom, Taxation & Anti-Smuggling)	The Special Court (Customs, Taxation & Anti-Smuggling) in Pakistan is a specialized judicial body established to handle offenses related to customs duty evasion, tax fraud, and smuggling. These courts, sometimes redesignated from other special courts, ensure speedy trials for offences under the Customs Act, 1969, and related tax laws. They are designed to combat illicit trade and secure federal revenue.