

VOL. XI ISSUE I, WINTER (MARCH-2026)

GPR

GLOBAL POLITICAL REVIEW
HEC-RECOGNIZED CATEGORY-Y

gprjournal.com

cal
empowering humanity


HumanityPublications
sharing research
www.humapub.com
US | UK | Pakistan

DOI (Journal): 10.31703/gpr
DOI (Volume): 10.31703/gpr.2026(XI)
DOI (Issue): 10.31703/gpr.2026(XI-I)

Double-blind Peer-review Research
Journal

www.gprjournal.com

© Global Political Review

GLOBAL POLITICAL REVIEW (GPR)

Title: Parliamentary Democracy in Asian Federal States: Challenges and Constitutional Innovations

Abstract

In the Asian federal states parliamentary democracy presents an exclusive interaction of governance framework, constitutional structure and cultural diversity. The aim of this study is to observe innovations and challenges that characterize the working of parliamentary system in the Asian federal framework. Main issues include addressing the intergovernmental tensions, protecting rights of minorities and confirming equitable representation by maintaining national unity. The study also underlines constraints that is levied by economic disparities, political instability and shifting geopolitical dynamics that impact efficiency of parliamentary democracy in the federal systems. Comparative studies from nations like India, Malaysia and Pakistan provide insights to success and limitations of these approaches, showing lessons for other areas. The research argue the interaction between parliamentary democracy and federalism in Asia requires a more nuanced method that considers the historical, cultural and institutional factors.

Keywords: Governance, Parliamentary, Democracy, Constitutional, Political Instability

Authors:

Aamir Hanif Raja: Professor Chairman, Department of History, Government Graduate College Asghar Mall Rawalpindi, Punjab, Pakistan.

Umer Yaqoob: ([Corresponding Author](#))

Lecturer, Department of Pakistan Studies, Government College University Faisalabad, Punjab, Pakistan.

(Email: Umeryaqoob@gcuf.edu.pk)

Muhammad Bilal: Assistant Professor, Department of History, Government Graduate College Asghar Mall, Rawalpindi, Punjab, Pakistan.

Pages: 17-27

DOI: [10.31703/gpr.2026\(XI-1\).02](https://doi.org/10.31703/gpr.2026(XI-1).02)

DOI link: [https://dx.doi.org/10.31703/gpr.2026\(XI-1\).02](https://dx.doi.org/10.31703/gpr.2026(XI-1).02)

Article link: <https://gprjournal.com/article/parliamentary-democracy-in-asian-federal-states-challenges-and-constitutional-innovations>

Full-text Link: <https://gprjournal.com/parliamentary-democracy-in-asian-federal-states-challenges-and-constitutional-innovations>

Pdf link: <https://www.gprjournal.com/jadmin/Author/31rv1olA2.pdf>

Global Political Review

p-ISSN: [2521-2982](https://doi.org/10.31703/gpr.2026(XI-1).02) e-ISSN: [2707-4587](https://doi.org/10.31703/gpr.2026(XI-1).02)

DOI (journal): [10.31703/gpr](https://doi.org/10.31703/gpr.2026(XI-1).02)

Volume: XI (2026)

DOI (volume): [10.31703/gpr.2026\(XI\)](https://doi.org/10.31703/gpr.2026(XI-1).02)

Issue: I Winter (March-2026)

DOI(Issue): [10.31703/gpr.2026\(XI-1\)](https://doi.org/10.31703/gpr.2026(XI-1).02)

Home Page

www.gprjournal.com

Volume: XI (2026)

<https://www.gprjournal.com/Current-issue>

Issue: I-Winter (March-2026)

<https://www.gprjournal.com/issue/11/1/2026>

Scope

<https://www.gprjournal.com/about-us/scope>

Submission

<https://humaglobe.com/index.php/gpr/submissions>

Scan the QR to visit us



Google
scholar



Citing this Article

Article Serial	02
Article Title	Parliamentary Democracy in Asian Federal States: Challenges and Constitutional Innovations
Authors	Aamir Hanif Raja Umer Yaqoob Muhammad Bilal
DOI	10.31703/gpr.2026(XI-I).02
Pages	17-27
Year	2026
Volume	XI
Issue	I
Referencing & Citing Styles	
APA	Raja, A. H., Yaqoob, U., & Bilal, M. (2026). Parliamentary Democracy in Asian Federal States: Challenges and Constitutional Innovations. <i>Global Political Review</i> , XI(1), 17-27. https://doi.org/10.31703/gpr.2026(XI-I).02
CHICAGO	Raja, Aamir Hanif, Umer Yaqoob, and Muhammad Bilal. 2026. "Parliamentary Democracy in Asian Federal States: Challenges and Constitutional Innovations." <i>Global Political Review</i> XI (1):17-27. doi: 10.31703/gpr.2026(XI-I).02.
HARVARD	RAJA, A. H., YAQOUB, U. & BILAL, M. 2026. Parliamentary Democracy in Asian Federal States: Challenges and Constitutional Innovations. <i>Global Political Review</i> , XI, 17-27.
MHRA	Raja, Aamir Hanif, Umer Yaqoob, and Muhammad Bilal. 2026. 'Parliamentary Democracy in Asian Federal States: Challenges and Constitutional Innovations', <i>Global Political Review</i> , XI: 17-27.
MLA	Raja, Aamir Hanif, Umer Yaqoob, and Muhammad Bilal. "Parliamentary Democracy in Asian Federal States: Challenges and Constitutional Innovations." <i>Global Political Review</i> XI.I (2026): 17-27. Print.
OXFORD	Raja, Aamir Hanif, Yaqoob, Umer, and Bilal, Muhammad (2026), 'Parliamentary Democracy in Asian Federal States: Challenges and Constitutional Innovations', <i>Global Political Review</i> , XI (1), 17-27.
TURABIAN	Raja, Aamir Hanif, Umer Yaqoob, and Muhammad Bilal. "Parliamentary Democracy in Asian Federal States: Challenges and Constitutional Innovations." <i>Global Political Review</i> XI, no. I (2026): 17-27. https://dx.doi.org/10.31703/gpr.2026(XI-I).02 .

Parliamentary Democracy in Asian Federal States: Challenges and Constitutional Innovations



Aamir Hanif Raja¹, Umer Yaqoob (Corresponding Author)², Muhammad Bilal³

¹ Professor Chairman, Department of History, Government Graduate College Asghar Mall Rawalpindi, Punjab, Pakistan.

² Lecturer, Department of Pakistan Studies, Government College University Faisalabad, Punjab, Pakistan.

(Email: umeryaqoob@gcuf.edu.pk)

³ Assistant Professor, Department of History, Government Graduate College Asghar Mall, Rawalpindi, Punjab, Pakistan.

Abstract

In the Asian federal states parliamentary democracy presents an exclusive interaction of governance framework, constitutional structure and cultural diversity. The aim of this study is to observe innovations and challenges that characterize the working of parliamentary system in the Asian federal framework. Main issues include addressing the intergovernmental tensions, protecting rights of minorities and confirming equitable representation by maintaining national unity. The study also underlines constraints that is levied by economic disparities, political instability and shifting geopolitical dynamics that impact efficiency of parliamentary democracy in the federal systems. Comparative studies from nations like India, Malaysia and Pakistan provide insights to success and limitations of these approaches, showing lessons for other areas. The research argue the interaction between parliamentary democracy and federalism in Asia requires a more nuanced method that considers the historical, cultural and institutional factors.

Keywords: Governance, Parliamentary, Democracy, Constitutional, Political Instability

Introduction

Background: Overview of Parliamentary Democracy and Federalism in Asia

A well-functioning political institutions like strong parliament is a main building block in encouraging democracy. Increasingly democracy has recognized as an adaptable value that no country or region or the political system may lay exclusive ownership. In Asia, there look to be besides a growing effort on the part of citizens and governments to see progress towards or to consolidate the universal value of democracy (Lye *et al.*, 2014). By expansion, parliaments that are progressively considered as being part of democracy that are expected to be able to best performs its main functions, such as to be more symbolic of the multifaceted interests of society, to enact bills which benefit majority of population, to exercise the closer direction of governments or specifically the administrative branches.

The theory of federalism is built on the division of principle power that powers between the provincial and central government must be distinguished in the constitution (Jyränki, 1999). Yet, the constitution of powers must be separated to give the units of government more powers so governments will not be able to interfere. The principle of federalism is not applied in federations of South-Asia. In the process of division, there are powers in execution, legislation and



administration. The central government has given more powers, and given authority in the name of an emergency.

Shakoor Chandio *et al.*, (2024) said that, 'The constitution joust in disposition of Union in distribution of revenue resources and powers. The result is that Union is invested with broad jurisdiction for executive authority and legislative operation than federal systems. The union can break the boundaries of state legislative Assembly. In this respect, India has understandable union; the states borders are violable. The union government has power to modify the boundaries of present state through territory division or removal or addition of some territories. The powers could be initiated by support of majority in parliament; they do not need support by concerned states.

In the constitution of India, the distribution of powers is based on Indian Act 1935, that contains three lists: Provincial, federal, and concurrent. The British government has adopted power distribution model execute its colonial interests. This act was opposed by political parties, Muslim league and congress (Sonwani, 2016). The history is that the Indian Act 1935 is a great model for Pakistani and Indian rulers to rely on constitutions in the independent states. Akhtar Majeed 2005 has mentioned power division in the constitution of India in this way and list of union has powers to legislate on, they are 97 subjects. The list contains 47 subjects. They are under the jurisdiction of union. Hence, union shares control on concurrent subjects in provinces, in case of action, union has the priority. Hence, the powers of residuary are vested in Union (Majeed 2005)

In Pakistan Federalism shows a dynamic and complex political system as defined by distribution of power between provincial entities and central government (Khatoon, 2023). Past federal structure of Pakistan has changed, impacted by ethnic diversity, colonial past and political struggles. In Pakistan, 1973 constitution established a union parliamentary system, depicted powers between provinces and federation .Yet, the balance of power has usually been inclined to the central government, leading to demands and tensions for greater autonomy of province (Jahan and Islam, 2022). In Pakistan, the mechanics of federalism are marked by fiscal challenges. The system of resources between provinces and federal government is a combative matter, usually lead to calls and disagreements for equitable system. Furthermore, in Pakistan the political landscape is marked by ethnic divisions and regional disparities, complicates the federal structure. Efforts to granting power and decentralization to provincial government is ongoing but face various administrative and political challenges. In present years, there is a rising recognition of the requirement to fortify federalism in Pakistan by addressing the challenges.

Problem Statement

The Asian federal states working under the parliamentary democracy encounter serious governance challenges that is shaped by ethnic diversity, linguistic plurality and intergovernmental tension. Political instability, economic inequality and shifting of political dynamics threaten effectiveness and sustainability of these systems. Though the constitutional innovation like decentralization, electoral reforms and judicial insights show resilience and nuanced understanding.

Significance of the Study

The study underlines dynamics of parliamentary democracy in the Asian federal system where the ethnic and cultural diversity intensifies the challenges of governance. By analyzing Pakistan, Malaysia and India, it gives insights to how the constitutional innovations and practices of governance can encourage institutional effectiveness and democratic inclusivity. The results of the study contribute to debates on democracy and federalism, providing lessons for nations encountering same challenges by focusing the significance of suitable political reform and development.

Research Objectives

The objective of the research is to examine the lessons, innovations and challenges

- To identify the constitutional innovations which improve governance accountability and democratic participation.
- To conduct comparative analysis of case studies from India, Pakistan and Malaysia to focus on limitations and success of governance practices in managing the dynamics of federal regional.
- To suggest recommendations for institutional reforms which encourage inclusivity and political development in different federal states.

Methodology

This research uses qualitative research method to examine the association between federalism and parliamentary democracy in Asian federal states. It uses a comparative case study method focusing on Malaysia, Pakistan and India that give variety of examples of frameworks of governance in the contexts of multi-culture. Data collection includes assessing constitutional documents, reforms initiatives, governance policies as well as secondary sources like policy reports, academic literature and historical analysis. The research employs content analysis to set patterns in constitutional innovations, challenges and governance practices, whereas the contextual analysis assesses the impact of historical, institutional and cultural factors. By combining insights from case studies, the methodology tries to determine successful pattern, lessons and limitations which can alter sustainable reforms of governance in various federal systems.

Governance Challenges in Asian Federal States:

Managing Diversity: Linguistic, Ethnic, and Cultural Factors

Asian federal states are characterized by significant cultural, linguistic, and ethnic diversity, making governance a complex task. Federal systems in these nations are often tasked with accommodating these differences while maintaining national unity whereas accommodating and respecting the specific identities of various regions (Choudhry, [2008](#)). The existence of several languages usually becomes a political problem, as the demands for lingual autonomy and recognition of local languages as the official languages bring tensions between central government and regions. For example, India has constituted various official languages to indicate the diversity, but the differences in linguistic remain a main source of political contention. Religious and ethnic diversity complicates governance, as the ethnic divisions usually intersect with religious operators, making overlapping potential conflicts and loyalties (Manor, [1996](#)). In Myanmar, ethnic revolt and demands for great autonomy and have persisted for decades, underline the condition of managing the differences(Lian, 2019). Preservation of culture also pose challenges, as regions often try to protect the unique heritage and resist equating national policies. Government should navigate the cultural sensitivities carefully to prevent resentment or alienation while balancing the regional cultural aspirations in the broader national identity.

Ensuring Equitable Representation and Protecting Minority Rights

In federal parliamentary system, the equitable representation is important for confirming that all groups have voice in governance (Reynolds [2013](#)). The equitable representation performs an important role in raising sense of legitimacy and inclusion in the federal governance, but attaining it in Asian Federal states poses various challenges. One main obstacle is population imbalance, where populated regions lean to dominate the decision-making at federal level. This usually results in political marginalization of less or smaller populous states. For instance, Indonesia encounter

difficulties in confirming fair representation among thousands of provinces and islands, where geographical distribution adds complexity of governance (Hofman and Kaiser 2006).

The other critical issue includes the right of religious and ethnic minorities. Ensuring the protection and representation of their interests could be challenging, particularly in environments that is dominated by majoritarian of political dynamics. In few examples, minorities encounter systematic exclusion or discrimination from political processes, which leads to grudge and demand for more autonomy. The lack of inclusive political framework may make a sense of action among groups which threatens national cohesion. To address the concerns of representation, federal states usually design the political mechanisms like upper houses in parliament to confirm that regions have voice irrespective of population size. Yet the effectiveness of the institutions varies, as the political competition interest usually core out the intended purpose. In few cases, federal government employ reformatory measures, including power-sharing agreement or reservation system to give marginalized group with major representation. Whereas the policies can be effective, they might generate resentment between majority of groups that perceive them as preferential or unfair.

Intergovernmental Tensions and Political Instability

In Asian federal states, tensions between regional and federal governments are common, arising from power disputes and imbalances over jurisdiction. These issues are worsened by political instability (He *et al.*, 2007). Intergovernmental tensions are common feature of governance in the Asian federal states. The disputes usually arise over jurisdiction with regional government attempting control of central government over the natural resources. Responsibilities of law enforcement or taxation. For instance, in Pakistan the disagreements over distribution of resources between central government fueled political unrest. Power imbalances worsen the tensions when central government puts excessive control on regional matters, which leads to demand for even secession or greater autonomy. The political instability complicates the federal governance and weaken democratic institutions, common government changes and authoritarian trend that undermine the intergovernmental cooperation (Hameiri and Jayasuriya, 2011). In few cases, regional and unresolved grievances escalate insurgencies and violent movements, hindering national development and weaken federal structure. Addressing these issues needs fostering inclusive political framework, strengthening dialogue between regional and federal authorities and promoting equitable distribution of resources to ensure stability, peace and development for all areas.

20 of 27

Constitutional Innovations in Asian Federal States:

Judicial Oversight for Conflict Resolution

The judicial oversight performs a critical role in breakdown the conflicts between regional and federal government and safeguard the principle of constitution

- Ensuring Federal Balance: Judiciary usually act as unbiased arbiter in conflicts over division of powers. In India, for instance the supreme court adjudicates the conflict between central government and state regularly ensuring the adherence to federal framework (Pandey and Dubey, 2023).
- Protecting Rights of Minorities: Courts uphold the constitutional rights of marginalized communities and minorities by addressing grievances which is aroused by discriminatory policies and actions.
- Checks and Balances: Judicial oversight affirms that none of the government branch exceeds authority, and maintain balance of power in federal structure. In Malaysia the judicial

review is instrumental in confirming compliance with the mandates of constitution usually in case that include minority rights (Neo, [2008](#)).

Power-Sharing Mechanisms and Decentralization

Power-sharing and decentralization are significant for encouraging local governance and to accommodate regional diversity.

- Asymmetrical Federalism: some states employ asymmetrical federal arrangements to grant regions which are more based on autonomy. For instance, India provides special constitutional status to the states like Jammu and Kashmir (previous revocation in 2019) (Sofi, [2021a](#))
- Decentralization: Empowering the local government can increase governance efficiency and inclusivity like 18th constitutional amendment in Pakistan have devolve the substantial powers to provinces, permitting provinces to manage resources and policies more efficiently and to strengthen the regional autonomy (Ayaz and Fahad, [2025](#)).
- Intergovernmental Councils: Platforms for collaboration like in India, Inter-state help to foster cooperative governance and resolve disputes of federal regional.

Electoral Reforms for Inclusivity and Accountability

The main objective of electoral reform is to enhance participation, improve participation and secure equity in the parliamentary democracies.

- Proportional Representation: Adopting the proportional system may increase representation of minority groups and small political parties. In Malaysia mixed electoral system tries to balance inclusivity and governance stability, hence it shows criticism.
- Affirmative Action in Elections: Reserved seats for marginalized groups such as women, ethnic minorities confirm inclusion in the process of legislation. In india seats in local bodies (i.e., Panchayati Raj) are reserved for scheduled castes and tribes (Sahay, [2008](#)).
- Campaign Finance Reforms: Aim of reforms are to limit enhancing of campaign and spending transparency that support to lessen the impact of money in politics accountability and encouraging fair competition.
- Strengthening Electoral Commissions: Empowered and independent electoral commission ensure fair and free elections, addressing issues about electoral bias and fraud. For instance, election commission in India is recognized globally for impartial and robust electoral oversight (McMillan, [2012](#)).

Comparative Case Studies in Asian Federal States:

Pakistan: Managing Regional-Federal Tensions

The federal system of Pakistan is marked by current tensions between central government and its provinces usually because of disparities in resource allocation, political power and regional autonomy.

- Historical Background and Federal Structure: Pakistan works under federal system where the provinces are meant to have an autonomy, but central government historically dominated which leads to regional dissatisfaction. Provinces those in periphery such as Baluchistan demanded greater resources and autonomy because of historical marginalization (Adeney and Boni, [2023](#)).
- Regional-Federal Tensions: In Pakistan's federal system the major issue is lack of equitable distribution of resources. The provincial government usually feel sideline by federal government control over the critical resources mainly in areas such as electricity and natural

gas. For Instance, Balochistan province is rich in natural resources and has complained regarding the exploration of resources by central government without proper representation or compensation.

- Constitutional Innovations: Pakistan has undertaken few constitutional reforms to address these problems. The 18th Amendment to Constitution of Pakistan (2010) substantially shift power to the provinces by devolving main powers, including education, local governance, and health to provincial governments. The amendment created strong system for fiscal decentralization with equitable selection of federal revenue to provinces (Choudhury, 1956).
- Intergovernmental Relations: Establishment of National Finance Commission (NFC), that ensures fair distribution of resources between provinces and federal government, it has been an important step to mitigate the regional grievances (Hussain and Rafiq, 2024). Hence, tensions continue especially about distribution of power and wealth between regions such as Punjab and smaller provinces

India: Decentralization and Minority Representation

India has the world largest federal state and democracy with various population, having a huge array of ethnic, religious minorities and linguistic. The parliamentary system of country incorporates different mechanisms that are designed to protect rights of minority and decentralization.

- Decentralization: The constitution of India gives strong central government but decentralization has a crucial element of system through state Reorganization and Panchayati Raj Institutions (local self- government) (Ratra and Dahiyaz, 2022). The 1990's 73rd and 74th constitutional Amendments strengthened the local governance by empowering urban and rural local bodies, confirming that local governments have development policies.
- Minority Representation: The federal system of India has a significant focus on minority rights protection through combination of affirmative action and constitutional provisions. The reservation system allots seats in both state assemblies and parliament for Scheduled Tribes (STs) and Scheduled Castes (SCs) and other Backward Classes (OBCs) to confirm political participation. However, India guarantees cultural and religious rights for minorities, mainly under Article 29 and 30 that protects the interest of religious and linguistic minorities in public domains and other educational institutions.
- Federal-Regional Relations: In India, despite of efforts of decentralization, intergovernmental relations remain complex, mainly with autonomous states such as Jammu and Kashmir (which has special status until 2019), the demand for autonomy in regions such as Northeast. Tensions arise from dominance of national party system that usually leads to marginalization of regional parties (Sofi, 2021b).
- Constitutional Innovations: Electoral system of India is based on first-past-the-post system, is critiqued for not reflecting the political and social diversity of country. Hence, the adaptation of system to accommodate the regional parties by coalitions helped in managing minority representation and regional autonomy. Moreover, national Commission for Minorities and constitutional provisions serve as a safeguard for rights of minority.

Malaysia: Governance and Cultural Diversity

The federal system of Malaysia has grappled with balancing the governance and different, ethnic, religious and cultural makeup of its population. Malaysia is a multi-ethnic country with Malay, Indian and Chinese populations as well as indigenous group, forming it a specific case study in managing diversity in a federal framework

- **Ethnic and Religious Diversity:** The federal system of Malaysia is designed to manage the religious and ethnic diversity through special position of Malay majority (Bumiputera policy) that grants preferential rights to them in education, business and employment. Whereas this policy has confirmed stability for the community of Malay and has created tensions with ethnic minorities like Indian and Chinese populations (Ehlers *et al.*, 2014).
- **Federal Structure and Autonomy:** The federal system of Malaysia is comparatively centralized with federal government which holds substantial power over states, mainly in areas of foreign affairs, national security and economic policy. Hence, the states of Sarawak and Sabah in East Malaysia is historically more enjoyed autonomy that states in Peninsular Malaysia, mainly with regard to land rights and immigration control. Sometimes this uneven autonomy has led to call for equal treatment and greater decentralization.
- **Power-Sharing Mechanisms:** Historically, barisan Nasional coalition of Malaysia showed a power-sharing arrangement between the major ethnic groups of country. The coalition system permitted for ethnic-based parties (such as Malaysian Indian Congress (MIC), Malaysian Chinese Association (MCA) and United Malays National organization (UMNO) for Malays govern and collaborate together. Hence, this system has encountered challenges in present years because of shifting political allegiances and rise of opposition in ethnic-based politics advocating for reforms (Harding, 2024).
- **Constitutional Innovations:** The constitution of Malaysia guarantees the freedom of cultural practices and religion for all ethnic groups but dominant the identity of Malay-Muslim that influences the policy decisions, specifically in terms of education and religion. One of the main challenge faces by Malaysia is balancing political dominance of Malay-Muslim majority with rights of ethnic and religious minorities. To address this, dual legal system of Malaysia I.e. civil law for non-Muslims and Islamic Law for Muslims allowed religious autonomy in the federal structure but has formed tensions in few areas, mainly in family law (Triantaphyllidu and Magazzini, 2021).
- **Governance Challenges:** Malaysia has encountered various challenges that ensure that all ethnic groups become represented in the political process. The policy of Bumiputera while confirming political stability for Malay majority is been criticized for stifling the economic opportunities for non-Malay minorities which contributes to long-term ethnic tensions. The political parties advocating reforms like Pakatan Harapan coalition, shows a shift to more inclusive approach, although the issue of balancing the ethnic interest remain.

Lessons and Recommendations for Strengthening Parliamentary Democracy in Asian Federal States:

Key Lessons from Successful Innovations:

Judicial Oversight and Constitutional Interpretation

The oversight of Judicial is important to maintain the federal-regional balance and support democratic principles.

- **Pakistan:** The role of Supreme court in interpreting 18th Amendment confirms decentralization which aligns with constitutional principles mainly in power distribution and resource allocation.
- **India:** The judiciary protects the rights of minority like religious and linguistic freedoms, act as a check on both state and central governments.
- **Malaysia:** The judicial oversight support to maintain religious and ethnic balance, mainly about Bumiputera policy with limited power as compared to Pakistan and India.

Decentralization and Local Governance Empowerment

Decentralization improves governance representation and efficiency by empowering the local governments.

- **India:** The system of Panchayati Raj through 73rd and 74th Amendments, encourages grassroots participation and accountability mainly among the marginalized group.
- **Pakistan:** In 18th Amendment devolution of power strengthened the provincial autonomy while addressing the linguistic and ethnic diversity effectively.
- **Malaysia:** The Asymmetrical federalism in Sarawak and Sabah presents efficient localized autonomy in a centralized system.

Power-Sharing Mechanisms for Inclusivity

Exclusive power-sharing ensures representation of minority and prevents marginalization.

- **India:** strict actions are for seats of scheduled castes and tribes. OBC's fosters political inclusion of marginalized groups.
- **Malaysia:** Model of Barisan National coalition affirmed ethnic representation at the federal level by efficiently managing diversity.
- **Pakistan:** National Finance Commission encourages equal distribution of resources by addressing demands of the regional autonomy.

Conclusion

In Asian federal states, research of parliamentary democracy focuses on Pakistan, India and Malaysia that highlights new inventions and lasting challenges to balance democratic and governance principle and diversity. The results of the study shows that judicial oversight act as an important role to maintain balance of power between federal authorities and regional authorities. In Pakistan and India, strict judicial system is been instrumental in the principles of constitution, encouraging the rights of minorities and solving federal-regional issues. Decentralization is an important strategy for managing regional diversity and encouraging local governance. In India Panchayati Raj system and 18th amendment of Pakistan has empowered local governments, removing intergovernmental conflicts and enhancing region-specific decision-making. Therefore, models underlines need for equal distribution of resources and fiscal autonomy to confirm sustainable development at regional level.

References

Adeney, K., & Boni, F. (2023). Federalism and regime change: De/centralization in Pakistan, 1956–2020. *Regional & Federal Studies*, 33(5), 725–753. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13597566.2022.2126456>

[Google Scholar](#) [Worldcat](#) [Fulltext](#)

Ayaz, M., & Fahad, U. (2025). *Federalism vs. centralization: Ethnic autonomy in Pakistan*. SSRN.

[Google Scholar](#) [Worldcat](#) [Fulltext](#)

Choudhry, S. (Ed.). (2008). *Constitutional design for divided societies: Integration or accommodation?* Oxford University Press.

[Google Scholar](#) [Worldcat](#) [Fulltext](#)

Choudhury, G. W. (1956). The constitution of Pakistan. *Pacific Affairs*, 29(3), 243–255.

[Google Scholar](#) [Worldcat](#) [Fulltext](#)

Ehlers, D., & Henning, K. (Eds.). (2014). *Constitutionalism and good governance*. Nomos.

[Google Scholar](#) [Worldcat](#) [Fulltext](#)

Hameiri, S., & Jayasuriya, K. (2011). Regulatory regionalism and the dynamics of territorial politics: The case of the Asia-Pacific region. *Political Studies*, 59(1), 20–37. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1467-9248.2010.00854.x>

[Google Scholar](#) [Worldcat](#) [Fulltext](#)

Harding, A. (2024). Power-sharing in Malaysia: Coalition politics and the social contract. In E. W. Aboultaif, S. Keil, & A. McCulloch (Eds.), *Power-sharing in the Global South* (pp. 169–188). Springer International Publishing.

[Google Scholar](#) [Worldcat](#) [Fulltext](#)

He, B., & Galligan, B. (Eds.). (2007). Democratization and federalization in Asia. In *Federalism in Asia*. Edward Elgar Publishing.

[Google Scholar](#) [Worldcat](#) [Fulltext](#)

Hofman, B., & Kai, K. (2006). Decentralization, democratic transition, and local governance in Indonesia. In P. Bardhan & D. Mookherjee (Eds.), *Decentralization and local governance in developing countries* (pp. 81–124). MIT Press. <https://doi.org/10.7551/mitpress/2297.003.0004>

[Google Scholar](#) [Worldcat](#) [Fulltext](#)

Hussain, K., & Rafiq. (2024). Center-province relations in India and Pakistan: A comparative analysis, 9(1), 71–82.

[Google Scholar](#) [Worldcat](#) [Fulltext](#)

Jahan, M., & Islam, M. N. (2022). Islamic Republic of Pakistan. In M. Önder, I. N. Nyadera, & M. N. Islam (Eds.), *The Palgrave handbook of comparative public administration* (pp. 371–392). Springer Nature Singapore. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-19-1208-5_13

[Google Scholar](#) [Worldcat](#) [Fulltext](#)

Jyränki, A. (1999). *National constitutions in the era of integration*. Wolters Kluwer Law International.

[Google Scholar](#) [Worldcat](#) [Fulltext](#)

Khatoon, H. (2023). The dynamics of federalism in Pakistan: An examination of political structures and challenges, 131–140. <https://doi.org/10.53762/alqamar.06.02.e10>

[Google Scholar](#) [Worldcat](#) [Fulltext](#)

Lye, L., Hofmeister, W., & Zheng, H. (Eds.). (2014). *Parliaments in Asia: Institution building and political development*. Routledge.

[Google Scholar](#) [Worldcat](#) [Fulltext](#)

Majeed, A. (2005). Republic of India. In J. Kincaid & G. A. Tarr (Eds.), *Constitutional origins, structure, and change in federal countries* (pp. 180–208). McGill-Queen's University Press.

[Google Scholar](#) [Worldcat](#) [Fulltext](#)

Manor, J. (1996). 'Ethnicity' and politics in India. *International Affairs*, 72(3), 459–475.

[Google Scholar](#) [Worldcat](#) [Fulltext](#)

McMillan, A. (2012). The Election Commission of India and the regulation and administration of electoral politics. *Election Law Journal: Rules, Politics, and Policy*, 11(2), 187–201. <https://doi.org/10.1089/elj.2011.0134>

[Google Scholar](#) [Worldcat](#) [Fulltext](#)

Neo, J. L. (2008). *The constitution and the protection of minorities: A judicious balance?*

[Google Scholar](#) [Worldcat](#) [Fulltext](#)

Pandey, R., & Dubey. (2023). The role of the Supreme Court in protecting and interpreting the Constitution of India, 6(4), 685.

[Google Scholar](#) [Worldcat](#) [Fulltext](#)

26 of 27

Ratra, P., & Dahiya. (2022). Decentralization and challenges related to Panchayati Raj institutions in India, 5(1), 181–189.

[Google Scholar](#) [Worldcat](#) [Fulltext](#)

Reynolds, A. (2013). Representation and rights: The impact of LGBT legislators in comparative perspective. *American Political Science Review*, 107(2), 259–274. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0003055413000051>

[Google Scholar](#) [Worldcat](#) [Fulltext](#)

Sahay, G. R. (2008). Decentralisation, Panchayati Raj and the rights of marginalised groups in India: A case for civil society.

[Google Scholar](#) [Worldcat](#) [Fulltext](#)

Shakoor, F., & Korai. (2024). Federalism in South Asia: A constitutional analysis of India and Pakistan. *Cogent Arts & Humanities*, 11(1), 2299536. <https://doi.org/10.1080/23311983.2023.2299536>

[Google Scholar](#) [Worldcat](#) [Fulltext](#)

Sofi, W. A. (2021a). *Autonomy of a state in a federation: A special case study of Jammu and Kashmir*. Springer Singapore.

[Google Scholar](#) [Worldcat](#) [Fulltext](#)

Sonwani, P. (2016). Distribution of legislative powers under the Indian constitution. *Research Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences*, 7(1), 39–44. <https://doi.org/10.5958/2321-5828.2016.00009.7>

[Google Scholar](#) [Worldcat](#) [Fulltext](#)

Triantaphyllidou, A., & Magazzini, T. (Eds.). (2021). *Routledge handbook on the governance of religious diversity*. Routledge.

[Google Scholar](#) [Worldcat](#) [Fulltext](#)