

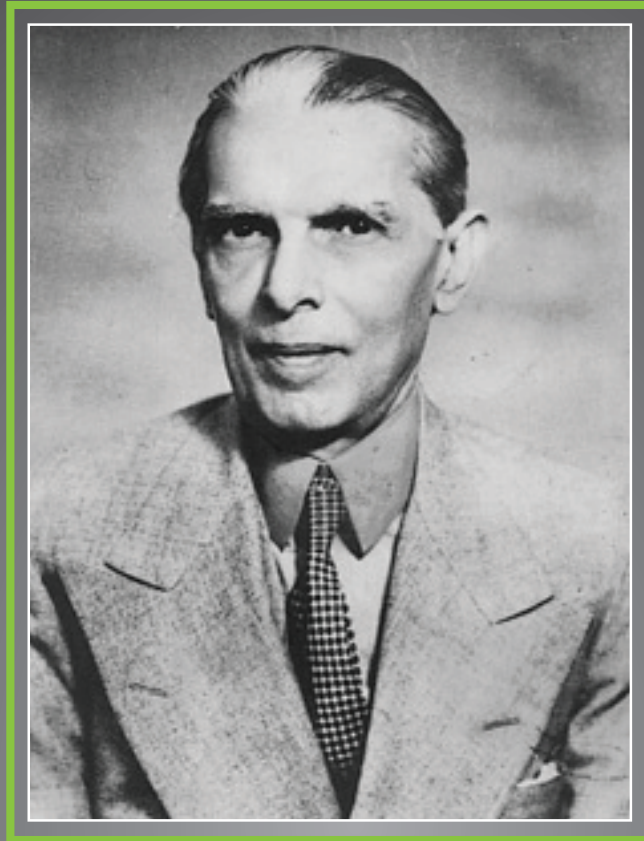


ELECTION COMMISSION OF PAKISTAN



An illustrated story of restructuring the Election Commission of Pakistan

www.ecp.gov.pk



With faith, discipline and selfless devotion to duty,
there is nothing worthwhile that you cannot achieve.

Mahatma

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MESSAGE

It gives me immense pleasure to present a comprehensive overview of the Election Commission of Pakistan's "Special Initiatives from 2020 to 2025". During this period, we have undertaken various steps to modernize infrastructure to strengthen institutional capacity and enhance public service delivery. The need was felt due to archaic paper-based structures and a lack of modern infrastructure to keep with the times.

The infrastructure development program stands as a testament to our commitment to providing accessibility and efficiency to the public and employees respectively. We have successfully acquired state land at 23 strategic locations and 6 purpose-built offices have been completed through the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP), with the Public Works Department (PWD) as the executing agency. Additionally, 10 buildings are currently under construction. These offices are equipped with modern amenities. This initiative has improved operational capabilities and made services more accessible to political parties, candidates and the general public.

The Commission's dedication to maintaining accurate electoral rolls has been exemplified through a comprehensive door-to-door verification exercise, which covered more than 121 million voters. ECP has implemented innovative solutions for removing deceased voters and upgraded its Computerized Electoral Rolls System (CERS) with latest features that enhance data accuracy and public access. The Election Monitoring Control Centre (EMCC) is a hallmark in digitizing monitoring and scaling a paperless system.

The conduct of General Elections 2024 marked a significant achievement, showcasing the Commission's ability to organize nationwide elections despite the most challenging circumstances. The successful implementation of timely security measures resulted in a dramatic reduction in election-related violence compared to 2018 or even before when violence was an ongoing factor.

I am particularly proud of the Commission's efforts to bridge the Gender Gap in voter registration, which has been reduced from 11.7% in 2018 to 7.5% in 2024. Public facilitation measures, including the establishment of 2,080 Facilitation Centers and the enhancement of the 8300 SMS service, have made voter services more accessible than before.

As we look to the future, the Election Commission of Pakistan remains committed to further strengthening democratic processes and ensuring that every eligible citizen can exercise their right to vote in a transparent and efficient manner, contributing to the glory of our great country, Pakistan.

HON'BLE CHIEF ELECTION COMMISSIONER,
SIKANDAR SULTAN RAJA
ELECTION COMMISSION OF PAKISTAN
FEBRUARY, 2025





INTRODUCTION

I am highly pleased to present the publication "Special Initiatives 2020 to 2025," which highlights the monumental progress made by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) in improving the electoral process from the years 2020-2025. This document details ECP's significant efforts to make elections more efficient, accessible, transparent and inclusive. Following are some significant features:-

Infrastructure Improvements: The ECP manages 168 offices, mostly rented. Since 2020, 23 new pieces of land were acquired for purpose-built offices, with 6 completed and 10 under construction. Upgrades included boundary walls at 28 sites, a Federal Election Academy, a Record Room with 1.6 million digitized pages and facilities like daycare center, and modern transport system.

Human Resource Development: The ECP restructured its Human Resources (HR) department, creating 53 new positions and eliminating 21 redundant ones. By January 2025, ECP's Secretariat staff increased from 369 to 548, while the total staff across all offices grew from 2,552 to 3,158 as per the professional requirements. ECP promoted 499 employees and hired 1,091 new staff from 2020 to January 2025. The introduction of a Human Resource Management System (HRMS) improved efficiency and accountability.

Electoral Processes: To improve efficiency of elections, ECP reorganized its Election Wing and created two additional senior positions. In 2022 and 2023, ECP adopted digital maps for delimitation. The Form-45 was updated for better accessibility, and the ECP held fair by-elections from 2020 to 2023, with the NA-75 Sialkot-IV results annulled due to irregularities.

Voter Registration and Inclusivity: Since 2021, over 121 million voters have been verified, with 5 million new voters added and many deceased voters removed. The total number of registered voters increased from 105 million in 2018 to 133 million as of 7th February 2025. The Gender Gap decreased significantly from 11.7% in 2018 to 7.5% in 2024, reflecting the ECP's commitment to inclusivity which has been acknowledged by even international organizations such as European Union (EU), UNDP and others.

Political Finance Transparency: The Political Finance Wing, created in 2022, manages political party funding and ensures transparency using a new system that digitizes party records and feedback which is evaluation-based. The wing has delisted 15 parties for non-compliance with electoral laws and plans to use AI and data analytics for further scrutiny.

Digital Transformation: The ECP has significantly improved its IT infrastructure, including a new Data Center and a Video Conferencing System across all offices. The revamped website handled millions of visitors and social media accounts provided real-time updates. A new Election Monitoring and Control Centre (EMCC) streamlined data handling and usage through a Data Centre, and the Election City in Islamabad provided election results for the public. A new database is also a significant feature, keeping future requirements in mind.



Financial Oversight: The Accounts and Internal Audit Branch was set up with new posts and conducted internal audits for the first time, improving financial oversight of the provincial offices.

Legal Framework: The Law Wing was strengthened by creating new positions and streamlining operations. It resolved over 1,500 cases in 2022 and managed election-related disputes, ensuring transparency and accountability.

Election Monitoring: The ECP transitioned from paper-based to digital election monitoring. The Election Monitoring and Control Center (EMCC) now uses real-time reporting tools to ensure compliance with laws and their violations.

Voter Empowerment and Inclusivity: The Media Coordination and Outreach (MCO) Wing increased voter awareness through campaigns. The Gender and Social Inclusion Wing expanded its efforts to include women, transgender persons, differently abled persons, and minorities, reducing the gender gap to 7.4% by 2024 significantly.

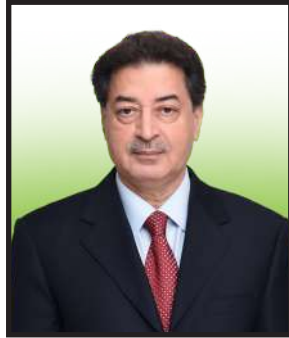
Training of Election Professionals: The ECP revamped its training programs to include new courses in IT, governance, and social sciences. Over 2.4 million officials were trained from 2020 to 2025, including 1.48 million for the 2024 elections.

Digital Services: The ECP's Digital Services, launched on 27th January 2025, aim to enhance electoral management and public engagement by offering efficient, transparent and accessible platforms for officials and citizens, including key features such as legal case management, training, HR management and mobile applications for complaints and staff coordination.

This publication celebrates these achievements and many more. The ECP's ongoing commitment to ensure fair and inclusive elections in Pakistan, I wish the Commission, the officials, and the team that helped compile this splendid document with loads of success!

OMAR HAMID KHAN
SECRETARY
ELECTION COMMISSION OF PAKISTAN
FEBRUARY, 2025





SIKANDAR SULTAN RAJA
HON'BLE CHIEF ELECTION COMMISSIONER



NISAR AHMED DURRANI
HON'BLE MEMBER SINDH



SHAH MUHAMMAD JATOI
HON'BLE MEMBER BALOCHISTAN



BABAR HASSAN BHARWANA
HON'BLE MEMBER PUNJAB



JUSTICE (R) IKRAMULLAH KHAN
HON'BLE MEMBER KP



OMAR HAMID KHAN
SECRETARY ELECTION COMMISSION



ELECTION COMMISSION OF PAKISTAN (JAN 2020-JUNE 2021)



From left to Right, MEC from Sindh Mr. Nisar Ahmed Durrani, MEC from Punjab Justice (R) Altaf Ibrahim Qureshi, Hon'ble CEC Mr. Sikandar Sultan Raja, MEC from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Justice (R) Ms. Irshad Qaiser and MEC from Balochistan Mr. Shah Muhammad Jatoi.

ELECTION COMMISSION OF PAKISTAN (JULY 2021-MAY 2022)



From left to Right, MEC from Sindh Mr. Nisar Ahmed Durrani, Hon'ble CEC Mr. Sikandar Sultan Raja and MEC from Balochistan Mr. Shah Muhammad Jatoi.

ELECTION COMMISSION OF PAKISTAN (JUNE 2022-2025)



From left to Right, MEC from Punjab Mr. Babar Hassan Bharwana, MEC from Sindh Mr. Nisar Ahmed Durrani, Hon'ble CEC Mr. Sikandar Sultan Raja, MEC from Balochistan Mr. Shah Muhammad Jatoti and MEC from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mr. Justice (R) Ikramullah Khan.

LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

- ▶ **ADG : Additional Director General**
- ▶ **CCTV : Closed-Circuit Television**
- ▶ **CEC : Chief Election Commissioner**
- ▶ **COC : Code of Conduct**
- ▶ **DEC : District Election Commissioner**
- ▶ **DG : Director General**
- ▶ **DMO : District Monitoring Officer**
- ▶ **DPO : District Police Officer**
- ▶ **DRO : District Returning Officer**
- ▶ **DVEC : District Voter Education Committees**
- ▶ **ECP : Election Commission of Pakistan**
- ▶ **EMCC : Election Monitoring and Control Center**
- ▶ **HR : Human Resources**
- ▶ **ICT : Islamabad Capital Territory**
- ▶ **JPEC : Joint Provincial Election Commissioner**
- ▶ **KP : Khyber Pakhtunkhwa**
- ▶ **LEAs : Law Enforcing Agencies**
- ▶ **LG : Local Government**
- ▶ **LGE : Local Government Elections**
- ▶ **MCO : Media Coordination and Outreach**
- ▶ **MEC : Member Election Commission**
- ▶ **M&E : Monitoring and Evaluation**
- ▶ **MNA : Member of the National Assembly**
- ▶ **MIS : Management Information System**
- ▶ **MPA : Member of the Provincial Assembly**
- ▶ **NA : National Assembly**
- ▶ **PA : Provincial Assembly**
- ▶ **PBS : Pakistan Bureau of Statistics**
- ▶ **PDF : Portable Document Format**
- ▶ **PEC : Provincial Election Commissioner**
- ▶ **PF : Political Finance**
- ▶ **REC : Regional Election Commissioner**
- ▶ **RO : Returning Officer**
- ▶ **SOP : Standard Operating Procedure**



1 ADMINISTRATION AND HUMAN RESOURCE WINGS

1.1 DEVELOPMENT BRANCH

A. BACKGROUND

The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) operates through its offices across the country, including 4 Provincial Election Commissioners (PECs), 32 Regional Election Commissioners (RECs), and 150 District Election Commissioners (DECs), which are all housed in 168 buildings. Out of these, 141 offices are housed in 125 rented buildings. Till 2020, only the offices of the ECP Secretariat, PEC Punjab, PEC Sindh, PEC KP, REC D.G. Khan and REC Kohat were situated in ECP's own buildings. Many of the office buildings were not easily accessible, causing inconvenience to the political parties, contestants and general public approaching ECP's offices for voter registration, obtaining voter extracts and allied electoral matters. Moreover, the Election Commission has been grappling with a severe shortage of workspace for its employees with field offices lacking essential facilities, such as secure strong rooms to store sensitive election materials, polling and office records, Computerized Electoral Rolls (CERs) labs, training halls, and waiting rooms for general public. The insufficient storage of sensitive election material was also highlighted in the Judicial Commission's 2013 report, which emphasized the need to address these concerns to ensure the security of materials/record.

B. ACQUISITION OF STATE LAND FOR CONSTRUCTION OF FIELD OFFICES

As of December 2019, ECP had acquired state land in 11 districts, for the construction of field offices, specifically 3 in Punjab (Layyah, Khushab, and Narowal) and 8 in Balochistan (Gwadar, Lasbela (Hub), Chagai, Washuk, Nushki, Kharan, Loralai, and Sibi (Lehri)).

Recognizing the need for infrastructure development for purpose-built, easily accessible offices in each district, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) took proactive steps to address the space, issues and initiated the process of acquiring of state land. To move this initiative forward, the Chief Election Commissioner held several meetings with the Provincial Chief Ministers to secure state land for the ECP's field offices. The provincial governments were supportive and generously allocated state land in various districts to establish the offices.

As a result of measures taken by the Honourable Chief Election Commissioner, ECP successfully acquired state land at 23 locations, from provincial governments for the construction of field offices. This includes 19 sites in Punjab-Okara, Sargodha, Jhelum, Attock, Faisalabad, Sahiwal, Rajanpur, Lodhran, Bhakkar, Jhang, T.T. Singh, Pakpattan, Khanewal, Chakwal, M.B. Din, Lahore, Chiniot, Hafizabad, and Muzaffargarh-and 4 in Balochistan, located in Jaffarabad, Mastung, Loralai, and Quetta all acquired in the past five years.

A summary of the acquired state land is given below:

Sr.#	Province	Till December 2019	2020-2024	State land acquired till date
1.	Punjab	03	19	22
2.	Balochistan	08	04	12
Total		11	23	34

1.2 DEVELOPMENT PLAN OF BUILDINGS FOR FIELD OFFICES

In 2020, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) developed an Infrastructure Development Plan for the construction of its field offices and submitted the same to the M/o Planning, Development & Special Initiatives (PD&SI) for approval. Recognizing the critical need for these purpose-built buildings, PD&SI acknowledged the importance of the project and assured phase-wise funding through the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) for the construction of ECP's field offices.

A APPROVAL OF PC-Is

As part of this initiative, ECP aggressively pursued the preparation of PC-Is, incorporating a standardized design for the construction of its office buildings. Presently, 16 PC-Is for 22 office buildings (accommodating 25 offices) stand approved by the DDWP forum of the Ministry of Housing and Works. The details are as follows:

No. of Projects Approved in DDWP	Status of Construction /Funding
06 (08 buildings 11 offices)	In progress (construction will be completed by June 2025)
10 (14 buildings)	Approved by DDWP (Yet to be funded through PSDP)

B CONSTRUCTION OF OFFICES

ECP initiated the construction of standard office buildings, equipped with strong rooms, and modern amenities such as wheelchair access, elevators for senior citizens, spacious waiting areas to facilitate the public, as well as CERs labs, and server rooms to support the digitization of the election process. The whole infrastructure of ECP was transformed into a modern, forward-looking corporate organization in a short span with the same vision and verve, which would have otherwise taken decades to achieve.

In the first phase, 06 offices for the Regional Election Commissioners (RECs) and District Election Commissioners (DECs) in Sargodha, Okara, Layyah, Jhelum, and Attock were constructed through the Pakistan Public Works Department (Pak PWD), funded through PSDP allocation. A set of strategically located, conspicuous and brand new structures were thus created in less than 2 years, remarkably economical, modern and easily accessible. Additionally, 10 more REC/DEC offices are currently under construction, with an expected completion date in 2025.

OFFICE BUILDING OF REC/DEC SARGODHA



**CENTRALLY LOCATED STATE OF THE ART BUILDING WITH FULLY FUNCTIONAL FACILITIES,
EASILY ACCESSIBLE FOR GENERAL PUBLIC**

OFFICE BUILDING OF DEC OKARA



LOCATED IN DISTRICT COMPLEX, EASILY ACCESSIBLE, SPACIOUS PLOT WITH AMPLE PARKING, STATE-OF-THE-ART BUILDING WITH FULLY FUNCTIONAL FACILITIES

OFFICE BUILDING OF DEC LAYYAH



LOCATED IN DISTRICT COMPLEX, EASILY ACCESSIBLE, SPACIOUS PLOT WITH AMPLE PARKING AND LAWN, STATE-OF-THE-ART BUILDING WITH FULLY FUNCTIONAL FACILITIES

OFFICE BUILDING OF DEC ATTOCK



STATE-OF-THE-ART BUILDING AT PRIME LOCATION WITH SPACIOUS PARKING AND FULLY FUNCTIONAL FACILITIES

OFFICE BUILDING OF DEC JHELUM



LOCATED ON THE G.T ROAD, STATE-OF-THE-ART BUILDING ADJACENT TO DISTRICT COMPLEX WITH SPACIOUS PARKING AND FULLY FUNCTIONAL FACILITIES

1.3 CONSTRUCTION OF BOUNDARY WALLS TO SECURE ECP'S STATE LAND

To protect the valuable state-owned land from encroachment or illegal use, it was deemed essential to construct boundary walls. A standardized design has been adopted for these walls and to date, boundary walls have been completed at 28 locations of state land owned by the ECP.

DEC OFFICE KHUSHAB



DEC OFFICE LORALAI



DEC Office Loralai
(New Building)
19.12.2024 14:52
30.36596, 68.58399
9H8M+CJM, Loralai

1.4 ACQUISITION OF OFFICE OF PEC KP

The office of the PEC in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) was located in a building on Michni Road, Peshawar. However, due to security concerns and transportation issues, the public faced serious difficulties in accessing the office. To address the issues, in 2020, the ECP hired the Federal Lodge-II on a rental basis to house the office of PEC KP. After persistent efforts, the building was successfully acquired and transferred to ECP's ownership in 2024, with the approval of the Federal Cabinet.

1.5 CONSTRUCTION OF FEDERAL ELECTION ACADEMY AND OTHER OFFICES OF ECP

A plot measuring 1.03 acres (5,000 square yards) located at H-11/4, Islamabad, was acquired from the Capital Development Authority (CDA) in 2019 for the establishment of Federal Election Academy and other ECP offices. The PC-I for the project was approved in the CDWP meeting held on June 7, 2024. The project, funded through the PSDP 2024-25, will be carried out in two phases. In the first phase, a building comprising of two basements and six floors, covering a total area of 125,435 square feet, will be completed over a period of three years. This building will house the Federal Election Academy, as well as the offices of the District Election Commissioner (DEC) Islamabad and the Regional Election Commissioner (REC) Rawalpindi. Additionally, the building will include allocated spaces for a Strong Room, CERs labs, Data Centre, and Printing facility.

GEOGRAPHICAL SITE LOCATION



MODEL OF BUILDING



1.6 CONSTRUCTION OF TWO ADDITIONAL FLOORS AT ECP SECRETARIAT

The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) was facing a significant shortage of space at its Secretariat. To address this issue on a permanent basis, two additional floors were constructed in the additional block of the ECP Secretariat. The PC-I for the project was approved by the DDWP forum in December 2021, and the construction was completed in 2023.

5TH FLOOR



6TH FLOOR



1.7 ESTABLISHMENT OF A STATE-OF-THE-ART RECORD ROOM

The Record Room already established in the Commission was limited to a single room lacking proper facilities for storage of office records and sensitive election materials. Ineffective tracking of records, poor storage conditions, inadequate ventilation and improper shelving posed a significant risk of degradation of records due to which sensitive government documents, judicial papers, and other official records were susceptible to loss without proper safeguards in place. In addition to it, as administrative functions grew in complexity and volume, the old record room became insufficient, leading to the necessity of a more structured solution. Besides, the weeding of records was also not undertaken by the various branches of this Commission. Taking cognizance of the situation, the Commission decided to establish a proper Record Room equipped with modern tools and techniques to address the need of current as well as future requirements of the ECP.

A Record Room was thus established and inaugurated on 5th January 2023 at the ECP Secretariat. It has been designed with space optimization in mind, featuring compact shelving, safe storage solutions and automated systems for managing and accessing records (digital record keeping).

The new Record Room is equipped with modern security features such as key card/biometric access, surveillance cameras, fire extinguishers and locks with controlled access, particularly for sensitive record. Simultaneously, 16,000 files were sorted and labeled accordingly on corrugated boxes (in branch-wise and year-wise manner). Indexing of this record was completed for one-click retrieval of any file. The process of weeding obsolete record has also been initiated by all the relevant wings to ensure storage of permanent and sensitive record in the newly established record room.

For smooth management of the record, Record Management Instructions 2023 were also approved and circulated to all including the PECs, RECs and DEC's offices. These Instructions include categorization and re-categorization of record along with a well-defined weeding out process. These instructions will serve as guidelines for efficient management of record.

Furthermore, the new Record Room provides the opportunity to digitize record, store documents electronically and create digital backup of physical documents. All of its official record (1.6 million pages) was scanned and uploaded to the specialized software namely Integrated Office Record Management System (IORMS).





1.8 ESTABLISHMENT OF CHIEF ELECTION COMMISSIONER'S SECRETARIAT

The office of the Chief Election Commissioner being a proper secretariat due to scope of work lacked essential facilities such as a meeting room, staff rooms and a proper visitors room for delegations and guests. In this regard, a new floor was established in 2021 to accommodate the office of the Chief Election Commissioner along with offices for officers and staff which is now equipped with all essential amenities and a reception area.



1.9 RENOVATION OF THE COURTROOM

The courtroom of this Commission's Secretariat has been renovated to accommodate 200 people, with multimedia projectors and cabinet ACs as essential features.



1.10 UPLIFTING OF ECP SECRETARIAT FAÇADE

The ECP Secretariat was constructed in 2000. Being an old building, the facade with its original design was observed to have deteriorated. In 2022, the façade of the building was re-designed, depicting a modern visage of the building. Also, the whitewash of the ECP Secretariat from inside and outside was also completed. Considering the clean green concept, additional trees have been planted around along with improved landscaping work.



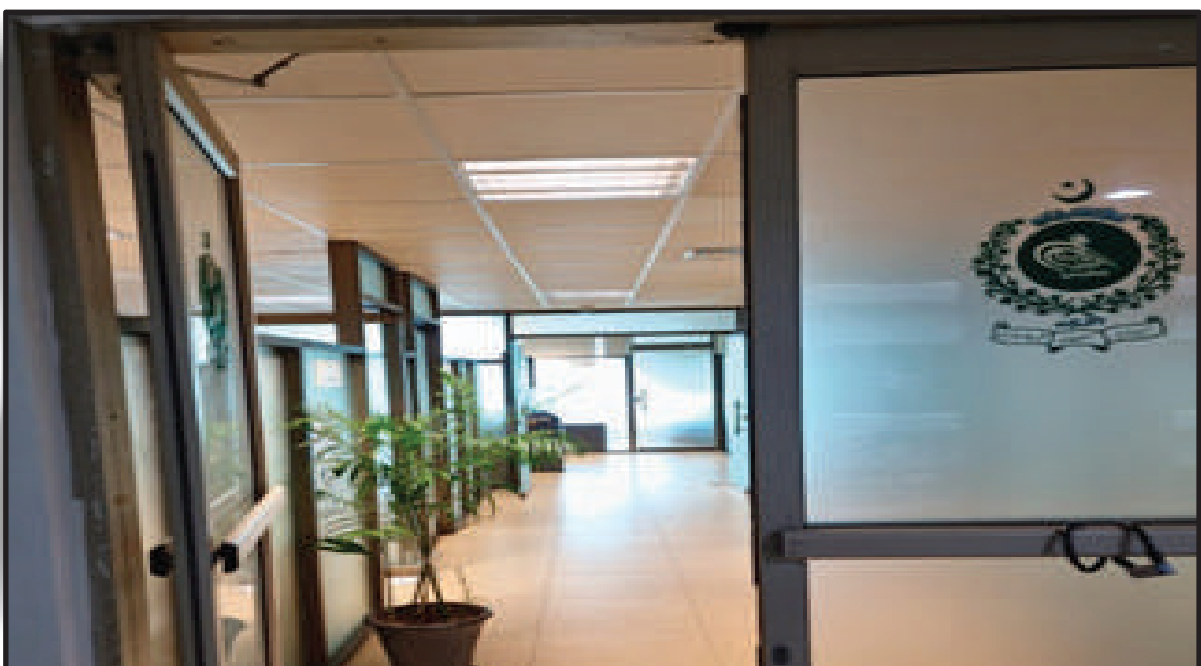
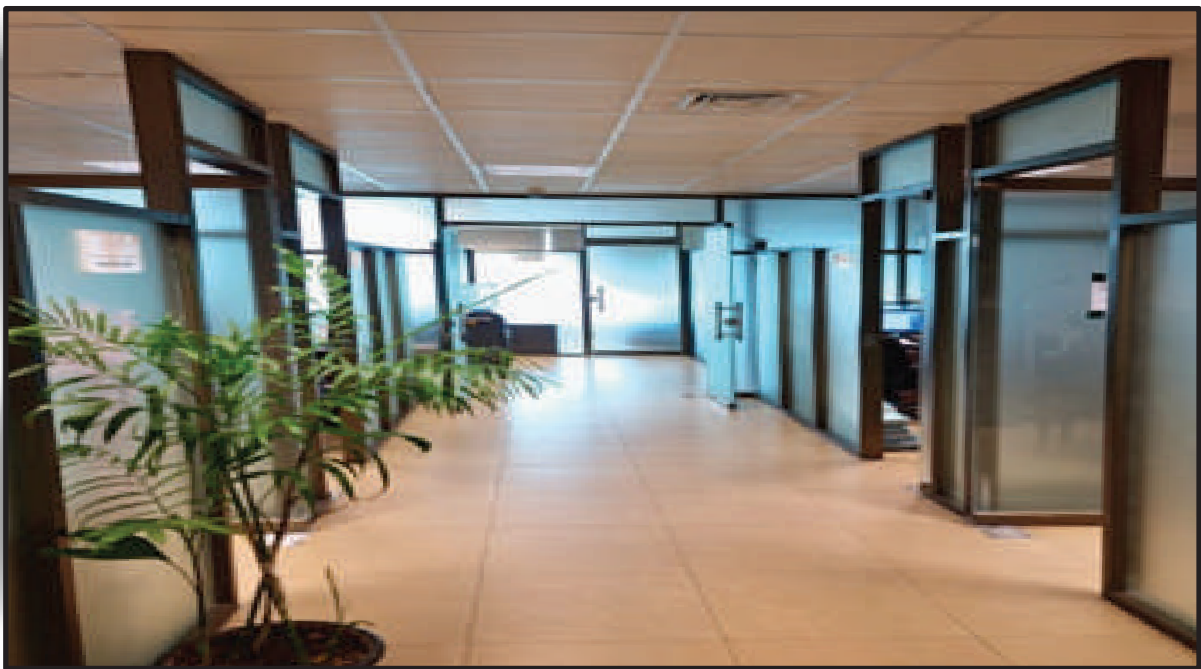
1.11 HALLWAY HERITAGE / MUSEUM OF ECP

The Lobby is renovated to reflect heritage of the Election Commission of Pakistan, showcasing its history of 60 years of progress with documents and artifacts.



1.12 ADDING OFFICE SPACE AT KOHSAR BLOCK THROUGH FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ALLOCATION

Facing an acute shortage of space, ECP was allotted three halls measuring 6688 sq. ft by the Ministry of Housing and Works at Kohsar Block on 15th September 2022. The Wings namely Political Finance, Accounts & Budget, GS, and Gender and Social Inclusion have been shifted there. The space was completely renovated and offices were established for the above said wings.



1.13 RENOVATION OF VISITOR'S ROOM

The Visitor Room of this Commission's Secretariat was completely renovated in 2020. New furniture, visitor chairs and cabinet AC, and roll-up blinds have also been installed.



1.14 UPGRADATION OF CAFETERIA FACILITY

Previously, there existed a small canteen in ECP lacking in many basic facilities. In 2021, a proper cafeteria was established with enhanced seating capacity for the employees to provide hygienic meals at subsidized rates in a better ambience. Currently, the cafeteria can accommodate 70 people, including a dedicated seating area for female staff. The cafeteria is supervised by a Committee comprising senior female officers mostly and is a popular spot.





1.15 UPLIFTING OF THE GYM

The gym is an essential component to provide improved health facilities to the employees. The gym has been upgraded with the installation of new exercise machines for employees, helping them to maintain their health and fitness.



1.16 ESTABLISHMENT OF R&I And RECEPTION

The R&I was originally located inside the building, causing inconvenience for couriers and dispatch riders, especially after working hours. Considering the security concerns and for the convenience of the visiting dispatch riders the R&I has been shifted along the boundary wall of ECP Secretariat close to the entrance gate.



1.17 NEW TRANSPORT FACILITY FOR THE EMPLOYEES OF ECP SECRETARIAT

A reliable transportation service ensures employees' arrival on time. To fulfill constitutional and legal obligations, officers of the Election Commission are required to perform various electoral activities in the field i.e physical surveys of census blocks for voter registration and verification and visiting polling stations, coordination with the District Returning Officers, Returning Officers, District Administration and other stakeholders. For this purpose a proper transport facility is vital to ensure the smooth execution of tasks/duties assigned. The Election Commission took special initiatives regarding provision of proper transport facilities to the officers of ECP Secretariat, Provincial headquarters and field offices.



Further, keeping in view the urgency and timely completion of official assignments during elections and other electoral activities, a pick-and-drop facility has been introduced for the first time to facilitate employees of this Secretariat to commute to and from the office in a comfortable and affordable manner. Furthermore, a dedicated vehicle has been allocated for female employees to ensure their convenient commuting. The transport service operates on four different routes, covering almost every area of the twin cities. Similarly, proper vehicles have been provided to the field offices.



1.18 NEW DAYCARE CENTER

The daycare centers help employees to balance their work and family responsibilities more effectively. This reduces the stress and emotional burden especially for female employees, which in turn improves their overall well being and job satisfaction. For this purpose, the Commission has provided a proper facility of daycare center. The ECP Secretariat's daycare center has been equipped with the modern facilities including a dedicated area for sleeping, playing, activity and recreation along with other essential amenities for the kids. A flooring of thick underlay has been provided to ensure a safe and comfortable environment. Further the number of caretakers has been increased to provide better care and attention to the kids.



1.19 HUMAN RESOURCE WING

After the enactment of the 18th Amendment in the 1973 Constitution, the conduct of Local Government Elections was also entrusted to the Election Commission and thus workload of the Commission increased manifold. The Commission realizing sensitivity of the additional constitutional obligations took a number of initiatives for restructuring the Wings and its field offices to conform to the requirements and in keeping with a futuristic outlook. In consultation with the Heads of wings of ECP Secretariat and Provincial Election Commissioners, the workload and manpower of different wings of ECP Secretariat and Field Offices was re-assessed and following steps were taken:

- New job descriptions were defined in keeping with available strength and assigned workload and fresh tasks were assigned with foreseeable/tangible goals.
- Each sanctioned post was tracked and recorded on a spread sheet. Proper historical context with an eye to the future was kept in view in the whole exercise.
- Designated officers and complementary staff were re-evaluated in a corporate manner.
- Old cumbersome posts were abolished and new impactful ones were created as needed.

Considering the prodigious duty of Local Government Elections entrusted to the Commission by the 18th Amendment in the Constitution, increased workload and responsibilities stemming out of new scenarios, whereby new Divisions and Districts were created affecting the revenue boundaries in Provinces, the CEC personally engaged with the team in HR Wing's re-engineering and rationalization exercise of the available resources with a forward vision. After gathering relevant data, the Review and Rationalization of human resource exercise was initiated in the first quarter of 2020. The rationale was to optimize employee performance in keeping with requirement at both the Secretariat and the field offices. In the first phase, the rationalization process of HR was undertaken in the ECP Secretariat.

A. REVIEW AND RATIONALIZATION OF HR

Political Finance Wing was reformed to maintain financial discipline with a new technical cadre as against previously, whereby officers of general cadre, being non-technical, were performing the duties. Law Wing was beefed-up with addition of key posts. The Project Management Unit was incorporated for development of key digital projects. Job descriptions of posts were framed to bring equilibrium with the duties and responsibilities of officers. Resultantly, at ECP Secretariat, 67 new posts of officers and officials from BS-02 to BS-21 were created, besides, 21 were abolished, considered obsolete. Furthermore, 08 posts were re-designated and 04 were downgraded. After completion of rationalization process, the Secretariat emerged as a more specialized and professionally strengthened entity:

Sanctioned strength prior to Rationalization	Sanctioned strength after Rationalization	Existing strength as on December, 2024
364	410	548

B RATIONALIZATION IN PROVINCIAL ELECTION COMMISSIONERS' AND FIELD OFFICES

The process was thereafter extended to the Provincial Headquarters and field offices to restructure and fortify the HR with the ultimate aim of achieving the constitutional duties.

STANDARDIZATION OF SANCTIONED POSTS

I. CATEGORIZATION OF DISTRICTS AND STAFF STRENGTH

For the first time in the ECP's history a categorization of districts was made on the basis of number of constituencies of National Assembly and Provincial Assemblies. Each Regional Election Commissioner (REC) and District Election Commissioner (DEC) was provided with staff according to the workload and categorization of the districts as per below mentioned details:

Sl. No.	Districts	No. of National Assembly Constituencies	Uniformly allocated Staff
1	Category-A	04 or more	14/16 (including 2 Officers)
2	Category-B	02 or 03	13/14(including 2 Officers)
3	Category-C	01 NA	12/13(including 2 Officers)

II. STAFF STRENGTH OF REC OFFICES

Sl.No.	Post	Uniformly allocated Staff
1.	Officers	04
2.	Officials	13
Total		17 *

*For better representation of ECP at legal fora, 01 AD (law) and 2 support staff have been additionally provided to the REC offices, where the benches of High Courts exist.

To extend IT support to the field offices, posts of Assistant Director (IT) (BS-17) were created at divisional level supported by a Data Entry Operator. Besides, posts of Deputy Assistant Director (Accounts) (BS-16) for proper account maintenance were created.

III. EFFECT OF RATIONALIZATION IN THE PROVINCES

During the first phase of rationalization of HR in Punjab province, 65 posts of officers and officials were created at Provincial HQs and 71 at field offices. The second phase of rationalization was completed in November, 2021 wherein, 86 posts of officers and officials were created at field offices. 59 surplus posts of staff at Regional and District levels were adjusted in different field offices in view of the deficiency of staff. Furthermore, 39 redundant ones were abolished from field offices.

During the rationalization of HR in Sindh province, 40 posts of officers and officials were created at Provincial HQs and 111 at field offices. Besides, adjusting 10 according to the workload within the field offices. Whereas, 56 redundant posts from field offices were abolished.

In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province, 19 posts of officers and officials were created at Provincial HQ and 143 at field offices. Besides, 22 staff positions were adjusted. Furthermore, 22 redundant ones from Provincial HQ & field offices were abolished.

Furthermore, in Balochistan Province 22 posts of officers and officials were created at Provincial HQs and 172 at field offices. Whereas, 25 posts of officials from field offices were abolished and 03 were adjusted as per requirement.

Accordingly, the detail of present sanctioned posts is appended below:

Province	Headquarters / Field Offices	Sanctioned strength prior to Rationalization	Sanctioned strength after Rationalization	Existing strength as on December, 2024
Punjab	Headquarters	111	176	184
	Field Offices	672	790	886
Sindh	Headquarters	113	153	147
	Field Offices	469	524	530
KP	Headquarters	120	137	138
	Field Offices	436	559	578
Balochistan	Headquarters	91	113	119
	Field Offices	398	545	575
Total		2410	2997	3157

IV. BENEFITS OF REVIEW AND RATIONALIZATION

- The process of review and rationalization has clearly resulted demarcation of mandate with the officers/officials as against previous setup where there were overlapping functions and consequently confusion.
- 1139 posts have been created from BS-21 & below including few MP positions to rationalize HR across the country, for various electoral activities as per constitutional obligation of ECP.
- To reduce burden on the national ex-chequer, 208 posts were abolished being redundant and having no further utility.
- The sanctioned strength of ECP has accordingly been worked up from 2774 to 3705 with clear job descriptions to distribute the workload due to added functions of Local Government Elections for PF, IT and Law Wings, which have been revamped and strengthened in accordance with day to day functions.

V. OVERALL IMPACT OF REVIEW AND RATIONALIZATION

- The Establishment Wing has been transformed into a **dynamic Human Resource Wing** on corporate lines emerging as a facilitative career oriented entity rather than a restrictive and conservative one.
- A fully functional **Secretariat for CEC** has been established catering to efficient functioning and speedy disposal of matters.
- A modern, **digitized Political Finance Wing** re-organized with induction of highly qualified officers and staff having specialized expertise.
- Budget and Accounts** section under Political Finance Wing has also been expanded by creation of 36 new posts of Deputy Assistant Directors (Accounts)(BS-16) in field offices to conduct the internal audit functions and ensure transparency at the grass root level.
- IT support** has been extended to the field offices, foreseeing the anticipated enhanced digital functions by creation of the posts of Assistant Directors (IT) and Data Entry Operators.
- A dedicated **Project Management Unit** has been set up by hiring services of qualified professionals in MP scales with specialized developers for the development and implementation of IT related projects and to keep the operation side distinct from the policy side.

- g. A fully functional **Development Section** was established with professional outreach to field offices for high paced infrastructure development and transformation into a modern forward-looking corporate organization which would ordinarily have taken a long time to be operative.
- h. A responsive and refurbished Administration Wing.
- i. A **Human Resource Wing** with distinct operations through creating two (02) new sections viz. Discipline Litigation and Career Planning (DL&CP) and Human Resource Management System (HRMS) provide a digital interface for public convenience.
- j. To strengthen and **reinforce Law Wing**, a Director (Law) (BS-19) and Legal Consultant at the Secretariat and Assistant Directors (Law) (BS-17) at divisional level were appointed for better representation of ECP at different legal fora.
- k. A professionally equipped **Media Coordination and Outreach Wing (MCO)** with a modern outlook with added HR at ECP Secretariat and Provincial Headquarters.
- l. A transformed digitized **Monitoring & Evaluation Wing (M&E)** with a modern Election Monitoring Control Centre (EMCC) fully digitized.
- m. A well-coordinated and **dynamic Elections Wing**.
- n. A strengthened **Local Government Elections Wing**.
- o. An expanded **Modern Gender and Social Inclusion Wing** catering to inclusiveness of both gender and other marginalized groups [Differently abled, transgender, minorities].
- p. A progressive evaluation based **Training, Research and Evaluation Wing**
- q. A strengthened **Electoral Rolls Wing** with enhanced outreach.
- r. A Modernized **Information Technology Wing** reorganized into Policy and Operations side distinctly.
- s. Strengthening of PEC, REC and DEC offices following a standardization approach.

1.20 CAREER ADVANCEMENT

Career advancement is integral to an effective human resource management strategy that mutually benefits the organization viz-a-viz its employees. Legitimate expectations of officers for promotion had been suffering for a long time, due to the delayed conduct of meetings of Departmental Promotion/Selection Committees previously. The process of DPCs/DSCs was improved by holding periodic meetings regularly and by evaluating officers according to their performance on merit, particularly focusing on the pen picture of the training reports rather on the basis of seniority-cum-fitness only. Merit based promotions were ensured to uplift the organization and to remove dead wood. A record number of 499 promotions were made in a span of 5 years. To ensure timely promotion of officers and officials 21 Departmental Promotion/Selection Committees' meetings for promotion to BS-17 and above were held. Besides, 53 meetings of Promotion Committees were also held for employees of BS-16 and below. Resultantly, 499 employees got promoted from 2020 till date to higher grades by recognizing their hard work, dedication and commitment, keeping merit first approach. The following are grade wise promotions:

Sl. #	BS	ECP Sectt.	Punjab	Sindh	KP		Total
1	BS-21	05	-	-	-	-	05
2	BS-20	17	-	-	-	-	17
3	BS-19	28	-	-	-	-	28
4	BS-18	94	-	-	-	-	94
5	BS-17	98	-	-	-	-	98
6	BS-16	03	07	05	03	06	24
7	BS-15	12	34	21	13	19	99
8	BS-13	18	35	06	08	17	84
9	BS-11	10	10	05	14	09	48
10	BS-05	-	-	01	-	01	02
Total		285	86	38	38	52	499

Where regular promotion prospects were observed to be limited, time scale/upgradation to higher scales were granted to 1893 employees from BS-01 to 18 as per below mentioned detail:

Sl.No.	Name of Post	No. of Officers & Officials
1	Deputy Director (MCO)	02
2	Senior Librarian/Dy. Director (Library)	01
3	Senior Personal Assistant (BS-17)	03
4	Senior Assistant (BS-16)	168
5	Data Processing Supervisor (BS-16)	01
6	Junior Personal Assistant (BS-15)	55
7	Data Entry Operators (BS-15)	260
8	Hardware Technician (BS-14)	01
9	Junior Assistant (BS-13)	198
10	Sub Assistant (BS-11)	257
11	Security Camera Operators/SMO (BS-09)	02
12	Staff Car Drivers (BS-07)	198
13	Duplicate Machine Operator (BS-07)	01
14	Dispatch Rider (BS-07)	36
15	Daftry (BS-06/07)	10
16	Quasid (BS-05/06)	06
17	Naib Quasid (BS-04/05)	396
18	Cook (BS-05)	01
19	Mali (BS-04)	12
20	Chowkidar (BS-04)	271
21	Sweeper (BS-04)	13
22	Farash (BS-04)	01
Total		1893

1.21 RECRUITMENT

The process of filling of vacant posts of officials was halted in 2019 and official business was suffering for which induction of fresh blood was imperative for smooth functioning of the organization. For the purpose of recruitment and to ensure merit and transparency, ECP introduced the modern technology of Optical Mark Recognition (OMR), which substantially reduced human intervention in the marking of papers of candidates. To ensure timely recruitments, an unprecedented 68 Departmental Selection Committees (DSCs) meetings were held for the regular cadre and 59 for the technical cadre to recruit competent human resources resulting in transparent and merit-based recruitments of 1091 employees comprising 153 BS-17 & above officers including MP scales on competitive market based pay packages.

A. RECRUITMENT OF ELECTION OFFICERS

The process of recruitment of 77 posts of Election Officers across the country could not be held since 2018. The Federal Public Service Commission (FPSC) was requested to hold the examination but it did not materialize. Consequently, all phases of the examination were viably conducted by the ECP. The Election Commission of Pakistan advertised 77 posts of Election Officers on 29th April, 2020 inviting therein submission of applications from eligible candidates via Online Recruitment System (ORS), followed by dispatch of hard copies of applications. A total number of 125,022 applications were received which were scrutinized on the basis of eligibility criteria given in the advertisement.

Resultantly, 104,596 candidates became eligible for preliminary MCQs based examination which was conducted at 216 designated examination centers on 7th March, 2021. The ORS System including OMR Scanners and Bar Coded Answer Sheets was used in the marking of papers. A total of 395 candidates were found eligible to meet the threshold marks set for shortlisting of candidates for the next phase of English Essay writing examination. The candidates were shortlisted and called for descriptive English Essay writing examination, followed by an interview. On the basis of overall assessment and aggregate marks obtained, the DSC recommended 77 candidates for appointment as Election Officers (BS-17).

It is also apt to underscore that multiple Monitoring Teams were designated/deputed in order to counteract any potential influences that could undermine the recruitment process. Adherence to the principles of merit and transparency was strictly ensured. After induction of a batch of 77 EOs, a comprehensive plan for imparting training to the newly appointed officers was devised. The officers underwent four months multidisciplinary Pre-Service Training.

B. DETAILS OF RECRUITMENTS

Details of recruitment made since 2020 are tabulated below:

S #	Grade	ECP Sectt	Punjab	Sindh	KP	Balochistan	Total
1	MP-I	2	-	-	-	-	2
2	MP-II	1	-	-	-	-	1
3	MP-III	1	-	-	-	-	1
4	BS-20	2	-	-	-	-	2
5	BS-19	1	-	-	-	-	1
6	BS-18	7	-	-	-	-	7
7	BS-17	131	-	-	-	-	131
8	BS-16	40	-	-	-	-	40
9	BS-15	6	6	12	2	12	38
10	BS-14	45	110	63	43	45	306
11	BS-13	14	14	18	4	16	66
12	BS-11	33	36	43	35	54	201
13	BS-09	01	-	-	-	-	01
14	BS-05	11	15	8	02	12	48
15	BS-03	1	-	-	-	-	1
16	BS-02	41	37	51	42	66	237
17	Project Posts / No Scale	8	-	-	-	-	8
Total		345	218	195	128	205	1091

C. KP & SINDH RECRUITMENT SCANDALS DEALT FIRMLY

The cognizance of illegal appointments in offices of PECs, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and Sindh was taken up by the Commission, as the appointments of individuals were made in violation of rules and procedures, based on nepotism/favoritism. These landmark cases were diligently pursued at FST, Islamabad, Karachi and then the Supreme Court of Pakistan. Through meticulous legal follow-up and compelling evidence, the ECP displayed its firm principled stance against irregularities and favoritism in recruitment practices. The Supreme Court's decision in favor of the ECP in these matters not only invalidated the illegal appointments but also reinforced the organization's role as a custodian of merit and institutional integrity. This has sent a clear message about ECP's commitment in upholding fairness and ensuring that all appointments should be made strictly in accordance with law, promoting trust and accountability.

1.22 HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Human Resource Management System (HRMS) provides means of acquiring, storing and analyzing the personal information of ECP's employees, and creates a seamless end-to-end process for the management of employees' personal data for prompt decision making and career planning. HRMS has been developed to facilitate the HR Wing for conducting these operations both at the Secretariat level and in offices of its Provincial Election Commissioners. Adoption of HRMS enables ECP to maintain the following:

- i. Data of former and in service employees.
- ii. Service History of the employees.
- iii. Service profile and service card through QR Code.
- iv. Record of Performance Evaluation Reports.
- v. Biometric Attendance of employees to ensure punctuality.
- vi. Issuance of appointment letters for newly recruited employees.
- vii. Progress/history of disciplinary proceedings and court cases.
- viii. Family Card for medical facility.
- ix. Record of leaves.

1.23 DISCIPLINE & LITIGATION

Discipline, Litigation and Career Planning (DL&CP) Branch has been exclusively established under the HR Wing for timely resolution of disciplinary matters, deterring inappropriate behavior and misconduct, and reinforcement of a culture of civility, transparency and responsibility among employees. In the past, disciplinary proceedings within the organization faced significant delays, leading to inefficiencies and pendency of a large number of unresolved cases. It also signaled to the employees that there was no accountability and retribution for their misdeeds. The old culture has now been replaced with one where efficiency is rewarded, and inefficiency and corruption do not find a foothold in ECP.

A. DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS

To ensure the timely completion of disciplinary proceedings, the Commission initiated holding regular meetings. These meetings are conducted on a monthly basis, both internally and with Provincial Election Commissioners (PECs) via video link under the chairmanship of the Chief Election Commissioner, which serve to review updates on ongoing disciplinary cases and to ensure proper legal follow-up in the Federal Service Tribunals and High Courts. This structured and well-coordinated approach reinforces accountability, enhances coordination, and facilitates the effective resolution of cases. Additionally, PEC offices submit progress reports regularly, providing updates on the status of disciplinary and court cases. This consistent reporting ensures prompt redressal and decision making effectively. These improvements reflect the organization's commitment to maintaining discipline, enhancing accountability, and fostering a culture of operational transparency.

The details of disciplinary proceedings and status thereof since 2020 are as below:

Category	Total Proceedings initiated	Penalties Imposed	Exonerated
Disciplinary Proceedings against ECP Officers & Officials	205	165	40
Disciplinary Proceedings against Election Officials from other Departments	20	2	18

B. COURT CASES RELATED TO SERVICE MATTERS

In the past, court cases pertaining to service matters were not being properly pursued and pleaded which caused delay in timely disposal of cases. To address the issue, a more structured approach was adopted by the Commission to streamline and pursue the court cases in an effective manner. The assignment was undertaken by the DL&CP Branch under Human Resource Wing in cooperation with the Law Wing.

It was decided that all cases filed in Federal Service Tribunal, High Courts and Supreme Court be followed-up jointly by the officers of HR and Law Wing along with designated Counsels. Similarly, at provincial headquarters, respective officers of Law Wing and Establishment Wing were directed to attend the court hearings jointly. Regular updates and briefings on these cases at the level of Secretary, along with monthly reviews by the Chief Election Commissioner, have strengthened oversight ensuring that ongoing litigation reaches a logical conclusion. Provincial Election Commissioners (PECs) also submit progress reports on court cases, after each hearing, ensuring that the Commission remains informed of the status of all legal proceedings and provide necessary input when required. The details of achievements with regard to cases of service matters are as under:-

Total Court Cases defended:	138
Decisions in favor of ECP:	110
Other Decisions:	28

2. ELECTION WING

Election Commission of Pakistan is under obligation to conduct elections to the office of the President, the Senate, National and Provincial Assemblies and local governments. Keeping in view the importance of the General Elections, it was imperative to strengthen the wing to ensure the quality and timely completion of all electoral assignments. Accordingly, Election Wing and field organizations were required to be reinforced before the General Elections 2024.

2.1 RE-ORGANIZATION OF ELECTION WING AND FIELD ORGANIZATIONS

Keeping in view the increased workload of general elections, subsequent bye-elections and additional assignment of conduct of local government elections, consequent upon the 18th Amendment to the Constitution, the reorganization of the Election Wing was considered necessary and in this regard, the following decisions were taken:

- i. There was one post of Additional Director General (Elections) who was heading the Election Wing. Keeping in view the workload and for reduction of burden, a new post of Additional Director General was created. The work of Election wing was distributed between the two ADGs i.e., ADG (Election-I) and ADG (Election-II), which helped in smooth conduct of various elections.
- ii. There was one post of Joint Provincial Election Commissioner (JPEC) at each Provincial Headquarter who was responsible to supervise all administrative, HR and elections related activities. In order to rationalize the workload, a new post of JPEC for each provincial headquarter was created. The posts of JPECs were designated as JPEC(Elections) and JPEC(Admn). The JPEC (Elections) now exclusively supervises all electoral activities in the province.

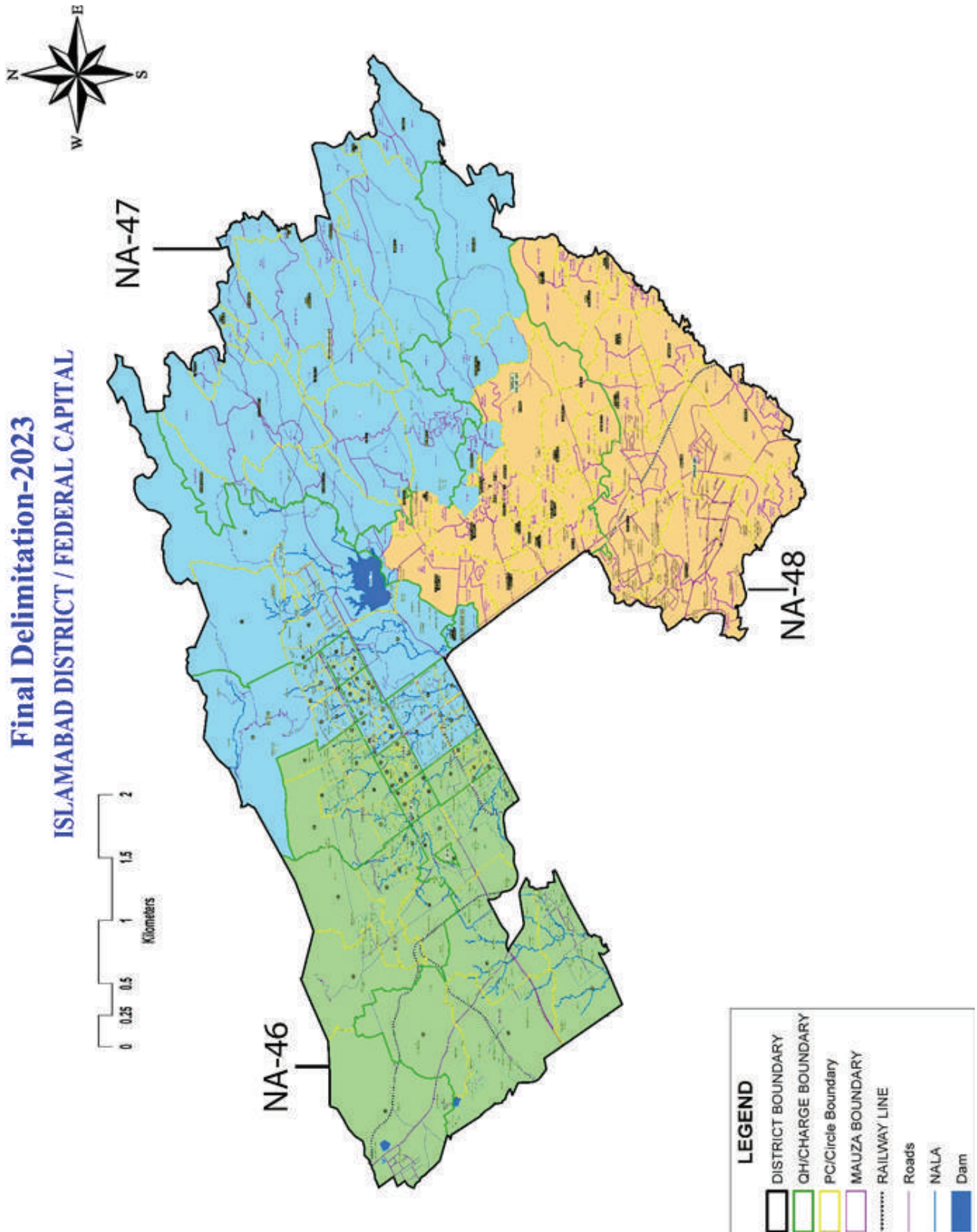
2.2 DIGITIZATION OF MAPS

Delimitation of constituencies is one of the core responsibilities of the Election Commission under Article 219 of the Constitution. ECP had to conduct delimitation of constituencies twice in two consecutive years i.e. 2022 and 2023. As a result of publication of provisional results of 6th Population Census 2017 by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS), the Election Commission carried out delimitation before the General Election 2018. However, Council of Common Interest (CCI) approved the final results of Census 2017, which made it imperative for the Commission to conduct delimitation of constituencies in 2022. Afterward, the Federal Government conducted the 7th digital population census in 2023, resultantly the delimitation of constituencies as per published result of census was carried out again based on the 7th Population Census.

Amongst other things the maps are used as primary documents during delimitation of constituencies. In the past, manual maps were used for delimitation exercises as well as during hearing and disposal of representations. In the years 2022 and 2023, during delimitation, digital maps were used for the first time for the convenience of Delimitation Committees and the voters of the constituencies. This step improved the quality of maps and provided facility to the stakeholders for pleading their representations of delimitation before the Commission. Digitized maps were used for facilitation in the following manner:

- i. Preliminary maps prepared by the Delimitation Committees were uploaded on the ECP's website to facilitate the voters and general public.
- ii. Plain maps of districts were scanned and also uploaded on the ECP's website for the convenience of voters in filing of representations.
- iii. Preliminary maps of delimitation published by the Commission as well as proposed maps submitted by the appellants were displayed on screen during hearing of the cases before the Commission.
- iv. Final maps of delimitation were also displayed on the ECP's website for public information.

LATEST DIGITIZED MAP (SAMPLE)



2.3 IMPROVEMENT AND TRANSLATION OF FORM-45 INTO URDU

Result of the Count (Form-45) is the vital document that the Presiding Officer prepares after completion of counting of ballot papers at a polling station. The Form is the primary source for compilation of provisional results and ultimately the final result. In order to make it user friendly and reliable, following interventions have been made for the General Election 2024:

- Form-45 was translated into Urdu for convenience of Presiding Officers and candidates so that it can easily be filled and read.
- Names of contesting candidates were pre-printed on Form-45 in Urdu alphabetical order to reduce error and to improve the visibility of results as well as to facilitate the Presiding Officers in result tabulation. To check the efficacy, multiple pilot tests were conducted in the bye-elections, hence after fruitful results and with the approval of the Commission, this form was used during General Election-2024 and subsequent bye-elections.
- Exclusive space for appending signature of Polling Agents has been provided in the Form to increase the transparency and authenticity.

PREVIOUS FORM-45

FORM-45
[see rule 81(1)]

RESULT OF THE COUNT

*National Assembly
Election to the Provincial Assembly of the Punjab
Sindh
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
Balochistan

No. and name of constituency =
No. and name of polling station =
No. of votes assigned to the polling station: = Male.....Female.....Total.....

Sr. No.	Names of the contesting Candidates	Number of valid votes polled in favour of each contesting candidate	Number of valid Tendered votes polled in favour of each contesting candidate	Number of valid Challenged votes polled in favour of each contesting candidate	Total valid votes polled in favour of each contesting candidate [Cols (3)+(4)+(5)]
1	2	3	4	5	6
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
Total					

(i) Total valid votes (column 6)

(ii) Number of votes excluded from the count in accordance with section 90 (4)(c) of the Elections Act 2017:

Votes taken out from the ballot boxes which have been excluded from the count:

Tendered votes which have been excluded from the count:

Challenged votes which have been excluded from the count:

Total

(iii) Grand total [sum of (i) and (ii)]

(iv)	Number of votes polled	Male	Female	Total

Signature of Senior-most Assistant Presiding Officer.....
Name.....
Designation.....
Thumb impression.....
NIC No.

Signature of the Presiding Officer.....
Name.....
Designation.....
Thumb impression.....
NIC No.

Place.....
Date.....

*Strike off the words not applicable.

UPDATED FORM-45

فارم-45

[ریفرنڈم کا ذریعہ (1) 81]

مقامی کارڈ

ایکشن برائے قومی اسمبلی اور صوبائی اسمبلی پنجاب / سندھ / خیبر پختونخوا / بلوچستان

انتخابی ضلے کا نمبر اور نام

پانچ اسٹیشن کا نمبر اور نام

پانچ اسٹیشن پر تھیں کردہ ووٹوں کی تعداد		مرد	خواتین	کل تعداد
سرکاری نمبر	پانچ اسٹیشن کے مطابق انتخاب میں حصہ لینے والے امیدواروں کے نام	ووٹوں کی تعداد	ووٹوں کی تعداد (Tendered)	درست ووٹوں کی تعداد (4) + (5) (کل) (3)
1	2	3	4	5
1	ابرار حسن			
2	ادیس رضا			
3	سماء علی			
4	ظفر اللہ خان			
5	علی رضا			
6	عنایت اللہ			
7	قاسم محمود			
8	یاد عباس			
9	بیگم خان			
10	یعقوب علی			
کل تعداد				
(A) درست ووٹوں کی کل تعداد (کل ووٹوں کی تعداد)				
(B) کل سے متعلقہ ووٹوں کی تعداد (ایکٹر کا نمبر 2017 کی سیکشن 90 (C4) کے مطابق)				
(i) پانچ اسٹیشن سے زیادہ ووٹوں کی تعداد جو کل سے خارج کی گئی				
(ii) کل سے متعلقہ ووٹوں کی تعداد جو (Tendered) ووٹوں کی تعداد				
(iii) کل سے متعلقہ ووٹوں کی تعداد جو (Challenged) ووٹوں کی تعداد				
(B) مجموعہ				
(C) کل برائے (A) + (B)				
(D) اگلے گئے ووٹوں کی تعداد		مرد	خواتین	کل تعداد
سیکرٹریز اسسٹنٹ پریذیڈنٹ آفیسر		پریذیڈنٹ آفیسر		
نام:-		نام:-		
عہدہ:-		عہدہ:-		
پہلے نمبر:-		پہلے نمبر:-		
قومی شناختی کارڈ نمبر		قومی شناختی کارڈ نمبر		
نشان انگوشت		نشان انگوشت		
نشان انگوشت		نشان انگوشت		
پریذیڈنٹ آفیسر کی تحریر (Note)				

جگہ: تاریخ: وقت:

ایم ایف 45/2020
فارم 45 (ایکٹر کا نمبر 2017 کی سیکشن 90 (C4) کے مطابق)

2.4 CONDUCT OF BYE ELECTIONS

Legally, the bye elections against vacant seats in the National and Provincial Assemblies are held within 60 days of occurrence of vacancies. Traditionally, the sitting Government wins these elections. However, during the bye-elections held between the years 2020 to 2023, the Commission ensured strict compliance with laws and rules and also provided a level playing field to all the political parties and contestants. Resultantly, the bye-elections remained highly competitive, and most of the vacant seats were won by candidates of opposition parties which is a measure of impartiality of the ECP. In 2021, 15 (Fifteen) bye-elections were held whereas sitting Government of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf won two seats and the opposition secured 13 (Thirteen) seats. In 2022, the bye-elections on 36 (Thirty Six) vacant seats were held whereas the political parties affiliated with the sitting government of Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) won 8 (Eight) seats and the opposition party i.e Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf won 27 (Twenty Seven) seats.

The statistics of results of bye elections are given as under:-

Year	No of Bye elections held		No of bye election won by the political parties in the government		No of bye election won by the political parties in the opposition		No of bye election won by Independent Candidates	
	NA	PA	NA	PA	NA	PA	NA	PA
2021	5	10	1	1	4	9	0	0
2022	12	24	3	5	9	18	0	1
2023	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0

The above trend of victory reflects the transparency of elections, and the strong impartial oversight of the ECP.

2.5 BYE-ELECTION NA-75 SIALKOT-IV

It has always been the endeavor of the Election Commission to ensure electoral transparency in elections. A bye-election was held in February, 2021, in NA-75 Sialkot-IV and during the poll, reports of firing and unrest in the constituency were received and the Inspector General of Police was pre-sensitized for taking appropriate measures to ensure a peaceful poll but it did not materialize. During the poll two persons were murdered at the polling stations. After the close of poll, the Returning Officer received results from all polling stations except for 20. The RO tried to contact the missing Presiding Officers but failed. Hence, he approached the Election Commission when the local administration and law enforcement agencies did not assist in locating the missing presiding officers. The Chief Election Commissioner of Pakistan immediately took cognizance of the matter and contacted with the administrative machinery of the province at the highest level and other relevant agencies of the Federal Government. Due to personal efforts by the Commission and high level engagement, the missing presiding officers reached the RO office, in the next morning of 20th February, 2021. In the light of report of the Returning Officer, the result of bye-election was stopped and after the conduct of fact-finding inquiry by the Commission, it was declared null and void and a re-poll was ordered across the constituency. To dig out the matter,

ECP also summoned Chief Secretary and IG Punjab for appearing before the Commission. The Deputy Commissioner Sialkot, DPO Sialkot, DSP Sambrial, DSP Daska and Assistant Commissioner Daska were placed under suspension.

The decision of ECP for declaring the poll void was challenged by the aggrieved contesting candidate before the Supreme Court. However, the Supreme Court dismissed the petition and upheld the decision of ECP. In order to investigate the factual position of the events, ECP constituted two Inquiry Committees. The Committee led by the then JPEC, Punjab after thorough probe furnished its findings that a well-planned rigging conspiracy was hatched before the election in collaboration with local administration and certain influential persons. The Election Commission in light of the report of the Committee initiated disciplinary proceedings against the officials deputed to conduct the election and others involved in the rigging. Criminal complaints were also filed. The accused got relief from the Courts on the grounds that they were no longer election officials after the conduct of bye-election. Hence the Commission did not have jurisdiction to initiate proceedings against them although the law is quite clear about this. Subsequently, ECP decided to contest the order and Intra-court appeal in the case was filed before the Lahore High Court, which is to date pending for adjudication. It may be stated that in case the culprits are made accountable, it will send a strong message for others to refrain from commission of such malpractices.

2.6 APPOINTMENT OF DROs AND ROs

The appointment of District Returning Officers and the Retuning Officers is critical for smooth and impartial conduct of election. The District Returning Officer is appointed to supervise the election activities being performed by the ROs under his jurisdiction in the district. Whereas, the RO is appointed for each constituency. Sections 50 and 51 of the Elections Act, 2017 provide the following three options to the Election Commission for the appointment of DROs and ROs:

- i. From its own officers, subject to availability.
- ii. From Executive officers of Federal or Provincial Governments.
- iii. From subordinate Judiciary after consultation with concerned Chief Justice.

To ensure smooth and undisputed elections, it was decided that preferably services of judicial officers may be obtained for the conduct of General Election-2024. For this purpose, Chief Election Commissioner met with the Hon'ble Chief Justice of Pakistan and Hon'ble Chief Justice of Lahore High Court and the matter was also taken up officially with all High Courts. Unfortunately, the services of judicial officers for appointment as DROs and ROs could not be secured therefore, the DROs and ROs were appointed from the executive.

2.7 GENERAL ELECTION 2024 AND SUBSEQUENT BYE-ELECTIONS

To complete the operation of the General Election 2024 in a transparent and smooth manner, the Commission took the following steps: -

- i. After the publication of results of the census 2023, the Commission held consultative meetings with the major political parties to obtain their feedback on the conduct of fresh delimitation and updatation of electoral rolls.
- ii. For effective implementation of law and rules and to comply with section 233 of the Elections Act, 2017 a consultative meeting was convened with the political parties to finalize the code of conduct and its implementation by the political parties and contestants. During the

elections, the Commission ensured the implementation of the code of conduct at all stages of elections, by placing proper monitoring mechanisms.

- iii. The perception that the General Election will be delayed for an indefinite period was dispelled by the Commission by conducting the Election on 8th February 2024.
- iv. SOPs for establishment of polling stations, appointment of polling staff, installation of CCTV cameras on highly sensitive polling stations and storage of polling materials were reviewed / updated and circulated for compliance.
- v. Keeping in view the law and order situation in the country, especially in the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan, meetings with the Provincial Governments and Law enforcement agencies were held, resultantly elections in 2024 were conducted in a peaceful manner without any major violence, comparing with general election 2018. The statistical data of the violence during campaign and poll day is as under:-

Sr. No	Detail of major incidents	General Elections 2018	General Elections 2024
1	2	3	4
1.	Suicide attacks on election rallies and target killing of contesting candidates	162 Casualties (including three contesting candidates)	6 Casualties (including two contesting candidates)
2.	Suicide attacks / target killing on poll day	31 Casualties (General public)	8 Casualties (Security personnel)

- vi. Compliance with section 83 of the Elections Act, 2017 was ensured by deploying security personnel outside the polling stations.

Following culmination of process of General Elections-2024, the Election Commission conducted bye-elections on 23 vacant seats within 60 days as per its constitutional mandate. A total of 28 bye-elections have been held in the year-2024.

2.8 CONDUCT OF PRESIDENTIAL AND SENATE ELECTIONS

After the General Election 2024 and completion of the electoral college, the Commission without any delay issued Election Programme for conduct of Election to the office of the President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on 1st March, 2024 and made all necessary arrangements within the shortest possible time to conduct Presidential Election on 9th March, 2024 in a smooth manner. The conduct of Senate Elections were required to be conducted before 11th March, 2024 but due to non-completion of the electoral college, the same was pending. However, after the conduct of General Election 2024 the Commission fulfilled its constitutional obligations and conducted the Senate Elections on 2nd April, 2024.

3. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS WING

Articles 140A(2) and 219(d) of the Constitution provide that Local Government Elections shall be conducted by the Election Commission of Pakistan, whereas, under Article 222(b) of the Constitution, carrying-out delimitation of Local Government Constituencies is also the mandate of the Commission. For the sake of convenience, Article 140A(2) is reproduced as under;

ELECTIONS TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS SHALL BE HELD BY THE ELECTION COMMISSION OF PAKISTAN.

It is a well known fact that no Federal and Provincial Government was willing to hold Local Government Elections as they were not ready to share the administrative or financial powers at the grassroots level. However, despite various hurdles created by the Federal and respective Provincial Governments, the Election Commission dedicatedly and successfully conducted the Local Government Elections in three provinces i.e. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (in two phases), Sindh (in two phases) Balochistan as well as in Cantonment Boards. The details or the number of direct and indirect seats on which elections were conducted are as under:

Province	No. of direct seats	No. of indirect seats
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	29615	
Balochistan	6567	8248
Sindh	7591	16934

Moreover, the Commission by focusing hard and to fulfill its constitutional and legal obligations for conducting LG Elections, not only held, several meetings with the concerned Ministers and Chief Ministers, but also summoned the relevant top level authorities i.e. Chief Secretaries, Secretaries Law, Local Government Departments and Inspectors General of Police of the respective provinces during regular hearings of the cases.

In order to conduct Local Government Elections in a free, fair and transparent manner, the Commission took strict actions on violation of Local Government Laws and code of conduct against violators including provincial ministers and other important politicians.

Historically speaking, the Local Government Elections were marred by violence and large number of fatalities. However, due to strong oversight of the Commission at the highest level and rigorous monitoring to ensure security, least number of fatalities and injuries were reported during the said polls.

3.1 DELAY IN CONDUCT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS IN PUNJAB AND ICT

In Punjab province, ECP carried-out the most hectic and lengthy delimitation process thrice and also completed the process of enlistment of Electoral Groups twice. However, each time, when ECP was all set to hold LG Election, the Provincial Governments of the time changed the Local Government Laws, resultantly, all the steps taken by the Commission became redundant. From 2019 till date, five (05) sets of Local Government Laws have been changed by the successive Governments of Punjab.

With regard to Islamabad Capital Territory, ECP also made every effort to conduct LG Elections and in this regard, carried-out delimitation exercise four times, however, due to change in number of Union Councils, non-provision of required notifications / documents and change of Local Government Laws by the successive Federal Governments, all the steps taken by the ECP went in vain and Local Government Elections could not be conducted till date.

Besides, the Election Commission pleaded the case regarding delay in conduct of Local Government Elections in Punjab and ICT in the Supreme Court of Pakistan and the respective High Courts. The Commission also submitted detailed reports highlighting therein the preparations and steps taken by the Commission towards conduct of LG Elections as well as reasons for delay by the Federal and Provincial Governments from time to time.

To ensure conduct of Local Government Elections within the legal time frame of 120 days of the expiry of term of Local Government Institutions, the Commission had approached the Federal Government and proposed amendment to Section-219 of the Elections Act, 2017, which is reproduced below:-

“(7) The Federal Government or as the case may be the Provincial Government shall make necessary arrangements including amendments to the existing local government laws and rules, and change or alteration in administrative limits of districts, tehsils and local areas, before the expiry of the term of Local Government.

Provided that the Federal Government or as the case may be, the Provincial Government shall not alter the administrative limits of districts, tehsils, urban and rural local areas after the expiry of term of the Local Government.

Provided that, in case the existing Local Government system is required to be replaced completely with the new local government system or substantially altered during its currency by any Government, then such enactment shall be made by an act of Majlis-e-Shoora (Parliament) or the Provincial Assembly as the case may be, at least one year prior to the expiry of the local government”.

The proposed amendment has not been supported by the Federal Government, however, the Commission by taking cognizance of delay in conduct of LG Elections in Punjab and ICT, fixed the matter in regular hearing on 22nd October 2024. Notices were issued to the Secretary, Ministry of Interior, Chief Commissioner, Islamabad (for LGE-ICT), Chief Secretary, Punjab and Secretary, Local Government Department, Punjab (for LGE-Punjab) to appear before the Commission. The Commission strictly directed the representatives of both the governments to complete the legislative process at the earliest so that ECP could proceed further for conduct of LG Elections. It was conveyed that in case of further delay from the respective Governments, the Commission is determined to issue a Speaking Order for holding elections in Punjab and ICT.

4. ELECTORAL ROLLS WING

4.1 BACKGROUND

Electoral Rolls are records of every citizen who is registered as a voter and is eligible to vote. Historically, maintaining accurate and up-to-date electoral rolls, ensuring a comprehensive voter registration and verification process, and preventing duplicate or fraudulent entries have been persistent challenges for all Election Management Bodies across the world.

4.2 MANDATE OF THE ELECTION COMMISSION AND SPECIAL INITIATIVES

Article 219 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, 1973 entrusts the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) with the duty of preparing electoral rolls for elections to the National Assembly, Provincial Assemblies and Local Governments, and revising such rolls periodically to keep them up-to-date. Quality of electoral rolls is an important prerequisite for fair and transparent elections. The Election Commission of Pakistan is committed to make the electoral rolls more accessible and free of discrepancies. This involves facilitating easy registration, correction of voter details, and ensuring that the public is well-informed about how to update or verify their voting information. ECP has been making concerted efforts to maintain error-free and updated Electoral Rolls and to facilitate the general public. In this regard, the Commission has taken the following steps:

A. PERIODICAL REVISION OF ELECTORAL ROLLS

It is a general perception that in every election, electoral rolls are used with certain errors, and names of deceased voters are not excluded from the electoral rolls. To eliminate this perception and make the electoral rolls error-free, inclusive, updated and to ensure removal of deceased voters from the electoral rolls, the operation of Periodical Revision with door-to-door verification of voters was launched in October 2021. During this exercise, more than 121 million voters were verified and deceased voters were removed from the electoral rolls.

The Preliminary Electoral Rolls were also displayed to provide an opportunity to the general public to file claims, objections and applications for corrections of particulars before the Revising Authorities. To ensure transparency in the electoral rolls, 525 Revising Authorities were appointed by the Commission and they, after hearing the parties, decided claims, objections and applications for corrections of particulars. Through this exercise, 5 million new voters were added to the electoral rolls, while the deceased voters were removed.

B. REMOVAL OF DECEASED VOTERS FROM THE ELECTORAL ROLLS ON A REGULAR BASIS

The exclusion of deceased voters has been a big challenge. For this purpose, the Election Commission of Pakistan made an amendment to Rule 43 of the Election Rules, 2017 and devised Form-20 (A) for obtaining data of deceased voters from the Local Government Departments on a uniform pattern on quarterly basis to ensure removal of deceased voters from the electoral rolls after due verification by the Registration Officers.

C. OBTAINING DATA OF DECEASED VOTERS FROM NADRA

Before the conduct of General Elections-2024, the Election Commission of Pakistan also obtained data of deceased voters from NADRA to ensure their exclusion from the electoral rolls. To avoid the exclusion of any eligible voter and to ensure deletion of deceased voters from the electoral rolls, door-to-door verification exercise was carried out through the Registration Officers.

Through the above exercises, the following number of deceased voters were excluded from the electoral rolls: -

S. NO	ACTIVITY	NO. OF DECEASED VOTERS DELETED FROM ELECTORAL ROLLS
1	Periodical Revision of Electoral Rolls 2021-22	4,000,000
2	Information received from Local Governments	1,00,000
3	Data received from NADRA	3,17,000

The entire exercise of revision of electoral rolls, verification of voters and deletion of deceased voters from the electoral rolls was accomplished successfully before the use of these electoral rolls during General Elections-2024.

D. UPDATION OF ELECTORAL ROLLS AFTER DIGITAL CENSUS

Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) published the final results of the Digital Census in August 2023. The Digital Census introduced a new census block scheme, increasing census blocks from 163,686 to 180,051. With an increase of 16,365 census blocks, it necessitated a well-thought-out strategy to ensure that voters are correctly assigned relevant census blocks and electoral areas. This initiative was critical to maintain the accuracy and relevance of voter data after the demographic shifts were identified in the Census. ECP obtained updated maps and census block information from PBS and shared the same with its field offices despite time constraints. The new data was successfully reconciled with the 2017 census data and door-to-door verification process was subsequently initiated in the affected census blocks to adjust voters in their respective newly assigned blocks. The entire exercise was completed in November 2023. Electoral Rolls were also unfrozen from 28th September 2023 to 28th October 2023, providing another opportunity to the public for registration, transfer of vote or for correction in their voting particulars.

E. UPGRADATION OF COMPUTERIZED ELECTORAL ROLLS SYSTEM (CERS)

Computerized Electoral Rolls System (CERS) has been upgraded with several new features, including:

- Synchronization of electoral rolls data with civic information for uniformity of public data.
- Development of modules for printing and dispatch of Electoral Rolls which enabled the monitoring of real time progress of packing/delivery and receipt of Electoral Rolls by the District Election Commissioners.
- Detailed voter history, reports with historical voter statistics and Electoral Area descriptions are regularly updated and made available to the ECP, PECs and Registration Officers for utilization, whenever required.
- Progressive NA/PA constituencies mapping reports are now available in CERS.
- Inclusion of NA/PA constituency information in the voter extract, generated through CERS and 8300 SMS to provide vital information to the general public and facilitate polling staff during election process.

F. PUBLIC FACILITATION

- For the facilitation of public, the Commission uploaded guidelines for citizens/voters in Urdu and English for registration/transfer/objection of vote or correction in the voting particulars on its website.
- 2080 Facilitation Centers were established for the public at the offices of Assistant Registration Officers to ensure public convenience and increase the possibility of maximum registration of eligible voters.

- “One Window Centers” were established in the offices of the District Election Commissioners to manage registration work exclusively.
- The number of Registration Officers (ROs) has been increased by notifying Election Officers as Registration Officers for swift processing of work and facilitation of general public.
- Historical data of voters from 2018 to the present/onwards has been displayed on ECP's website.

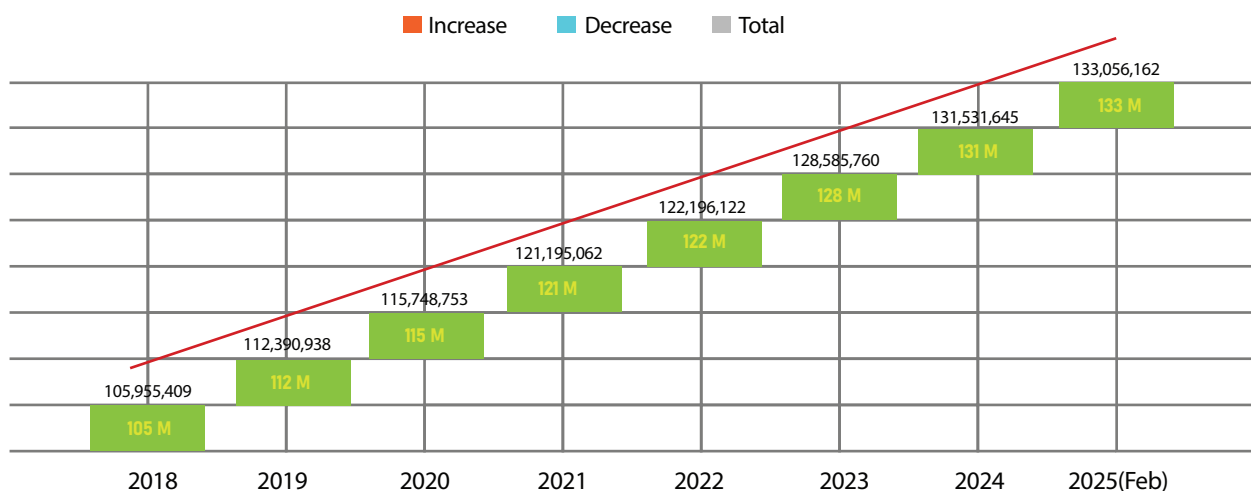
4.3 IMPACT OF INITIATIVES

These initiatives have led to significant progress and a greater impact for the ease of voters, as given below:

- 8300 SMS is available 24/7 to facilitate the public, through which voters can check the detail of their vote, and during elections, voters can also obtain information relating to their polling stations and constituencies.
- 8300 SMS service saw 32 million hits from November 2023 to February 2024, reflecting high public engagement.
- ECP voter registration initiatives have facilitated the registration of eligible voters and has improved quality of Electoral Rolls.
- There is a clear increase in the total number of voters over the years, showing more people are engaging in the electoral process.
- A net increase of 7,390,698 voters from 2021 to 2023, after calculating the exclusion of deceased voters, reflects the accurate data of voters in vote register.
- Over 25 million voters were registered from 2018 to September 2024.
- The gender gap has been reduced from 11.7% in 2018 to 7.5% in 2024

YEAR-WISE INCREASING TREND OF REGISTERED VOTERS

Total number of registered voters has steadily increased from 105 million in 2018 to 133 million in February 2025.

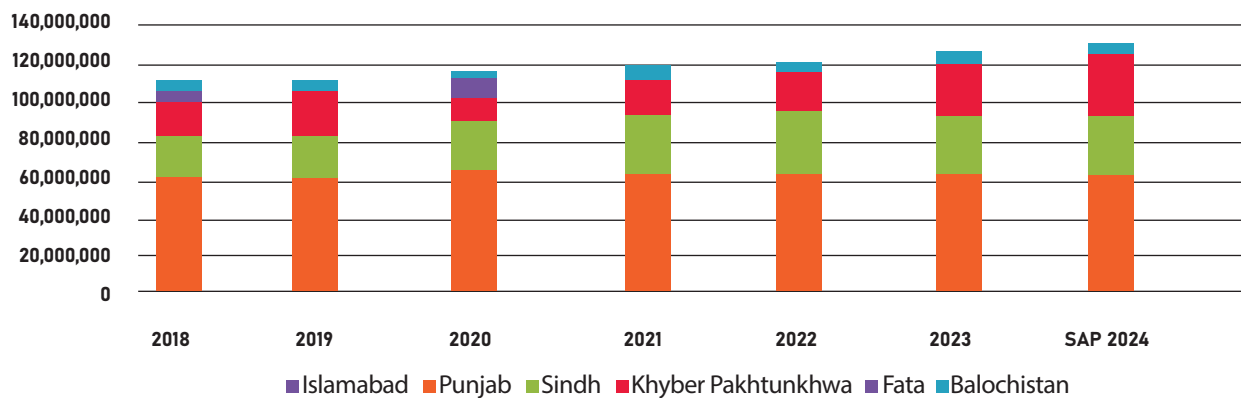


PROVINCE-WISE INCREASING TRENDS

The table illustrates the province-wise increase in the number of voters from 2018 to September 2024, showing a year-on-year increase in voter registration across Pakistan.

PROVINCE	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
ISLAMABAD	765,447	803,538	825,833	909,370	984,477	1,083,029	1,154,471
PUNJAB	60,672,771	64,352,953	66,236,144	69,044,394	69,635,548	73,207,896	74,891,495
SINDH	22,391,244	23,648,001	24,351,681	25,582,624	25,663,939	26,994,769	27,589,227
KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA	15,314,169	18,950,900	19,533,964	20,611,248	20,821,301	21,928,119	22,401,742
FATA	2,512,284						
BALUCHISTAN	4,299,494	4,635,546	4,801,131	5,047,426	5,090,857	5,371,947	5,494,710
GRAND TOTAL	105,955,409	112,390,938	115,748,753	121,195,062	122,196,122	128,585,760	131,531,645

CHART TITLE



GENDER GAP REDUCED FROM 11.7% TO 7.5%

VOTERS STATISTICS FROM 2018 TO 2024										
Year	Gender	Punjab	Sindh	KPK	Balochistan	ICT	Erstwhile FATA	Total Voters	Percentage (%)	Gender Gap
2018	M	33,680,397	12,436,924	8,704,628	2,486,253	407,496	1,509,141	59,224,839	56%	11.7%
	F	26,992,374	9,954,320	6,609,541	1,813,241	357,951	1,003,143	46,730,570	44%	
2019	M	35,544,380	13,104,843	10,817,960	2,667,791	422,646		62,557,620	56%	11.3%
	F	28,808,573	10,543,158	8,132,940	1,967,755	380,892		49,833,318	44%	
2020	M	36,373,212	13,444,414	11,076,763	2,754,027	432,738		64,081,154	55%	10.7%
	F	29,862,932	10,907,267	8,457,201	2,047,104	393,095		51,667,599	45%	
2021	M	37,620,384	14,039,800	11,486,688	2,875,906	481,827		66,504,605	55%	10.3%
	F	31,424,010	11,542,824	9,124,560	2,171,520	427,543		54,690,457	45%	
2022	M	37,565,437	14,008,265	11,436,241	2,878,032	518,193		66,406,168	54%	8.9%
	F	32,070,111	11,655,674	9,385,060	2,212,825	466,284		55,789,954	46%	
2023	M	39,122,082	14,612,655	11,944,397	3,016,164	568,406		69,263,704	54%	7.7%
	F	34,085,814	12,382,114	9,983,722	2,355,783	514,623		59,322,056	46%	
2024	M	39,929,617	14,913,438	12,190,502	3,080,135	605,031		70,718,723	54%	7.5%
	F	34,961,878	12,675,789	10,211,240	2,414,575	549,440		60,812,922	46%	

5. POLITICAL FINANCE WING

5.1 INTRODUCTION

Political Finance refers to the funding of political activities, parties and candidates. It plays a crucial role in shaping democracy, influencing election outcomes and governance. The system of Political finance in Pakistan is drawn on the basis of Article 17 of the Constitution. Based on the said Article, the Elections Act 2017 and Election Rules 2017 have been framed. ECP regulates political finance through the same Act and Rules. In the past, Political Finance Wing did not exist and Confidential Section was a part of Election Wing, which along with the PF Section was merely a record-keeper through a manual process. The PF Wing assumed its present shape in 2022 when a separate Wing was created to deal with the whole spectrum of Political Finance.

5.2 HR TRANSFORMATION

The PF Wing has carried out a business-process re-engineering through effective change management by re-training its legacy-based resources, enabling them to work synergistically for an enhanced degree of collective outcomes to obtain organizational goals. All PF Officers and staff have been provided digital access according to their defined roles. This has improved the control environment and standardized PF's output.

5.3 POLITICAL FINANCE MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM (PFMIS)

The Political Finance Wing has integrated various legacy segments into a unified unit under indigenously designed and developed dynamic software, capable of addressing both present and future challenges across the entire political finance spectrum.



Profile: PFMIS contains a comprehensive profile of all parliamentarians and political parties, compiled by the wing from documents filed periodically in accordance with the Elections Act, 2017.

Party Constitution: The party constitutions submitted by political parties at the time of enlistment, along with any subsequent amendments, are uploaded to PFMIS. Thus, the latest versions are available for scrutiny and decision-making.

Office bearers: All updated lists of office bearers are now available in PFMIS. These lists are based on intra-party election results accepted by the Election Commission, making them authentic and reliable.

Intra Party Election: PFMIS maintains an updated record of the intra-party election schedules of all political parties, ensuring compliance with their respective constitutions and the relevant sections of the Elections Act, 2017.

Assets Declarations by Parliamentarians: PFMIS maintains a detailed record of parliamentarians' assets. It facilitates the scrutiny process by comparing current declarations with historical data in the database. This enables an objective analytical review, generating scrutiny reports that the PF Wing submits to the Election Commission along with recommendations.

Election Expenses: The returns of election expenses for all returned candidates are available in PFMIS. Based on this data, scrutiny is conducted, and a report is submitted to the Commission within the time frame specified in the Elections Act, 2017.

Annual Party Accounts: PFMIS provides detailed accounts of political parties, including the Chartered Accountants' Report and donor identities. System-based scrutiny is now possible within the given timeframe for submitting reports to the Election Commission for each political party.

Donors: PFMIS includes an integrated cross-checking mechanism for data received by the Election Commission from political parties and candidates to ensure compliance with the Elections Act, 2017.

Campaign Finance: Campaign finance accounts submitted by political parties participating in General and Bye-Elections are recorded in PFMIS and cross-checked with available data for scrutiny and analysis.

Allocation of Symbols: As per the Election Rules, 2017, all election symbols are now uploaded to PFMIS, ensuring their clear categorization in the symbol chart for General Elections. This process distinguishes political parties from independent candidates, eliminating any risk of duplication.

5.4 MULTI-LAYERED DATA SECURITY

All PF employees have been given their specific Job Descriptions (JDs) with synchronized roles in PFMIS, secured through biometric password control. Internal communication has been secured through LAN. All physical and system administration checks have been applied at both the server and thin clients levels. Hence, in a nutshell, data is secured at the server, cable, and role allocation stages.

5.5 DIGITISED CHECK FOR PARTY ENLISTMENT

The system now contains all political party constitutions, intraparty election reports, consolidated statements of accounts along with the list of members who submitted the statements of accounts and lists of members of political parties. Departing from the legacy practice of merely keeping in record photocopies of NICs of members of political parties, NIC data of all members and new applicants for enlistment of political parties are now subjected to data check.

5.6 SYMBOL ALLOCATION

All notified election symbols are now mapped in the PFMIS and a periodic chart of symbols is extracted from the system for General elections, Bye elections, and LGEs.

CHART OF SYMBOLS FOR GENERAL ELECTION 2024

- Symbols allocated to Political Parties : 150
- Symbols allocated to independent candidates : 174

5.7 SCRUTINY OF PARTY FUNDS

The PF Wing has developed the expertise to forensically scrutinize party accounts in response to complaints. Detailed accounts of several major political parties have been reviewed, and reports have been submitted to the Election Commission. Political parties submit extensive financial records, often spanning multiple pages, making scrutiny a time-consuming process. PFMIS facilitates a thorough examination within the given time frame, ensuring transparency and disclosure.

5.8 INTRAPARTY ELECTIONS SCRUTINY

The PF Wing has ensured that all political parties hold their intraparty elections according to the time frame given in their respective articles of the constitutions. In case of failure, action to withhold a symbol or impose a fine is taken as per law following the due process of serving show cause notices to the concerned parties and ECP's regular hearings. Resultantly, several cases of major political parties are subjudice for regular hearing before the Commission, while 15 political parties have been delisted in the last year on this account.

5.9 HISTORICAL DATA CAPTURE

Historical data from the files/records has been integrated into the system (PFMIS) enabling PF database to compare both present and future data. As a result, the PF record is now readily available in a tabulated form which can be transposed and juxtaposed according to user needs.

5.10 SYSTEM BASED SCRUTINY

The PFMIS has created an enabling environment to scrutinize data received from the following quarters periodically in accordance with the Elections Act and Election Rules 2017:

- Political Parties
- Parliamentarians
- Candidates
- Contributors

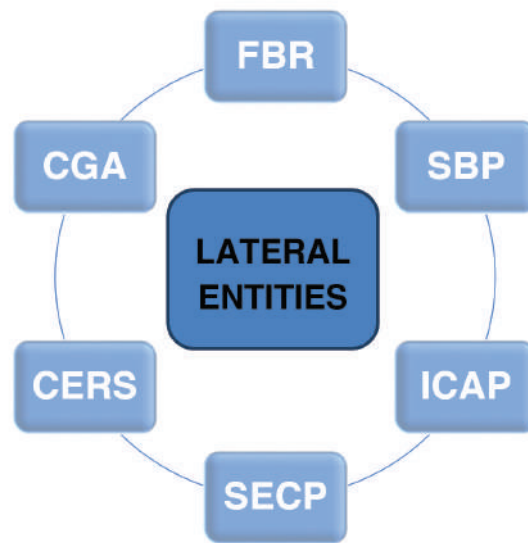
5.11 DATA CROSS-CHECK LATERAL ENTITIES

PFMIS has enabled the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to cross-check data filed by political parties, parliamentarians, candidates and contributors using historical data and lateral databases of other entities.

ECP has signed protocol agreements with the following entities:

- Federal Bureau of Revenue
- State Bank of Pakistan
- Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan
- Controller General of Accounts
- Computerized Electoral Rolls System
- Institute of Chartered Accountants of Pakistan

Data is shared with the Political Finance Wing on ECP's request unilaterally. The availability of digital data in PFMIS has enhanced the authenticity of examinations carried out by the Wing through cross-checking with these lateral entities.



5.12 DONORS/ CONTRIBUTORS DATA

Political Parties receive contributions from their members as membership fees as prescribed in their respective constitutions. The law prohibits donations/contributions from foreign agencies, companies or anonymous sources.

PF Wing has therefore developed a database of contributors/donors of political parties. The system is capable to identify details of prohibited contributions as per law.

5.13 POLITICAL FINANCE WING LEGAL REFORMS

PF Wing has reviewed and revised all rules relating to relevant sections of the Elections Act. Fresh rules have been drafted considering the PFMIS perspective. These rules have been processed through the Legal Reform Committee of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), chaired by the Special Secretary Law. The new rules are tabulated on the next page.

Relevant Sections	Rules No.	Subject Title	Remarks
60 & 110	51	Amendments to Election Rule 51 regarding nomination paper were approved by the Commission and included in the Election Rules.	-
134	134	Amendments to Election Rule 134 regarding submission of written of election expenses through Form C, Form C1, and Form C2 for recording of contributors from party and persons.	Its consideration was deferred by the Election Commission after a request by some political parties before General Elections-2024.
	134A	Insertion of new Election Rule 134A regarding bank account for election expenses and record thereof was approved by the Commission and incorporated in the Election rules.	-
201	153	Amendments have been recommended by the Legal Reform Committee (LRC) for approval of the Hon'ble Commission.	Rules have been framed to standardize working of the Enlistment Committee for detailed and objective study of documents filed by fresh applicants.
137	137	Amendments to Election Rule 137 regarding submission of statement of assets and liabilities by inserting Annexures 1 to 9 in Form B.	Its consideration was deferred by the Election Commission after a request by some political parties before General Elections-2024.
210	159	Proposed amendments to Election Rule 159 regarding submission of consolidated statement of accounts to the Commission by observing the following guidelines are under consideration of LRC in the light of inputs given by ICAP Karachi. ▶ Standard format for an auditor's report on the annual accounts of a political party in Pakistan. ▶ Guidelines for the Chartered Accountants. ▶ Uniform accounting framework for guidance of political parties in Pakistan for preparation and submission of consolidated statement of accounts of political party (form D). ▶ Tool Kit/Training Manual for guidance of political parties.	Proposed amendments are under consideration of Legal Reform Committee.
211	161	Amendments to Election Rule 161 regarding Submission of details of campaign finance to the commission and a new proposed Form 68 were approved by the Hon'ble Commission.	-

5.14 FUTURE GOALS

The future goals of PF Wing include the following:

- Big Data Validation
- AI-Powered Analysis
- Performance Variance Evaluation
- Portalisation
- Data Analytics
- Trend Analysis
- Digitalization and Portal Integration

5.15 APEX ORACLE SYSTEM UPGRADE

As part of an internal software upgrade, the PF Wing's team of experts has transitioned the systems from Oracle to Oracle Apex. This upgrade has yielded the following two key benefits:

- Enhanced dashboard for senior management
- Improved user experience and accessibility

6. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY WING

In line with the Hon'ble Commission's strategic vision to digitally transform the ECP's processes, several IT interventions have been successfully implemented. These initiatives have been pivotal in advancing the ECP towards becoming a digitally enabled organization. To integrate digital technology across all ECP's operations, especially in General Election, a comprehensive, multi-faceted strategy has been developed. This strategy aims to bolster all key areas including Stakeholders, Processes, and Technologies, ensuring a structured progression and enhancing both electoral & support functions to achieve desired digital transformation. The core areas are as under:-

- Capacity Enhancement of Human Resources
- IT Infrastructure Modernization
- Digitization of Manual Records / Data
- Digitalization through Process Automation
- Work Culture Transformation & Change Management

6.1 REORGANIZATION OF THE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY WING

The reorganization of the Information Technology Wing of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) into specialized units has significantly enhanced operational efficiency and established it as the nucleus of the technological hub. By clearly delineating responsibilities, the existing IT Wing can now concentrate on policy, planning, and operational matters, ensuring that strategic objectives are met effectively. Meanwhile, the newly established Project Management Unit (PMU) oversees software development, the introduction of electoral technologies, and large-scale projects. The reorganization enabled targeted expertise in each area, fostering innovation and ultimately improving the overall performance in electoral processes.

A multi-disciplinary team of experts, along with mid-level and junior professionals, has been constituted to restructure, streamline and expedite the ECP's digital transformation roadmap. This strategic amalgamation of experts possessing technical and institutional knowledge of electoral technologies has created a high performing team.

Before the restructuring, the ECP had only 166 Data Entry Operators across its Secretariat, PEC Offices and Field Offices, with no technical positions at the level of Regional Election Commissioners. After reorganizing the IT Wing, 31 new permanent posts of BS-17 (Assistant Directors - IT) were created, enabling qualified IT professionals be deployed in field offices nationwide.

Additionally, 240 new posts of Data Entry Operators were created across the country. This expansion is designed to equip all field offices with tech-savvy professionals, enhancing the workforce by bringing in dedicated technical staff to support all IT-related functions. These improvements have enhanced operational efficiency and facilitated the effective implementation of electoral technologies.

6.2 NATIONWIDE UPGRADATION OF ECP DATA NETWORK

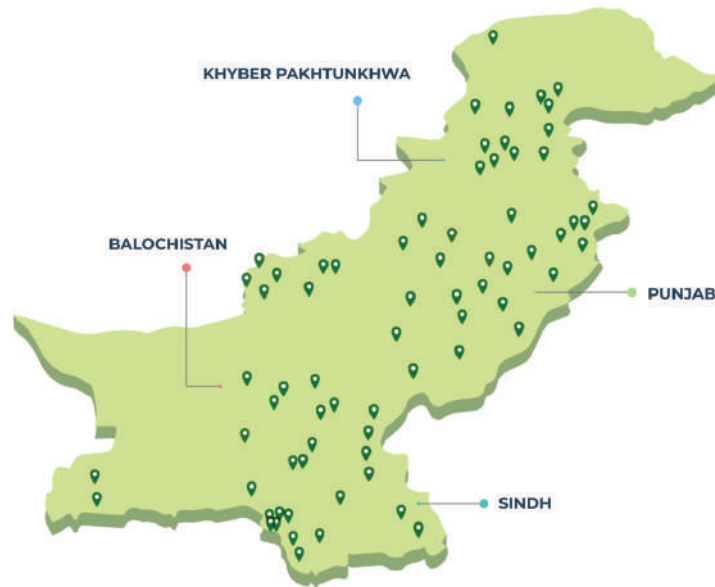


Figure A: Map of nationwide high-speed data connectivity over fiber optics

The ECP Secretariat, along with all PEC offices and 182 field offices (RECs/DECs) nationwide, has made significant advancements in its digital infrastructure. Previously reliant on traditional copper wire networks with a speed of just 256 Kbps, this obsolete technology hindered routine operations such as voter list updates. The data transmission system has now been upgraded to high-speed fiber optics and advanced digital radio technologies, increasing connectivity to 8 Mbps. This upgrade has improved overall efficiency, enabling multiple tasks to be performed seamlessly at secure and high data rate speeds. The benefits of this upgrade are extensive, particularly for enterprise and electoral applications such as Computerized Electoral Rolls System, Complaint Management System, Video Conferencing, and Election Management System.

Further, ECP's Local Area Network (LAN) has been upgraded for both wireless and wired high speed connectivity, incorporating state-of-the-art WiFi 6 technology along with over 500+ Network points.

6.3 ESTABLISHMENT OF DATA CENTRE

Recognising the future needs of IT development, the newly established Data Center was inaugurated on 25th January 2024, at the ECP Secretariat. Upgrading the ECP's server room into a data center was vital for enhancing the reliability and security of the electoral infrastructure in accordance with international ISO standards.

The new facility features a stabilized, redundant cooling system, high processing speed, ample storage capacity and robust data safety measures, including firewalls and fire prevention capabilities. With an enhanced digital setup, it ensures efficient computing power across all functions. A dedicated IT team monitors the data center 24/7 to ensure security, accessibility and robustness.

These enhancements are crucial for managing the increasing volume of election-related data and protecting against cyber threats. A well-maintained data center ensures data integrity and minimizes disruptions, reinforcing the ECP's commitment to secure and efficient data processing, ultimately fostering public trust in the electoral system.

Some key projects are now fully operational in-house, such as the Election Management System, Computerized Electoral Rolls System's data connectivity, Integrated Office Record Management System, Human Resource Management System, Online Biometric Attendance System, Online Complaint Management System, Online Recruitment System and Optical Mark Recognition System. This comprehensive upgrade significantly enhanced overall efficiency with digital control and independence.



Figure B: Mr. Sikandar Sultan Raja, Hon'ble Chief Election Commissioner of Pakistan, inaugurating the newly established Data Center (25th January, 2024).



6.4 VIDEO CONFERENCING SYSTEM (VC)

Previously, there was no dedicated video conferencing system in position. A state-of-the-art video conferencing solution has now been installed using cutting-edge technologies to ensure secure and high-quality audio / video streaming in real-time . This system has not only significantly reduced travel related expenses for officials, but has also proven useful since the COVID-19 pandemic, in 2020.



Figure C: State-of-the-art secure and high-speed Video Conferencing System.

This advanced, secure and private Video Conferencing System connects the ECP's Secretariat with all Provincial Election Commission offices across the country. It facilitates regular weekly meetings, digital conferences, briefings, presentations and demonstrations in an efficient manner. Additionally, the system has now been extended to Regional Election Commission offices across the country.

6.5 ECP'S OFFICIAL WEBSITE & MOBILE APP

The new official website of ECP was launched on 3rd June, 2023. This interactive and dynamic website was developed to provide comprehensive information and enhance management capabilities. It serves as a centralized hub for accessing various details related to electoral processes, including voter registration, election schedules, candidate profiles, polling station locations and other pertinent updates. Features such as interactive maps, search functions and multimedia content have significantly improved the user experience, making navigation and information retrieval easier. During the General Election 2024, the ECP website successfully handled millions of visitors throughout the pre-poll, poll, and post-poll phases. The number of unique visitors to the ECP's official website reached 9.0 million approximately during the General Election-2024.



Figure D: Dynamic and interactive official website of the ECP and its mobile App.

6.6 SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS

ECP's official social media accounts were officially created in 2020 to enhance transparency and bridge the gap between ECP and voters. Presently, the ECP is using its Facebook account to share ECP's official news including announcement of Election Schedules, revision of electoral rolls, real-time updates, important press releases, notifications, public awareness messages, multimedia archives, training tutorials in both video and text formats.



Figure E: Official accounts of ECP on Social Media platforms like Facebook, YouTube, X.

6.7 COMPLAINT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (CMS)

A web-based Complaint Management System (CMS) was inaugurated in September, 2020 and integrated with the official ECP's website. This system allows all stakeholders to submit complaints online at any time and from anywhere, complete with a proper electronic tracking mechanism for real-time monitoring.

The Online Complaint Management System (CMS) is an essential service that allows individuals to submit complaints and suggestions directly to the ECP. Each complaint is tracked via a ticket generation system and recorded electronically for real-time monitoring. Complaints are addressed and resolved to the satisfaction of the complainant. The system provides ECP's top management with real-time visibility into the status and resolution of complaints, enhancing accountability and responsiveness. So far, approximately 21,395 complaints have been successfully addressed, enhancing public trust and confidence.

Previously, there was no online system for receiving complaints or suggestions, and they were typically submitted on paper. This traditional method was time-consuming and lacked an effective tracking system, leading to delays in disposal and challenges in monitoring the resolution process. The introduction of the Online Complaint Management System has significantly improved efficiency and accountability in handling complaints.



Figure E: Online Complaint Management System.

6.8 HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (HRMS)

The Human Resource Management System (HRMS) was developed to digitize employees' entire service records and maintain them in a secure, centralized manner. This fully automated system integrates biometric attendance, administrative procedures and streamlines recruitment processes. Additionally, it generates analytical reports and notifications, enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of HR operations.

Before HRMS there was no IT-based HRMS in place and all employee-related tasks were managed manually on paper using traditional filing and register systems. The implementation of the HRMS has significantly improved the speed, accuracy and management of employee information, eliminating errors and enhancing overall efficiency.

This system has now been deployed in the ECP Secretariat and all PEC offices, containing all employee related data. It helps in managing employee history record, generating variety of charts & graphs, tracking leave record and maintaining attendance records.

The reporting module of the MIS has also been deployed for availability of digital information. Till now, service record of approximately 3,364 employees has been digitized and populated.



Figure F: Human Resource Management System.

6.9 ONLINE RECRUITMENT SYSTEM (ORS)

The Online Recruitment System (ORS) is a state-of-the-art, fully automated platform that adheres to international standards for digital processes. It allows candidates from across the country and around the world to create job profiles and apply online with ease. The system automates various processes, including application management, provisional scrutiny, call letter issuance, candidate notifications, sending SMS to candidates, provision of written test and interview call letters. Since its inauguration in March 2020, approximately 335,000 candidates have successfully created their profiles, reflecting the system's accessibility and efficiency. This innovative approach improved the recruitment process, making it more efficient and user-friendly for applicants.

Before 2021, the ECP relied on traditional paper-based recruitment methods, inviting applications through postal mail, which were processed through manual data entry and other labor-intensive steps. This approach was cumbersome, time-consuming, and prone to potential

errors. The transition to a digital IT-based recruitment system has effectively addressed these challenges by streamlining the processes, reducing administrative burdens and enhancing accuracy. Besides, it promotes transparency, accountability and convenience for applicants.

6.10 SHORT MESSAGE SERVICE (SMS)

The ECP has introduced its own SMS service known as the Push Service. This innovative tool enables the ECP to efficiently send SMS updates to a wide range of stakeholders, including ECP officials, electronic and print media reporters, representatives of civil society organizations, concerned lawyers and candidates applying for vacant posts. The service is also used to inform the candidates about the details of their written tests/call and interview letters.

Key benefits of the Push SMS Service include:

- **Real-Time Updates:** Stakeholders receive instant notifications about important developments, enhancing communication and transparency.
- **Broader Reach:** By connecting with various groups, the ECP ensures that all relevant parties are informed simultaneously.
- **Timely Information:** The service allows for the dissemination of crucial information within stipulated time frames, improving responsiveness.

Streamlined Communication: This efficient messaging system reduces delays in sharing essential updates, fostering better collaboration among stakeholders.

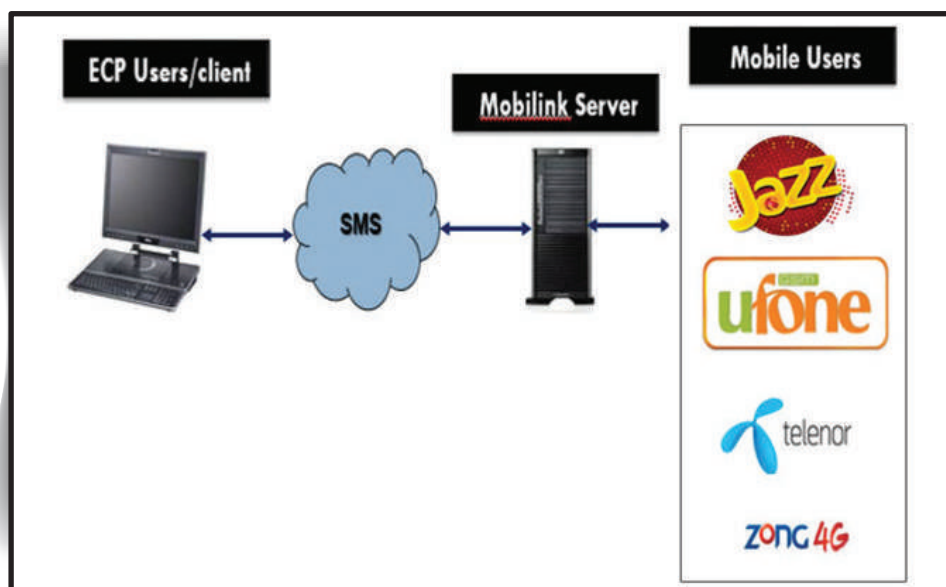


Figure G: ECP's Push Short Message Service (SMS).

Overall, the SMS (push service) represents a significant advancement in the ECP's commitment to keeping stakeholders informed and well-connected. Since its launch, over 1 million SMS messages have been sent to targeted stakeholders. This extensive outreach has enabled the ECP to effectively communicate important information and engage a large audience across the country.

6.11 OPTICAL MARK RECOGNITION SYSTEM (OMR)

The Optical Mark Recognition (OMR) system is a cutting-edge technology that allows for the automatic checking of examination papers and the accumulation of scores into a centralized database. It ensures the highest levels of impartiality, secrecy, accuracy and speed, while providing transparency through complete event logs of every process and record.

Previously, there was no automated system for checking papers and the ECP relied on traditional methods for marking. This approach was time-consuming and prone to errors and biases associated with manual evaluation. The addition of Optical Mark Recognition (OMR) technology has significantly improved this process, providing a faster and more reliable solution.

Figure H: Branded ABBYY software for OMR technology.

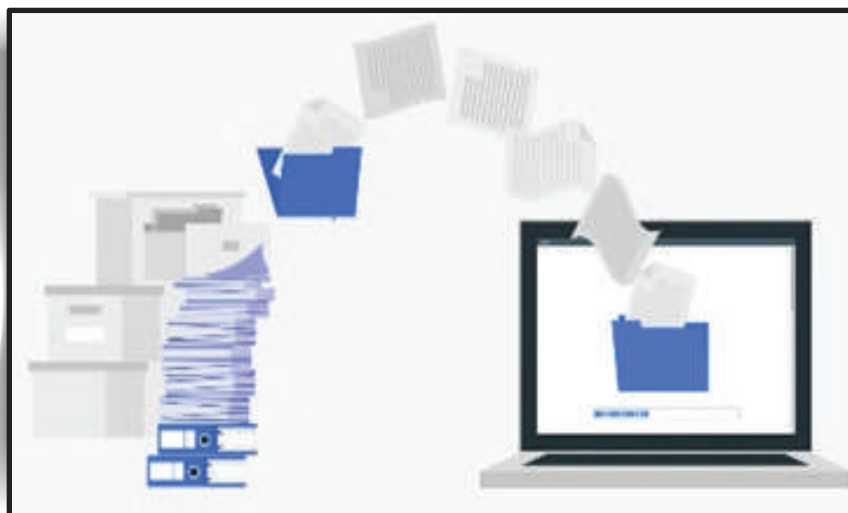
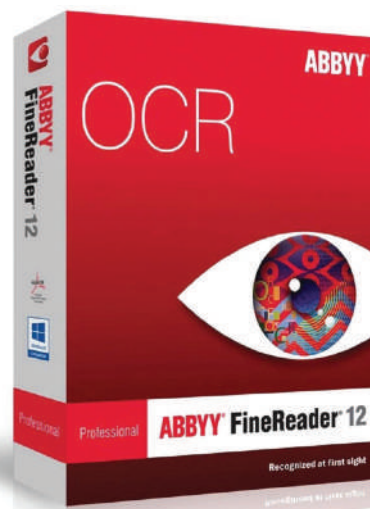


Figure I: Automated digitized paper-checking solution.

6.12 DIGITIZATION OF OFFICIAL RECORDS THROUGH INTEGRATED OFFICE RECORD MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (IORMS)

The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has successfully launched the Integrated Office Record Management System (IORMS) to modernize and streamline its record-keeping processes. This initiative focuses on digitizing all records from the central record room and various branches within the Secretariat, creating a comprehensive digital repository integrated with a user friendly MIS. More than 2.8 million pages / records have been digitized and integrated with database for easy access and in a secure manner, while previously, records were stored manually.



Figure J: Digitization of official paper record into the electronic record for efficient and easy retrieval.

IORMS enables the efficient storage, retrieval, and management of essential electoral documents and historical records. By transitioning from paper-based systems to a digital format, the ECP has enhanced the accessibility and security of records, reduced physical storage needs and improved overall operational efficiency. This digital transformation has streamlined the administrative processes and underscored the ECP's commitment to modernization, transparency and effectiveness. Also, it has effectively reduced paper work through weeding of irrelevant records.



Figure K: Lamp Scanner for digitization of paper records (books or files).

6.13 DIGITIZATION OF DELIMITATION MAPS

During the delimitation of constituencies, the IT staff played a vital role by providing technical assistance to the Election and Law Wings of the ECP. A range of end-to-end processes were automated, digitizing large scale district maps of the country ensured the smooth execution of this important exercise.

Historically, this task was performed manually, making it time-consuming and prone to errors. However, with the introduction of digitized and scanned color maps, the entire process has become more efficient and accessible to all stakeholders.



Figure L: A glimpse of the technical team working on the compilation of Delimitation Maps.

All stakeholders were provided with final versions of the maps, both in printed copies and as a comprehensive set of 42-inch colorful maps. To promote transparency, scanned maps and petitions were also made accessible on the ECP's website.

Additionally comprehensive multimedia setups were installed in the Courtroom, equipped with high-speed internet and technical support. This allowed maps to be displayed during Court hearings, making presentations by various stakeholders more informative, efficient and comprehensible. Ultimately, the task of printing, scanning and uploading high resolution 7,218 digitized maps was completed in a timely manner.

6.14 PUBLIC SERVICE MESSAGE THROUGH 8300 SMS

The International Award winning 8300 SMS Service was launched by the ECP to help voters quickly access their voting details, including their names, constituencies and the location of the polling stations. Voters can also check their block codes and serial numbers in the printed voters list. This service enhances accessibility and ensures that voters have the necessary information for a smooth voting experience.

Voters can instantly access their voting details by sending their 13-digit NIC to the short code 8300. The International Centre for Parliamentary Studies (ICPS) in London recognized this SMS service as a pioneering initiative globally, awarding it two international accolades. This recognition highlights its effectiveness and innovation in enhancing voter accessibility and engagement.

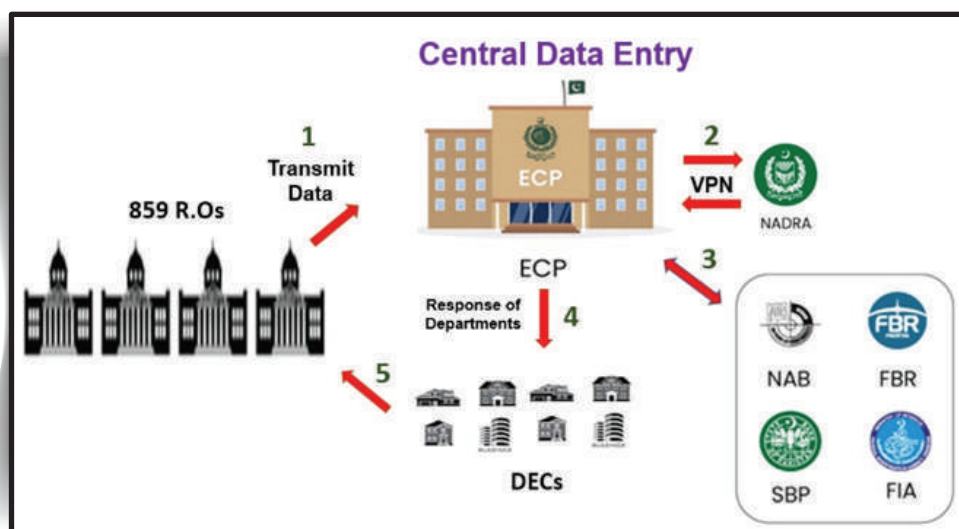


Figure M: International Electoral Awards on 8300 SMS (2013).

The infrastructure of the ECP's 8300 service has been upgraded to ensure quick responses during elections, minimizing delays. In collaboration with the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA), a push SMS was sent to mobile users nationwide, encouraging them to check their voting details via the 8300 SMS service during the General Election 2024. This proactive approach enhanced voter accessibility and streamlined the voting process by sending free public service message from the ECP to all 180 million mobile customers across Pakistan. In the past 12 months, about 30 million hits have been received through this SMS system out of a total of more than 300 million hits since February 2012.

6.15 ONLINE SCRUTINY FACILITATION CELL IN GENERAL ELECTIONS

An Online Scrutiny Facilitation Cell was established prior to the General Elections to assist Returning Officers in verifying the information provided by nominated candidates. This IT-based system allows for quick and accurate verification of candidates' documents and personal details. It connects with key government organizations, including NADRA (National Database and Registration Authority), FBR (Federal Board of Revenue), NAB (National Accountability Bureau), SBP (State Bank of Pakistan) and FIA (Federal Investigation Agency). These agencies provide updated information based on candidates' NICs (Computerized National Identity Cards), making it easier for R.Os to verify and reconcile their credentials with the nomination papers.



The process works as follows: R.Os submit candidates' names and NIC numbers to the ECP's Online Facilitation Cell. The system automatically forwards this information to NADRA, which verifies the candidate's family tree and details. Once NADRA confirms the data, it is sent to other organizations like NAB, FBR, SBP and FIA for verification of information such as valid tax payer status, dual nationality, bank/loan defaulters and financial records. In general election this activity was performed in a speedy manner on real-time basis, enabling R.Os to make informed decisions. The online system has proven invaluable for R.Os, streamlining the scrutiny process, ensuring accuracy and enhancing overall efficiency. Verified certificates for approximately 25,000 contesting candidates were obtained from aforementioned state institutions within 7 days / (169 hours / 10,000 minutes). The ECP successfully completed this pre-poll activity and facilitated 859 R.Os in a professional and timely manner.

6.16 USE OF GEOFENCING TECHNOLOGY

ECP launched a geo-fencing project for polling stations and polling staff to assist Returning Officers (R.Os). This technology enables R.Os to visualize polling station locations on a map and assess distances between polling stations and their offices.

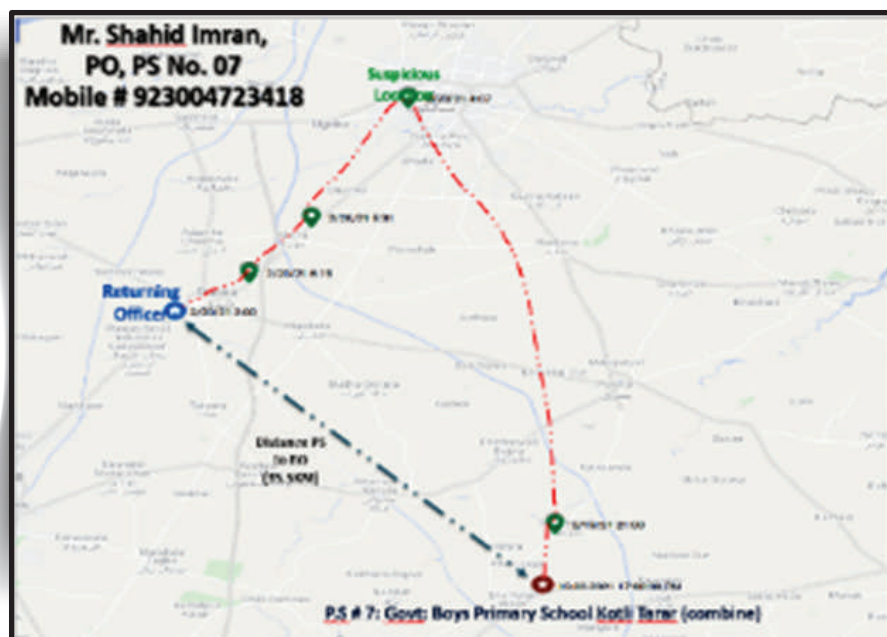


Figure N: Digital footprints of a particular Presiding Officer using geo-fencing technologies.

The system was also utilized during the Daska bye-elections (NA-75) for effective, accurate and timely decision-making as well as to track 20 missing Presiding Officers (Pr.Os). This effort involved forensically tracing of the missing Pr.Os by analyzing digital footprints of the mobile data, which they carried while traveling to the office of the Returning Officer (R.O). A comprehensive technical audit report was compiled that included geo-location and time-stamped evidence of each missing Pr.O. This digital forensic report was submitted to the Hon'ble Election Commission and presented in the Supreme Court of Pakistan as digital evidence. The Supreme Court upheld the ECP's decision to conduct a re-poll for the entire NA-75 constituency based on the forensic digital evidence and findings provided by the ECP.

6.17 ELECTION MONITORING AND CONTROL CENTRE (EMCC)

A modern Election Monitoring & Control Centre (EMCC) was established in the ECP Secretariat to oversee various monitoring activities, including pre-poll, post-poll & poll-day processes and incident management. The Control Centre is equipped with advanced technologies and innovative software applications to effectively monitor all operations, at all phases ensuring real-time oversight and enhanced coordination. It enables the recording of all digital activities at all times, maintaining valuable logs for accountability and audit purposes. This system allows the display of the graphical data on large video walls, enabling decision-makers to take action based on live reports of activities occurring in the field across the country. It also provides a Rapid Response Mechanism to address challenges faced during electoral activities on a real time basis resulting in overall efficiency, and improving stakeholder's confidence in the integrity and transparency of the electoral process.

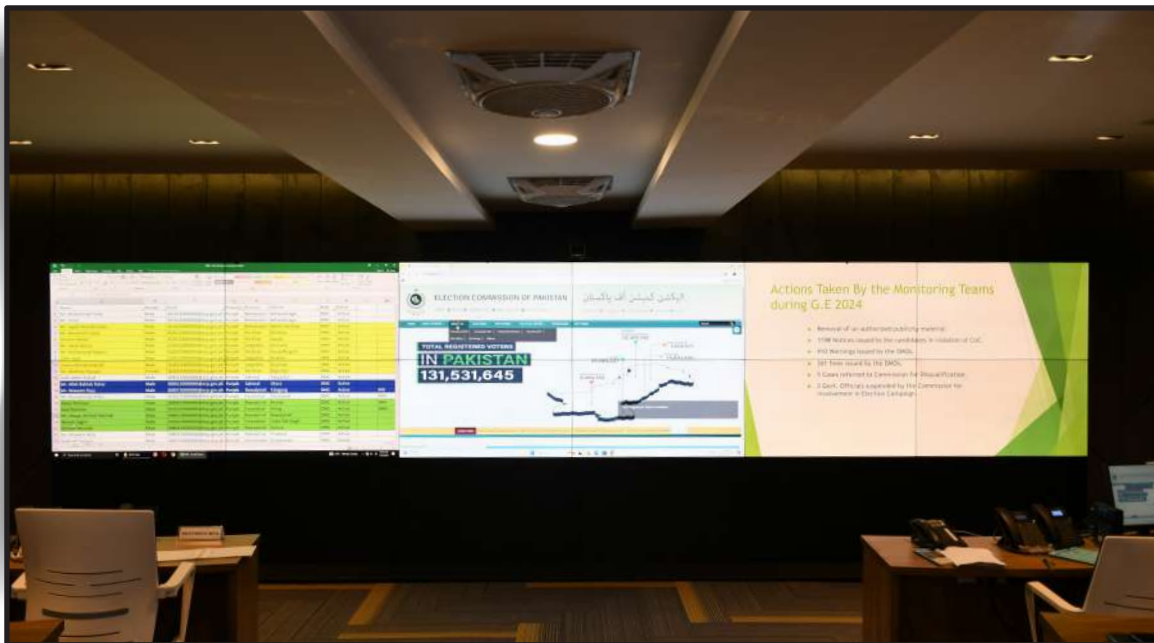


Figure 0: The State-Of-The-Art Election Monitoring & Control Centre (EMCC).

Previously, the Control Room was established using only paper based reporting methods during Election Days in an adhoc manner, with limited facilities.

In contrast, the newly established electronic setup is a part of digital landscape featuring high-quality video and audio, graphics, live video conferencing and an electronic reporting module for monitoring statistics by following the principles of global standards. It is equipped with the latest telephone lines, a private exchange, cameras and large video walls, significantly enhancing its operational capabilities.

6.18 MONITORING AND REPORTING SYSTEM (MRS)

A Decision Support Mechanism was setup named as "Monitoring and Reporting System" spanning multiple tiers including the ECP Secretariat, provincial offices, regional offices and district offices. This system was closely integrated with the line departments (Law Enforcement Agencies, Administration etc) to ensure efficacy and swift incident handling. Monitoring officers across the country used the MRS application during GE 2024.

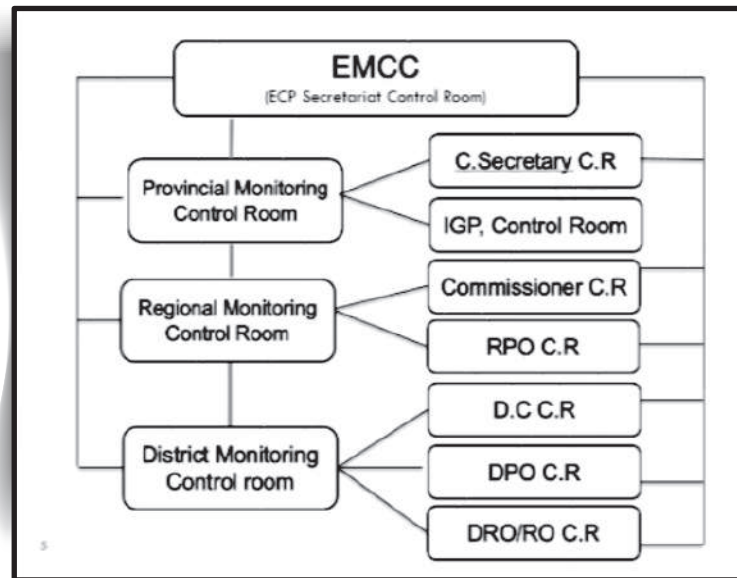


Figure P: Monitoring Reporting System (MRS) data flow chart.

Previously, the Election Commission used a manual reporting methodology with different levels of monitoring mechanisms. Monitoring Officers (MOs) filed and signed the reporting form, then sent it to the District Monitoring Officer (DMO). The DMOs reviewed the forms, took necessary actions and submitted reports to the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Wing of ECP. This manual process made it difficult to track reports, especially during General Elections, with up to 1,192 officers across 150 districts. To address these challenges, the Election Commission developed the digital Monitoring Reporting System (MRS), which was implemented for the 2024 General Elections. This section forms the second tier of the MRS. Teams from Election Monitoring and Control Center (EMCC) including the M&E Wing and control rooms at provincial, divisional and district levels, work together to handle complaints.

6.19 ELECTION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (EMS)

The Election Management System (EMS) was developed by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) under Section 13 of the Elections Act, 2017 which represents a significant advancement in the electoral process automation, streamlining and digitalization of manual operations associated with election results for the National and Provincial Assemblies. This comprehensive application aims to enhance reliability and efficiency in managing electoral data transactions during General Election. Key features of the EMS includes, Election Notification, Polling Station Management, Packing Invoice, Polling Staff Management, Candidate Management, Result Management System, Recounting and Re-poll Modules, Meta Data Management, etc.

Overall, the EMS plays a pivotal role in modernizing election management promoting transparency, efficiency and accuracy in the electoral process. In the General Elections-2024, all 859 Returning Officers were equipped with this system, along with four new laptops, trained data entry operators and high speed data network connectivity (both wired and wireless) to assist with the tabulation and compilation of results. The EMS solution successfully generated election results, which are now available on the ECP's official website for public information and transparency.

Together, these forms total to nearly one million pages and have been accessible to the public since the conclusion of the General Elections.

ECP contracted NADRA for state-of-the-art hosting services / Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS) for the Election Management System (EMS), which ensured its effective utilization during election activities.

6.20 ELECTION CITY (GENERAL ELECTIONS-2024)

A state-of-the-art "Election City" was established at the ECP Secretariat in Islamabad with the primary aim of facilitating all stakeholders including the announcement of live results and the receipts of provisional results from all 859 Returning Officers across the country. It was equipped with the latest array of Digital Video Walls for displaying the results on real-time basis (24/7) by ensuring transparency using specialized Management Information System accessible to all stakeholders. It also facilitated foreign diplomats, national and international observers, national and international (electronic & printed) media reporters, candidates and representatives of various political parties and members of civil society organizations. Dedicated teams were deputed in the 'Election City' who worked round the clock demonstrating their commitment to efficiently displaying results using advanced digital video wall technologies. It was a marathon activity lasting more than 48 hours without any break, continuing till the receipt of constituency- wise results.



Figure Q: Live General Election 2024 results displayed on Video Walls, witnessed by stakeholders on Poll Night in the "Election City".

This initiative was duly acknowledged and appreciated by all stakeholders including diplomats, international missions, international and national media personnel and election observers. It may be added that the results were also displayed simultaneously on the ECP's website for a global audience and the convenience of the general public. This concerted effort reflected the fundamental principles of elections such as transparency, accessibility, inclusiveness and coordination, thereby enhancing public trust and confidence. This achievement was acknowledged by international election observers including the EU Mission.

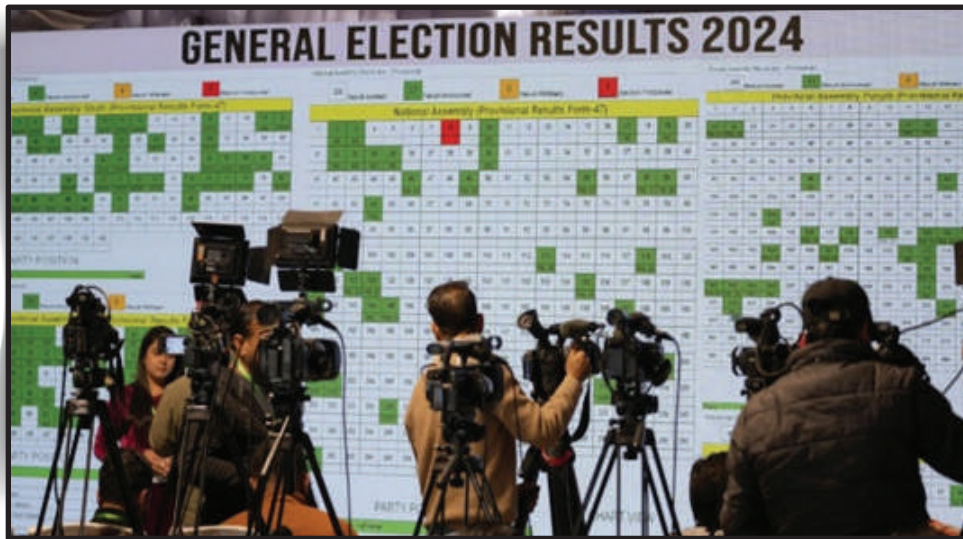


Figure R: Live General Election 2024 results displayed on Video Walls for National and International Media and Observers on Poll Night.

6.21 ECP'S TELE HELPLINE

Before 2020, there was no dedicated helpline to assist the general public. Thereafter, an interactive voice response system (helpline – 051-8848888) was introduced, featuring bilingual automated voice messages in Urdu and English. This helpline is available 24/7 to assist and guide callers by addressing frequently asked questions. Since its inauguration on 7th December 2020, over 355,000 calls have been successfully addressed, providing valuable information to the public.

The helpline provides the general public with vital information through pre-recorded automated voice messages in both Urdu and English, available 24/7. It addresses the most frequently asked questions (FAQs) related to the voter list, elections, local government elections and gender issues. For specific queries, the system allows callers to connect with the concerned officials in the ECP Secretariat and Provincial Election Commissioners' offices during office hours.



Figure S: Automated pre-recorded interactive voice response service for public (051-8848888).

6.22 STUDY AND RESEARCH REPORTS ON WEBSITE

The research on following has been carried out and the reports are available on the ECP's website:

A. STUDY VISIT REPORT TO BRAZIL (2024)

In April 2024, a delegation headed by the Honorable CEC visited Brazil to meet his counterpart and assess the effectiveness of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) and Brazil's measures to combat disinformation, fake news and social media propaganda. The findings from this study visit, compiled in the form of a comprehensive detailed report, which is available on the ECP's website for public access (www.ecp.gov.pk).

B. EVM AND OVERSEAS VOTING REPORT (2022)

The "EVM and Overseas Voting Report" compiled by the committees under the guidance of the Secretary ECP, includes a comprehensive analysis of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs), Biometric Verification Machines (BVMs), and Overseas Voting. The Secretary also emphasized ensuring strict compliance with international best practices and standards while preparing the report for stakeholders. The report outlines a clear, evolutionary path for phased implementation, along with legal, technical and financial aspects, providing tentative timelines and a roadmap for the future. This report is available on the ECP's website for the general public.



Figure T: Research Papers / Reports on Pilot Projects on Electronic Voting, Biometric Verification, Overseas Voting Systems and Brazil official visit (www.ecp.gov.pk).

C. I-VOTING AUDIT REPORT (2021)

The 3rd party technical audit report, on the data security of the Internet - Voting System for overseas Pakistani voters was prepared and submitted by M/s Minsait (Spanish data security audit firm). The report recommended improvements to align the system with global standards. This report has been published on the ECP's website and Parliament was formally informed however, feedback is still awaited.

D. RESEARCH PAPER ON EVM AND I-VOTING (2020) [OFFLINE]

This detailed case study examines various types of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) and the methodology of Internet Voting (i-voting), highlighting both their advantages and disadvantages.

6.23 ACTIVITIES REGARDING ELECTRONIC VOTING

- (i) The Reports of EVM / BVM were again submitted to the Parliament for laying it for further deliberations in April 2020.
- (ii) From June 2020 to September 2021, several meetings were held at Aiwan-e-Sadar to discuss the specifications of prototype Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) and voting methods for overseas Pakistanis. ECP's technical officers provided direct assistance to the President of Pakistan in these meetings.
- (iii) Later, the Ministry of Science & Technology (MoST) developed a prototype EVM and demonstrated the same before the Hon'ble Election Commission on 17th August, 2021.
- (iv) After the demonstration by MoST, the ECP constituted a Technical Evaluation Committee with the mandate to technically examine the prototype EVM and inspect its feasibility for use in pilot testing.
- (v) After a detailed analysis, The Technical Evaluation Committee was of opinion that the prototype EVM was not indigenously developed by MoST and that lacked essential fundamental features given in the ECP's technical requirements. Moreover, the ECP asked MoST in January 2022 to provide 3,900 EVMs for use as a pilot project in the Mayor Local Government Elections of ICT, however, MoST showed its inability to provide.
- (vi) On 17th November 2021, legislation was carried out by the Joint Session of Parliament and amendments were made to Sections 94 related to "Overseas Pakistanis Voting" and 103 of the Elections Act, 2017 to allow the use of stand-alone EVMs in the General Elections.
- (vii) Following the amendment, ECP constituted three special Committees to address the EVM's legal, technical, and financial aspects by involving expertise in cybersecurity, with the direction to prepare a comprehensive report.
- (viii) In March 2022, under the supervision of the Secretary ECP, all three committees submitted a joint Report to the Hon'ble Election Commission, outlining their recommendations, roadmap, and proposed a way forward for the implementation of EVMs and Overseas Voting, followed by pilot projects.
- (ix) In May 2022, Sections 94 and 103 of the Elections Act, 2017 were repealed by the Parliament, limiting the scope to conduct of pilot projects only.
- (x) In continuation of this, The Project Management Unit (PMU) was established in January, 2022 by hiring a Project Director, Project Manager, Deputy Project Manager, and IT Consultant to work on EVM / I-Voting projects dedicatedly and to conduct pilots by following International Standards and World best practices.
- (xi) A separate office was acquired at the National Institute of Electronics (NIE) in Sector H-9, Islamabad for the establishment of a Project Management Unit (PMU).
- (xii) Expression of Interest (EOI) for procuring of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) and to conduct pilot tests to analyze major aspects like secrecy and security as per section 103 of the Elections Act, 2017. The said EOI was published in the newspapers, wherein the firms / vendors were invited in July, 2022 to demonstrate their capabilities for deployment of EVMs as pilot tests. After the approval, the sample EVMs of different vendors could be tested in any NA / PA bye-election. However, ECP did not conduct the pilot project due to ongoing Local Government Elections in various provinces and preparations for the upcoming General Elections.
- (xiii) The ECP now plans to conduct pilot projects during the bye-elections in line with the Sections 94 and 103 of the Elections Act, 2017.

6.24 ECP EMPLOYEES EMPOWERMENT

To ensure the efficient execution of official tasks and smooth operations, ECP's employees are fully equipped with the latest IT tools, technologies, and relevant knowledge. These efforts aim to enhance overall operational efficiency, improve service delivery, and fostering a skilled workforce capable of leveraging modern technologies for more effective governance and election processes. To achieve the above targets, the following initiatives were taken:

A. PROCUREMENT OF ADVANCED IT EQUIPMENT AND SOFTWARE

- 2,000 Branded Laptops with Windows Professional licenses were procured providing employees with robust and efficient devices for their daily tasks.
- Multiple Desktop Computers, Printers and other peripheral devices were acquired to ensure that all staff has access to the essential hardware for administrative and operational duties.
- Oracle Software Licenses were obtained, enabling staff to utilize specialized software for data management and analytics.

B. CONDUCT OF SPECIALIZED TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR IT OFFICERS

- Oracle Apex Training was imparted to enhance the technical skills of IT officers in developing and managing high-end software applications.
- Election Management System (EMS) Training was conducted to improve knowledge and proficiency in managing election processes.
- Gender Responsive Budgeting and Political Finance Training Programs were conducted for ensuring better understanding of the financial systems related to gender and political finance.
- Training on ECP's Data Center was held to ensure the effective utilization of newly deployed state-of-the-art critical digital infrastructure.

These initiatives are a key component of ECP's ongoing efforts to modernize its IT infrastructure, enhance employee capabilities with advanced training and enabling them to improve overall service delivery.

6.25 ECP'S DIGITAL SERVICES

The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) is committed to introduce data management systems that enhance operational efficiency and decision-making processes within organizations. The aim is to leverage digital tools, platforms, and technologies to provide valuable information and insights for the electoral process. Digital Services not only digitize various operations within the office but also enable robust and efficient administration, allowing the concerned Wings to prioritize and complete tasks within short time frames.

Currently, ECP's Digital Services include the modules like (i) Legal Case Management System (LCMS), (ii) Training Information Management System (TIMS), (iii) Human Resource Management System (HRMS) and HRMS-Admin, (iv) Monitoring & Reporting System (MRS), (v) Integrated Office Record Management System (IORMS), (vi) Complaint Management System (CMS) Module, (vii) Scheduler and (viii) Telephone Directory.

Additionally, Digital Services encompass the following two mobile applications, each designed to streamline and manage ECP's internal affairs and query resolution process:

I. EMPLOYEE PROCESSES AUTOMATION MODULE (EPAM)

The ECP Mobile Application is a comprehensive digital solution that simplifies workforce management within the organization. This platform enables efficient personnel profiling, seamless attendance tracking, real-time notifications, and an integrated leave management system. By consolidating essential human resource functions into a single interface, the application enhances operational efficiency and fosters better coordination among the workforce.

II. COMPLAINT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (CMS) MOBILE APPLICATION

The CMS mobile application allows citizens to lodge complaints and track their resolutions. It bridges the gap between the public and the ECP, ensuring transparency and efficiency in managing complaints. The app offers a structured mechanism for lodging complaints, tracking their status, and receiving timely updates on their resolution by the ECP authorities.

ECP's Digital Services aim to foster a digital culture within the organization, embracing technological advancements that are not only necessary for the times but also vital for transitioning to a paperless environment. As a result, these services promote transparency and accuracy within the stipulated time frames.

7. BUDGET AND GENERAL SERVICE WING

7.1 INTRODUCTION

Budget operations are a crucial aspect of public finance management in any public sector entity. Given the financial autonomy granted to the ECP as a constitutional body, a well-structured budget system is essential.

Over the past five years, the Budget Branch has transformed into the management hub of ECP's public finance operations. As an effective part of the Political Finance Wing since 2021-22, it has grown in outreach by catering to the challenges of the diversity of payments in General Elections, bye-elections, Senate elections, local government elections, delimitation and electoral roll updates. These calendar-bound, action-plan-based operations demand precise timelines for disbursements across the geographical span, with no compromise on controls and transparency, as mandated by the ECP.

The Election Commission has completed one of the most logistically complex and sensitive operations in the nation's democratic history i.e. the procurement of Special Watermarked Paper (SWP), printing and distribution of 260 million ballot papers for the General Elections 2024. ECP worked on strategic planning of enhanced security protocols, and resource optimization by redesigning the Ballot paper and a commitment to transparency. It faced numerous challenges, from an unprecedented number of candidates participating to various logistical hurdles. This has transformed the previous paper-based section into a Strategic Supply Chain Hub of ECP.

7.2 EXPONENTIAL GROWTH IN ECP'S BUDGET

During the last five financial years i.e. from 2020-21 to 2024-25, ECP witnessed growth in its budgetary allocation, which increased from Rs 3.148 billion in FY 2020-21 to Rs 9.63 billion in FY 2024-25.

7.3 GENERAL ELECTIONS BUDGET

Out of the allocated General Elections budget of Rs 47.417 billion, Rs 36.617 billion was utilized for the conduct of the General Elections 2024, covering 859 constituencies of the National and Provincial Assemblies, keeping economic considerations in view. These funds were meticulously allocated and disbursed to 186 cost centers at approved rates and scales for various essential activities, including POL Transportation of Goods, Training Charges, Conference & Seminar, procurement of printing materials, office stationery, payments for postage and telegraph, and contingent expenditures.

7.4 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

Rs. 11.055 billion was allocated for the successful conduct of Local Government Elections across three provinces: Rs. 2.9 billion for Sindh, Rs. 3.85 billion for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Rs. 4.3 billion for Balochistan. Additionally, Rs. 215 million was allocated for Cantonment Board elections across Pakistan in FY 2020-21.

7.5 AGPR SUB-OFFICE AT ECP

A dedicated Sub-Ordinate Cell (SOC) of the Office of the Accountant General of Pakistan Revenues (AGPR) was established in the ECP Secretariat to expedite billing processes. Additionally, the Finance Division granted full release of funds to ECP, exempting it from the quarterly release mechanism during the last four Financial Years.

7.6 PROCUREMENT OF SPECIAL WATERMARKED PAPER FOR GENERAL ELECTIONS- 2024

The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) took significant steps to ensure the timely availability of Special Watermarked Paper for the General Elections 2024. Through proactive planning, it procured 1,100 tons locally from Security Papers Limited (SPL), saving Rs. 4.9 billion in foreign exchange. When an unexpected increase in contesting candidates arose, the ECP efficiently modified the ballot design to accommodate them, saving an additional Rs. 1.3 billion. In total, 1,897 tons of paper was used, leaving a stock of 361 tons.

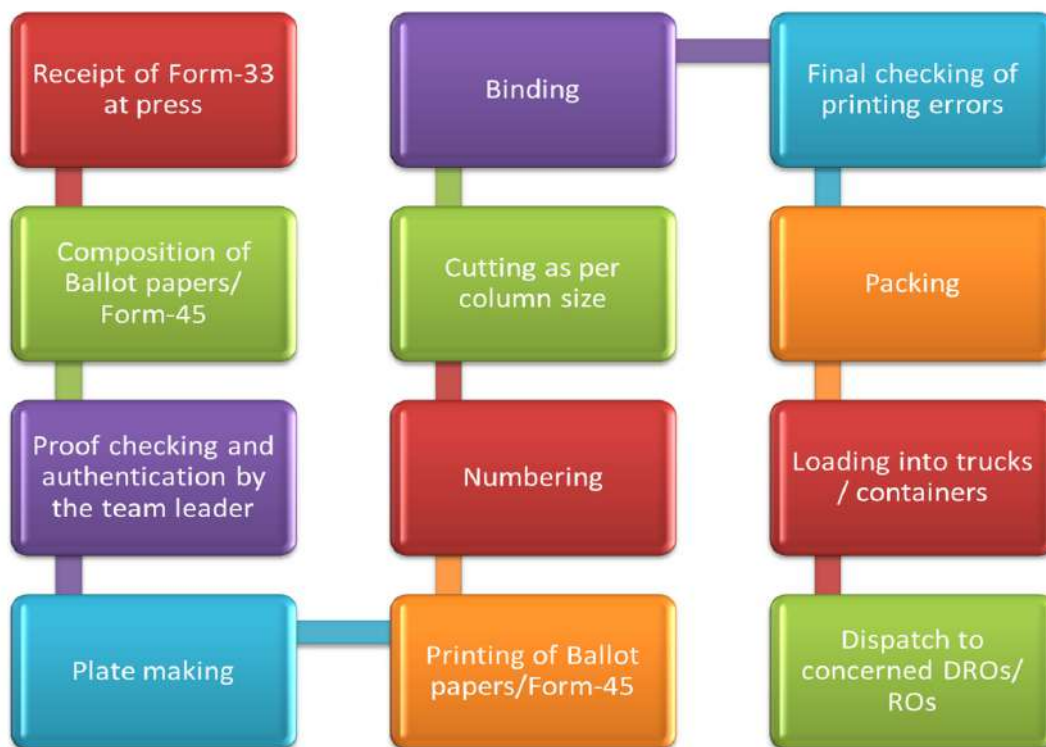
7.7 SPECIALIZED PRINTING AND STRATEGIC ALLOCATION OF BALLOT PAPERS

Due to capacity constraints at the Printing Corporation of Pakistan, the government's principal press, the printing of ballot papers for the General Elections 2024 was strategically distributed among the National Security Printing Company (NSPC) in Karachi, the Printing Corporation of Pakistan (PCP) and the Pakistan Post Foundation (PPF) Press in Islamabad.

A total of 260 million ballot papers were printed over 20 days, strictly adhering to the Election Schedule. The allocation was as follows:

- NSPC: 90 million
- PCP: 70 million
- PPF: 100 million

The printing process followed the sequence outlined below:



7.8 PROCUREMENT OF SPECIAL WATERMARKED PAPER FOR THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTIONS

To comply with future requirement, the ECP has initiated the procurement of Special Watermarked Paper (SWP) for the next General Elections well in advance.

For this purpose, the ECP engaged the National Security Printing Company (NSPC), which began procuring 2,800 tons of SWP (1,400 tons off-white and 1,400 tons light green) through an open international competitive bidding process. This process is in its advanced stages and is expected to be completed by June 2025.

Additionally, 200 tons of SWP were procured from M/S Security Papers Limited (SPL) for bye-elections following the General Elections 2024.

7.9 STORAGE AND SECURITY OF PAPER IN PRINTING PRESSES

To meet the high demand for Special Watermarked Paper for bye-elections and the next General Elections, the ECP directed NSPC, PCP and PPF to expand their storage capacities, recognizing the need for improvement since the 2018 General Elections. While NSPC has already implemented Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for secure storage, PCP and PPF have been instructed to adopt similar measures. A robust stock-taking mechanism will ensure transparency, with inventory records updated during paper receipt and usage. Additionally, security has been reinforced, with the Pakistan Army safeguarding NSPC, while PCP and PPF have been advised to enhance their security protocols to meet the required standards.

7.10 HIGH-SECURITY LOGISTICS AND TRANSPORTATION

The transportation of Special Watermarked Paper from the port to the designated press requires strict security due to the material's sensitive nature. The Commission has implemented special security measures, including escorts for vehicles carrying the paper, to ensure its safe delivery to printing presses nationwide. This process involves all relevant stakeholders, including the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Maritime Affairs, National Highway Authority, Motorway Police and the Home Departments of Punjab and Sindh, along with other concerned departments.

7.11 SECURE DISPATCH AND FOOLPROOF SECURITY MEASURES

Once printed, ballot papers were dispatched according to a well-defined Dispatch Plan. Each consignment was securely escorted to its designated constituency, ensuring the integrity of the election process. The office collaborated with local security forces to maintain the highest level of protection during transportation, preventing any breaches or disruptions.

8. ACCOUNTS AND INTERNAL AUDIT WING

8.1. CREATION OF "ACCOUNTS CADRE"

To enhance compliance with the Public Financial Management (PFM) Act, 2019 and Financial Management and Powers of Principal Accounting Officers Regulations 2021, a fully dedicated "Accounts Cadre" has been established comprising posts of Deputy Assistant Directors (Accounts) and Director General (Political Finance) in ECP. It is worth mentioning that previously there was no dedicated Accounts Cadre in ECP and officers/officials for Accounts/Finance positions used to be appointed on deputation basis from other organizations such as the Department of Auditor General of Pakistan (AGP) and Controller General of Accounts (CGA). Besides, no officers/officials with finance and accounts backgrounds were posted at REC or DEC level. In marked contrast to that, 36 posts of Deputy Assistant Directors (DAD) Accounts were created dedicatedly. Five of these newly created posts of DADs are stationed at ECP Secretariat while 31 posts have been created at RECs level. Besides, three new posts of Assistant Directors (Accounts) have also been created in ECP Secretariat. Recruitment to these newly created posts of DADs and ADs has been made strictly merit-based. Officers of this newly created Accounts cadre were imparted rigorous pre-service training. It is believed that they will be instrumental in ensuring financial management and internal controls at the DEC and REC level in the days to come.

8.2. INTERNAL AUDIT AND CONTROLS

ECP is now one of the few organizations which has developed its own internal audit function to implement effective internal controls in ECP Secretariat and all of its field offices to improve accountability and transparency. It aims to improve financial management by mitigating the risk of waste and misappropriation of public funds, to prevent and promptly identify errors and irregularities and to strengthen financial matters across the organization. Directions were issued to the field offices to clear all pending liabilities against the DDO Accounts and deposit the surplus funds in the government treasury, as required under the PFM Act and Cash Management and Treasury Single Account Rules, 2024. The field offices complied with the directions and deposited unspent amounts in government treasury.

To streamline the Internal Audit Function, ECP has created an Internal Audit Charter to give auditees and auditors the appropriate parameters and guidelines. The Auditor General of Pakistan has also endorsed the charter of the Election Commission of Pakistan.

8.3. AUDIT OF FUNDS RELEASED FOR GENERAL ELECTIONS 2024

In the history of the ECP, first-ever Internal Audit of election funds of General Election 2024 has been completed. Conducting audit of all 186 cost centres was a massive exercise.

Detailed SOPs were shared with the District Election Commissioners offices and they were guided on effective internal control in disbursement of funds. An Internal Audit Committee has been constituted to get effective responses of the audit reports.

8.4. STREAMLINING OF RECEIPTS COLLECTED ON BEHALF OF ELECTION COMMISSION OF PAKISTAN

A Standardized Receipts Reporting Format is now being followed in all the field offices to make effective Receipts Reporting. Previously, all receipts of the Election Commission were deposited under the Head of Account "C-03870-Other Receipts". However, a specific Head of Account "C-02166-

Receipts of Election Commission of Pakistan under Elections Act 2017" was opened and now all receipts of ECP are deposited under this Accounts Head. An amount over Rs. 750 million was deposited under the account C-02166 in the Federal Treasury against Receipts of ECP in respect of General Election 2024.

8.5. OPENING OF TRANSITORY BANK ACCOUNTS

Transitory Bank Accounts (TBAs) for the newly created District Election Commissioner offices have been opened in accordance with the Public Finance Management Act 2019 and directives issued from the Finance Division from time to time. These TBAs, created on temporary basis, were meant to facilitate transactions during the General Elections 2024.



9. LAW WING

9.1 INTRODUCTION/ BACKGROUND

The Commission, while performing its duties and functions under the Constitution and law, receives and decides various complaints, petitions and applications in respect of delimitation of constituencies, disputes regarding Electoral Rolls during General Elections, Local Government Elections, intra party elections of the political parties, allocation of Election Symbols, transfer of Election Petitions, Petitions regarding violations of Code of Conduct, qualification and disqualification of Candidates etc. These cases require focused and concerted input from the Law Wing.

The Law Wing is one of the important wings of the Election Commission; however, it was not given its due importance until 2020. It did not have proper legal professionals and the officers from the General Cadre having no legal background were working in the Law Wing who faced difficulty in dealing with a plethora of cases in the ECP as well as higher courts.

9.2 RESTRUCTURING OF LAW WING

The Election Commission of Pakistan deals with a large number of cases before the Supreme Court of Pakistan, High Courts at the Provincial level and its benches, Federal Service Tribunals, Information Commission of Pakistan, and District and Sessions Courts. Initially the Law Wing was working only at the Secretariat level and there was no viable setup at the provincial levels. Only three senior Law Officers were stationed at Karachi, Peshawar and Quetta which was not sufficient to cope with the large number of litigation pending before different foras. To meet with this critical challenge and to effectively handle the legal cases, significant measures were taken for strengthening the Law Wing.

In 2015, the appointment of an Additional Director General (Law) was made, requiring a proper legal background. The post was later upgraded to Director General (Law). In 2017, the posts of Deputy Director (Law) and Assistant Director (Law) were created and filled with qualified legal professionals, further enhancing the Wing's capability. Additionally, in 2020 following steps were taken:-

1. **Creation of post of Additional Director General (Law):** In 2021, a post of ADG (Law) for the ECP, Secretariat, Islamabad was created and filled through direct recruitment.
2. **Creation of posts of Director (Law):** Two (2) posts of Director (Law) were created at PEC offices of Sindh and Punjab, which have been filled through promotions, besides the same post at the Secretariat was designated as a direct recruitment position and is filled on contract basis for a term of two years.
3. **Creation of posts of Law Officers:** 15 posts of Law Officers were created across the country, distributed as per workload of the High Courts and filled with eligible candidates on merit.
4. **Creation of Additional Posts:** Posts of Legal Consultant, Legal Assistant, and Court Reader were created and filled with qualified candidates.
5. **Creation of New Branches:** A Diary and Attestation Branch and a Law-III branch were created to streamline the process of preparation and delivery of attested copies of the orders passed in the petitions decided by the Commission.
6. **Promotion Policy:** Previously, there was neither a promotion policy nor an established seniority list for the Law Wing. To address this, a comprehensive promotion policy was formulated, incorporating a futuristic approach and providing a career path for the officers and officials of Law Wing.

These steps underscore a significant effort to revamp and enhance the legal framework of the ECP, ensuring stronger legal support across the country.

9.3 SCANNING OF RECORD

The law wing conducted the scanning and digitization of records, including various files and documents, converting them into PDF format for easy access and immediate retrieval through digital means. This initiative has been undertaken entirely by the Law Wing, as numerous cases are filed before the Hon'ble Commission on daily basis. To date, approximately 338 GB of data has been scanned into PDF format without any third-party assistance. The scanning process is ongoing.

9.4 WEEDING OF RECORD

The cases relating to delimitation were heard and decided twice. Nine folders for each case were prepared for presentation before the Commission.

After the final disposal of the cases, the original folders were retained, while the remaining eight folders were weeded out, totaling over 35,000 folders.

9.5 STEPS REGARDING DISPOSAL OF PENDING ELECTION PETITIONS

After the conduct of General Elections 2018, a large number of Election Petitions were filed before the Election Tribunals which were required to be decided by the concerned Tribunals within 120 days. However, after lapse of more than 2 years, a considerable number of Election Petitions were pending, causing difficulties for the parties. The Commission, in order to expedite the trial and disposal of pending Election Petitions made efforts and addressed numerous letters to the Election Tribunals through Registrars for swift disposal of the petitions.

9.6 HIRING OF LEGAL ADVISORS AND PANEL OF THE ADVOCATES SUPREME COURT

Services of Legal Advisors were hired for Islamabad High Court, Lahore High Court, Peshawar High Court, Peshawar and Balochistan High Court. In addition, to ensure the effective representation before the Supreme Court of Pakistan on case-to-case basis, 19 Senior Advocates were taken on the panel of ECP after due process, keeping in view their reputation and competence level.

9.7 DELAY IN CONDUCT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS AND STEPS TAKEN BY THE COMMISSION.

The Election Commission of Pakistan characteristically encounters obstacles in holding timely Local Government Elections due to the following reasons:-

- Generally insufficient support from provincial governments,
- Changing Local Government laws at the nick of time.
- Court cases and restraining orders on delimitation and election schedules

These obstacles traditionally hindered the Election Commission's ability to hold elections within 120 days of the previous term's expiration, as mandated by the Constitution and the Elections Act, 2017. To address this delay, the ECP proposed amendment to Article 140A of the Constitution. Additionally, the Commission held a series of meetings with the provincial administrations and diligently followed the cases in courts to ensure compliance with the Constitution/ Supreme Court orders, to hold the Local Government Elections on time.

The Commission conducted numerous hearings by issuing notices to the Federal Secretary Interior and Provincial Local Governments Secretaries and sensitized them on the timely conduct of Local Government Elections in ICT and Provinces. Also, petitions were filed before the August Supreme Court of Pakistan for the conduct of Local Government Elections in ICT and the four Provinces with the assistance of the legal team. Resultantly, the Supreme Court of Pakistan disposed of the matter on March 15, 2021 and the Commission successfully conducted the local government elections in KP, Sindh, Balochistan, and Cantonment Boards.

After the conduct of first phase of LG elections in KP (17 Districts) on 19th December 2021, the Commission received several petitions under sections 8, 9 and 95, of the Elections Act 2017 and decided accordingly.

9.8 PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE ELECTIONS ACT, 2017

The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has established a Law Reforms Committee to review and amend the Elections Act, 2017 ensuring conformity with the Constitution and transparency in the electoral process. 66 amendments to various provisions of the Elections Act, 2017, as well as to Articles 140A and 223 of the Constitution of 1973 were forwarded to the Parliament for consideration and legislation, being the competent forum on the subject. Similarly, Legal Reforms Committee also proposed amendments to the Election Rules 2017 and got them approved from the Commission. These amendments are given below:

Proposed amendments to sections of the Elections Act, 2017

2,12,13,15,18,19,20,55,57,59,60,61,66,68,76,79,83,86,90,93,95,
96,99,105,107,108,109,110,118,122,127,130,132,133,140,144,
148,155,157,158,167,170,172,190A,193,203,208,211,219,230,231 &
233 and Form-A & Form-C.

Amendments to Articles of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, 1973.

140A & 223

9.9 AMENDMENTS PROPOSED AND INCORPORATED IN THE ELECTION RULES, 2017

The Legal Reforms Committee after review of the Election Rules, 2017 proposed the following amendments which were incorporated in the Election Rules after getting approval from the Commission:

Proposed amendments to the Election Rules, 2017

6,39,48,51,52,56,66,71,84,85,87,88,134A,138, 140,143,161,171,& 173
and Form-41 & Form-68.

9.10 DELIMITATION AFTER PUBLICATION OF 6th POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUS, 2017

The delimitation process was started based on the Population and Housing Census, which was officially published on May 6, 2021. A draft list of constituencies was made public, allowing voters to file objections from June 1 to June 30, 2022. SOPs were formulated for the ease of objectors to file the representations; which were subsequently heard and decided in July 2022 (within thirty days). The statistics of the representations received are as follows:

Province	Representations received	Representations disposed of
Punjab	568	568
Sindh	79	79
KP	163	163
Balochistan	92	92
ICT	8	8
Total	910	910

Afterwards the final list of constituencies (Form-7) was published in the official Gazette on August 5, 2022. Additionally, the final delimitation and maps were made available on the ECP's website for public information.

9.11 DELIMITATION OF CONSTITUENCIES AFTER PUBLICATION OF 7TH POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUS 2023

The Election Commission re-conducted the delimitation of general seats for the National and Provincial Assemblies after the official publication of 7th Population and Housing Census 2023.

The draft delimitation was made public on September 27, 2023, inviting the public to file representations against the preliminary list of constituencies. The representation period lasted from September 28, 2023, to October 27, 2023. Right after it, the Election Commission decided the filed representations and objections. Following are the statistics of the representations received and resolved :

Province	Representations received	Representations disposed of
Punjab	675	675
Sindh	228	228
KP	293	293
Balochistan	124	124
ICT	7	7
Total	1327	1327

The final list of constituencies (Form-7) was published on 30th November, 2023 in the official Gazette. The final delimitation along with maps was uploaded on the ECP's website for public information.

In 2022, the Commission disposed of 1553 cases after hearing the parties on different issues. The Law Wing handled all the petitions, assisted the Commission during hearings of the matters by issuing notices to the parties in preparation of cause lists, and circulation of rosters, case research, maintenance of original record of the petition, issuing of attested copies of the orders and complete files of the cases. An overview of the cases is as follows:

Sr. No.	Subject	Cases disposed of
1.	Conduct of LG elections (Suo-moto)	11
2.	Complaints	6
3.	Representations of delimitation (LGs):	60
4.	Cases under Article 63A of the Constitution	46
5.	Disqualification cases	7
6.	Foreign Funding cases	3
7.	Local government and general petitions	338
8.	Writ Petitions	6
9.	Intra Party elections	27
10.	Cases on Statement of Accounts	42
11.	Code of Conduct	77
12.	References under Article 63(2) of the Constitution	2
13.	Contempt matters	7
14.	Allocation of Symbol	6
15.	Enlistment of political parties	5
16.	Representation of delimitation of National and Provincial Assemblies constituencies	910
Total		1553

9.12 APPOINTMENT OF ELECTION TRIBUNALS

To settle post-election disputes arising from Local Government Elections in Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Balochistan, the Election Commission appointed District and Additional District and Sessions Judges as Election Tribunals. The details are as follows:

Sr. No.	Province	Election Tribunals appointed
1.	Sindh (1st Phase)	14
2.	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	118
3.	Balochistan	32
	Total	164

9.13 HEARING OF CASES ON CODE OF CONDUCT (COC) VIOLATIONS, CONTEMPT PROCEEDINGS, AND ELECTION DISPUTES (2022)

The Law Wing provided legal assistance to the Hon'ble Commission in addressing cases of CoC violations, contempt proceedings, and election disputes during 2022. Key actions included:

- Disqualification:** The Provincial Minister for Transport was disqualified from the Provincial Assembly on account of corrupt practice.
- Debarment:** Mr. Mamoon Rashid, son of a minister, was barred from contesting the election of Chairman Tehsil Council on account of corrupt practice.
- Notices:** 30 public office holders were issued notices for violating the CoC.
- Contempt Proceedings:** Were initiated against six political figures for derogatory remarks against the Commission.
- Defection Cases:** After receipt of reference from the Speaker National Assembly and Provincial Assembly, the Commission disqualified 20 MNAs and 25 MPAs under Article 63A of the Constitution by confirming the declaration passed by the party head.

9.14 CASES DECIDED BY HIGH COURTS

In 2023, the matters regarding the disputes over delimitation of constituencies, intraparty elections, allocation of election symbols, and the acceptance or rejection of nomination papers were fixed before the High Courts of the provinces, which were handled and resolved by the ECP's legal team at Secretariat and provincial level. The details and number of cases decided with the assistance of the legal team are given below:-

Sr. No.	HIGH COURTS AND BENCHES	Cases resolved
1.	Lahore High Court, Lahore & its benches	1,357
2.	High Court of Sindh, Karachi & its benches	162
3.	Peshawar High Court, Peshawar & its benches	118
4.	Balochistan High Court, Quetta & its benches	120
5.	Islamabad High Court, Islamabad	527
	Total	2284

2024 was the year of General Elections in which legal team of the Law Wing performed various activities before different fora including august Supreme Court of Pakistan and different benches of the High Courts.

Following is the description of certain milestones achieved:

Sr. No.	Description
1.	620 Petitions / Applications were filed before the Commission under Section 8, 9 and 95 of the Elections Act, 2017 which have been handled by the Law Wing and were decided accordingly, after the Conduct of General Elections 2024.
2.	4340 Notices were issued and served on the parties through concerned DEC's/ REC's & PEC's. These notices were e-mailed to them and SMS service was also utilized to inform the litigants.
3.	400 Reports obtained from the ROs have been placed before the Commission during hearings.
4.	More than 4000 certified copies of petitions, orders and RO reports have been issued by the Law Wing
5.	Latest books covering all possible disputes, cases in respect of elections were provided to all law officers in the Secretariat and concerned field offices.

9.15 IMPORTANT CASES DECIDED BY THE ELECTION COMMISSION OF PAKISTAN

A. DASKA CASE (SUMMARY)

The Bye-Election to the vacant seat of NA-75 Sialkot-IV was held on 19.02.2021. During the election proceedings a report was received in the Commission on 20.02.2021 whereby, it was informed that the result of 20 polling stations was received late on the next date 20.02.2021 at around 06:00 A.M from the concerned Presiding Officers. A contesting candidate Syeda Nosheen Iftikhar of PML (N) also submitted an application under Article 218(3) of the Constitution of Pakistan, read with Section 9 of the Elections Act, 2017 to the Commission in respect of tampering of result of 20 polling stations and also stated that the Presiding Officers of 20 polling stations remained missing. Furthermore, several incidents were also reported to the Commission including two murders, lack of cooperation of law enforcement agencies and manipulation and tampering with the results of the Constituency. The Commission while taking cognizance of the matter fixed it for hearing with notice to the parties including contesting candidates and Returning Officer & District Returning Officer (R.O & D.R.O) concerned. After hearing the concerned parties, the Commission declared the election in the entire Constituency void on the ground that due to major violation of election laws the election was not conducted free, fair, transparent and in a peaceful manner. Fresh poll was ordered in the entire Constituency on 18.03.2021.

The Respondent Ali Asjad Malhi challenged the order of the Commission before the Supreme Court of Pakistan under section 9(5) of the Elections Act, 2017 which was dismissed by the Supreme Court on 02.04.2021 and order passed by the Commission was upheld.

The Commission also initiated disciplinary proceedings under Section 55 of the Elections Act, 2017 against all the Election Officials and the Officers of other departments including Police who remained involved in the process of manipulation and tampering with the results. Criminal complaints for corrupt practices were also lodged under section 190 of the Elections Act, 2017.

B. SCRUTINY OF SOURCES OF FUNDS

The Commission is charged with the duty, in terms of Article 17(3) of the Constitution read with Section 210 of the Elections Act, 2017, to conduct an audit of the consolidated statements of party accounts of all the political parties enlisted with the Commission. The Political Parties are also under legal obligation to submit their details of campaign finance. In order to fulfill its Constitutional duties, the Commission has established a Political Finance Wing headed by an accomplished Director General. The Commission has also constituted a scrutiny committee to scrutinize the financial record and sources of funds of the Political Parties. So far the scrutiny committee has undertaken the task of scrutiny of major Political Parties while the Political Finance Wing undertakes the exercise of scrutiny on a regular basis. This has brought a lot of transparency in the internal financial matters of the political parties.

C. DELISTMENT OF ALL PAKISTAN MUSLIM LEAGUE (APML)

Political parties are established under Article 17(2) of the Constitution, read in conjunction with Sections 200, 202, 203, and 204 of the Elections Act, 2017. The All Pakistan Muslim League (APML) was an enlisted political party but failed to comply with the necessary legal requirements under the aforementioned provisions. The intra-party elections of APML were disputed as they did not align with the party constitution, the Elections Act, 2017, or the Election Rules, 2017. Furthermore, the party failed to submit a consolidated statement of accounts, signed by an authorized person, to the ECP since 2017. Three applicants sought the allotment of the "Eagle" election symbol for the upcoming General Elections 2024. On 13.10.2023, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) ruled that the APML had not provided the required consolidated statement of accounts for the past four years and had not conducted valid intra-party elections. As a result, the ECP delisted the APML as a political party under Article 218(3) of the Constitution of Pakistan, read with Section 202(5) of the Elections Act, 2017. The APML challenged the ECP's order before the Hon'ble Supreme Court, which, after hearing the appeal, dismissed it and upheld the ECP's order dated 13.10.2023. Some other political parties have also been delisted and certain cases are pending before the august Supreme Court & High Courts.

D. ALLOCATION OF SYMBOLS AND CONDUCT OF INTRAPARTY ELECTIONS

The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) submitted documents related to its intra-party elections held on 02-12-2023 to the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP). Various applications were filed against PTI's intraparty elections. The ECP issued notices to the concerned parties and, after hearing their submissions, rendered its decision on 19-12-2023. The ECP found that PTI had failed to comply with the directions issued in its order dated 23-11-2023 and had not conducted intraparty elections in accordance with the party's constitution (2019) and the Elections Act, 2017. Consequently, the certificate dated 04-12-2023 and Form-65 submitted by the alleged chairman were rejected, and PTI was declared ineligible to obtain the election symbol. PTI challenged the ECP's order before the Hon'ble Peshawar High Court, which, on 10-01-2024, set aside the ECP's decision. The ECP then filed an appeal against the Peshawar High Court's order before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of Pakistan. The Supreme Court allowed the appeal, setting aside the judgment of the Peshawar High Court and upheld the ECP's order dated 19-12-2023.

10. MONITORING AND EVALUATION (M & E) WING

10.1 INTRODUCTION

Since its inception Monitoring at ECP used to be based on paper work i.e obtaining reports from the field and mostly reactive to the news on media. However, system was digitally transformed by taking the following initiatives:

1. State of the art "Election Monitoring Control Center" established
2. Software was designed for incorporating Monitoring & Evaluation tools.
3. Enhance reliance on paperless environment.
4. Real-time reporting directly from the field.
5. Self-reliance in M&E.
6. Adaptation of modern analysis and evaluation tools.
7. Round the clock monitoring of Pre, Poll-day and Post-poll Election activities.

10.2 ELECTION MONITORING AND CONTROL CENTER (EMCC)

Policy gaps in monitoring mechanism were identified to let go of the traditional & reactive approaches and the use of contemporary technologies, tools as well as adoption of proactive approaches. M&E wing has been strengthened enough to monitor all elections and non-electoral activities. EMCC a state of the art facility under one roof has been established for swift functioning of Monitoring activities. Likewise, the Joint Provincial Election Commissioners (Admin) at each province were assigned additional duty and nominated as Provincial Monitoring Coordinators (PMC), whereas the Regional Election Commissioners at each divisional HQ were nominated as Regional Monitoring Coordinators (RMC) to supervise and swift functioning of EMCC. The following were the main objectives of EMCC:

- To enhance decision making support system in the light of real-time reports and evidences.
- To track the progress of various activities during Election schedule as well as Pre & Post elections period.
- To strengthen the coordination mechanism between ECP and Monitoring Teams as well as key election officials.
- To ensure effective monitoring of mainstream media.
- To facilitate general public and instant redressal of their complaints.

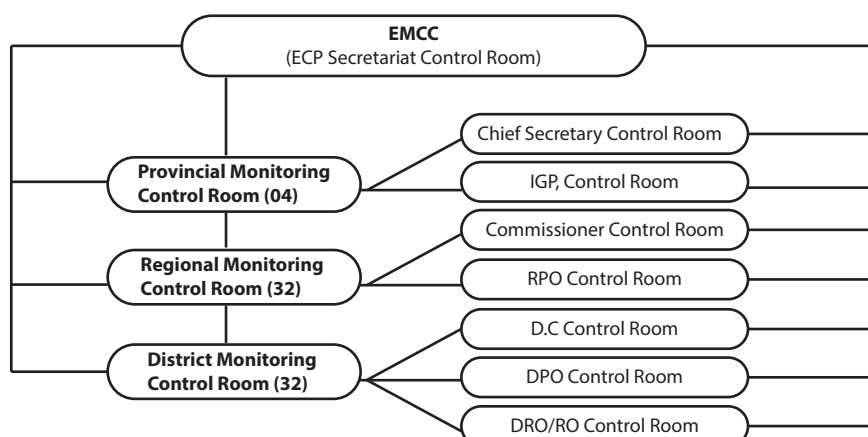
10.3 UNIQUE FEATURES OF EMCC

- Digital Wall comprising 12 screens having 4K Ultra High Definition (UHD) resolution to facilitate the operators to view multiple reports and conduct multi-tasking at ease.
- Multiple LED Screens to monitor mainstream media
- 16 Help desks for facilitators to respond 24/7 on complaints
- Special Gender Desk dedicated for specific complaints
- Zoom/Video conferencing facility for Pre-Poll and Post Elections activities during G.E 2024.
- WhatsApp: 0327-5050610 facility for general public to lodge complaints during G.E 2024.
- UAN 051-111-327-000 facility for general public to lodge complaints during G.E 2024, Bye-Elections & LG Elections.
- Dedicated Email "complaints@ecp.gov.pk" for general public.

10.4 CONTROL ROOM TIERS AT ALL LEVELS

- EMCC played a pivotal role during the G.E.2024. For swift coordination and effective monitoring, 180 subordinate control rooms at Provincial, Divisional and District level were operationalized.

All Tiers are interconnected with District Administration and LEAs.



10.5 RECORD NUMBER OF MONITORING ACTIONS

In pursuance of the section 234 of the Elections Act and monitoring framework for monitoring of General Election, the Monitoring Teams were appointed at each constituency. The DMOs were also appointed at each district to decide the complaints. The monitoring teams were supervised by the Regional Election Commissioners/RMCs. The whole monitoring activities were coordinated through EMCC. The Monitoring teams took strict actions under the law against the violators regardless of their positions and parties across the board. Following actions were taken by the Monitoring Teams:

- Removal of 22134 unauthorized publicity material across the country.
- 1198-Notices issued to different candidates.
- 410-Warnings issued on account of violation of Code of Conduct.
- 301-Fines imposed on candidates for Code of Conduct violations.
- 3-Cases of CoC violations referred to the Commission for disqualification.
- 2-Govt. Officials suspended by the Commission for involvement in Election Campaign.

10.6 PROVINCIAL MONITORING COORDINATORS & REGIONAL MONITORING COORDINATORS

In order to strengthen monitoring teams and swift coordination, supervisory roles of Provincial Monitoring Coordinators (PMC) at each province and Regional Monitoring Coordinator (RMC) at each divisional HQ were identified and their appointment was one of the leading steps towards strengthening M&E wing.

- 4 Joint Provincial Election Commissioners (Admn) at each Province were assigned additional role of PMC to supervise monitoring related activities in their provinces.
- 32 Regional Election Commissioners at each division were assigned additional role of RMC to supervise monitoring related activities in their divisions.

10.7 MONITORING OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

As per policy/ directions of the Hon'ble Commission, the scope of Section 234 of Elections Act, 2017 was also extended and applied to L.G Elections which were more difficult to monitor. The Monitoring Teams played a pivotal role during the L.G elections for conduct of transparent elections and took a series of actions against violators regardless of their political positions. The details of actions are tabulated as under:

Unprecedented Across the Board Actions by Monitoring Teams in L.G Elections				
Notices Issued	Warnings Issued	Fines Imposed	Disciplinary Actions	Removal of unauthorized Publicity Material
796	618	252	08	21,054

Keeping in view the results achieved and pivotal role of EMCC during conduct of elections, it is important that journey of transformation does not come to an end, rather it should move ahead by enhancing the scope of M&E wing from election to non-election activities also. Going forward, the EMCC shall be made more effective during Pre-Election as well as Post-Election period. It is planned to extend the scope of EMCC to cover the following activities:

- Delimitation activities
- Voter registration/updation of Electoral Rolls and functioning of CERS
- Trainings and civic education awareness activities
- Administrative arrangements regarding Recruitment process
- Track progress of development projects
- District Voter Education Programs through DVEC activities
- To ensure decision making in the light of evidence based on real time reports, a software is being developed which includes tools for systematic collection of data and its evaluation as well as generation of reports. The software through its dashboard as visual interface will help the Commission to gather information and take necessary actions timely.



Inauguration Ceremony of EMCC on 7th September, 2023



Commission Observing the Election Monitoring Activities on EMCC Dashboards (G.E 2024)



Visits of International Observers During G.E 2024 in EMCC



Briefing to Foreign Mission at EMCC

11. MEDIA COORDINATION & OUTREACH (MCO) WING



11.1 RESTRUCTURING AND REFORMING

In earlier years, the Media Wing was limited to news reporting only. The restructuring and reforming of the organization's Public Relations Wing into a full-fledged Media Coordination and Outreach Wing (MCO) that is in line with the Commission's mission, marks a significant shift towards a more scientific and strategic approach. The growing influence of social media and expansion of electronic media into various channels and the impact of news anchors on daily lives required concrete measures to face it. This transformation includes the:

- Creation of new technical positions
- Hiring a team of fact checkers
- Employment of professional staff on technical posts
- Procuring modern equipment to monitor media activities

Ensuring 24/7 working of all facets of media (Print, Electronic and Social) is the prime responsibility. A robust 350⁰ framework for effective communication, enhanced fact-checking processes and monitoring capabilities are now integral to operations, enabling provision of accurate and timely information. The Professionals are also provided with essentials including digital cameras, handling equipment, storage devices etc. This revamped structure has improved outreach of the ECP which has expanded its role as well.

11.2 THE COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC OUTREACH FRAMEWORK

A comprehensive Communications and Public Outreach Framework has been developed by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) ensuring a continuous flow of information. The framework focuses on several key objectives:

- i. Neutralizing skepticism and negativity
- ii. Enhancing transparency and accountability
- iii. Building public trust and reliability
- iv. Increasing awareness and understanding
- v. Promoting participation and engagement
- vi. Strengthening partnerships and collaborations



To achieve these goals, the strategy includes:

- a) Formulating a comprehensive Communication Strategy that includes:
 - Branding of ECP
 - Creation of a user-friendly website in both English and Urdu that is informative and updated
 - Social Media Strategy
 - Media Engagement Strategy with beat reporters and journalists in general
 - Civil Society Engagement Strategy
 - Public Outreach Strategy and Tactics
 - Crisis Communication Strategy
 - Robust Monitoring and Evaluation plan
- b) Implementation of a communication strategy tactically and is a requirement. This comprehensive approach aims to strengthen the ECP's outreach efforts and engage the public more effectively.

11.3 PRINT MEDIA ACTIVITIES

- The officers of ECP contributed articles and features in various newspapers bringing out the initiatives of the Commission and the dedicated efforts of its team. Through written advocacy, they brought out significant projects, including the implementation of transparent polling technology as well as comprehensive voter education programs that raise public awareness and appreciation of the important work carried out by ECP.
- To raise public trust and confidence articles written by the ECP officers are given below:

Article by
Mr. Haroon Khan Shinwari
(ADG-MCO),
Secretariat, Islamabad



Article by
Mr. Haroon Khan Shinwari
(ADG-MCO),
Secretariat, Islamabad



الیکشن کمیشن آف پاکستان نے گزشتہ چند سالوں میں ووٹر لسٹوں میں نوجوانوں کی ایک بڑی تعداد شامل ہونے کے بعد ووٹرز ایجوکیشن اور سٹوڈنٹس آگاہی کے لئے نومبر 2021 سے چاروں صوبوں اور مرکزی سطح پر مختلف یونیورسٹیوں، کالجوں اور سکولوں میں طالب علموں کے ساتھ تعلیمی ورکشاپس کا ایک مستقل سلسلہ شروع کیا ہوا ہے۔ جس میں طالب علموں کے علاوہ اساتذہ کی بڑی تعداد نے شرکت کی۔ اب تک پنجاب، خیبر پختونخوا، ایشیائی قبائلی اضلاع، سندھ، بلوچستان اور اسلام آباد میں مختلف سکولوں، کالجوں اور یونیورسٹیوں میں 707 سٹوڈنٹس ورکشاپس کامیابی سے منعقد کرائی گئی ہیں۔ یہ سلسلہ مزید چلتا رہے گا۔ اس کا مقصد نوجوانوں میں بطور ذمہ دار شہری ایک اہم قومی فریضہ یعنی ووٹ رجسٹریشن اور حق رائے دہی کے استعمال کی اہمیت اجاگر کرنا اور انتخابی عمل میں شمولیت کو یقینی بنانا ہے کیونکہ موجودہ انتخابی فہرستوں میں نوجوانوں کی تعداد کمزور ہے اور یہ ضروری ہے کہ ان میں ووٹ کی اہمیت اور اپنے اس قومی فرض کو نبھانے کے لئے نہ صرف شعور پیدا کیا جائے بلکہ ان کے ذریعے عوام کو بھی تمام اضلاع میں انتخابات سے متعلق آگاہی دی جاسکے تاکہ آنے والے انتخابات میں نہ صرف ووٹ ڈالنے کی شرح کو بڑھایا جاسکے بلکہ معاشرے کے تمام طبقات کی آئندہ انتخابات میں شمولیت کو یقینی بنایا جاسکے۔ طالب علم رضا کارانہ طور پر ووٹر آگاہی مہم کو اپنے علاقے کے سکولوں، کالجوں، یونیورسٹیوں، اور اپنے آبائی علاقوں میں پہنچا رہے ہیں اور الیکشن کمیشن آف پاکستان کی جانب سے اس رضا کارانہ قومی خدمت پر طالب علموں کو تعریفی اسناد دی جا رہی ہیں۔ ووٹر آگاہی کے لئے پرنٹ شدہ مواد بھی انکو الیکشن کمیشن مہیا کر رہا ہے جو یہ اپنے علاقوں میں تقسیم کر رہے ہیں۔ ان سٹوڈنٹس ورکشاپس کو پرنٹ، الیکٹرانک اور سوشل میڈیا کے ذریعے ملک بھر میں کوریج بھی دی جاتی ہے۔ طالب علموں نے الیکشن کمیشن کی اس مہم میں بھرپور دلچسپی ظاہر کی ہے اور مختلف یونیورسٹیوں، کالجوں اور سکولوں کی طرف سے مزید سٹوڈنٹس ورکشاپس کے انعقاد کے لئے الیکشن کمیشن کو درخواست کی جا رہی ہے۔ تمام ریجنل الیکشن کمشنر، ڈسٹرکٹ الیکشن کمشنر اور پبلک ریلیشن آفیسر اپنے اپنے ڈومین اور ضلع میں طالب علموں کے ساتھ ووٹر آگاہی ورکشاپ کامیابی کے ساتھ منعقد کروا رہے ہیں۔ عوامی آگاہی اور طالب علموں کی توجہ حاصل کرنے کے لئے مرکزی، صوبائی، ڈویژنل اور ضلعی سطح پر منعقدہ تمام سٹوڈنٹس ورکشاپس کو مقامی میڈیا اور مرکز سے بھرپور میڈیا کوریج دی جا رہی ہے تاکہ نوجوانوں میں ووٹ کی اہمیت کو اجاگر کیا جائے۔ یہ سلسلہ آئندہ عام انتخابات تک جاری رہے گا۔ چیف الیکشن کمشنر سکندر سلطان راجہ کی خصوصی ہدایت کی روشنی میں سیکرٹری الیکشن کمیشن عمر حمید خان کی نگرانی میں الیکشن کمیشن نے اسلام آباد سیکرٹریٹ اور چاروں صوبوں میں الیکشن کمیشن کے سینئر افسران کو بطور پوتھ فوکل پرسن مقرر کر دیا ہے۔ ان تمام افسران کو نوجوانوں کو انتخابی دھارے میں شامل کرنے اور ان میں ووٹ رجسٹریشن اور ووٹ کے حق کو استعمال کرنے کے لئے راغب کرنے کے لئے اپنے متعلقہ صوبے اور مرکز میں ٹھوس اقدامات اٹھانے کی تحریری ہدایت جاری کر دی گئی ہیں۔ نیز الیکشن کمیشن کے میڈیا کوارڈینیٹیشن اینڈ آؤٹ ریچ ونگ کو نوجوانوں کو انتخابی دھارے میں شمولیت کو یقینی بنانے کے حوالے سے مرکز اور صوبوں میں مستقل ذمہ داریاں بھی تفویض کر دی گئی ہیں۔

Article by
Mr. Khizar Aziz
(DG-IT),
Secretariat, Islamabad

The News International, Islamabad/Rawalpindi, Wednesday, July 5, 2023

Use of IT in elections — I

By Muhammad Khizar Aziz

Today's world has become a digital forest and all of its inhabitants of this forest, where no entity can survive without the use of technology. From a bird's eye view impact analysis, 7.3 out of 8 billion people in the world are mobile users, which accounts for 91.4% of the world's total population. The introduction of innovative technologies is often based upon a universal myth: "Think Revolutionary and Act Evolutionary".

However, there is a fundamental difference between Information Technology and Electoral Technology. Generally, IT standards are same everywhere, but Electoral Technology standards vary demographically and geographically, from country to country. Electoral Technology is more complex and extremely challenging as compared to Information Technology being a mission-critical task. All in-built standards of IT are part of Electoral Technology, with additional characteristics of basic Election Principles such as transparency, security, privacy, inclusiveness, simplicity, security, universal suffrage, tamper proof, verifiability, auditability, secrecy of ballot, free will of voter, prevent impersonation and intimidation etc. Similarly, "Election is not only naming the winner but to satisfy the losers that they have lost".

Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) is a technology-progressive organization - constantly developing and deploying Information and Electoral Technology projects to automate internal processes for officials and to facilitate major stakeholders like voters, political parties, Civil Society Organizations, media and the general public as technology brings transparency, efficacy, and accuracy, resulting in the rehabilitation of people's trust in the electoral machinery. For deploying advanced and innovative technology in electoral process, ECP has a plurality of achievements, recognized by national and international organizations for technology-driven projects and efforts made to ensure the electoral process is free, impartial, and transparent.

i. Pilot Project of Electronic Voting Machine (EVM): EVMs have a mixed response globally as there are both success and non-success stories. ECP procured 150 customized Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) and conducted pilot projects in NA-4 Peshawar on 20th October 2017 and in PP-20 Chakwal on 9th January 2018. About 100 EVMs were deployed at 100 polling booths, parallel to the conventional paper-based voting system.

ii. Pilot Project of

Biometric Verification Machine (BVM): ECP procured customized Biometric Verification Machines (BVMs) (17 LCD, GPS, card reader, sensor, digital pad, and camera) and conducted a pilot project on 17th September 2017 in NA-120 (Lahore), parallel to the conventional paper-based voting system. The report of the pilot project was prepared and submitted to the Parliament on 31st December 2017, there has been no input from the venerable house to date.

iii. Overseas Voting Pilots using Internet Voting System: ECP has conducted a pilot test of overseas voting through Internet Voting System developed by NADRA on 14th October 2018. By-elections in 35 Constituencies. The pilot project report was prepared and submitted to the Parliament on 4th December 2018. The same report was again submitted to the Parliamentary Affairs for placing it before the Parliament for discussion and deliberations in April 2020.

iv. 8300 SMS (ECP's International Award-Winning Service): ECP introduced world's pioneer award-winning 8300 SMS service for general public in February 2012, which is running successfully for more than 11 years now. It's a highly secure and transparent SMS service available for voters 24/7 within the territorial boundaries of the country. Voters can see faster voting details instantly by sending 13 digits CMC at 8300. Centre for Parliamentary Studies (CPS), based in London, UK, declared the SMS 8300 service as a pioneer voters' SMS service in the world and awarded two International Awards in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in December 2013. So far, more than 250 million mobile users have successfully checked their voting details.

v. Result Management System (RMS): Under Section 13 of the Elections Act 2017, an indigenous designed and developed smart software application was developed by IT Wing which has been used in more than 40 By-elections across the country successfully, wherein Form-47 of the constituencies were prepared before 2:00 a.m. as per Section 13(3) of the Act. Moreover, cascade training of more than 2,500 staff members was also conducted nationwide so far.

The RMS has the capability of working in both modes, online and offline wherein no dependencies are required in case of non-availability of internet. The said application is more secure and reliable after conduct of its 3rd party cybersecurity audit and rectifications and bug fixing of its few vulnerabilities. Due to strict compliance

with Rule 84(1) of the Election Rules 2017, the administrative and operational processes of carrying results were also exponentially improved resulting in timely declaration of results in R.O. offices before 2 a.m.

vi. Technical Evaluation Committee: The Technical Evaluation Committee (TEC) was constituted including officers of IT Wing/PMU and a number of meetings have been conducted on following ongoing IT projects:

i) Development of Election Management System (EMS);

ii) Purchase of IT equipment for General Elections (2,000 laptops);

iii) Upgrade of existing about 1,000 laptops (backup plan);

iv) Data Center setup in ECP and network infrastructure upgrade;

v) IT equipment & development for Election Monitoring Control Center;

vi) Enterprise-level hosting solution for EMS/EMS for General Elections;

vii) Internet connectivity for 830 R.O. offices nationwide for General Elections;

viii) Integrated Office Record Management System (ORMS);

ix) New website developed, tested, and launched;

x) Online Recruitment System (ORS): The Online Recruitment System (ORS) was developed and made available for the public to facilitate individuals for creating their professional profile accounts on ECP's website and applying for vacant posts available online with ease and transparency.

The said service has been operational since April 2020 and it complies with international standards, providing end-to-end transparency, verifiability, and auditability in the system. So far, more than 250,000 applicants have successfully applied online.

viii. Complaint Management System (CMS): The online Complaint Management System (CMS) has been operational since September 2020.

This valuable service allows individuals to send complaints and suggestions directly to the ECP. Each complaint is tracked through a ticket generation mechanism and recorded electronically using a real-time monitoring method and properly disposed off after the satisfaction of the complainant. So far, approximately 14,052 complaints have been handled successfully. The system has been designed in such a way that ECP's top management can view the disposal of various complaints on a real-time basis.

(To be continued)

The News International, Islamabad/Rawalpindi, Thursday, July 6, 2023

Use of IT in elections - II

By Muhammad Khizar Aziz

Previously, the IT developments made by ECP to ensure free, transparent, and impartial were highlighted, but, the efforts, being numerous, were not able to be highlighted all at once. Hence, along with Electronic Voting Machine (EVM), Biometric Verification Machine (BVM), Overseas Voting using Internet Voting System, 8300 SMS (ECP's International Award-Winning Service), Result Management System (RMS), Complaint Management System (CMS), and others, the following technology-empowered initiatives have also been completed and successfully deployed to ensure a smooth electoral system.

ix. ECP's Tele Helpline (051-8848888): The ECP's Tele Helpline was launched on 7th December 2020, facilitating the general public to get basic information via pre-recorded bilingual (English and Urdu) audio messages using phone/mobile and it is available 24/7/365. Similarly, callers can talk to officials during office hours in an interactive manner. More than 170,000 calls have been entertained so far.

x. Expansion of IT Wing and its Human Resources: Under the visionary leadership of Hon'ble CEC, additional IT-related posts have been created and officers are being hired at all the Regional Election Commissioner offices across the country. Since everything depends on technology nowadays, therefore, expansion was necessary up to field offices. Similarly, development teams have also been hired by establishing Project Management Unit (PMU) on market-based salaries to attract highly qualified professionals to support existing IT management and to dedicatedly work on EVM, overseas voting, and other development projects.

xi. ECP's SMS Service: By virtue of this service, the office can send or broadcast SMS with the caption 'ECP', to officers/officials, groups of people, stakeholders, concerned lawyers, beat reporters of media, applicants who have applied for jobs in ECP, etc. Approx. 750,000 SMS have successfully been sent across the country so far.

xii. Use of Optical Mark Recognition (OMR) Technology: As per International Standards, the office has introduced the latest paper-checking OMR technology. It ensures the highest level of secrecy, transparency, accuracy, and speed, making it an exemplary system. Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs) type of assess-

ment is being used to screen out and gauge professional competence as per global best practices and standards. The OMR technology has successfully been in use since the year 2021. More than 75,000 exam papers for different vacant posts have been processed without any errors. It provides end-to-end automation. This secure and verifiable system has therefore helped gain the trust and confidence of the general public during recruitment processes and has retained a public understanding based on trust.

xiii. Digitization of Delimitation Maps (Scanning, Printing, Publishing on Website): About 1,710 maps were printed to support Delimitation Committees, and 500 plus maps were digitized and published on website. IT Wing also provided end-to-end full technical support including integrated Google Earth services to Election, Administration, and Law Wings in the court hearings during complete cycle of delimitation processes.

xiv. Human Resource Management System (HRMS): The HRMS has been developed for digitization of the employees' entire service record and for maintaining it in a secure & centralized manner. It is a fully end-to-end automated system, integrated with a biometric attendance system, processes, administrative procedures, and streamlined recruitment activities.

xv. Online Scrutiny System: The online scrutiny system was introduced as a proactive system, with NADRA's technical assistance, for the speedy verification of nomination papers of contesting candidates via an online, real-time system, securely connected with NADRA, FBR, NAB, SBP, FIA, in order to facilitate Returning Officers during General Elections. This automated digital system helps R.O.s to check the credentials of contesting candidates while conducting conventional scrutiny simultaneously. The R.O. can use this online scrutiny system and deny any contesting candidate recognized as a tax defaulter, bank defaulter, loan defaulter, dual national, absconder, or convicted in the court of law, therefore declaring them ineligible for elections.

xvi. Video Conferencing System: This state-of-the-art, secure, and private Video Conferencing System has been installed to connect ECP Secretariat, Islamabad, with all the Provincial Election Commissioners Offices across the country, in order to conduct weekly meetings along with digital briefings, presentations and

demonstrations online, in a highly secure and speedy manner. In addition to this, the said system has also been extended to Regional Election Commissioners officers nationwide.

xvii. Hi-Tech Data Center: Upgradation of in-house server room and development of data center equipped with cutting-edge technologies is in progress. LOI (Letter of Intent) has already been issued to the firm for its development following all international industry standards.

xviii. Social Media and Public Outreach: ECP is actively using social media platforms (Twitter, Facebook, YouTube) for the dissemination of vital information to the general public since March 2020 - having reached over 95K followers on Twitter and over 16,000 followers on Facebook with the blue tick official tag.

xix. Computerized Electoral Rolls System (CERS): The Computerized Electoral Rolls System (CERS) was established in the year 2012, and integrated with NADRA's Civil Registry Database. The purpose of the CERS was to implement the "One-CNIC One-Vote" principle, which states that there should not be any duplication of voting records as per the international standards of Rational Database Management System (RDBMS). The message content of SMS 8300 Service is also generated through the CERS software. Its real-time reports are regularly published on ECP's website with colorful charts and graphs, categorized according to province, gender, age, and district. The CERS application is deployed over a secure dedicated Private Network (PN) with high-speed fiber optics in all provincial and regional offices across the country. The process for upgradation of fiber optics network has begun up to district offices as well. Moreover, the London-based International Centre for Parliamentary Studies (ICPS) also acknowledged Pakistan's Computerized Electoral Rolls System (CERS) with an international award in Cape Town, South Africa dated December, 2014.

As technological advancements offer a transparent and accessible antidote to the verticals plaguing organizations as they struggle in transition from an industrial age to an information age, ECP has made substantial progress in addressing high-risk issues by deploying up-to-date technological developments and will continue to utilize modern technological trends to maintain the public trust in the electoral process and in maintaining a transparent democracy.

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خواتین ووٹرز کی بڑی تعداد اور آنے والے عام انتخابات

دنیا کی اس وقت کل آبادی 8 بلین سے تجاوز کر چکی ہے جس میں 50.5 فیصد مرد جبکہ 49.5 فیصد خواتین شامل ہیں۔ ان اعداد و شمار سے یہ واضح ہے کہ دنیا میں خواتین تقریباً نصف تعداد میں موجود ہیں جبکہ پاکستان میں بھی حالیہ مردم شماری کے مطابق کل آبادی میں 49.6 فیصد تعداد خواتین کی ہے۔ انسان ترقی کی مختلف منازل طے کرتا ہوا غلامی و محنت تک پہنچ چکا مگر عورت کے وجود کو تسلیم کرنے کے باوجود اس کی صلاحیتوں کا اور اہم اور اس کو وہ مقام جو اس کا حق ہے، دینے سے آج بھی گریزاں ہے۔ اگر ہم عالمی سطح پر دیکھیں تو پاکستان نے 1996 میں Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against CEDAW (Women) کے عالمی معاہدے پر دستخط کئے جس کے مطابق پاکستان خواتین کی حیثیت کی بنیاد پر تفریق قائم کرنے اور قومی دھارے میں ان کی شمولیت کو یقینی بنانے کیلئے موثر اقدامات کرنے کا پابند ہے۔ اس معاہدے کے چند اہم نکات میں سے ایک یہ بھی ہے کہ خواتین کو سیاسی و جمہوری عمل میں شامل ہونے کے مواقع فراہم کیے جائیں گے۔ علاوہ ازیں آسامی جمہوریہ پاکستان کا آئین بھی تمام شہریوں کو بلا تفریق منصف و سیاسی و جمہوری عمل میں شمولیت کا حق دیتا ہے۔ الیکشن ایکٹ 2017 میں بھی خواتین کی انتخابی عمل میں شمولیت کو یقینی بنانے کے حوالے سے متعدد دفعات موجود ہیں۔

یہاں اگر خواتین کو درپیش مسائل کا احاطہ کرنے لگیں گے تو تحریر بہت طویل ہوجائے گی لیکن تمام صاحب شہر اس بات سے اتفاق کریں گے کہ ان مسائل کا حل خواتین کی انتخابی اور جمہوری عمل میں شمولیت سے شروع ہے۔ پاکستان میں خواتین کی انتخابی عمل میں شمولیت کیلئے الیکشن کمیشن مختلف اقدامات لے رہا ہے۔ انتخابات میں خواتین کو دھڑلے سے اپنا کردار ادا کرنی ہیں۔ ایک بطور ووٹر اپنا حق رائے دہی آزادانہ طور پر استعمال کر کے اور دوسرا بطور انتخابی امیدوار جمہوری عمل میں شمولیت اختیار کر کے۔ اگر ہم پاکستان کے انتخابی ماحول کی بات کریں تو یہاں خواتین کو بطور انتخابی امیدوار مردوں کے مقابلے میں بہت کم مواقع میسر ہیں۔ خصوصاً نشستوں پر موجود خواتین کا کوئی حلقہ نہ ہونے کے باعث ان کی وقعت کم ہے اور دائرہ کار بہت محدود ہے۔ علاوہ ازیں مختلف معاشرتی و معاشی رکاوٹوں کے باعث خواتین کیلئے جزل نشست پر الیکشن لڑنا جوئے شیر لانے سے بھی زیادہ مشکل ہے۔ اس وقت پاکستان کی قومی آئینی میں 342 اراکین میں سے 69 خواتین اراکین ہیں ان 69 اراکین میں سے 60 مخصوص نشستوں پر نامزد ہو سکیں۔ ایک خاتون حقیقی نشست پر جبکہ 8 خواتین براہ راست جزل نشستوں پر انتخاب میں حصہ لے کر منتخب ہو سکیں۔ پاکستان میں وقت کے ساتھ ساتھ خواتین مختلف شعبہ ہائے زندگی میں اپنی صلاحیتوں کا لوہا منواری ہیں لیکن اس کے باوجود سیاست یا انتخابات میں حصہ لینا آج بھی خواتین کے لئے موزوں نہیں سمجھا جاتا۔ حالانکہ اگر دیکھا جائے تو جب تک ملک کی 50 فیصد آبادی کی نمائندگی موزوں اور موثر طریقے

سے ایوان میں نہیں ہوگی جب تک ان کے مسائل کا اور اہم یا ازالہ ممکن نہیں۔ اس مقصد کیلئے الیکشن کمیشن مختلف اقدامات کر رہی رہا ہے، تاہم خواتین کو بھی حوصلے اور ہمت سے سیاسی و جمہوری سرگرمیوں میں حصہ لے کر فیصلہ سازی میں موثر کردار ادا کرنا ہوگا۔

خواتین انتخابی امیدواران کو سب سے پہلے تو پیرامیٹرز کا سامنا ہوتا ہے جہاں انہیں سیاسی جماعتوں کی طرف سے نکتہ جاری نہیں کیا جاتا۔ علاوہ ازیں آزادانہ طور پر انتخاب میں حصہ لینے کیلئے معاشی وسائل اس قدر موجود نہیں ہوتے کہ وہ اپنی انتخابی مہم مردوں کے بالمشابہ چلا سکیں۔ اس مسئلے کے حل کیلئے انتخابی مہم کے اخراجات کی توجہ ضروری تھی ہے مگر خواتین امیدواروں کے پاس اتنی رقم بھی نہیں ہوتی کہ وہ اپنی انتخابی مہم موثر طریقے سے چلا سکیں۔ الیکشن ایکٹ 2017 کے سیکشن 206 کے تحت سیاسی جماعتوں کے لئے لازم ہے کہ وہ جزل نشستوں پر جاری پارٹی ٹکٹوں میں سے کم از کم 5 فیصد نشستیں خواتین کو دیں۔ انتخابی مہم کے دوران الیکشن کمیشن تمام امیدواران کی مہم، رفتار براہ دیگر سرگرمیوں کو مانیتز کرتا ہے تاکہ کسی خاتون امیدوار کی ذاتیات کو نشانہ نہ بنایا جائے اور خلاف ورزی پر قانون کے مطابق سخت ایکشن لیا جائے۔ تاکہ خواتین کی انتخابی عمل میں بطور

سے نادرا کی موبائل رجسٹریشن وین بھجوائی گئیں تاکہ ایک خواتین جن کے شناختی کارڈ کے اندراج کو یقینی بنایا جائے۔ ووٹ رجسٹریشن کے علاوہ الیکشن کمیشن نے خواتین کی ووٹ ڈالنے کی شرح کو بھی بڑھانے کیلئے مختلف اقدامات کئے ہیں۔ الیکشن ایکٹ 2017 کے سیکشن 9 کے تحت کسی بھی حلقے یا پوائنٹ سٹیشن پر اگر خواتین کی ووٹ ڈالنے کی شرح 10 فیصد کم ہوگی تو الیکشن کمیشن اس حلقے یا پوائنٹ سٹیشن کے الیکشن کو کاغذی قرار دینے کا مجاز ہوگا۔ اس سیکشن کے نفاذ کے بعد مختلف معنی و دلکھ گورنمنٹ انتخابات کے دوران خواتین کے ووٹ ٹرن ان میں خاطر خواہ اضافہ دیکھا گیا ہے۔ علاوہ ازیں الیکشن کمیشن پوائنٹ سٹاف کو خصوصی ہدایات جاری کرتا ہے کہ بزرگ، بیمار اور حاملہ خواتین کا ووٹ ترجیحی بنیادوں پر ڈال دیا جائے تاکہ خواتین آسانی اور بہت سے اپنا حق رائے دہی استعمال کر سکیں۔ خواتین کے لئے الیکشن کمیشن از خود اور سول سوسائٹی کے تعاون سے ووٹر آگاہی مہم کا انعقاد کرتا ہے۔ نوجوان طالبات کیلئے ملک بھر کی جامعات و کالجوں میں ووٹر آگاہی سرگرمیوں کا انعقاد کیا جاتا ہے۔ نومبر 2021 سے مئی 2023 تک ملک بھر کا محکمہ خواتین کے مختلف سکولوں، کالجوں اور یونیورسٹیوں میں طلبہ و طالبات کے ساتھ 715 تعلیمی ورکشاپس کا انعقاد کیا گیا ہے۔ یہ ورکشاپس عام انتخابات تک تمام صوبوں میں جاری رہیں گی۔ الیکشن کمیشن خواتین کیلئے ٹی وی مارننگ شو، اشتہارات اور ریڈیو بیانات کے ذریعے الیکشن کے عمل سے متعلق آگاہی فراہم کرتا ہے۔ الیکشن کمیشن سوشل میڈیا کو بروئے کار لاتے ہوئے وائس ایپ، ٹیکسٹ، ویڈیو اور انشاکرام پر بھی ووٹر اور عوام کی بہت کیلئے آگاہی، ویڈیوز اور دیگر تحریری مواد پیش کرتا ہے۔ خواتین کو انتخابی عمل میں حصہ لے کر منتخب ہونے میں الیکشن مہم کی فنانسنگ کی جانچ پڑتال مزید بڑھ کر معاشرے میں آگاہی آگاہی جیسے اقدامات شامل ہیں۔

سیاسی عمل میں شمولیت کیلئے پہلی سیرجی ووٹ کا اندراج ہے، جس کے لئے نادرا کا شناختی کارڈ موجود ہونا لازمی ہے۔ الیکشن کمیشن کی انتخابی فہرست کے مطابق اس وقت پاکستان بھر میں 12 کروڑ 59 لاکھ کے قریب رجسٹرڈ ووٹر ہیں۔ جن میں تقریباً 6 کروڑ 80 لاکھ مرد اور 5 کروڑ 79 لاکھ خواتین شامل ہیں۔ الیکشن کمیشن کے اعداد و شمار کے مطابق 2013 میں ووٹرسٹوں میں مرد اور خواتین کا تصفیہ فرق تقریباً 12 فیصد تھا۔ الیکشن کمیشن کے خصوصی اقدامات کے بعد حال فہرستوں میں فرق کم ہو کر 8 فیصد رہ گیا ہے۔ ان اقدامات میں الیکشن کمیشن کے دو اقدامات ہیں جو نادرا کے اشتراک سے خواتین کے شناختی کارڈ کے اجراء کو یقینی بنانا ہے۔ جس کے تحت سول سوسائٹی آرگنائزیشنز کے تعاون سے ایسے علاقوں کی نشاندہی کی گئی جہاں خواتین کے شناختی کارڈ نہیں بنے تھے۔ وہاں الیکشن کمیشن کے اقدامات کی وجہ



خصوصی تحریر
ہدی علی گوہر

Article by
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PEC HQ, Punjab

[illegible]

دفتر صوبائی الیکشن کمیشن، لاہور

مقام اشاعت، لاہور

نام اخبار: جہانِ پاکستان

8-12-2020 sir

کالم فبر۔

صلى الله عليه وسلم

قومی ووٹرز ڈے

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

جیسا کہ ہم جانتے ہیں کہ محرم کی بڑی تعداد
 ت کے اندر راج اور قی رمانے وی کے استعمال
 درود خیر کے لئے استعمال ہوتا ہے۔

4 Gender and Disability
Electoral Working Group

Gender and Disability Electoral Working Group

جانب میں 23 CSOs / NGOs (GDEWG) کو ممبر بنانے کے لئے صوبہ

انہیں جس کی اُنکی اُنے دانی اصراف
نقابت کا انعقاد کر دیا ہے، بلکہ اپنے تمام اقدار
میں سے جس سے ان انجیل کی عقل کو کارآمد

5 Female CNIC and Voter Registration Campaign

صوبہ پنجاب کے تمام اضلاع میں بھی قومی خزانے سے سرحد اور انڈس اسیٹے سے ملنا کہا گیا۔ قومی

and Voter Registration Campaign COVID-19

۱۔ کبھی کبھار ان کی کچھ بولیں اور اس میں سے کچھ لفظیں بھی اس قدر اچھی طرح یاد رہیں کہ ان کو ان کے جملوں میں استعمال کر سکیں۔

اس وقت انٹرنیٹ ایماٹ 2017 کی رور 27 اہم ہے۔
مل رور کو قیل بنانے کے لئے انٹرنیٹ کیل

اور انھیں آگاہی دی جائے کہ جہاز پت کے ساتھ ساتھ

۵۶ ملین روٹا کوئی کے مشعل اور سو روپے کوئی لڑے۔

دعا کی منہب جو ہم میں ۱۱ سال ایک شخص
عالمی اور فاضل لائسنس کی حیثیت رکھتا ہے۔
موجودہ میں یہ شخص جو اس کا نام ہے اس کا
کامیابی کا نام ہے جو اس کا نام ہے اس کا
۱۱ سال اسے ملے گا۔ آج کی منہب میں
جو اس کا نام ہے اس کا نام ہے اس کا
میں اس کا نام ہے اس کا نام ہے اس کا
قوت مند رہتا ہے۔ اس کا نام ہے اس کا
میں اس کا نام ہے اس کا نام ہے اس کا

7 دسمبر کا یہ دن انٹرنیشنل کمیٹی کی طرف سے "قومی اور لڑائے کے طور پر حسین کا گناہ ہے اور گزشتہ چند برس سے ہر سال اسی تاریخ کو کراچی، طریت سے یہ دن منایا جاتا ہے۔ یہ 7 دسمبر 1970 کو ملک میں شعلہ بولنے والے پہلے عام

ان کا ہدف اس کی واپس مناجا ہے۔ تاہم اگر ان کی
کے پہلے ان کے اوپر سال کی سرکاری تقریب
کا انتظام ہو گیا جاتا ہے، لیکن اب ہمیں انھیں
مقامی انتظام کیلئے کے لئے انتظام - لاہور میں
مرکزی تقریب کا انتظام ضرور کیا گیا۔ ہم میں

کرنے کے لئے انٹیکنیشن کیلئے گزرا، اہتمام 7 دسمبر کو تک بھر میں توئی اور ملاز سے جاری کیا۔ اس سلسلے میں سوہائی سٹیج پر دفتر سوہائی انٹیکنیشن کنفرانس میں توئی اور ملاز کے تحریک کا اہتمام کیا گیا۔ تحریک میں دیگر انٹیکنیشن سیشن، اعلان اور ایجنس توئی

نے بطور مہمان خصوصی شرکت کی۔ قریب ہی
ایکٹیو کمیٹی کے اراکین اور سول سوسائٹی
آدماء و بچوں کے گروہوں نے شرکت کی۔
رکن ایکٹیو کمیٹی، جنس ایف ایف ایم، قریشی
نے شرکاء سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ اسلامی

جمہوریہ پاکستان کے آئین کے تحت انکسٹن کیوں
کی یہ اسے داری ہے کہ وہ اپنے تمام اقدامات
کے لئے انکسٹن میں حصہ لینے والے تمام
اسپیکٹروم کی کونسی سوانح اور کونسی سیر کریں۔
چاکر دے دے۔ یہ دے دے۔ ان کی سیر کی عمل میں حصہ

کیوں۔ اس مقدمہ کے حصول کے لئے ان کی پیشانی پر
سوال دہانہ ہے ۲۴۰ ہے، تاکہ قوم کو ووٹ کی
وجہ سے آگاہ کیا جائے اور اپنے نام پر ان کے
ووٹ کا تقابلی فیصد میں شامل نہیں۔ ان کے ووٹ
کے اعوان جیسے ہندوستانی اہل علم میں ان کی شرکت کو تحقیق

تایا جائے۔ قائد اہل انجیل کٹر جناب غلام
امیر نے بھی شرکاء سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے حریہ
آگاہ کیا کہ انجیل یقین نے 2018 کے انتخابات
کے کامیاب انعقاد کے بعد انجیل میں حریہ
پہلے آنے کے لئے لاکھ اقدامات کیے گئے ہیں۔

Female CNIC and Voter Registration Campaign

سازمان کی کہ وہ چھ مہینوں کی اس کاوش کا سربراہ

Article by
Mr. Nabeel Abro
(PRO),
PEC HQ, Sindh

روزنامہ نئی بکست SPECIAL EDITION
 تاریخ: 27/9/2023



35 فیصد جیٹروٹریز کی عمر 18 سال
58 فیصد جیٹروٹریز کی عمر 40 سال
”نوجوانو! وطن ڈالنا مریت لڑنا“
ایکشن کمیشن آف پاکستان نوجوانوں کو
انتخابی عمل کے طریقے میں لائے کیلئے کوشاں!

ایکشن کمیشن آف پاکستان کی جانب سے نوجوانوں کی تعلیم و توجہ دینے کے مقاصد سے نوجوانوں کو انتخابی عمل کے طریقے میں لائے کیلئے کوشاں!۔

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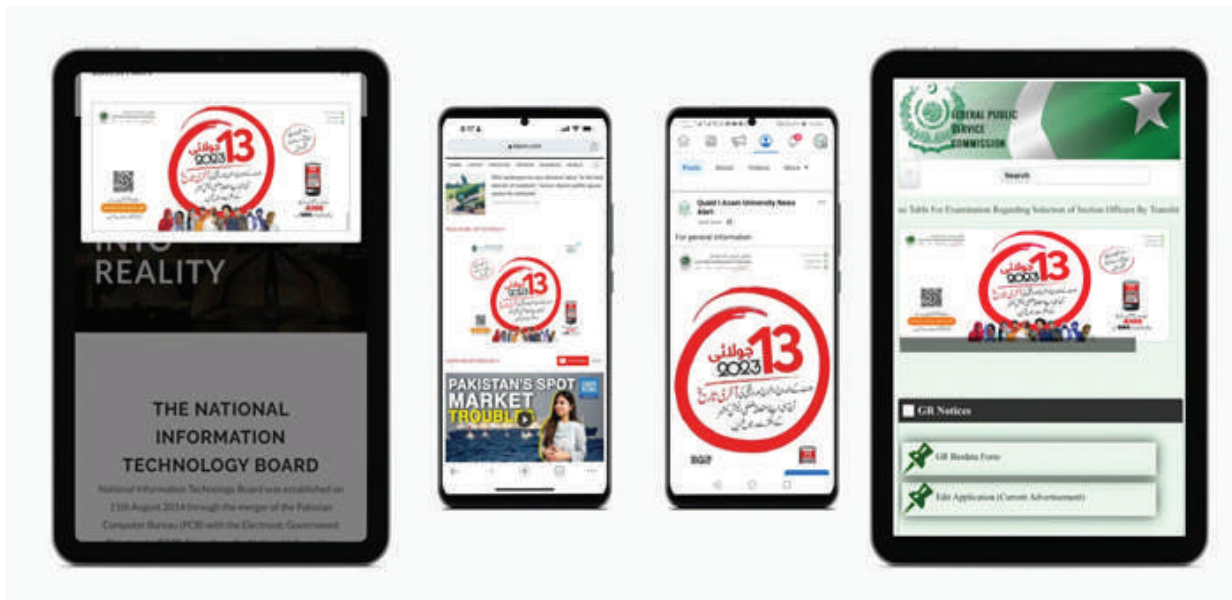
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Electronic Media; Public Discourse by ECP Officers
Glimpse of Public Service Announcements by ECP Officials



Snapshot of the Red Circle campaign's digital outreach and advertising efforts achieved through efforts of ECP Officials

11.4 USE OF MODERN TECHNIQUES FOR SPREADING MESSAGES

The Media Coordination and Outreach (MCO) wing has made significant steps in promoting electoral education through a series of cutting-edge and public-friendly initiatives. Collaborating with META, UNDP, and IFES, the MCO has produced 50 engaging awareness-raising video capsules that cover essential topics such as the voting process, voter registration, and the critical issues of misinformation and disinformation. These videos also highlight electoral violations and the associated penalties, ensuring that citizens are well informed about their rights and responsibilities. By using relatable formats and accessible language, these initiatives aim to explain the electoral process in simple ways and empower voters.

In collaboration with Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) awareness videos were aired 6518 times on various electronic media channels as Public Service Message. These videos were also broadcast as public service messages through Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation on radio channels.

In addition to the video capsules, the MCO has developed a variety of supplementary materials, including numerous video clips, posters, and infographics, all created in-house by the ECP. All the videos and supplementary resources are made available free of cost and have been launched across an extensive range of platforms, including government websites' landing pages, social media platforms, ATM screens, and post offices. This multi-platform approach not only maximizes visibility but also raises a greater understanding of electoral processes among diverse communities.

11.5 DIGITAL MEDIA: PAID CONTENT DEVELOPMENT FOR ELECTIONS

Earlier, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) primarily relied on its official website as one of the main sources of communication in electronic and digital world with the public, with no formal presence on social media platforms. This limited its reach and engagement, especially among younger and more tech-savvy audiences. However, the ECP has now significantly expanded its digital footprint by establishing official accounts on popular social media platforms such as X (formerly Twitter), Facebook, and YouTube with a great number of awareness videos, posters and other engaging resources.

MCO wing launched a full-fledged paid awareness campaign on Digital Media related to the deadline of E/Rolls on 20th July, 2023. Video clips on initiatives of ECP and awareness were also developed in-house, disseminated through social media accounts of ECP i.e. Twitter, Facebook, YouTube. 21 videos on Chapter X (Illegal & Corrupt Practices) of Elections Act 2017 have been developed and 2 short videos on Codes of Conduct for national observers and media, In collaboration with Meta, 8 awareness videos on misinformation and disinformation in elections were developed and disseminated prior to General Elections. In total, all these videos established the reach on social media for more than 10 million (10,427,500) viewers/voters/general public on the Pak Voters website and ECP's official social media accounts on Twitter(X) and YouTube along with the website.

In this entire process and success story, Public Relation Officers, Spokespersons and Social Media Teams have been an asset in being actively involved in reporting misinformation and disinformation from different social media platforms. They proved to be very useful in countering the false narratives with their factual responses.

Election Commission of Pakistan Secretariat

Election House, Constitution Avenue, G-5/2, Islamabad

Tel: +92 51 9205811 | Fax: 92 51 9205300

 www.ecp.gov.pk ECP_Pakistan Pakistan ECP

**ECP's
24/7 Helpline**

**خبر پھر بخواتین ضمنی بلدیاتی انتخابات
برائے جنریشن تحصیل کوئٹہ 28 اپریل 2024**

051-111327000

Call for any helpline for election complaints, suggestions and resolutions on any day
Call: 111327000

آپ کی باتیں ہمیں خبر دیں اور ہم آپ کی بات سنیں گے۔

Chief Electoral Commissioner of Pakistan

ای میل
شکایتات سسٹم



complaints@ecp.gov.pk

آپ کو ای میل کے ذریعہ شکایتیں کرنے کی اجازت ہے۔
اپنی شکایتیں **complaints@ecp.gov.pk** پر بھیجیں۔

**SAVE
EMAIL ADDRESS**

بیک وقت ایکشن

ECP's
24/7 Helpline

نخبہ برائے انتخابات ضمنی بلدیاتی انتخابات
برائے جنسیت میں تحصیل کوئٹہ 28 اپریل 2024

Fax no.: 0519204404

قانون کی ایک ہنگامہ کار کے لئے درخواستیں اور درخواستیں
نئے انتخابات 2024

آپ کی درخواست کوئی بھی جی ایس ایس

Electoral Commission of Pakistan

ECP's
24/7 Helpline

عام انتخابات 2024 ہیلپ لائن

ہر عام انتخابات کے دوران عہدوں کے حاملین کے لیے ہیلپ لائن کھول دی جائے گی۔

051-111327000

Call anytime helpline for queries, complaints, registration and result recording.

آپ کی حکومت، ہماری کامیابی

ایکٹف 2024

[illegible]



General Elections



الکھنچ 2024

عام انتخابات 2024



INVALID ID CARD



PROVIDE ID CARD

اپنا اصل قومی شناختی کارڈ فراہم کرنا ضروری ہے۔
 ناقص تولد نامہ، تاریخ پیدائش یا دیگر معلومات پر مشتمل
 ناقص تولد نامہ پیش نہیں ہوگی۔

آزاد • محنتور • فوجی • سرکاری • تعلیم یافتہ • غیر تعلیم یافتہ

• FREE • FAIR • IMPARTIAL • INCLUSIVE • ELECTIONS



ای میل
شکایات سسٹم



complaints@ecp.gov.pk



فون پیل لائن

051-111327000

وائس ایب
شکایات سسٹم



0327-5050610

اب کروڑوں پاکستانی خود انتخابی عمل اور انتخابات کی سبزی گھرائی کریں گے۔
آپ کی خطرات پر فوری ایکشن لیا جائے گا۔۔۔

11.6 MEDIA WORKSHOPS ACROSS THE COUNTRY

The MCO Wing has undertaken a comprehensive initiative to enhance media literacy and responsibility by conducting a series of workshops and training sessions across the country. In total, more than 80 media workshops and dialogues have been organized, engaging not only media professionals but also Civil Society Organizations (CSOs). These efforts underscore the MCO Wing's efforts to develop a well-informed press that can contribute meaningfully to the electoral process.

The workshops were successfully held in numerous cities, including Islamabad, Lahore, Peshawar, Multan, Swat, Quetta, Turbat, Karachi, and Sukkur, ensuring that diverse regional voices were included in these crucial discussions. Centered around the themes of "Responsible Reporting for Peaceful and Inclusive Elections" and the "Code of Conduct for Media and Observers," these sessions provided an instrumental platform for participants to explore the features of electoral journalism. A unique aspect of this initiative was its focus on educating journalists about election laws and media ethics.



11.7 YOUTH AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS IN UNIVERSITIES, COLLEGES AND HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Media Coordination & Outreach Wing has made numerous efforts to enhance voter engagement by promoting civic awareness among the voters, enhancing voter turnout and inclusion in the electoral process in the light of Section 12 of the Elections Act, 2017. MCO Wing has successfully launched the "Students Voter Education & Awareness Program" to mainstream youth in the electoral process and conducted more than 2276 students orientation sessions across the country since January 2022. In a promising development for democratic participation, a recent PILDAT survey reveals a notable increase in youth voter turnout for the General Elections 2024, reaching an impressive 48% compared to 37% in 2018. This boost can be attributed to the proactive initiatives undertaken by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to engage young voters.



11.8 PAINTING COMPETITION ON YOUTH AWARENESS & CIVIC EDUCATION

Media Coordination and Outreach Wing has organized a National Youth Painting Competition on the theme of “Your Vote: To a Promising Future” among students of Universities and Colleges of Pakistan and received around 280 paintings from all over Pakistan. A panel of judges was selected for the evaluation of received paintings and the exhibition of the Artworks of students was arranged at Pakistan National Council of Arts.



11.9 ECP'S REGULAR QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER SINCE 2021

Since 2021, MCO Wing has been publishing quarterly newsletters, successfully printing a total of 10. These newsletters are an essential tool of communication and update the stakeholders on all the initiatives, successes, and future activities of the organization while highlighting contributions made by the Secretariat and all field offices.

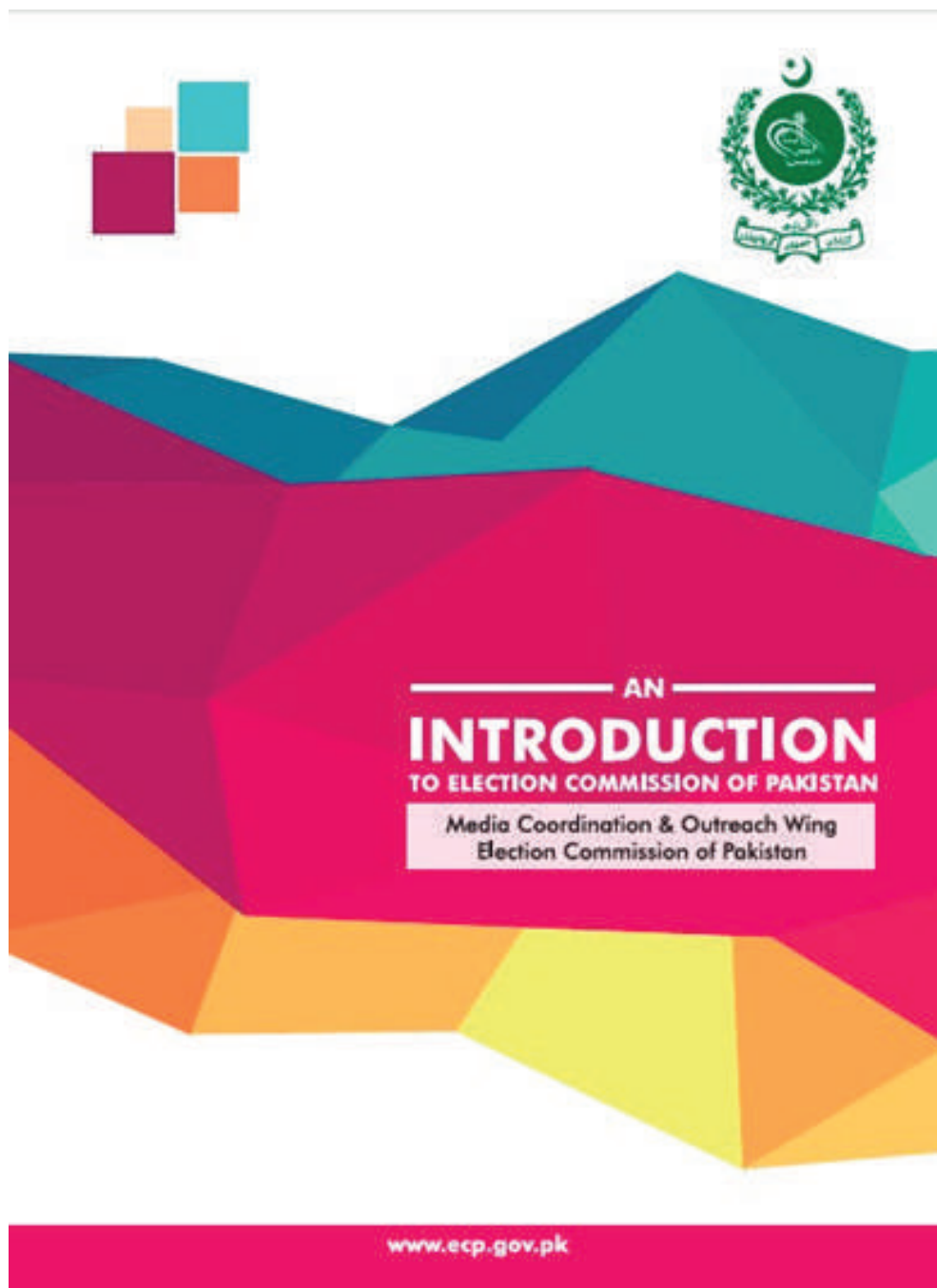
Each issue is designed not only to connect its readers but also to bring an informative mix of insightful news, and graphics that give a flavor of the activities.

Such regular communication within the organization nurtures a strong sense of connectivity and cohesion among members, creating a unified approach that enhances the organization's external engagement with stakeholders. This not only keeps everyone aligned with the organization's goals and achievements but also builds trust and credibility in the eyes of external partners and the community.



11.10 A BOOKLET ON “AN INTRODUCTION TO ELECTION COMMISSION OF PAKISTAN”

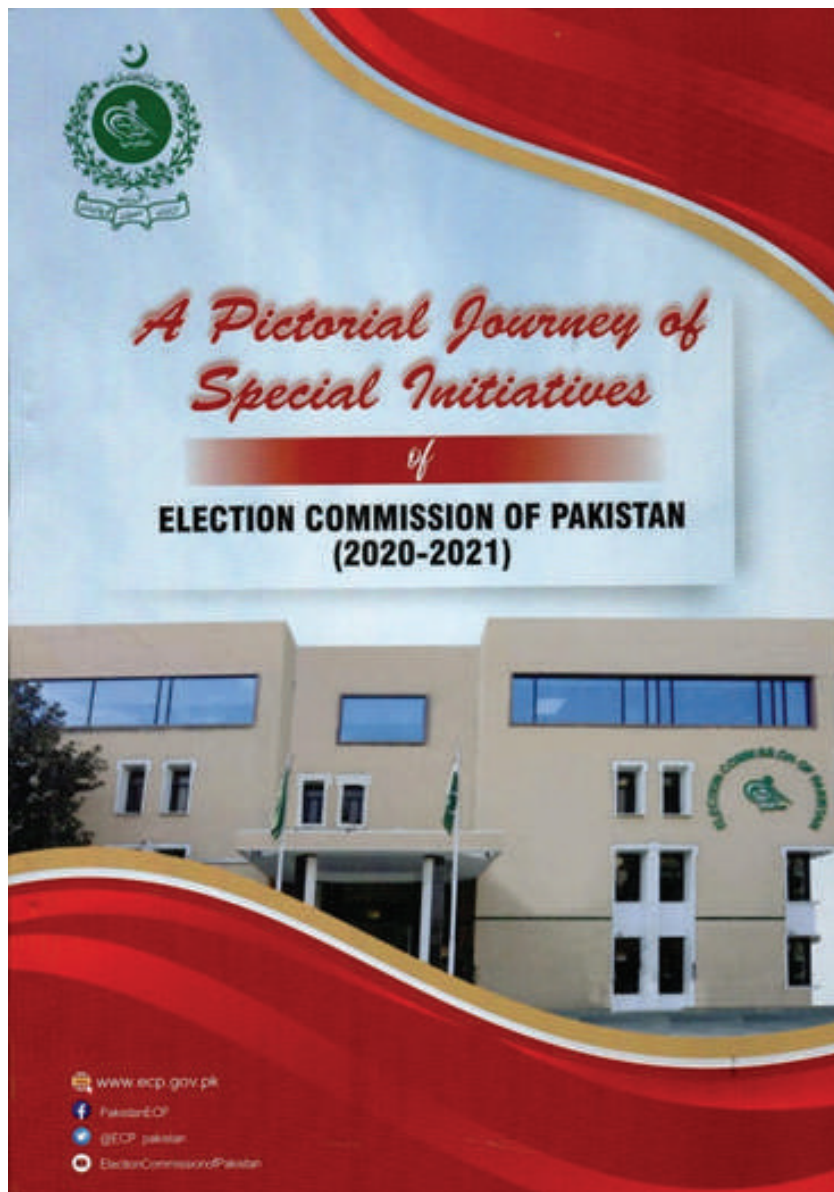
The MCO Wing has created an informative booklet titled “An Introduction to the Election Commission of Pakistan,” designed to provide a thorough overview of the ECP’s structure and operations. This publication details the functions of each wing within the Commission, highlighting their roles and initiatives. It also offers a historical perspective, tracing the development of the ECP from its establishment to the present day. By integrating detailed explanations with historical context, the booklet educates readers about the Commission’s operations. This initiative reflects the effective role of ECP in public engagement, making the electoral process more engaging for citizens and stakeholders.



11.11 ECP'S PICTORIAL JOURNEY OF SPECIAL INITIATIVES OF ECP

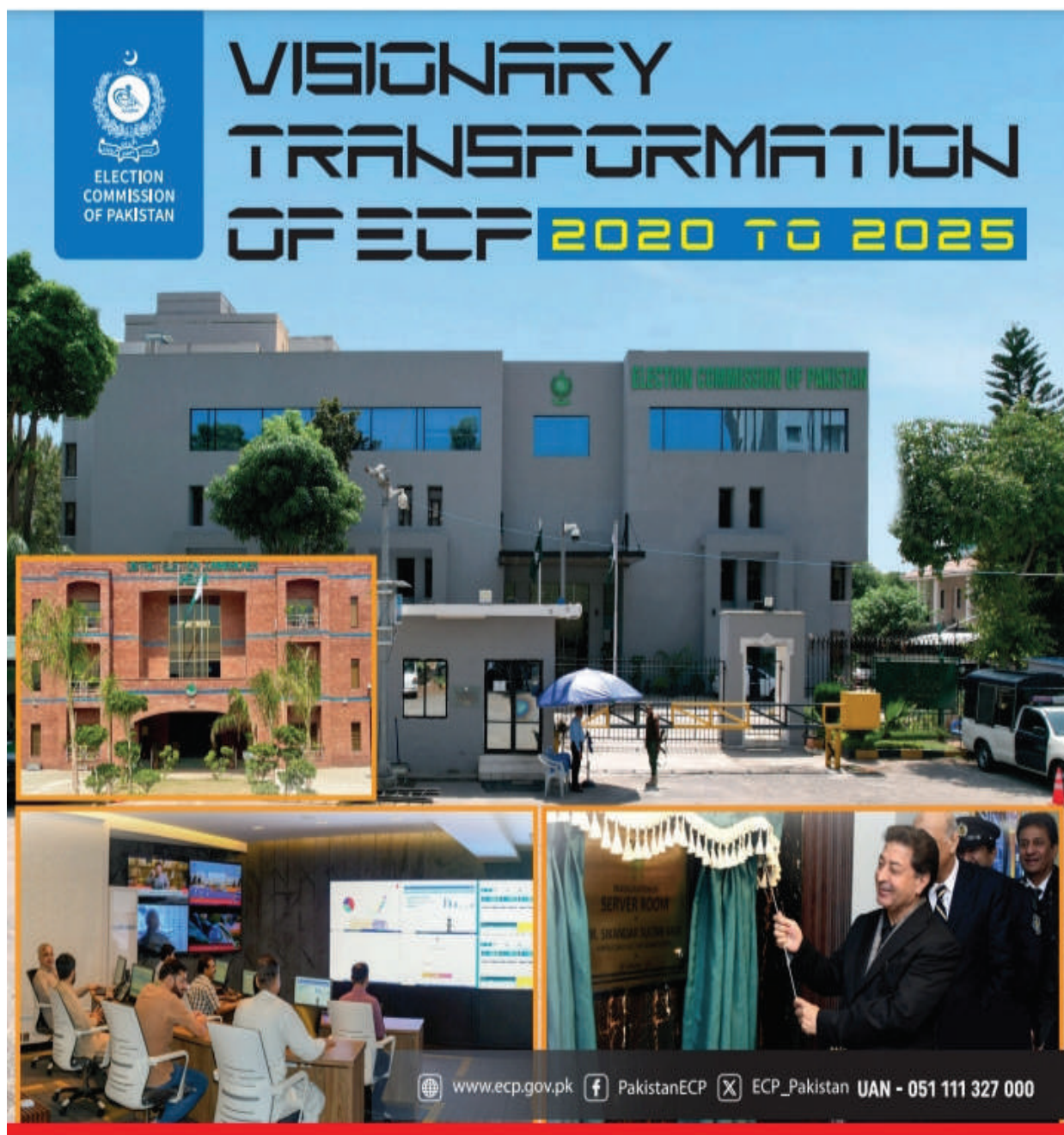
The MCO Wing has launched its first-ever magazine, titled "A Pictorial Journey of Special Initiatives," which chronicles the remarkable milestones achieved by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) during the years 2020-21. This publication serves not only as a reflection of the various projects and strategies implemented during this fundamental period but also as a testament to the dedicated efforts of the team, that brought these initiatives to realization.

Through a rich collection of photographs and compelling narratives, the magazine captures the essence of each achievement, offering readers an insightful glimpse into the innovative approaches and transformative changes undertaken. Each page is designed to mirror not just the accomplishments but also the collaborative spirit and hard work that drove these initiatives forward. This publication stands as both a tribute to achievements and a motivating force for future initiatives, highlighting the dynamic impact of the MCO Wing's work in shaping a better electoral process.



11.12 COFFEE TABLE BROCHURE ON “VISIONARY TRANSFORMATION OF ECP”

A colorful compendium of the structural transformation that ECP has undergone in the last 5 years. From digital canvas of offices to database, a revolution has taken place which has been highlighted for the public interest in this colorful coffee table brochure.



11.13 ECP'S LIBRARY

The library of Election Commission of Pakistan was established in 1956. The Library has a collection of 7700 books including statutes such as Judgments (PLD, MLD, SCMR, PLJ and CLC), Major Minor Acts (Civil and Criminal), IT, Gender Studies, Conduct of Elections Laws, Service Laws, Dictionaries, Elections Reports, History Books (English and Urdu), Literature (English & Urdu), Islamic Studies, Social Studies, Autobiographies and many more reference materials.

A. ADDITIONS IN COLLECTION

Since 2020 sufficient number of books have been added to the library including ones on law, political history, self-help, history of humankind, Islam and democracy, the economy of Pakistan, electoral system, foreign policy of Pakistan, political finance, electronic voting, autobiographies, gender studies, elections watchdogs, service rules, etc. Moreover, all foundational legal texts encompassing minor and major acts, arbitration laws, civil laws, criminal laws, statutory interpretations, and High Court rules are provided to law officers appointed in all four provinces, as well as to officers of the law wing.

B. NEWSPAPERS AND E- SUBSCRIPTIONS

The library subscribes to six newspapers, including three in English and three in Urdu. Also, the library is a subscriber of www.pakistanlawsite.com.

C. LATEST UPGRADATIONS UNDERWAY

- The Library at this Commission Secretariat is being revamped by allocation of additional space
- New book racks are being installed
- Subscription of HEC resources added
- Library automation software installed
- An interactive digital screen being installed
- Installation of search desks initiated



12. GENDER AND SOCIAL INCLUSION WING

12.1 EXPANSION OF THE GENDER AND SOCIAL INCLUSION WING

Gender and Social Inclusion Wing which deals with the electoral participation of women, transgender (TGs), People with Special Abilities (Persons with Different Abilities), and religious minorities in electoral processes was expanded in 2022 with the provision of added human resource. In alignment with the ECP's vision and to effectively manage the increasing workload in expanding Gender and Social Inclusion in the electoral process, three Deputy Directors and three Assistant Directors were recruited at the ECP Secretariat and Provincial Headquarters.

12.2 EXPANDED SCOPE OF GENDER AND SOCIAL INCLUSION WING

To ensure strict adherence to quotas and integrate Gender and Social Inclusion within the ECP, 169 women from grades 1 to 20 along with 51 Persons with Different Abilities and 86 members of religious minorities are serving as ECP staff at the Secretariat, Provincial HQs and field offices. Additionally, a new methodology has been adopted to build synergies by collaborating with Women Parliamentarians, Caucuses, Women Commissions, Rural Women, Universities and Women's rights groups to promote effective participation and representation of women.

12.3 PILOT SURVEY ON GENDER GAP

The Gender Gap in Electoral Rolls has been a persistent challenge to the Election Commission of Pakistan. ECP has been making concerted efforts to increase women's electoral participation with a focus on closing the gender gap in voter registration. To identify and understand the reasons for gender gap and to design the right policy measures to address the gap, the Hon'ble Chief Election Commissioner directed that a pilot survey be conducted in selected electoral areas of various districts of all provinces. Door-to-door verification of unregistered women was carried out in 2020 as a pilot project in around 230 Census Blocks of 20 selected districts across the country. The



reasons that were identified during the survey were mainly accessibility to NRC (NADRA Registration Centers) due to long distances, social and cultural barriers (Parda, mobility, male dominance and domestic responsibilities), lengthy and complex documentation process for NIC registration, poverty/financial problems, lack of awareness/interest in NICs registration.



12.4 MOBILE REGISTRATION VANS (MRVS) FOR NIC/VOTER CAMPAIGN

Based on the findings and recommendations of the pilot survey, to reduce the gender gap, Phase-IV of the Women NIC/Voter Registration Campaign was launched nationwide in 2021 in 68 targeted districts across the country. Extensive coordination and community mobilization were carried out with NADRA and civil society organizations to implement the 4th phase of the Campaign. Unregistered women were provided free of cost NIC/Voter registration through the deployment of Mobile Registration Vans (MRVs) in their locality with special arrangements to enhance their participation in electoral processes. Since 2018, 14 million women voters have been added to voter lists in comparison to 11 million male voters during the same period.



12.5 RECONSTITUTION OF INQUIRY COMMITTEES UNDER THE HARASSMENT ACT 2010

Inquiry Committees were reconstituted and notified with women membership for strict implementation of the Harassment Act 2010 at the ECP Secretariat and Provincial Headquarters. Special workshops for ECP officers on awareness regarding women's rights at workplace and inquiry process under the Harassment Act 2010 were conducted at the ECP Secretariat and provinces.



12.6 GENDER SENSITIVE VOTER AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

Before the General Elections 2024, 139 female youth engagement sessions were conducted in schools, colleges and universities to encourage and enhance their understanding of the electoral process with 20,000 students' participation in these sessions. Voter education materials in Braille and 3D pictures for PWDs were also prepared and disseminated.



12.7 INCLUSIVE AND ACCESSIBLE ELECTIONS

Preferential treatment was ensured to PWD voters, expecting mothers, transgender and voters with health conditions on poll day. It was ensured that as far as possible polling stations were made accessible to voters with physical disability or health conditions and senior citizens. More than 70 % of the polling stations were reported to be accessible for PWDs in General Elections 2024 in three provinces namely Sindh, KP and Balochistan.



12.8 SPECIAL GENDER SENSITIVE INSTRUCTIONS TO DROS/ROS FOR GENERAL ELECTIONS 2024

In General Elections 2024, DROs and ROs were directed by the Honorable Commission to establish multiple counters for female polling staff for the distribution and receiving of election material. They were directed to use tents/kanaat for separate entrances in combined polling stations to ensure the sanctity of pardah of female voters, as and how required culturally. Instructions were given to ensure the provision of basic facilities like clean drinking water, well lit premises, dedicated toilets as well as shuttle service/transport on priority basis to female staff upon the completion of poll proceedings as well as after the submission of results. The ROs/DROs were directed and authorized to take notice of any alleged agreements against the participation of women as voters and candidates and report the same to ECP. The aforementioned special measures were especially taken to facilitate female polling staff in hard and distant areas.

12.9 GENDER SENSITIVE TRAINING OF THE POLLING STAFF

More than 1.4 million electoral officials and security personnel were imparted gender sensitive trainings with the special focus on ECP's gender mainstreaming policies and preferential treatment for voters with disabilities, transgender individuals, expecting mothers, and elderly citizens. In GE-2024, a total of 8 million electoral officials were trained through 21,490 sessions.



12.10 ESTABLISHMENT OF DEDICATED GENDER COMPLAINT DESKS

ECP established five dedicated Gender Desks with contact numbers for complaints to address issues of discrimination, intimidation, undue influence and gender based violence and concerns of women, PWDs, Transgender and minorities during the pre-poll, poll day and post-poll electoral activities. These desks were established at the ECP Secretariat and four provincial headquarters from 1st February to 10th February, 2024 to receive complaints and quickly address the above mentioned issues.



12.11 GENDER MAINSTREAMING AND SOCIAL INCLUSION FRAMEWORK (GMSIF)

ECP has successfully prepared the Gender Mainstreaming and Social Inclusion Framework (GMSIF) 2024-2025 through a consultative process, which is a five year policy document to mainstream gender in electoral processes. GMSIF was launched on 3rd December 2024 to commemorate the International Day of Persons with Different Abilities. Thus, ECP became one of the first EMBs in the region with its Gender Mainstreaming and Social Inclusion Policy Framework to integrate gender concerns and perspectives in all stages of the electoral process.



12.12 GENDER RESPONSIVE BUDGETING (GRB)

ECP is committed to ensuring that financial resources are allocated in a way that promotes gender equality and addresses the specific needs of men, women and marginalized groups within the electoral process. This includes funding for gender-sensitive voter education campaigns, infrastructure for accessible polling stations and a safe workplace for women. Orientation of election staff on gender issues and collection of gender-disaggregated data to monitor participation is also addressed in the GRB. To materialize the ECP's vision of an inclusive electoral process, a two-days workshop on the principles and mechanics of Gender Responsive Budgeting was held at ECP Secretariat and provincial headquarters.



12.13 Historical Decrease in Gender Gap on Electoral Rolls

Through special measures such as Women NIC/Voters Registration Campaigns, ECP has successfully reduced the gender gap on the voter lists. Following is the year-wise decrease in the gender gap on electoral rolls:

Year	Male (in millions)	Female (in millions)	Gender Gap (in millions)	Registered voters (in millions)	Gender Gap (in %)
2018	59.22	46.73	12.49	106	11.78
2019	60.40	47.82	12.58	108	11.64
2020	63.56	48.83	12.72	112.39	11.31
2021	66.59	54.69	12	121.19	9.90
2022	66.40	55.75	10.63	122.30	8.69
2023	69.26	59.32	9.97	128	7.78
2024	71.07	61.17	9.9	132.25	7.4

DAWN

E-PAPER | DECEMBER 09, 2024

Voter enrolment sees dramatic reduction in gender gap

Ifkhar A. Khan | Published November 10, 2024

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JOIN OUR WHATSAPP CHANNEL

- Number of districts with over 10pc gender gap shrinks to 30 from 80 in three years
- 32 districts still have huge gaps between male, female voters

ISLAMABAD: In a significant development towards enhanced female voter enrolment, the number of districts with a gender gap of over 10 per cent among voters has decreased from 80 to 30 over the past three years.

A thorough comparative analysis of the latest voters' data and the statistics previously released by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) reveals that the number of such districts was 28 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa alone, followed by 26 in Balochistan, 17 in Punjab and nine in Sindh in November 2021.

The number of districts with women voters' proportion below 45 has come down from 28 to eight in KP, from 26 to 19 in Balochistan and from 10 to three in Sindh. Punjab had only one such district until last year and has now emerged as the only province with women voters forming over 45pc of the total voters in each of its 41 districts.

Punjab also has the distinction of having 12 out of the total 22 districts across the country with the proportion of women voters more than 47pc. KP has four, Balochistan three and Sindh has just two such districts.

The proportion of women is over 47pc in the federal capital as well. The number of such districts was just seven in November 2021 — five in Punjab and two in Balochistan.

Out of the total 22 districts with ratio of women exceeding 47pc, eight have over 48pc women on electoral rolls. Six of these are in Punjab and two in Balochistan.

13. TRAINING, RESEARCH & EVALUATION WING

The Election Commission desired a qualitative shift in the training paradigm of the ECP officers at all levels. The idea was to grant them more exposure and expanded skills to cope with the challenges of modern society. It is not enough to only know the laws and rules about the ECP, it was desired to give them expanded knowledge in IT, governance, Public policy, civic education, economics and social sciences to make them well-rounded professionals.

13.1 REORGANIZATION OF ELECTORAL ACADEMY (PADRM)

The Pakistan Electoral Academy for Democratic Practices, Research, and Management (PADRM) underwent a significant restructuring, marking a major achievement for the Training Wing. Initially known as the Federal Election Academy, the institution's rebranding to PADRM symbolized a shift towards a more dynamic and contemporary role in electoral training and research. The trend in knowledge, research, development and linkages with other such bodies/institutions caused restructuring which involved the creation of new positions, ensuring that the Academy could better meet its expanded responsibilities. Furthermore, existing positions were re-designated with updated job descriptions, reflecting the evolving needs and functions of the organization. The post of Director General (TR&E) was created to streamline the activities of the Training Wing. The Directors were assigned provinces for better coordination and management of trainings. Furthermore, required posts of support staff were also created keeping in view the workload.

13.2 DEVELOPMENT OF TRAINING INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (TIMS)

During elections, thousands of polling staff across various categories undergo extensive training. For the General Elections-2024 alone, more than a million polling personnel were trained. To effectively manage this large pool of trained staff, the Training Wing, in collaboration with the Project Management Unit, developed the Training Information Management System (TIMS). This software maintains a comprehensive database of both trainers and trainees, facilitating data analysis and future electoral planning. The Training Wing has successfully entered data of over 250,000 polling personnel into the TIMS.

13.3 USER-FRIENDLY TRAINING VIDEOS

Building on past experiences, the ECP introduced short mobile-friendly training videos for Returning Officers and polling staff. These short, easily accessible videos proved to be an invaluable resource, allowing staff to understand their responsibilities and perform their duties effectively. The initiative was widely appreciated and contributed significantly to the smooth execution of electoral activities.

13.4 PRE-SERVICE TRAINING (PST)

A. PRE-SERVICE TRAINING FOR ELECTION OFFICERS

During the year 2021 ECP made history by conducting the first-ever Pre-Service Training (PST) for newly recruited Election Officers (EOs). This program, designed to equip the new officers with the necessary skills and knowledge, saw 76 participants in its inaugural session. The success of this program set a new precedent for capacity building within the Election Commission, providing a solid foundation for future electoral operations. The PST for EOs was meticulously organized to align with the rigorous standards of the Civil Services Academy, which is designed for officers of the Central Superior Services (CSS). Throughout the sixteen-week training period, the recruits were

engaged in a variety of assignments and learning experiences aimed at enhancing their understanding and skills. This training included presentations on current issues, simulation exercises to mirror real-world scenarios, and study tours to various public sector organizations to provide participants with firsthand exposure to the operations and management of different institutions, which helped in expanding their knowledge base. Moreover, the trainees were required to write research papers, promoting critical thinking and analytical skills essential for effective public service. The program emphasized a holistic approach, focusing not only on the participants' knowledge and technical skills but also on shaping their attitudes and habits to foster a strong sense of professional responsibility. By integrating these elements, the training aimed to develop highly skilled professionals capable of delivering high-quality public service. To ensure a conducive learning environment, the participants were provided with top-notch training facilities and comfortable accommodation, reflecting the ECP's commitment to offer the best support for their professional development. This comprehensive approach equipped the trainees with the expertise and practical experience necessary to excel in their roles and contribute meaningfully to public service.

B. PRE-SERVICE TRAINING FOR DEPUTY ASSISTANT DIRECTORS (ACCOUNTS)

Building on the success of the Pre-Service Training (PST) for EOs, a five-week training program was organized in 2023 for 37 newly appointed Deputy Assistant Directors (Accounts). The first two weeks of the PST focused on electoral management, covering election processes and regulations. The remaining three weeks were dedicated to specialized training in audit and accounts at the Pakistan Audit and Accounts Academy, Lahore, equipping participants with the necessary skills in financial auditing, accounting principles, and public sector financial management. This Comprehensive approach was aimed at preparing them for effective roles in both electoral and financial management in the ECP. The idea was to create a cadre of trained Audit & Accounts professionals which would facilitate the field offices and increase transparency by making the whole system accountable.

13.5 TRAINING FOR POLLING PERSONNEL

Over the past five years, the ECP has successfully trained a staggering 2.4 million election officials, demonstrating its commitment to appoint trained polling staff during the electoral process. This massive exercise was accomplished using the ECP's resources, underscoring its self-reliance and efficiency. The comprehensive training program ensured that election activities were executed smoothly and professionally, contributing to the credibility of the electoral process.

The General Elections 2024 witnessed the most extensive training program ever conducted by the ECP. A total of 1,481,590 participants were trained across 37,399 sessions. This program highlighted the enormous scope and significance of the elections. A committee formed by the Commission reviewed and updated the handbooks for DROs, ROs, Presiding Officers and pamphlets of polling staff. The training manuals were also reviewed and updated by the Elections Act, 2017 and Election Rules, 2017. Notably, the entire training initiative was carried out using indigenous resources, including the production of handbooks for polling staff and the provision of proper stationery and refreshments during the training sessions. This achievement showcased the ECP's ability to manage large-scale operations independently and efficiently.

13.6 IN-SERVICE TRAINING

In addition to the PST, the ECP has initiated and continues to offer In-Service Training programs for its employees. These programs are not only aimed at enhancing the skills of existing staff but also tailored to assist in career advancement, including training related to all newly promoted officers/officials. This ongoing effort to upskill employees ensures that the ECP maintains a well-trained and capable workforce.

13.7 TRAINING NEEDS ASSESSMENT (TNA)

To ensure that future training programs are aligned with the needs of the staff, ECP conducted a comprehensive Training Needs Assessment (TNA) exercise. A questionnaire was distributed via Google Forms, gathering feedback from 332 officers and 969 officials. Based on the insights gained from this feedback, the ECP is in the process of developing a five-year training plan, which will be presented to the Commission upon completion. This forward-looking approach ensures that the ECP will continue to benefit from a well-prepared and capable workforce in the coming years.

TRAININGS IN PICTURES



Figure A: Preservice Training of Newly inducted Election Officers (Inauguration Ceremony)



Figure B: Pre-service Training of Election Officers at PIPS, Islamabad.



Figure C: BRIDGE Workshop / Training on Voter & Civic Education of Newly inducted Election Officers



Figure D: Study visit of National Assembly during Pre-service Training of Election Officers



Figure E: Pre-service Training of Election Officers (Closing Ceremony)

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