



ANNUAL REPORT 2022

ELECTION
COMMISSION
OF PAKISTAN



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FOREWORD

I am pleased to present the Annual Report of Election Commission of Pakistan for the year-2022. The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) is a constitutional body. Under Article 218(3) of the Constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan 1973, ECP is mandated to conduct free, fair, and transparent elections for the office of the President of Pakistan, Parliament, Provincial Assemblies and Local Governments. ECP has also a constitutional responsibility to delimit the constituencies, prepare and update the electoral rolls. Among these tasks, conducting a General Election for the National Assembly and Provincial Assemblies on a single day is the most challenging task for the Commission.



ECP is striving hard to conduct credible and inclusive elections to fulfil the aspirations of the citizens of Pakistan. Elections are complex; time bound in nature, massive in scale, and multi-dimensional in impact. Today's electoral management is an amalgamation of conventional and modern methods. The year 2022 posed several challenges to ECP, but the Commission remained steadfast and committed to its mandate and fulfilled its constitutional obligation in a transparent manner. This included the delimitation of constituencies for National and Provincial Assemblies as well as Local Government institutions, nationwide revision of electoral rolls, conduct of Local Government Elections (despite resistance from Provincial Governments) and bye-elections. Furthermore, ECP launched various initiatives incorporating modern technologies for enhancing system efficiency and automating the electoral processes.

Electoral democracies around the globe have expanded rapidly in the last few decades, and new challenges are constantly emerging. Research and post-election reviews play a pivotal role in addressing these challenges. In this connection, the Commission has upgraded its research facility and is building linkages with major universities and research institutes to find research-based solutions to keep pace with emerging challenges and keep up with international best practices.

The Election Commission is facing a continuous issue of low NIC and voter registration that has major bearing on gender gap in the electoral rolls. In order to bridge the widening gap, Election Commission of Pakistan has taken various focused initiatives and as a result, the gender gap has been reduced from 10.34 to 8.32 percent from June 2021 to December 2022.

Despite various systematic, administrative, cultural and security challenges in 2022, the Election Commission of Pakistan conducted transparent and peaceful Local Government Elections in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan, Sindh and several bye-elections of Senate, National and Provincial Assemblies. I greatly appreciate the role of all the stakeholders including administration and law enforcement agencies, which rose to the challenges faced.

ECP is digitising its functions to keep pace with our changing world. The IT wing has been reorganised, and a new Project Management Unit (PMU) has been established. The PMU is working for adoption of emerging technologies in the electoral process for enhancing efficiency and transparency in the electoral system. Some cutting edge, market-based salaried IT professionals are manning the IT unit.

During the year, ECP reached the threshold of its resolve to scrutinize the accounts of political parties in line with the directions of the Supreme Court of Pakistan, as manifested in issuance of judgement in prohibited funding case. At the same time, the Commission established a Political Finance Wing to carry out the specialized work of scrutiny of accounts - at party, member and candidate levels, in accordance with the Act. The Wing came of age during the year and developed its own IT-based system encompassing all aspects of political finance.

The Human Resource department has undergone structural changes to enhance system efficiencies, as a result high-calibre and talented professionals have been brought into the organisation. At the same time, ECP remained vigilant and committed to build capacity of its existing staff by organising and conducting capacity-building trainings and workshops for them at Pakistan Electoral Academy for Democratic Practices and Management (PADRM), Islamabad.

Over the period of last three years, concerted efforts have been made to make this Commission a vibrant, active and dynamic election management body. In an institutional manner and through a proactive approach, the Commission has provided leadership in all the electoral processes and election management. The Commission through continuous engagement and consultative process functions as a regular and policy formulation platform. Mid week meetings have become a regular feature, where through due process, policy decisions are made. During the year 2022, around 58 such meetings were held. Additionally, the Commission holds consultative sessions with political parties and other stakeholders.

Due to this vibrancy, the Commission has emerged as the fourth important national institution, in addition to executive, legislature and judiciary. Impacts of these efforts are being felt across the political spectrum of the country. The Commission's increased supervision has not only contributed in enhancing transparency and voters' trust in electoral process but also has a strong bearing on deepening of democracy in the country.

I appreciate the hard work and commitment of all ECP officers, officials and other stakeholders who have contributed towards the achievement of goals and objectives of Election Commission of Pakistan in the year 2022.

We are heading towards the election year in 2023 and I hope that the same commitment continues from everyone at ECP to fulfil the prestigious task of holding elections.

Last but not the least, I appreciate the constructive role played by the Hon'ble Members in the functioning of the Commission, especially after the joining of two new Hon'ble Members i.e. Mr. Babar Hassan Bharwana and Mr. Justice Ikramullah Khan.

Sikandar Sultan Raja

Chief Election Commissioner of Pakistan

ELECTION COMMISSION OF PAKISTAN



From left to right: Mr. Babar Hassan Bharwana, Mr. Nisar Ahmed Durrani,
Mr. Sikandar Sultan Raja, Mr. Shah Muhammad Jatui, Mr. Justice (R) Ikramullah Khan.

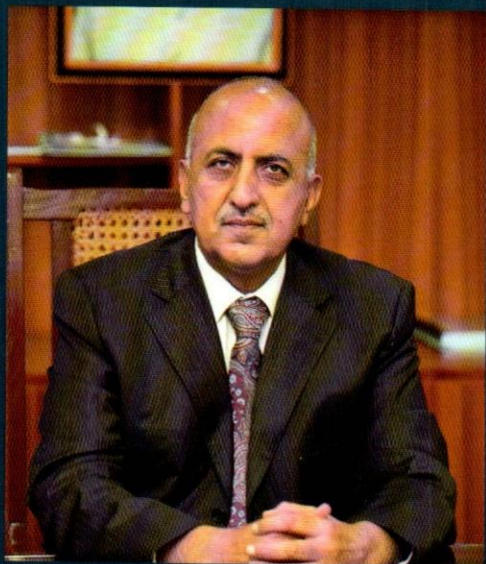


The Oath Taking of Two New Members of ECP

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikandar Sultan Raja administered the oath to the new Members of ECP, Mr. Babar Hassan Bharwana from Punjab and Mr. Justice (Retd) Ikramullah Khan from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The President of Pakistan made these appointments under Article 218 (2)(b) of the Constitution, on the advice of the Prime Minister. Under the Constitution, the ECP comprises of a Chief Election Commissioner and four Members, one from each province. Chief Election Commissioner on behalf of the Commission, officers and staff welcomes the new Members.

TWO NEW MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION



Mr. Babar Hassan Bharwana

Member Election Commission- Punjab

Mr. Babar Hassan Bharwana, is a former civil servant. He started his career as a diplomat in Foreign Service of Pakistan and later joined erstwhile District Management Group presently Pakistan Administrative Services. During his service in the Federal Government, working on various positions, he also remained posted in the Prime Minister's Secretariat, where he assisted the Chief Executive of the country on matters related to public grievances and developmental schemes. Mr. Bharwana retired as Federal Secretary from the Ministry of Housing and Works in March, 2018. He is the author of three books, i.e. two travelogue namely "Musaften Saqaften" and "Safar Safar Teri Duniya" and his autobiography namely "Babar Beeti".

Mr. Babar Hassan Bharwana was appointed as Member Election Commission of Pakistan on 30th May 2022 for a term of five years.



Mr. Justice (R) Ikramullah Khan

Member Election Commission- Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Mr. Justice (R) Ikramullah Khan belongs to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and he is a Law graduate from Sindh Muslim Law College Karachi. He started practice as a Lawyer in 1988 and was enrolled as an Advocate of High Court in 1994. Mr. Justice (R) Ikramullah Khan worked as Additional Advocate General from 17th April, 2008 to 2009. He also served as Additional Advocate General for Dar-ul-Qaza, Swat from May, 2010 to November, 2013 and as a Legal Advisor of Swat Press Club and Union of Journalists, Mingora, Swat. Justice (R) Ikramullah Khan was elected as a member of Cabinet at different posts of the Swat Bar Association. Justice (R) Ikramullah Khan remained Judge of Peshawar High Court from 26th March, 2013 to 31st December, 2021. Justice (R) Ikramullah Khan was appointed as Member Election Commission of Pakistan on 1st June, 2022.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Commission acknowledges the dedication and commitment displayed by the Committee for Annual Report-2022, led by Mr. Manzoor Akhtar Malik, Additional Secretary (Administration). We also express our deep appreciation for an active role played by Mr. Zafar Iqbal Hussain, Special Secretary during the compilation and editing of the Annual Report. This Commission recognizes and applauds the contributions made by Mr. Masood Akhtar Sherwani DG (Political Finance), Mr. Farid Afridi, ADG (Elections), Ms. Nighat Siddique, ADG (Gender and Social Inclusion/Training), Mr. Shahid Iqbal, ADG (Electoral Roll), Mr. Haroon Khan Shinwari ADG (M&E/MCO) Mr. Muhammad Khizer Aziz, DG-IT (Policy and Planning), Ms. Tooba Qureshi AD (Graphics and Multimedia) and other team members.

PREFACE

Under Article 218 of the Constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan, it is the duty of the Election Commission of Pakistan to organize and conduct elections and to make such arrangements as are necessary to ensure that the elections are conducted honestly, justly, fairly and in accordance with law, and that corrupt practices are guarded against. As part of its commitment to transparency under Section 16 of the Elections Act, 2017, ECP publishes an Annual Report and shares it with the Federal and Provincial Governments for laying before the Parliament and the Provincial Assemblies. Annual Report - 2022 contains numerous objectives achieved and activities undertaken by the Commission during the year 2022. In fact it is a compendium of ECP's performance. Amongst many activities, significantly the following take precedence:-

Bye-Elections for the Senate, National Assembly and the Provincial Assemblies

During the year 2022, ECP has conducted 3 bye-elections for the Senate, 12 bye-elections for the National Assembly and 24 for the Provincial Assemblies in a smooth manner, despite the odds. The results of these elections reflect transparency observed during the course of elections due to strong oversight of the Commission. Out of 12 bye-elections for the National Assembly, 9 were won by opposition parties and only 3 by the political parties in government. Likewise, out of 23 bye-elections for Provincial Assembly Punjab, 17 seats were secured by the then ruling political party in Punjab while 5 seats were won by the opposition party and 1 by an independent candidate. Against the election for only 1 seat of Provincial Assembly Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the then ruling party candidate emerged as a winner. For Senate election, all the 3 seats from Sindh were won by one of the ruling political parties.

Local Government Elections

The Election Commission of Pakistan successfully conducted local government elections in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan and Sindh after overcoming various hurdles including legal, administrative and operational challenges.

Electoral Rolls

The credibility of any election worldwide depends upon the accuracy of the electoral rolls. Article 219 of the Constitution empowers the Election Commission to prepare and revise electoral rolls for the National, Provincial and local government elections. Our team played an active role to uphold this major task in a systematic manner.

Political Finance (PF)

PF Wing carries out scrutiny and examination of accounts and statements filed by political parties, elected members and contesting candidates, with a focus on their accounting, auditing, reporting and disclosures in filing of accounts including election expenses and campaign finance, as envisaged in Article 17(3) of the Constitution and in relevant sections of the Elections Act, 2017. During the year 2022, the Wing developed a software and built a database for digital analysis and cross-examination through data integration with entities such as FBR, SBP, NADRA, SECP and FABS.

Information Technology

ECP has taken various concrete initiatives towards improving the existing technology infrastructure and adopting emerging technologies with the aim to enhance transparency and efficiency as per international standards. One such initiative includes a state-of-the-art M&E system with digital screen and a real-time monitoring system for field activities.

Procurement of Election Material

In order to maintain state of preparedness for conduct of elections, ECP remains continuously engaged in procurement of sensitive and non-sensitive election material with the aim to update its inventories.

Gender and Social Inclusion

ECP firmly believes in extending equal opportunities to all segments of society in order to make election process more inclusive by encouraging participation of all, including vulnerable groups. During the year 2022, ECP took several initiatives including female NIC and voter registration campaigns and development of the Gender Mainstreaming and Social Inclusion Framework (GMSIF). The Commission also established the Inquiry Committees at grassroots level in compliance with the Harassment at Workplace Act 2010. The Commission also observed different national and international days including Rural Women's Day, International Voters' Day and Working Women's Day.

Media Coordination and Outreach

ECP launched a nationwide student voter education and awareness program. This was designed to encourage youth participation and to increase voter turnout in the local government elections and the upcoming General Elections - 2023. For the achievement of this objective, over 500 orientation sessions were conducted in various universities, colleges and higher secondary schools. The Public Relations Wing was upgraded to Media, Coordination and Outreach Wing to take up the challenges of print, electronic and social media.

Training and Capacity Building

To fulfil the legal obligation of capacity building of election officials, more than 376,169 election officials were trained through 10,768 trainings during the year 2022. Trainings arranged in this regard focused on providing hands-on skills to the election officials for performing their duties and functions efficiently. As technology enabling tools are also being deployed during the course of elections, the trainings also covered operations of IT tools and applications. The Chief Election Commissioner and the Election Commission have taken exceptional steps to enhance transparency and build public trust in the electoral process.



Finally, I would take this opportunity to express my deepest gratitude to the Hon'ble CEC and Members of Election Commission for their continued guidance and support throughout the year, and applaud ECP officers for their untiring efforts in making these achievements possible.

Omar Hamid Khan

Secretary, Election Commission of Pakistan

ACRONYMS

ADG	Additional Director General
ARO	Assistant Returning Officer
CBC	Census Block Code
CCTV	Closed-Circuit Television
CM	Chief Minister
CMA	Civil Miscellaneous Application
CMS	Complaint Management System
CSO	Civil Society Organizations
DEC	District Election Commissioner
DG	Director General
DMO	District Monitoring Officer
DPC	Departmental Promotion Committees
DRO	District Returning Officer
DVEC	District Voter Education Committees
ECO	Economic Cooperation Organization
ECP	Election Commission of Pakistan
EMB	Election Management Body
EOI	Expression of Interest
EVM	Electronic Voting Machine
FABS	Financial Accounting & Budgeting System
FAQs	Frequently Asked Questions
FATA	Federally Administered Tribal Areas
FBR	Federal Board of Revenue
GMSIF	Gender Mainstreaming and Social Inclusion Framework
GSI	Gender and Social Inclusion
HR	Human Resource
HRMS	Human Resource Management
ICT	Islamabad Capital Territory
IEC	Information Education and Communication
LCMS	Legal Case Management System
LGE	Local Government Elections
MCQ	Multiple Choice Questions
MIS	Management Information System
MNA	Member National Assembly
MO	Monitoring Officer
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding

ACRONYMS

MPA	Member Provincial Assembly
NA	National Assembly
NADRA	National Database and Registration Authority
NIC	Network Interface Card
OMR	Optical Mark Recognition
ORS	Online Recruitment System
OTP	One-time Password
PDMA	Provincial Disaster Management Authority
PEC	Provincial Election Commissioner
PEMRA	Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority
PERs	Preliminary Electoral Rolls
PF	Political Finance
PILDAT	Pakistan Institute of Legislative Development And Transparency
PMC	Provincial Monitoring Coordinators
PML(N)	Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz
PMU	Project Management Unit
PNCA	Pakistan National Council of Arts
PSDP	Public Sector Development Program
PTI	Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf
PTV	Pakistan Television Corporation
REC	Regional Election Commissioner
RMS	Result Management System
RO	Returning Officer
RTRS	Real Time Reporting System
SBP	State Bank of Pakistan
SECP	Securities & Exchange Commission of Pakistan
SMS	Short Message Service
TIMS	Training Information Management System
TORs	Terms of Reference
TV	Television
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UWMIS	Unregistered Women Management Information System

OUR VISION

Deliver inclusive and
credible elections that
people trust and
participate in.



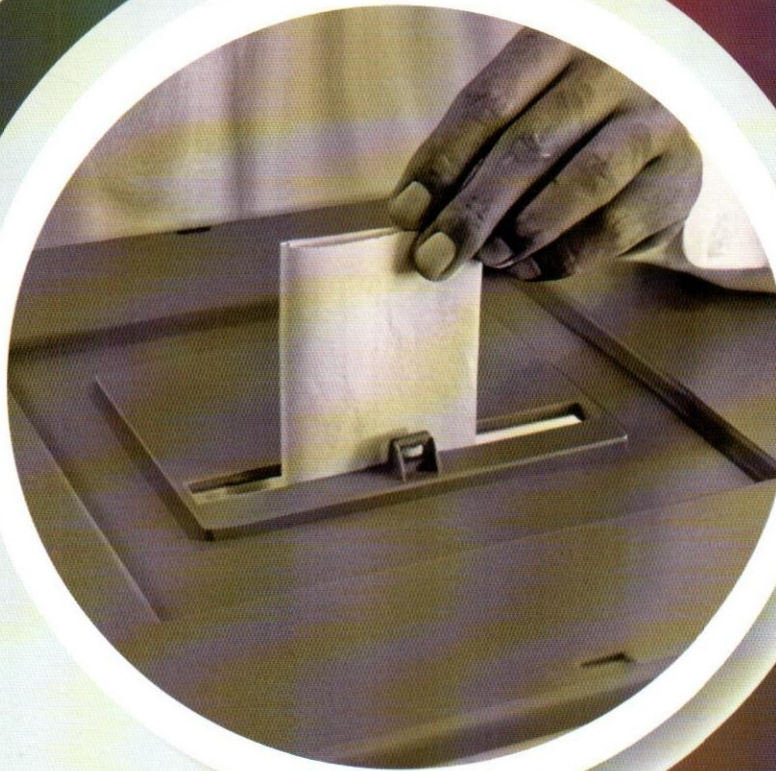
We strive to hold free, fair
and transparent
elections that truly reflect
the will of the people in
democratic processes.

OUR MISSION

THE GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Independence and impartiality, integrity,
accountability, efficiency, transparency,
inclusiveness and professionalism.

CHAPTER 1



INTRODUCTION

1. INTRODUCTION

Holding free, fair and peaceful elections is a cornerstone of any democratic system. A fair and impartial election, acceptable to all stakeholders assists in invigorating democracy and strengthening institutions in the country. The Election Commission of Pakistan is the guardian of elections in the country. ECP is an independent, autonomous, permanent, Constitutional body, responsible for organising and conducting Presidential, Senate, National, Provincial and local government elections. ECP is also mandated to delimit constituencies and prepare and revise electoral rolls as per the principles outlined in the Constitution of Pakistan, 1973, and the Elections Act, 2017. ECP issues code of conduct for political parties and candidates to ensure a level playing field and peaceful elections.

During the year 2022, the Commission performed several key electoral activities including delimitation of constituencies, periodical revision of electoral rolls, conduct of bye-elections to the vacant seats in the Senate, National and Provincial Assemblies. The Commission also successfully conducted local government elections in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan and Sindh despite numerous hurdles. Whereas local government elections in Punjab and Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) could not be held due to frequent changes in local government laws by the respective Governments and litigation in the Hon'ble High Courts. For public awareness and enhancement of voters' participation, the Election Commission also celebrated National Voters' Day on 7th December, 2022.

1.1 Election Commission of Pakistan

The Election Commission of Pakistan was constituted on 23rd March, 1956, and has undergone gradual restructuring and reforms from time to time. ECP is making all necessary arrangements to ensure that the election is conducted honestly, justly, fairly, and in accordance with the law, and that corrupt practices are guarded against.

Under Article 218 of the Constitution, the Election Commission comprises of the Chief Election Commissioner, who is the Chairman of the Commission, and four members. Their appointments are made in accordance with the criteria and procedure stipulated in the Constitution. The Commissioner and the Members hold office for a term of five years.

The Commission is charged with the duties of:

- Preparation of Electoral Rolls
- Delimitation of constituencies of the National Assembly, Provincial Assemblies, and the local governments in the provinces, the Federal Capital and cantonments
- Election to the office of the President
- Organising and conducting elections to Senate, National Assembly, Provincial Assemblies and local governments
- Appointment of Appellate and Election Tribunals

The Commission notifies District Returning Officers, Returning Officers and Assistant Returning Officers and election programme including timelines for filing of nomination papers. Under Article 220 of the Constitution, all executive authorities in the Federation and the Provinces shall assist the Chief Election Commissioner and the Commission in the discharge of his or their functions.

1.2 Assistance to the Parliament

The Commission assists the Standing Committees of the Senate and National Assembly on various legislative matters. The Commission responds to questions and provides all necessary information through comments and briefings as and when required.

1.3 Organisational Structure of ECP

The Commission has an organisational structure at the Secretariat, Provincial, Divisional and District levels to perform its functions. The Commission comprises of about 3500 officers and officials spread across the country. An overview of each tier is given as under:

a. Election Commission Secretariat

The Secretariat of the Commission is based in Islamabad, headed by the Secretary and has the support of the Special Secretary, Additional Secretary, Director Generals (DGs), Additional Director Generals (ADGs) and other officers. The Secretariat comprises of various Wings such as Elections Wing, Electoral Rolls Wing, Local Government Elections Wing, Information Technology Wing, Media Coordination and Outreach Wing, Training Wing, Law Wing, Gender and Social Inclusion Wing, Budget Wing, Administration Wing, Establishment Wing, Monitoring and Evaluation Wing and Political Finance Wing. Each Wing is headed either by a Director General or an Additional Director General.

b. Provincial Election Commissioners

The provincial set up is headed by the Provincial Election Commissioners (PECs) in all provincial capitals (Karachi, Lahore, Peshawar and Quetta). The PECs are supported by Joint Provincial Election Commissioners (JPECs), Directors, Deputy Directors, Assistant Directors and other supporting staff.

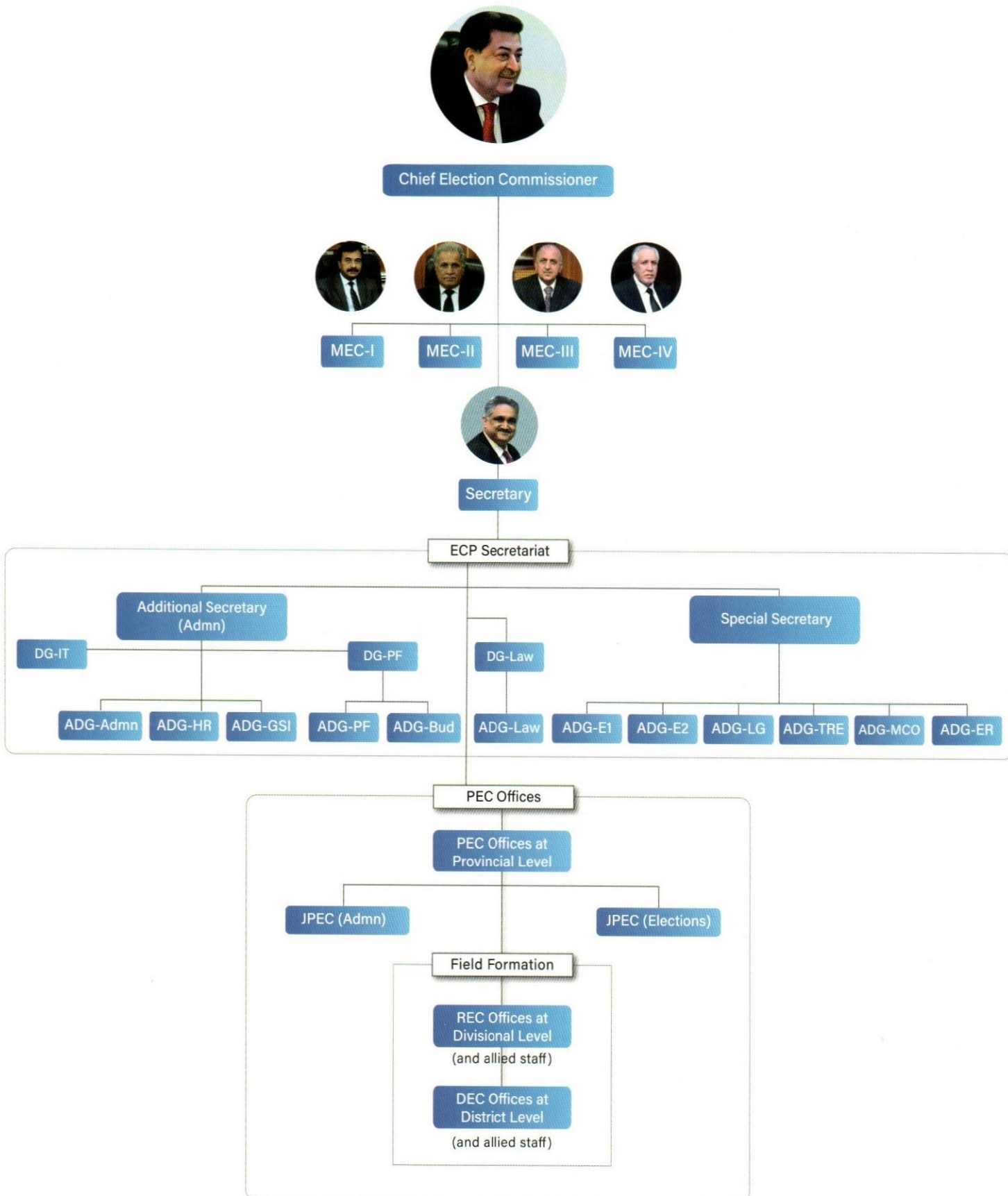
c. Regional Election Commissioners

The Commission has Regional Election Commissioner (REC) offices at the divisional level. The RECs play the role of District Returning Officer, Returning Officer, District Monitoring Officer, Delimitation Authority and act as coordinators between the Provincial Election Commissioner, District Election Commissioners and other stakeholders.

d. District Election Commissioners

The lowest tier of the ECP's organisational set up is at the district level, headed by the District Election Commissioner (DEC) and assisted by Election Officers. There are 134 district offices countrywide. The DEC performs duties as District Returning Officer, Returning Officer, District Monitoring Officer, Delimitation Officer, district in-charge, district level coordinator, Registration Officer in the districts and maintain electoral rolls. In case of appointment of DROs, ROs and AROs from judiciary or district administration, the DEC acts as liaison officer between District Returning Officers, Returning Officers and District Administration.

HIERARCHY:



CHAPTER 2



THE YEAR IN REVIEW: 2022

2. THE YEAR IN REVIEW: 2022

2.1 Administrative Reforms - Human Resource Management

Human Resource Management (HRM) is a strategic and coherent approach towards effective and efficient management of people in an organization in a manner that helps in achieving the organizational goals. HRM is primarily concerned with the management of personnel within the organization, focusing on policies and systems. It is designed to maximize employee performance in line with the employer's strategic objectives. HR wing is responsible for overseeing employee-benefits design, career planning, recruitment, training and development, performance appraisal and reward management. To sum up, HR covers all the matters related to employees, right from recruitment till retirement.

The present management of the Election Commission of Pakistan recognizing the significance of the modern techniques of human resource management, established a dedicated HR Wing headed by an Additional Director General with years of experience in HR practices and delivery.

2.1.1 Review and Rationalisation of Human Resource - A Key Exercise

The Election Commission of Pakistan is mandated to conduct free, fair and transparent elections to the National Assembly, Provincial Assemblies, Senate and local governments. The scope and areas of responsibilities entrusted to the Election Commission of Pakistan have increased manifold due to additional work pertaining to conduct of local government elections, increased voters' registration requirements as well as automation needs. In view of the challenges faced, the management took the decision to undertake a comprehensive review and rationalization exercise for revamping the HR structure of the organization, with a focus to rationalize and add essentially required posts as well as abolish posts that were felt redundant.

This required creation of a dedicated Human Resource Wing along with appointment of experts having HR related experience. This situation warranted overall review of organizational structure of ECP. During this rationalization process, multiple posts were created, abolished, upgraded or downgraded, keeping in view the organizational needs. This exercise was carried out with a view to develop well-defined and focused eligibility criteria along with detailed job descriptions. The nomenclature of various posts was changed to ensure uniformity. The future organizational needs were also kept in view during the process of rationalization. The exercise included the workload assessment of each Wing of the ECP Secretariat as well as offices of the Provincial Election Commissioners and their allied field offices, in consultation with the respective PECs and Heads of Wings in ECP Secretariat, Islamabad.



2. THE YEAR IN REVIEW: 2022

2.1.2 Creation of Posts

With the increased volume of the electoral activities in the country, the workload of ECP has increased manifold, for which additional specialized Human Resource was required. In order to tackle the increased challenges, the following posts have been created during the year 2022:

Table No. I: Creation of Posts during the year 2022

CREATION OF POSTS		
S. No.	Basic Pay Scale	No. of Posts
1.	20	02
2.	19	05
3.	18	14
4.	17	22
5.	16	42
6.	15	20
7.	14	40
8.	11	29
9.	09	25
10.	05	15
11.	02	43
12.	Market-based salary structure	06
Total		263

In addition to creation of posts, 181 posts were revoked which were considered of little use in keeping with the current and future requirements of ECP.

2. THE YEAR IN REVIEW: 2022

2.1.3 Promotions

Career progression is an integral part of every organisational structure. Promotions to higher grades based on the underlying principles of merit create a continuous commitment for the organization and a system based on rewards for the efficient and deterrence for the inefficient and corrupt. In order to streamline the process of holding the meetings of Departmental Promotion Committees (DPCs) and Promotion Board, a proper mechanism and policy was finalized under which it was made mandatory to convene a specific number of meetings for promotions during a calendar year for considering promotions against each grade. The Commission has made it a cornerstone of its policy that efficiency and honesty will be encouraged, while dishonesty and corruption will be rooted out. Recognising this critical aspect of Human Resource Management, a series of meetings of respective DPCs and Promotion Board were held in 2022, in which promotions to different grades were considered based on merit, as per overall assessment of officers and officials on the basis of seniority-cum-fitness of the eligible personnel. The details are as follows:

Table No. II: Detail of promotions of ECP officers and officials

PROMOTIONS							
S. No.	Basic Pay Scale	No. of Officers/Officials Promoted					Total
		ECP Secretariat Islamabad	Punjab	Sindh	KP	Balochistan	
1.	BS-21	2	-	-	-	-	2
2.	BS-20	2	-	-	-	-	2
3.	BS-19	4	-	-	-	-	4
4.	BS-18	16	-	-	-	-	16
5.	BS-17	-	-	-	-	-	-
6.	BS-16	3	2	-	-	-	5
7.	BS-15	8	5	4	-	3	20
8.	BS-11	14	3	7	-	2	26
9.	BS-9	10	3	4	-	-	17
Total		59	13	15	-	5	92

2. THE YEAR IN REVIEW: 2022

2.1.4 Recruitments

Through recruitment, organisations induct fresh and capable human resource in accordance with their needs and in keeping with changing future requirements. To bridge the skillset deficit, ECP through this process inducted new talent to improve the efficiency in the organisation. For streamlining the recruitment process, ECP introduced Optical Mark Recognition (OMR) technology to reduce human intervention and incorporate merit and transparency in the recruitment process. The adopted recruitment process includes shortlisting of eligible candidates, Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs) based test, and interview of the successful candidates to ensure merit and end human corruption. Detail of recruitments made during 2022 is as follows:

Table No. III: Detail of recruitments made during 2022

RECRUITMENTS							
S. No.	Basic Pay Scale	ECP Secretariat Islamabad	Punjab	Sindh	KP	Balochistan	Total
1.	MP-I	2	-	-	-	-	2
2.	MP-II	1	-	-	-	-	1
3.	BS-21	1	-	-	-	-	1
4.	MP-III	1	-	-	-	-	1
5.	BS-20	2	-	-	-	-	2
6.	BS-19	1	-	-	-	-	1
7.	BS-18	4	-	-	-	-	4
8.	BS-17	4	-	-	-	-	4
9.	BS-16	3	-	-	-	-	3
10.	BS-15	2	1	12	2	8	25
11.	BS-14	17	23	29	43	1	113
12.	BS-11	6	-	17	4	11	38
13.	BS-09	15	10	26	35	50	136
14.	BS-05	-	3	7	2	7	19
15.	BS-02	16	2	32	-	-	50
16.	No Scale	5	-	-	-	-	5
Total:		80	39	123	86	77	405

2. THE YEAR IN REVIEW: 2022

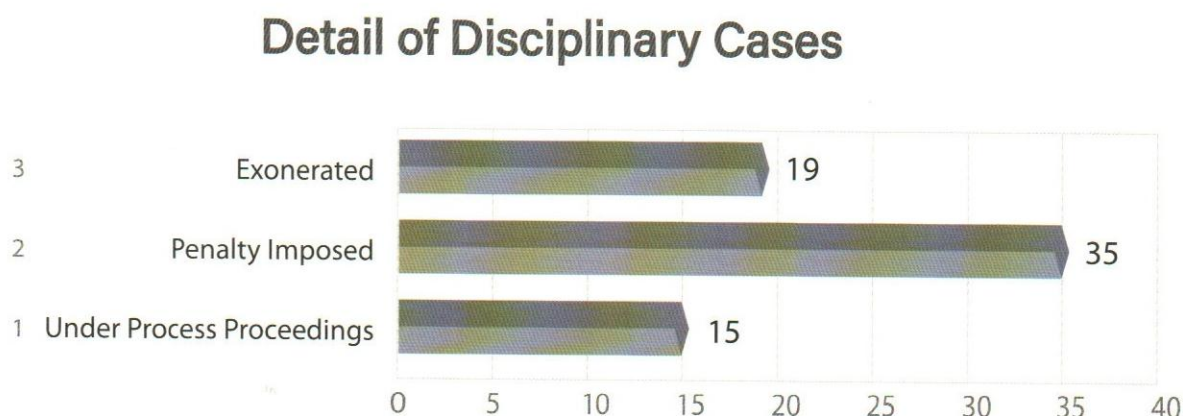
2.1.5 Deployment and Installation of Human Resource Management System

In line with modern-day requirements, it was felt necessary to digitise service records of officers and officials of ECP. An extensive exercise of data collection of service particulars of all the serving employees, including personal information, qualification, transfers and postings records, promotions, disciplinary proceedings, trainings, performance evaluation reports, advances, medical check-ups, and particulars of their dependents, was carried out and recorded in the system. This database is readily available to the authorities for making informed decisions and is continuously updated.

2.1.6 Disciplinary Proceedings

A workplace disciplinary policy with clear guidelines for expected conduct and consequences in case of violation of rules has been put in place. The objective was to check indiscipline and guard against corrupt practices. This policy follows structured corrective processes as provided under the rules. The performance of ECP's employees is evaluated and those who perform well are rewarded, while all those involved in mal-practices are accordingly proceeded against as per law to improve the overall efficiency of the organization. A constant feature of this policy is to counsel officers with both in written and verbal recommendations to improve their working. The details of the officers / officials proceeded against as per law are as follows:

Graph No. I: Detail of disciplinary cases proceeded against officers and officials of ECP



As per above, 19 officers / officials have been exonerated whereas penalty was imposed on 35 during the year 2022. Disciplinary cases under process and expected to be decided soon are 15. A key feature of this policy is that these disciplinary cases are reviewed in the first week of every month by the Commission itself.

For the conduct of General Elections - 2023 and in order to build consensus over the impending allied matters, regular meetings of the Hon'ble Commission were held in 2022 with ECP officers and all the stakeholders to streamline the challenges faced by the Commission. Ample testimony of this fact is that 58 meetings of the Commission were held in 2022.

2. THE YEAR IN REVIEW: 2022

2.2 Delimitation of Constituencies

Delimitation is a massive exercise which is critical to smooth and efficient conduct of elections. It generally lasts for four to five months. The electoral system based on single-member constituencies requires the country to be divided into small units, each of which will return one member. The Election Commission performs this function under Section 17 of the Elections Act, 2017, read with Rule 7 of the Election Rules 2017:

Section 17. Commission to delimit Constituencies. – (1) “The Commission shall delimit territorial constituencies for elections to the National Assembly, each Provincial Assembly and the Local Governments by the provision of the Constitution, this Act, the Rules and the applicable local government law.”

2) “The Commission shall delimit constituencies after every census officially published.”

Rule 7. Commission to delimit constituencies. – “After allocation of seats in the National Assembly under clause (5) of Article 51 to each Province, and the Federal Capital, the Commission shall carry out the delimitation of constituencies of general seats in an Assembly in accordance with Section 19 and the procedure laid down in this chapter on the basis of population in accordance with the last preceding census officially published.”

The Pakistan Bureau of Statistics officially published the final result of 6th Population and Housing Census on 6th May 2021. On 11th April 2022, ECP initiated the exercise of delimitation of constituencies of the National and Provincial Assemblies according to the number of seats as specified in Articles 51 and 106 of the Constitution.

After the passage of 25th Constitutional Amendment, 12 National Assembly seats of Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATAs) were abolished, and the FATAs were merged in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. Consequently, the seats of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in the National Assembly increased from 39 to 45. Similarly, the seats in the Provincial Assembly increased from 99 to 115.

Under Article 51(3) of the Constitution, number of seats allocated in the National Assembly and Federal Capital are as follows:

Table No. IV: Number of seats allocated in the National Assembly and Federal Capital

Province/Area	General Seats	Women	Total Seats
Balochistan	16	4	20
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	45	10	55
Punjab	141	32	173
Sindh	61	14	75
Federal Capital	3	-	3
Total	266	60	326

2. THE YEAR IN REVIEW: 2022

In addition to the aforementioned number of seats, there are 10 reserved seats for non-Muslims in the National Assembly. In the same manner, Article 106 of the Constitution provides that each Provincial Assembly consists of general seats and seats reserved for women and non-Muslims. The number of seats in the Provincial Assemblies is given below:

Table No. V: Number of seats allocated in the Provincial Assemblies

Province/Area	General Seats	Women	Non-Muslim	Total Seats
Balochistan	51	11	3	65
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	115	26	4	145
Punjab	297	66	8	371
Sindh	130	29	9	168
Total	593	132	24	749

The Election Commission under Rule 9(1) of the Election Rules, 2017, constituted 5 Delimitation Committees, including the Delimitation Committee for the Federal Capital, for conducting delimitation. A comprehensive training was imparted to the Delimitation Committees. The Committees delimited constituencies by adopting the "principles of delimitation" as defined in Section 20 of the Elections Act, 2017. The Committees submitted preliminary list of constituencies (Form-5), a preliminary report and maps before the Commission on 31st May, 2022. The preliminary report along with list of the constituencies was published in the official gazette and uploaded on ECP's website along with maps for inviting representations and suggestions from the voters of the constituencies within the period specified under the law. A properly timed media campaign helped the public to come forward with representations. A total of 910 representations were received from across the country. The detail is as follows:

Table No. VI: Detail of total representations filed

Province/Area	Total Representation Filed
Balochistan	92
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	163
Punjab	568
Sindh	79
Federal Capital	8
Total	910

The Election Commission issued notices and after hearing the parties decided the representations in July 2022. The final list of constituencies (Form-7) was published on 5th August, 2022 in the official gazette. The final delimitation along with maps was uploaded on ECP's website for information of the public.

2. THE YEAR IN REVIEW: 2022

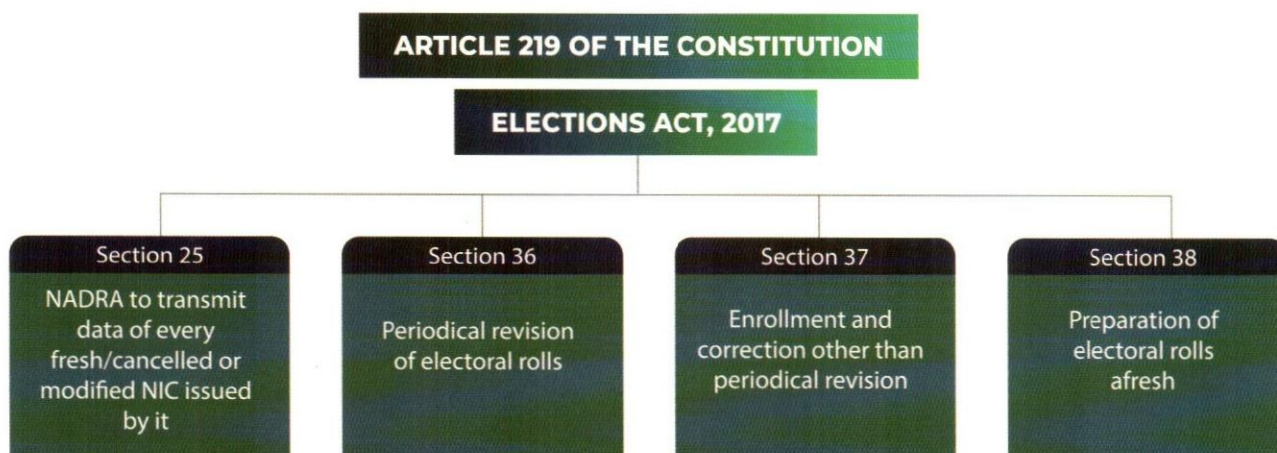
2.3 Electoral Rolls

Preparation of accurate and credible electoral rolls is essential for conduct of free, fair and transparent elections. ECP as an Election Management Body (EMB) is responsible for preparing, updating, and maintaining accurate and error-free electoral rolls. Article 219 of the Constitution mandates ECP to revise, update and prepare the electoral rolls for the conduct of elections for National Assembly, Provincial Assemblies and local governments.

The electoral rolls contain essential details which include list of all the eligible voters in a Census Block Code (CBC). Electoral rolls are also commonly called “voter lists”. ECP periodically revises and updates the electoral rolls in order to maintain an updated list of voters for each constituency for use in elections. During the revision of electoral rolls, ECP endeavours to verify all the eligible voters residing in a particular electoral area and CBC after carrying out door-to-door verification and identity verification of the voters.

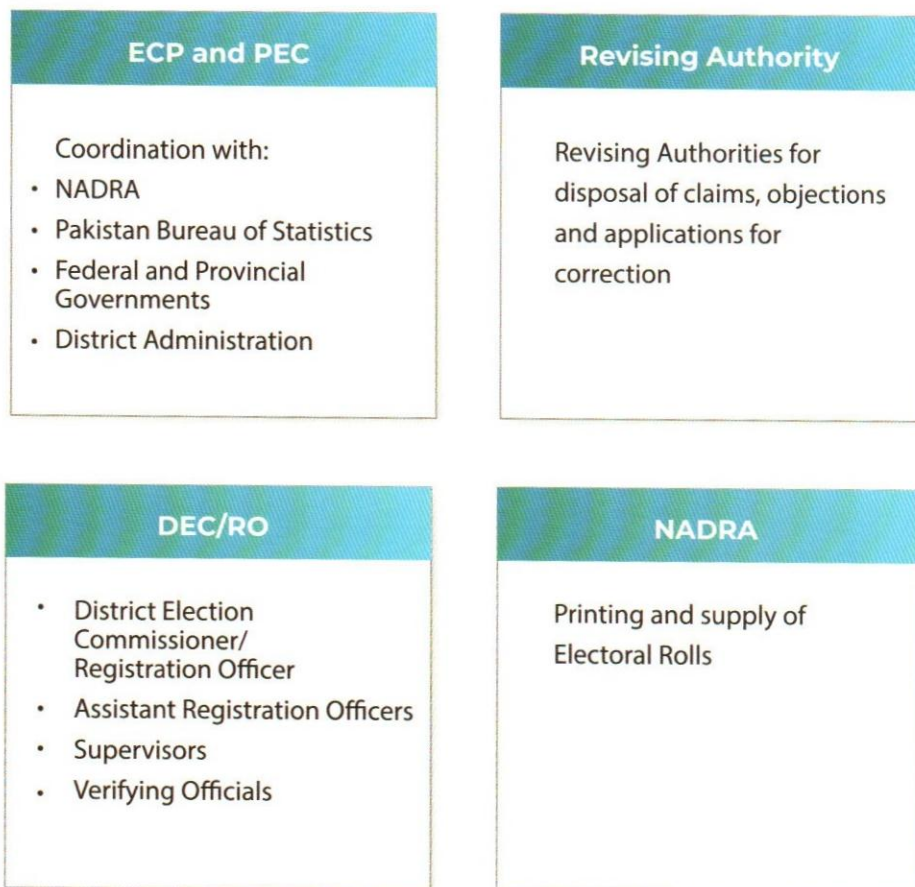
Electoral Roll is a dynamic and living register
as per the best international practices.

Legal Framework:



2. THE YEAR IN REVIEW: 2022

Stakeholders involved in the process of periodical revision of electoral rolls are given below:



2.3.1 Periodical Revision of Electoral Rolls 2021-22

To revise and update the electoral rolls for forthcoming elections, the Election Commission under Section 36 of the Elections Act, 2017, initiated periodical revision of electoral rolls 2021-22 on 8th October 2021. During this process, the particulars of all registered voters in the Draft Electoral Rolls were verified and the names of deceased voters were deleted. Similarly, the corrections in the particulars were also ensured.

2. THE YEAR IN REVIEW: 2022

The process was completed through door-to-door verification between 7th November and 31st December, 2021. During this drive, 121 million voters were verified by 67,832 Verifying Officials, 18,586 Supervisors, and 2,079 Assistant Registration Officers nationwide.



67,832
Verifying Officials



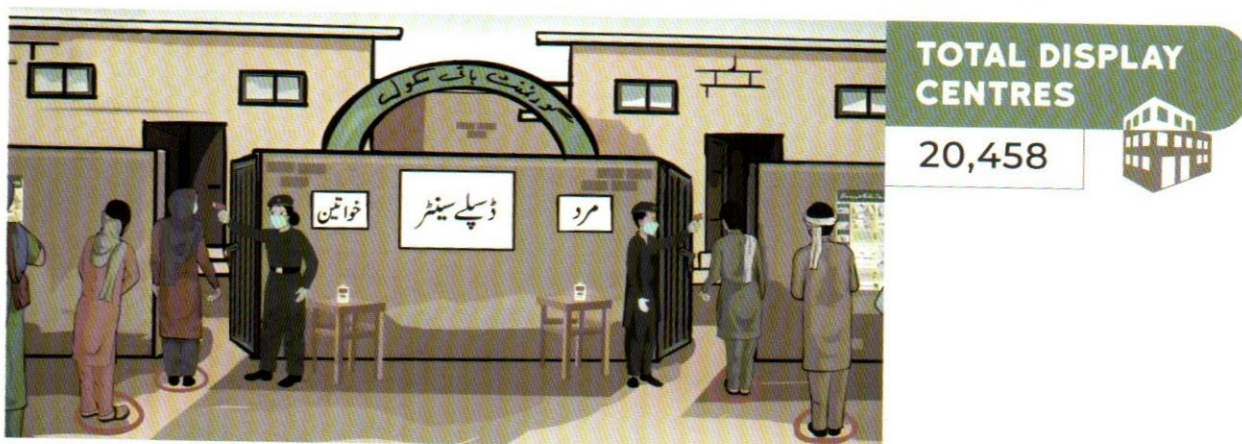
18,586
Supervisors



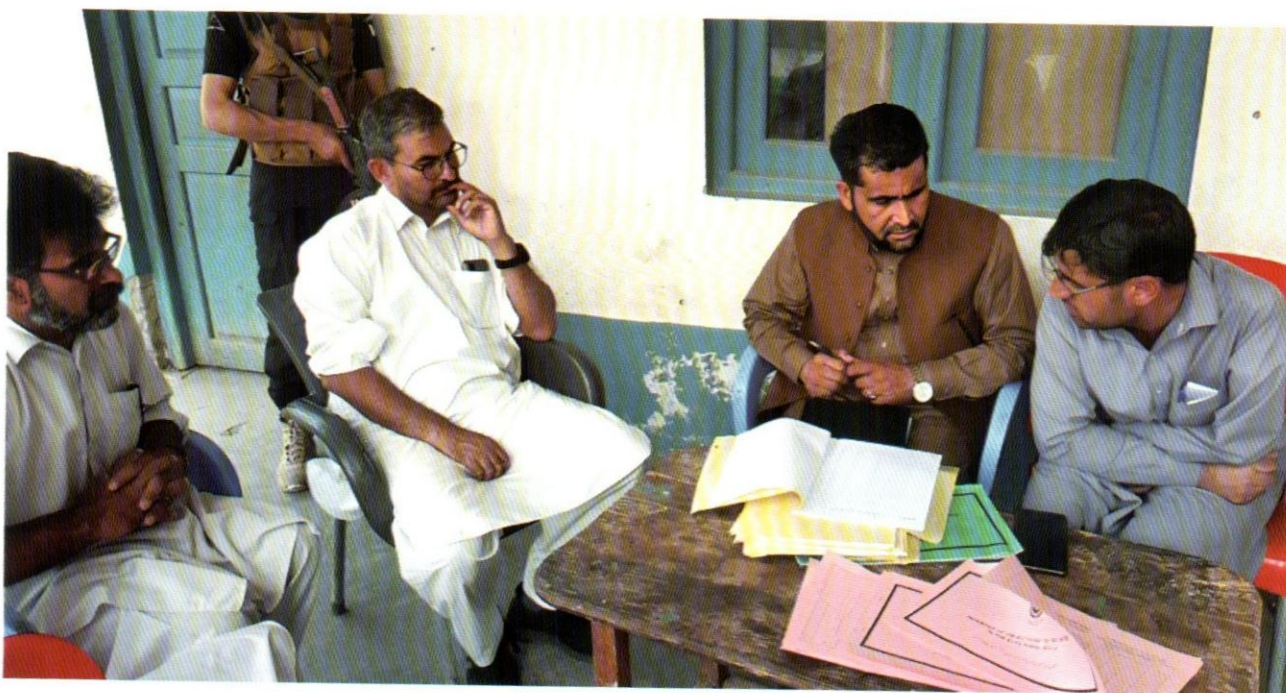
2,079
Assistant
Registration
Officers

2. THE YEAR IN REVIEW: 2022

The results of both the phases were processed and incorporated into the Preliminary Electoral Rolls (PERs) which were published at Display Centres for 41 days between 21st May to 30th June 2022 under Section 28 of the Elections Act, 2017. A total of 20,458 display centres were established nationwide to receive claims, objections, and applications for correction of particulars of voters.



During this period, 525 Revising Authorities were appointed nationwide to decide whether to accept or reject the applications for addition, deletion and corrections at the Display Centres. The Final Electoral Rolls, 2022, were published on 7th October, 2022 under Section 35 of the Elections Act, 2017, across the country.



Registration Officer visiting Display Center

2. THE YEAR IN REVIEW: 2022

Table No. VII: Comparison of the number of Registered Voters in the Draft Electoral Rolls and the Final Electoral Rolls 2022

Province	Voters in Draft Electoral Rolls-2021 08-10-2021			Voters in Final Electoral Rolls-2022 07-10-2022		
Province/Area	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Balochistan	2,875,906	2,171,520	5,047,426	2,878,032	2,212,825	5,090,857
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	11,486,688	9,124,560	20,611,248	11,436,241	9,385,060	20,821,301
Punjab	37,620,384	31,424,010	69,044,394	37,565,437	32,070,111	69,635,548
Sindh	14,039,800	11,542,824	25,582,624	14,008,265	11,655,674	25,663,939
Federal Capital	481,827	427,543	909,370	518,193	466,284	984,477
Grand Total	66,504,605	54,690,457	121,195,062	66,406,168	55,789,954	122,196,122

Table No. VIII: Age-Wise Number of Voters in the Final Electoral Rolls 2022

Province/Area	Age						Total
	18-25	26-40	41-50	51-60	61-100	100+	
Balochistan	991,067	1,977,461	857,177	601,701	661,219	2,232	5,090,857
KPK	4,124,864	8,450,849	3,363,440	2,328,732	2,549,633	3,783	20,821,301
Punjab	11,987,667	26,485,131	12,556,744	8,939,671	9,644,128	22,207	69,635,548
Sindh	4,292,731	9,690,719	4,878,829	3,246,490	3,543,970	11,200	25,663,939
Federal Capital	173,025	366,023	173,878	127,001	144,097	453	984,477
Total	21,569,354	46,970,183	21,830,068	15,243,595	16,543,047	39,875	122,196,122

Under Section 37 of the Elections Act, 2017, after the final publication of the electoral rolls with effect from 7th October, 2022, the DEC's started to receive applications for registration / transfer (Form-21), deletion / objection (Form-22) and correction of particulars of voters (Form-23). The process remains operative until the cut-off date, i.e., one month before completion of the tenure of the Assemblies. The total number of registered voters in the electoral rolls reached 123,690,677 by 15th December, 2022.

2. THE YEAR IN REVIEW: 2022

Public Facilitation

- ECP took several measures to facilitate the public during periodical revision of electoral rolls 2021-22. In all Provincial HQs and field offices, Complaint Centres were established. The process was complemented by an automated Complaint Management System through which ECP officials were available to respond to the queries and complaints within 48 hours. Similarly, print, electronic, and digital media platforms were also used for involving the general public in the process. For awareness and facilitation of the public, ECP's expert officers appeared on electronic media (radio as well as TV), and social media, urging the public to check their vote-details using 8300 SMS Service and to get them corrected, if required.

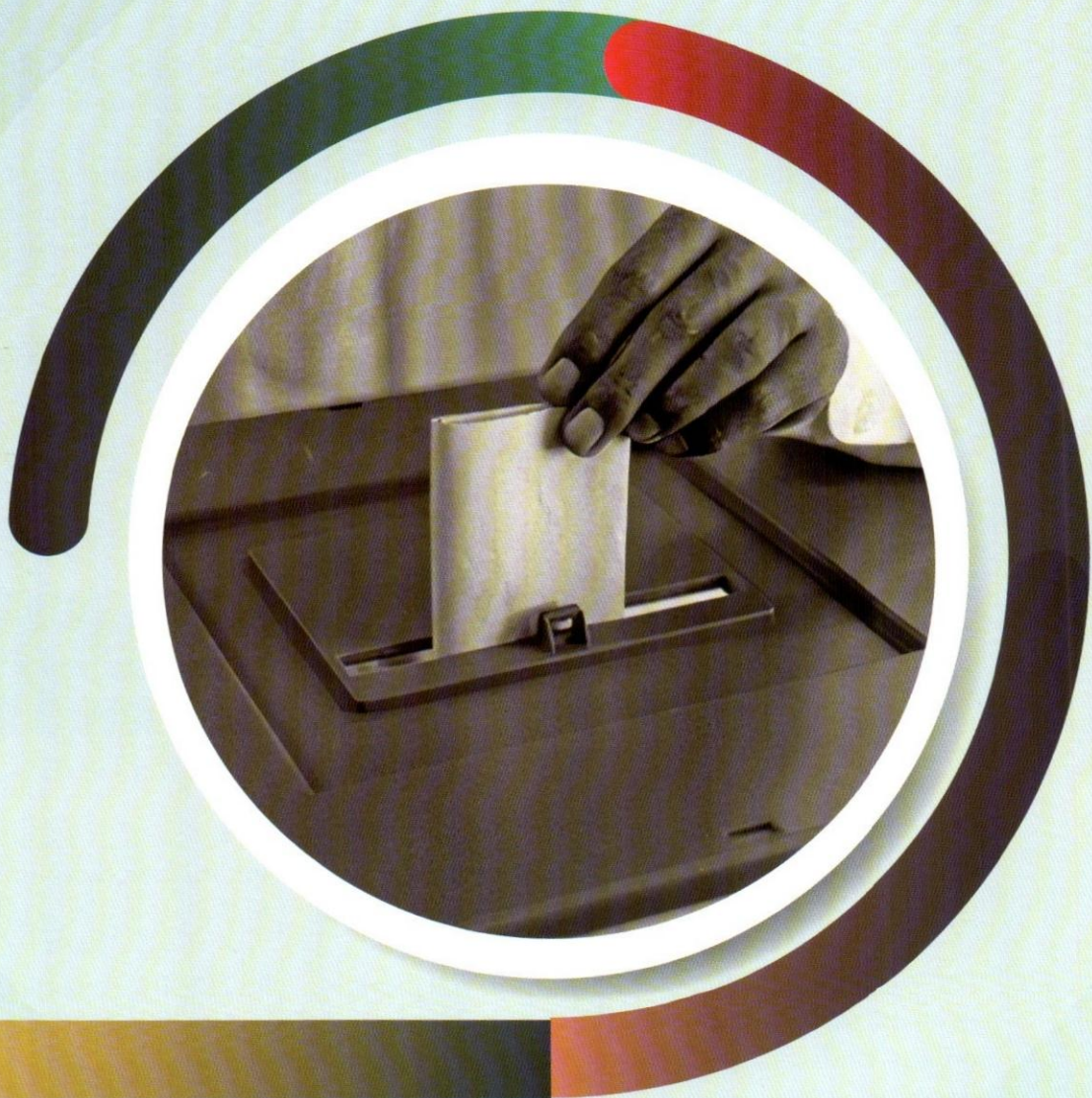
In order to facilitate the general public and improve efficiency of the system, Election Officers were assigned the role of Registration Officers for tehsil(s). Previously, only the DEC's used to act as the Registration Officer for the whole district which resulted in delays in handling the workload.

- "One Window Centres" were established in the offices of DEC where forms were received from public by the designated officials and processed quickly.
- "Form Submission Centres" were also established in all 2,080 Assistant Registration Offices at the tehsil level.

The public was encouraged and facilitated to obtain and submit the forms in their respective **Form Submission Centres** established by the Commission.

- ECP sensitised heads of the political parties for motivating their workers and general public to participate in the campaign for registration of votes.
- ECP prepared new Rules of Business in collaboration with NADRA, regarding provision of data of all the fresh National Identity Card holders, cancelled or modified NIC (exclusion or changes on the basis of Civil Registry Database) so that all the eligible voters are registered and deceased voters are excluded from the preliminary and final electoral rolls. Under Section 25 of the Elections Act, 2017, new guidelines have been updated and provided to NADRA. Accordingly, the processed data is transmitted by NADRA to field offices of ECP for further processing under the law by the Registration Officers concerned. This data is made available using upgraded/Fibre-Optic based network throughout the country.

CHAPTER 3



ELECTIONS ACTIVITIES IN 2022

3. ELECTIONS ACTIVITIES IN 2022

Elections are the sine qua non of a functional democratic system. The electoral process allows citizens to exercise their voting rights and to choose their representatives through free, fair and transparent elections. The expression "One-Man, One-Vote" keeps the country on the path of democracy, advances democratic values, strengthens political system and promotes inclusive governance.

The Constitution of Pakistan guarantees parliamentary democracy and assures fundamental rights, provincial autonomy, and local governance. The Constitution further provides that there shall be a Majlis-e-Shoora (Parliament) of Pakistan consisting of the President and two Houses to be known respectively as the National Assembly and the Senate. The founder of Pakistan Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah said:

**"Pakistan would be a democratic state
based on Islamic principles of social justice".**
Quaid-e-Azam

3.1 Bye-Elections to the Senate

During the year 2022, three seats of the Senate became vacant due to various reasons. Under Article 224(5) and 219(b) of the Constitution, bye-elections were held on two vacant seats due to resignation of Mr. Muhammad Fesal Vawda and death of Senator Dr. Sikandar Mandhro. The third seat became vacant due to the resignation of Mr. Mustafa Nawaz Khokhar.

Table No. IX: Detail of returned candidates for bye-election to the Senate

Reason of Vacancy	Name of the Returned Candidate	Category	Party Affiliation
Due to resignation of Mr. Muhammad Fesal Vawda.	Nisar Ahmed Khuhro	General	PPPP
Due to death of Senator Dr. Sikandar Mandhro	Khalida Sikandar Mandhro	Technocrat	PPPP
Due to resignation tendered by Senator Mr. Mustafa Nawaz Khokhar	Syed Waqar Mehdi	General	PPPP

3. ELECTIONS ACTIVITIES IN 2022

3.2 Conduct of Bye-Elections in National and Provincial Assemblies

Under Article 219 (b) of the Constitution, the Election Commission is charged with the duty of organising and conducting elections to the National and Provincial Assemblies and filling casual vacancies in the above said Houses. ECP, fulfilling its constitutional responsibility, conducted thirty six bye-elections, including twelve for the National Assembly and twenty four for the Provincial Assemblies during 2022. The detail is given below:

Table No. X: Detail of Bye-Elections to the National Assembly

S. No	No. and Name of Constituency	Cause of Vacancy	Date of Poll	Name of Returned Candidate	Party Affiliation
1.	NA-33 Hangu	Due to death of Mr. Khial Zaman	17.04.2022	Mr. Nadeem Khan	PTI
2.	NA-240 Korangi Karachi-II	Due to death of Mr. Iqbal Muhammad Ali Khan	16.06.2022	Mr. Muhammad Abu Bakar	MQMP
3.	NA-245 Karachi East-IV	Due to death of Mr. Amir Hussain	21.08.2022	Mr. Mahmood Baqi Moulvi	PTI
4.	NA-157 Multan-IV	Due to resignation tendered by Makhdoom Zain Hussain Qureshi	16.10.2022	Syed Ali Musa Gilani	PPPP
5.	NA-22 Mardan-III	Due to resignation of Mr. Ali Muhammad Khan	16.10.2022	Mr. Imran Ahmed Khan Niazi	PTI
6.	NA-24 Charsadda-II	Due to resignation of Mr. Fazal Muhammad Khan	16.10.2022		
7.	NA-31 Peshawar	Due to resignation of Mr. Shaukat Ali	16.10.2022		
8.	NA-108 Faisalabad-VIII	Due to resignation of Mr. Farukh Habib	16.10.2022		
9.	NA-118 Nankana Sahib-II	Due to resignation of Mr. Ijaz Ahmed Shah	16.10.2022		
10.	NA-239 Karachi	Due to resignation of Mr. Jamil Ahmed Khan	16.10.2022		
11.	NA-237 Malir-II	Due to resignation of Mr. Muhammad Akram	16.10.2022	Mr. Abdul Hakeem Baloch	PPPP
12.	NA-45 Kurram-I	Due to resignation of Mr. Fakhar Zaman Khan	30.10.2022	Mr. Imran Ahmed Khan Niazi	PTI

Table No XI: Detail of Bye-Elections to the Provincial Assembly of Punjab

S. No	No. and Name of Constituency	Cause of Vacancy	Date of Poll	Name of Returned Candidate	Party Affiliation
1.	PP-7 Rawalpindi-II	De-notified on defection under Article 63(a)(1)(b)(i) of the Constitution	17.07.2022	Raja Saghir Ahmed	PML(N)
2.	PP-83 Khushab-II		17.07.2022	Hassan Malik	PTI
3.	PP-90 Bhakkar-II		17.07.2022	Irfan Ullah Khan Niazi	PTI
4.	PP-97 Faisalabad-I		17.07.2022	Ali Afzal Sahi	PTI
5.	PP-125 Jhang-II		17.07.2022	Mian Muhammad Azam	PTI
6.	PP-127 Jhang-IV		17.07.2022	Mehar Muhammad Nawaz	PTI
7.	PP-140 Sheikhupura-VI		17.07.2022	Khurram Shahzad Virk	PTI
8.	PP-158 Lahore-XV		17.07.2022	Mian Muhammad Akram Usman	PTI
9.	PP-167 Lahore-XXIV		17.07.2022	Shabbir Ahmad	PTI
10.	PP-168 Lahore-XXV		17.07.2022	Malik Asad Ali	PML(N)
11.	PP-170 Lahore-XXVII		17.07.2022	Malik Zaheer Abbas	PTI
12.	PP-202 Sahiwal-VII		17.07.2022	Muhammad Ghulam Sarwar	PTI
13.	PP-217 Multan-VII		17.07.2022	Makhdoom Zain Hussain Qureshi	PTI
14.	PP-224 Lodhran-I		17.07.2022	Muhammad Aamir Iqbal Shah	PTI
15.	PP-228 Lodhran-V		17.07.2022	Syed Muhammad Rafi ud Din Bukhari	Independent
16.	PP-237 Bahawalnagar-I		17.07.2022	Fida Hussain	PML(N)
17.	PP-272 Muzaffargarh-V		17.07.2022	Muhammad Mozzam Ali Khan	PTI
18.	PP-273 Muzaffargarh-VI		17.07.2022	Muhammad Sibtain Raza	PML(N)
19.	PP-282 Layyah-III		17.07.2022	Qaiser Abbas Khan	PTI
20.	PP-288 Dera Ghazi Khan-IV		17.07.2022	Sardar Muhammad Saif-ud-Din Khan	PTI
21.	PP-139 Sheikhupura-V	Due to resignation of Mr. Jalail Ahmed	16.10.2022	Ch. Iftikhar Ahmad Bhangoo	PML(N)
22.	PP-241 Bahawalnagar-V	De-Notified due to disqualification of Mr. Kashif Mehmood	16.10.2022	Malik Mohammad Muzaffar Khan	PTI
23.	PP-209 Khanewal-VII	Due to resignation of Mr. Muhammad Faisal Khan Niazi	16.10.2022	Muhammad Faisal Khan Niazi	PTI

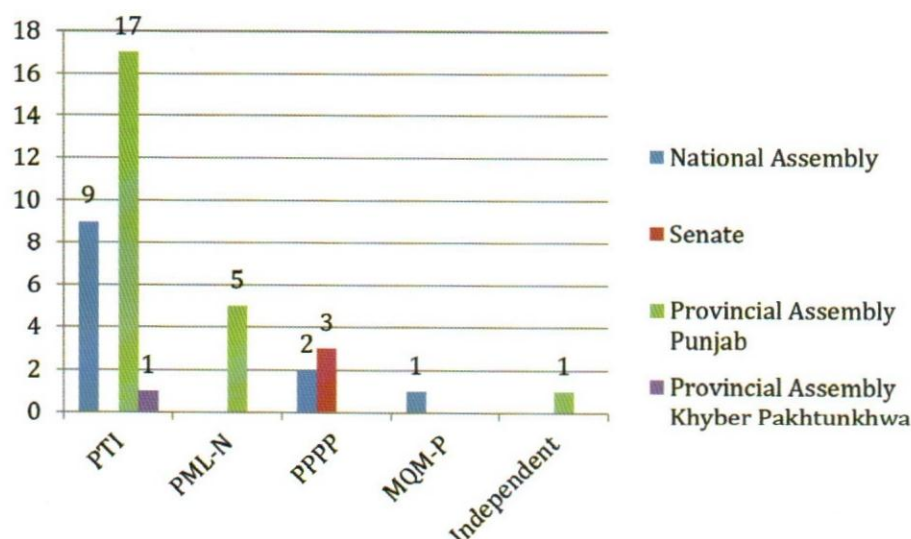
3. ELECTIONS ACTIVITIES IN 2022

Table No. XII: Detail of Bye-Elections to the Provincial Assembly of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

S. No	No. and Name of Constituency	Cause of Vacancy	Date of Poll	Name of Returned Candidate	Party Affiliation
1.	PK-7 Swat-VI	Due to death of Mr. Waqar Ahmed Khan	26.06.2022	Fazal Maula	PTI

The results of these elections reflect transparency observed during the course of elections due to strong oversight of the Commission. Out of 12 bye-elections (April-October, 2022) for the National Assembly, 9 were won by opposition parties and only 3 by the political parties in government. Similarly, out of 23 bye-elections (July-October, 2022) for Provincial Assembly Punjab, 17 seats were secured by the then ruling political party in Punjab while 5 seats were won by the opposition party and 1 seat by an independent candidate. Against the election for only 1 seat (June, 2022) of Provincial Assembly Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the then ruling party candidate was declared as the winner. For Senate election, all the 3 seats (March-December, 2022) from Sindh were won by one of the ruling political parties. Following graph illustrates the party position for all of the above said elections:

Graph No. II: Graph illustrates the party position regarding bye-elections Senate, National and Provincial Assemblies



3.3 Training for Bye-Elections

ECP trained 15,953 election officials and conducted 654 sessions of trainings for 36 Bye-Elections to the National and Provincial Assemblies constituencies.

3. ELECTIONS ACTIVITIES IN 2022

3.4 Establishment of Polling Stations

3.4.1 Survey of Proposed Polling Stations

The Commission places high priority on establishing polling stations to facilitate voters during the elections. A nationwide survey of polling stations was started at the end of 2021 to not only fulfil the requirements but also to ensure availability of basic facilities for public in the buildings to be declared as polling stations. Accordingly, following measures were adopted:

1. Locating new buildings in each electoral area to set up polling stations,
2. Geo-tagging of each building proposed as a polling station, and
3. Review of basic facilities at each building proposed as a polling station.

Comprehensive guidelines were issued to all the PECs to ensure physical verification of every proposed polling station by the DECAs and to consider the suitability of buildings and the convenience of voters while preparing the draft list of polling stations. However, it was later observed that floods had severely affected infrastructure across Pakistan, including government buildings especially in Sindh and Balochistan. Therefore, the PECs were directed to update ECP about the situation of the buildings in flood affected areas. The detail of number of polling stations established during General Elections - 2018 and tentative number of polling stations proposed for upcoming General Elections is as under:

Table No. XIII: Detail of number of polling stations established during General Elections - 2018 and tentative number of polling stations proposed for upcoming General Elections

Province	Polling Stations in 2018	Tentative Polling Stations in 2023	Increase
Balochistan	4,546	4,963	417
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	14,527	15,780	1,253
Punjab/ICT	48,259	53,300	5,041
Sindh	17,758	19,136	1,378
Total	85,090	93,179	8,089

To ensure public convenience and suitability of buildings proposed for polling stations, a system of random checking was introduced for the first time. For this purpose, different teams comprising of senior officers of ECP were constituted for physical inspection and verification of proposed buildings to be established as polling stations. The teams were also required to obtain detail of all basic facilities including availability of sufficient space, electricity, water, etc.

3. ELECTIONS ACTIVITIES IN 2022

3.5 Code of Conduct

The Election Commission, in consultation with political parties, frames codes of conduct for political parties, contesting candidates, election agents, and polling agents who are bound to follow these codes during the course of elections. The Election Commission also prepares a code of conduct for security personnel, media, and election observers. After finalisation, these codes are published in the official gazette and on ECP's website as well. The Election Commission effectively implemented these codes during the bye-elections.

3.6 Security Arrangements

Electoral integrity requires an atmosphere that is free of fear, intimidation or manipulation during the whole electoral process. Therefore, making appropriate security arrangements are integral to achieving the goal of free, fair and transparent elections. The Election Commission of Pakistan invoking the mandate of Article 220 of the Constitution of Pakistan called upon all the executive authorities during conduct of bye-elections to provide required assistance to the Commission in discharge of its Constitutional obligation. In order to make the electoral process free of all encumbrances, the ECP not only issued code of conduct but also put in place an elaborate monitoring mechanism.

The provincial governments and law enforcement agencies provided support during conduct of the bye-elections. CCTV cameras were installed at the highly sensitive polling stations to ensure transparency in the election process. The security situation during the bye-elections, especially on the poll days throughout the constituencies, was unprecedented.

3.7 Filling of Vacant Reserved Seats

Article 224(6) of the Constitution and Section 104(5) of the Elections Act, 2017, stipulates that when a seat reserved for women or non-Muslims in the National Assembly or a Provincial Assembly falls vacant on account of death, resignation or disqualification of a member of that Assembly, it shall be filled by the next candidate in order of priority from the list submitted before the Returning Officer by the relevant political party.

3.8 Bye-Elections to the Provincial Assembly of Punjab

During 2022, 5 reserved seats of the Provincial Assembly of Punjab fell vacant due to the de-notification of members under Article 63(a)(1)(b)(i) of the Constitution.

3. ELECTIONS ACTIVITIES IN 2022

Table No. XIV: Number of candidates notified as returned against reserved seats

S. No	Reason of Vacancy	Cause of Vacancy	Category of Reserved Seat	Name of Returned Candidate	Party Affiliation
1.	De-notification of Uzma Kardar,	De-notified on defection under Article 63(a)(1)(b)(i) of the Constitution	Women	Batool Zain	PTI
2.	De-notification of Aisha Nawaz		Women	Saira Raza	PTI
3.	De-notification of Sajida Yousaf		Women	Fouzia Abbas Naseem	PTI
4.	De-notification of Ijaz Masih		Non-Muslim	Habkook Rafiq Babbu	PTI
5.	De-notification of Haroon Imran Gill		Non-Muslim	Samuel Yaqoob	PTI

Pictorial View of Bye-Elections Held on 17th July, 2022

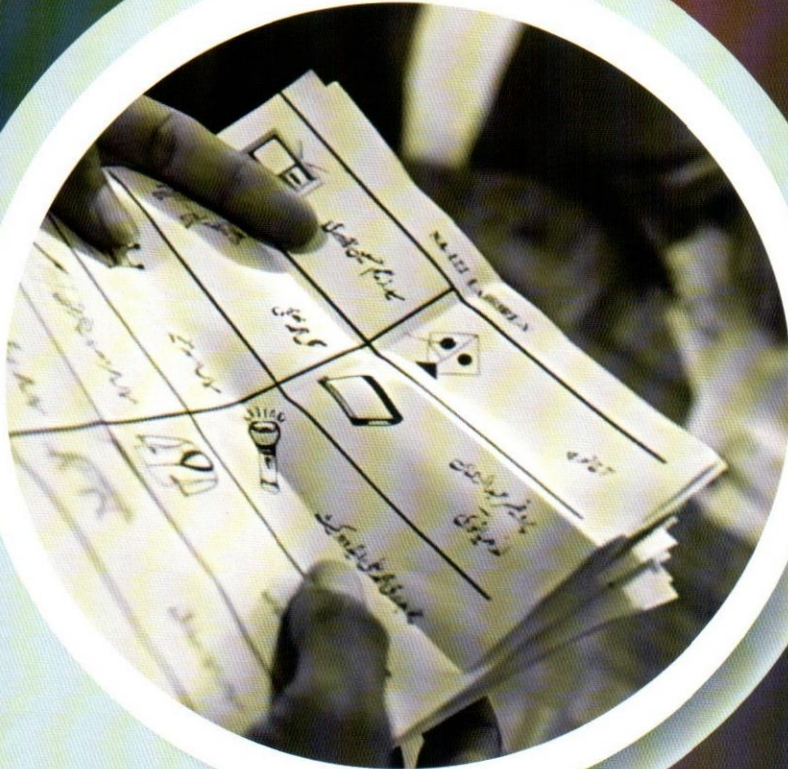


A person with special needs being helped by security personnel



Elderly and persons with disabilities being helped at the polling stations

CHAPTER 4



ENSURING TRANSPARENCY IN ELECTORAL PROCESSES

4. ENSURING TRANSPARENCY IN ELECTORAL PROCESSES

EXTERNAL INFLUENCES AND LEGAL HINDRANCES

4.1 Issue of i-Voting and Electronic Voting Machines

The Election Commission of Pakistan is a technology progressive organization which has been introducing various innovations from time to time for public convenience. The Commission has already conducted pilot projects using Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs), Biometric Verification Machines (BVMs) and Internet Voting for Overseas Pakistanis in the recent past. ECP submitted detailed reports along with findings and recommendations to the Parliament and the Federal Government twice while complying with Sections 94 and 103 of the Elections Act, 2017. The feedback from the Parliament is still awaited.

The Commission kept itself abreast with the global standards for the introduction of any technology in elections. Internet Voting Task Force (IVTF) was constituted by the Order of the Supreme Court of Pakistan comprising of the specialists and experts from cyber security industry, academia and IT heads of provincial and federal IT Boards. The IVTF was mandated to conduct third party cyber security audit of I-Voting System for Overseas Pakistanis developed by NADRA. The Audit Report revealed that the existing I-Voting System was not as per the international standards and deemed unfit to be used in any elections. Consequently, the I-Voting was not used in the General Elections 2018 because of technical vulnerabilities and gaps in the system. However, ECP conducted pilot tests using I-Voting System in the bye-elections held on 14th October, 2018 and prepared a comprehensive report covering key findings, challenges, recommendations and way forward. The Report was shared with Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, Government of Pakistan for presenting the same before the Parliament for further discussion and deliberations as per Section 94 of the Elections Act, 2017.

Additionally, the Commission also shared in writing in September, 2021, the legal, technical, operational, administrative and electoral framework on the use of EVM in detail along with its ECO system with the Chairman of the Senate Standing Committee on Parliamentary Affairs. The Chairman was informed about 34 points that needed to be addressed such as: political consensus, trust in technology, opting for any appropriate technology with its reasons for adoptions, conduct of poll in one day or in a staggered manner due to financial implications, secrecy of ballot, security, transparency, massive public awareness in a short span of time, lack of evidences during dispute resolutions, logistic and secure warehouse challenges, appointment of technical staff and conduct of technical trainings across the country, dependencies on EVM vendors and other organizations while testing and configuring these machines. The report also highlighted that the poll day irregularities could not be prevented by machines. The overall EVM's ECO System is not only the procurement of machines and acquiring indigenous or readymade technology from abroad but it also requires a mandatory establishment of an infrastructure in the country by following the principle of evolution as done by India and Brazil over a period of more than two decades. As an international best practice, after the political consensus among the stakeholders, it was tested on a small scale and then gradually increased to wider demography and geography.

Ever since, the previous government amended section-94 and section-103 of the Elections Act, 2017 on 4th December, 2021 regarding use of I-Voting and EVM in forth coming general elections, ECP has been making concerted efforts to implement the Law. The Commission constituted Legal, Technical and Financial Committees to give a detailed report on EVM and Internet Voting for Overseas Pakistanis. The Committees prepared and submitted a Report to the Commission in March, 2022

4. ENSURING TRANSPARENCY IN ELECTORAL PROCESSES

along with its detailed comments on technologies, world experiences, challenges, recommendations and way forward. Simultaneously, ECP also assisted the Ministry of Science and Technology for developing prototype of EVM indigenously and Ministry of Information and Technology & Telecommunication of the previous Federal Government while hiring a Cyber security firm for conduct of 3rd party audit of NADRA's developed I-Voting System wherein M/s Minsait (Spanish Cybersecurity firm) was hired by the Ministry of Information Technology, Government of Pakistan. The firm submitted its 3rd party technical audit Report to the Election Commission of Pakistan and the then Federal Government as well. The Report by M/s Minsait highlighted that ECP through the I-Voting System (developed by NADRA) would not be able to fulfill its Constitutional mandate.

The previous government consistently kept on demanding the Commission for introduction of Electronic Voting Machines and i-Voting for overseas Pakistanis, on which neither there was any political consensus among the stakeholders; nor there were any measures taken for the technical efficacy of both the systems. Unable to respond to technical observations of the Commission and independent observers, the then government introduced amendments in Section 94 and Section 103 of the Elections Act, 2017 in December 2021. Subsequently, the incumbent government in May 2022 repealed both the amendments and reverted back to conduct of pilots for testing these technologies during bye-elections. It is pertinent to mention that for introduction of these technologies which had their respective vulnerabilities and pitfalls, as per estimates of 2022, the Commission required approximately Rs. 265 billion, which is a big price tag in these times of financial constraints. However, the PMU established for the purpose has been consistently active on this front and are currently undergoing various phases/protocols for the establishment/setting up of both technologies, which as per the Technical Committee set-up for the purpose, have to be completed through pilots. The Overseas voting or i-voting segment has been negotiated with NADRA, who have improved their previous versions into a new project. Such a project will cost Rs. 3.5 Billion, which is being tested for conformity legally, technically and practically by the PMU team currently.

4.2 Corrupt Practices in NA -75 Sialkot-IV (Daska)

The polling was held in the Constituency No.NA-75-Sialkot-IV (Daska) on 19th February, 2021. Around 20 Presiding Officers working as election officials during the conduct of election for NA-75, Daska, Sialkot, went missing on the election night. The Commission took cognizance of the matter on the report of DRO and RO. Disappearance of these election officials put a question mark on the transparency and fairness of the election which was already marred by day long election violence, chaos and disruptions. After the intervention of the Commission, the missing officials resurfaced and appeared the next day at the RO's Office. During the course of Fact Finding Inquiry ordered by the Commission, it was found that the Presiding Officers spent the night at an undisclosed location where results of the polling stations were tampered after breaking the seals of polling bags.

Consequently, the Commission declared the poll null and void and ordered the re-poll in the entire constituency to ensure transparency in the election. The decision of the Commission was challenged in the Supreme Court of Pakistan by the aggrieved party, but the August Court upheld the Order of the Commission stating that it was in light of the law, Constitution and within the jurisdiction of the Commission. Further, the August Court also desired for issuing "guidelines" in order to prevent similar incidents in future.

4. ENSURING TRANSPARENCY IN ELECTORAL PROCESSES

Under Article 220 of the Constitution, the Commission seeks assistance from all executive authorities in Federation and the Provinces in the discharge of its constitutional mandate for conduct of free and fair elections. In case of any violations and infringements upon performance of its mandate of holding free and fair elections and guarding against corrupt practices. Section 55 of the Elections Act, 2017 empowers the Commission to initiate disciplinary proceedings against the official “who obstructs, or prevents, or attempts to obstruct or prevent, the conduct of fair and impartial poll”, “does any other act calculated to influence the result of elections”, and “disobey any orders or instructions issued by the Commission”.

The Election Commission initiated proceedings against the Election Officials involved in corrupt practices during the election, including Deputy Commissioner, District Police Officer, Police Officials, Polling Staff and others under Section 55 of the Elections Act-2017. The Commission was about to finalize the inquiry proceedings, fix responsibility and take legal action against the officials found involved in corrupt practices, when the involved officials approached the Hon'ble Lahore High Court against the proceedings of the Commission and the Court granted stay and suspended the proceedings initiated by the Commission. Later on, the Court abated the ECP's proceedings by accepting the plea of the petitioners and held that “officials appointed for the purpose of elections were under the Election Commission till the declaration of the result”. The Hon'ble Court held that the Election Commission cannot initiate proceedings against the election officials after the culmination of election proceedings. The judgment practically undermines and limits the mandate of the Commission, to identify and initiate disciplinary proceedings against corrupt practices, “only till the publication of the names of the returned candidates”. Meaning thereby that the Commission cannot take cognizance of all the corrupt practices, initiate inquiry and substantiate charges against the involved election officials because of limited window of time available at its disposal which is against the spirit of Article 218(3) of the Constitution. As per law and rules, the proceedings against any official are required to be completed after meeting all the legal formalities which surely takes prescribed time period.

4.3 Toshakhana Proceedings

Reference for disqualification of former Prime Minister as MNA, under Article 63(2) of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, 1973 was forwarded by the Speaker National Assembly under Article 63(3) of the Constitution on 2nd August, 2022. The reference was received by the Secretary Election Commission on 4th August, 2022. The reference in question was moved before the Speaker by six (6) members of National Assembly on account of concealment of gifts received by him from foreign countries as Prime Minister of Pakistan, which were part of Toshakhana.

4. ENSURING TRANSPARENCY IN ELECTORAL PROCESSES

The Commission after hearing all the parties reserved the order on 19th September, 2022 and announced the judgment on 21st October, 2022 disqualifying him in following terms;

The respondent has intentionally and deliberately violated the provisions contained in Section 137, 167 and 173 of the Elections Act, 2017, who has made false Statement and incorrect declaration before the Commission in the statement of assets and liabilities filed by him for the year 2020-21. Hence, attracts disqualification under Article 63(1)(p) of the Constitution read with section 137 and 173 of the Elections Act, 2017.

The order of the Commission has been challenged by legal counsel of former Prime Minister, before the Honorable Lahore High Court, Lahore and Islamabad High Court. Further, the case is under trial in the court of Additional District & Sessions Judge, Islamabad, the application has been filed by the Commission under relevant provisions of law.

4.4 Prohibited Funding Case

The Complaint was filed by Mr. Akbar Sher Babar before the Commission on 14th December, 2014 against PTI under Article 6 of PPO, 2002 read with Rule 6 of PPR, 2002 and all other enabling provisions of law, for mismanagement and misuse of party funds and other illegal matters in the party. The Commission initiated the proceedings on this case in January, 2015. Similar matter was taken up in 2016 by the August Supreme Court of Pakistan on the petition filed by Mr. Muhammad Hanif Abbasi against Mr. Imran Khan. The August Court, under its Order referred the matter to Election Commission of Pakistan with the direction to probe PTI's source of funding on the touchstone of credibility, reliability and verifiability. The Commission constituted a scrutiny committee to examine the case in detail. The Committee submitted its report on 4th January, 2022 and matter was fixed for hearing before the Commission. The Commission after hearing all the concerned parties decided the matter on 2nd August, 2022 in following terms.

Therefore, in view of the material available on record and above discussion the matter falls within the ambit of Article 17(3) of the Constitution, Article 6 (3) and Article 2(c)(iii) of PPO-2002. Hence the Commission directs that a Notice may be issued to the respondent party in terms of the Rule 6 of PPR-2002 as to why the aforementioned prohibited funds may not be confiscated.

The order passed by the Commission was challenged before the Honorable Islamabad High Court in WP.No.2998/2022 titled as PTI versus ECP and others. The Honorable High Court decided the matter on 2nd February, 2023 and Writ Petition has been dismissed. The matter regarding confiscation of prohibited funding is pending before the Commission. The PTI has been directed to submit its final report in the matter.

4. ENSURING TRANSPARENCY IN ELECTORAL PROCESSES

4.5 Fesal Vawda Case

The qualification of Mr. Fesal Vawda was challenged before the Commission through four Petitions/Applications on the basis of concealment of his nationality at the time of filing of nomination papers during General Elections 2018 from NA-249. Mr. Fesal Vawda contended that he surrendered his nationality after filing his nomination papers. The Applications were filed in January 2020 and the Commission gave ample opportunities to the respondent to place the facts before the Commission. The Commission after hearing all the parties and after perusal of record, decided the matter and disqualified Mr. Fesal Vawda, vide order dated 9th February, 2022.

The order passed by the Commission was challenged before the August Supreme Court of Pakistan and the August Court decided the matter vide order which is reported in 2023 SCMR 370 in the following terms:

In view of the said statement and undertaking of the petitioner, we are of the opinion that we need not proceed further in the matter in the peculiar facts and circumstances of the case. The petitioner shall be bound to comply with his undertaking and shall take immediate steps to present his resignation to the Chairman, Senate, in accordance with law. It is clarified that the petitioner shall not be considered disqualified in any subsequent election, on the basis of the instant matter.



CHAPTER 5



POLITICAL FINANCE

5. POLITICAL FINANCE

The Political Finance Wing, being an important “entry-point” for Parliamentarians, was a key priority of the Commission for reform and digital upgradation. The Political Finance Wing has been created and tasked to deal with the new challenges under the provisions of Elections Act, 2017 which entrust and empower ECP to enlist political parties, allocate election symbols to eligible political parties and to scrutinize financial statements submitted by political parties and statement of assets and liabilities submitted by Senators and members of National and Provincial Assemblies. The Wing also deals with scrutiny of election expenses, returns furnished by returned / contesting candidates and campaign finance account submitted by enlisted political parties. The main activities are enlisted below:

- a. Receive, maintain and scrutinize consolidated statements of accounts submitted by political parties on annual basis and its publication in the official gazette.
- b. Receive, maintain and scrutinize statements of assets and liabilities submitted by Senators and members of the Assemblies, along with publication of the same in the official gazette.
- c. Receive, maintain and scrutinize returns of election expenses, submitted by each contesting candidate after culmination of an election.
- d. Maintain data of campaign finance (details of election expenses) of a political party during a General Election.

5.1 Digitization of Statements of Assets & Liabilities

Under Section 137(1) of the Elections Act-2017 members of all Assemblies and Senate submit to the Commission, on or before 31st December of each year, a copy of statements of assets and liabilities including assets and liabilities of their spouses and dependent children as on the preceding 30th June, on Form-B.

A total of 1,186 members from Senate, National and Provincial Assemblies submitted their Form-B for the financial year ending 30th June 2021. All data submitted on Form-B has been digitized for item wise comparison with data of yesteryears.

Item wise scrutiny of statements of assets and liabilities of the Parliamentarians has been completed within a prescribed time period of 120 days and published in the official gazette under Section 138 of the Elections Act, 2017.

5. POLITICAL FINANCE

5.2 Consolidated Statements of Accounts

Under Section 210 of Elections Act-2017, all enlisted political parties are under obligation to submit their consolidated statement of accounts on Form-D within sixty days from close of financial year. Out of the 160 political parties enlisted with the ECP, Form-D of 154 political parties was due for the financial year 2021-22 but only 94 political parties submitted their financial statements for the financial year on due date. Show-Cause Notices were issued to sixty (60) political parties for non-compliance. Nineteen (19) political parties have submitted Form-D after issuance of show cause notice. The cases of forty (40) political parties were fixed for hearing before the Commission. During the hearing, twenty-three (23) Parties submitted their accounts.

All the Form-D have been analysed with the help of system generated variance reports

Most of the cases of Form-D have been submitted to the Commission for publication in the official gazette. Remaining cases are under correspondence with the parties on observations raised by the PF Wing.

5.3 Return of Election Expenses (Form-C)

According to the provisions of Section 134 of the Elections Act, 2017, all contesting candidates, other than the returned candidates, have to submit their respective returns of election expenses on Form-C within 30 days of the publication of the name of returned candidates in the official gazette, whereas the returned candidates have to do so within 10 days from the date of polls. The purpose of submission of election expenses' details is to ensure that the contesting candidates do not exceed the prescribed limit.

The scrutiny of returns of election expenses submitted by the candidates in the bye-elections has also been carried out. Cases of the candidates who failed to comply with the requirement of section 134 of Elections Act 2017, have been referred to the concerned courts of Additional District & Sessions Judges.

Meanwhile, (33) thirty-three candidates applied for condonation of delay in filing of Form-C. The Hon'ble Commission approved all condonation requests except one. The Political Finance Wing carried out scrutiny of returns of Election Expenses of Senate, National and Provincial Assemblies and Bye-Elections within the stipulated timeframe under section 136(1) of Elections Act, 2017.

5. POLITICAL FINANCE

5.4 Enlistment of Political Parties

Chapter-XI of the Elections Act, 2017 provides elaborate procedure for enlistment of political parties with the ECP. A political party that fulfils the criteria for enlistment as per the said Act, applies for the same. The Hon'ble Commission constituted a Committee for enlistment of Political Parties. During the year 2021-22, the Committee recommended enlistment of following political parties which were approved by the Hon'ble Commission.

Table No. XV: Political parties enlisted as approved by the Hon'ble Commission

S. No.	Name of Political Party
1	Awami Falahi Party
2	Labour Qaumi Movement Pakistan
3	Pak League
4	Pakistan Markazi Muslim League
5	Pakistan Tehreek-e-Nizam
6	National Democratic Movement
7	Awami Jamhoori Party Pakistan
8	Pakistan Peoples League
9	Pakistan Nazriyati Party
10	Tehreek-e-Inqilab Political Movement
11	Pakistan Tehreek-e-Emaan
12	Istehkam-e-Pakistan Tehreek
13	Hazara Qaumi Mahaz Pakistan
14	Pakistan Inqalabi Party
15	Pakistan Tehreek-e-Shariat (Party)
16	Pakistan Reform Party
17	Pakistan Tehreek-e-Shadbad
18	Hum Awam Pakistan Party
19	Haqooq Khalq Party
20	Kissan Ittehad Awami Party
21	Pakistan Tehreek-e-Such
22	Rabita Jamiat Ulma-e-Islam
23	Awami Democratic Party Pakistan
24	Sulaiman Khel Qabail Movement

5. POLITICAL FINANCE

5.5 Election Symbol of Political Parties

Out of total number of 160 political parties enlisted with the ECP, 28 Political parties were allotted Election Symbols in 2021-22. Now 148 Political Parties hold Election Symbols. Moreover, 12 enlisted political parties have not applied for election symbols.

5.6 Management Information System

ECP has upgraded the Political Finance Wing which has been an area of attention of the Election Commission. As per the 3rd Strategic Plan 2019-2023 ECP has to inter-alia develop Management Information System (MIS) for digitization of the financial statements submitted under the statutory requirements and other allied matters of enlisted political parties.

The present management of Political Finance Wing was assigned this task. Accordingly, an Action Plan was developed and approved for digital up-gradation of Political Finance Wing. The same has been implemented according to the approved timelines.

Political Finance Wing has indigenously developed a software to cover the entire spectrum of Political Finance. This has enabled it to conduct variance analyses of historical and current data. Moreover, linkages are being put in place to integrate Political Finance data submitted by parties, candidates and legislators with other repositories within ECP and with (FBR, NADRA, SECP, FABS, SBP, un-reciprocally.

Regulation Section of Political Finance Wing has simultaneously revised rules/ regulations/ forms and SOPs to facilitate the workflow of Political Finance Wing to the newly re-engineered business process according to revised job descriptions and assigned roles. This integration will pave the way for a more minute and real-time scrutiny of the accounts, assets and liabilities of the Parliamentarians and will add value to the scrutiny process.



Bridge Course Training of Officers of Political Finance Wing on Political Financing of Political Parties and Candidates

CHAPTER 6



PROCUREMENT OF ELECTION MATERIAL

6. PROCUREMENT OF ELECTION MATERIAL

A large variety of sensitive and non-sensitive election material is required for the conduct of elections. A number of arrangements are undertaken to procure huge quantity of sensitive material, which includes special watermarked paper with security features to be used for printing of ballot papers for general and bye-elections and non-sensitive material including various kinds of forms, ballot boxes, sealed bags of various sizes and colours, stamps, screened off compartments, indelible ink and standardized ink stamp pads etc.



Procurement of election material for successful conduct of general and bye-elections to the National, Provincial Assemblies and Local Government Elections is a multi-stage country-wide process and requires sound and elaborate planning. The first step is to make a careful assessment of the requirements of sensitive and non-sensitive election material for the entire country. The next step is to make arrangements for their procurement on a large scale.

The election material is distributed to all the Returning Officers for further distribution to polling stations which is a gigantic task.

The Election Commission starts its working well ahead of General Elections in a structured manner with minute attention to procurement of election material as per approved scale to ensure efficiency and economy.

6. PROCUREMENT OF ELECTION MATERIAL

6.1 Procurement of Special Watermarked Paper

Section-71 (4) of The Elections Act, 2017 states;
"The Commission shall use special water-marked paper for printing of ballot papers."

Use of special watermarked paper for printing of ballot papers is mandatory in General Elections and in all subsequent Bye-elections.

6.2 Procurement of Assorted Non-Sensitive Election Material

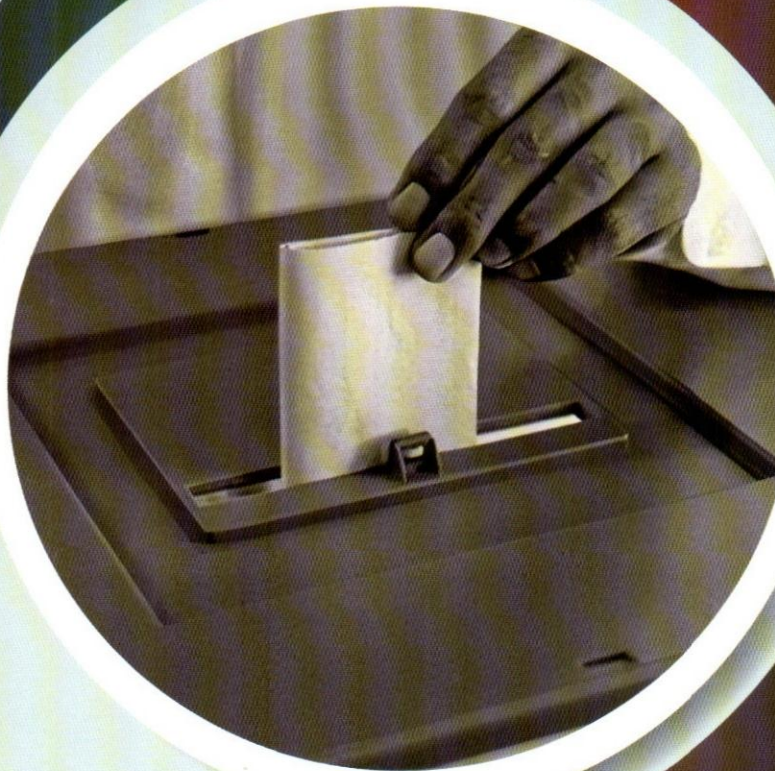
For upcoming General Elections in 2023, procurement process of assorted non-sensitive election material was initiated in 2022 to make it cost effective and to ensure timely delivery of items. The procurement of assorted non -sensitive material includes:

- Translucent Ballot Boxes
- Foldable Screened-Off Compartments
- Rubber Stamps
- Polling Bags (for different categories)
- Brass Seals
- Plastic Seals
- Different Forms and Packets etc.



Distribution of election material for elections

CHAPTER 7



LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

7. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

Local government is a system of governance at grassroot level. It ensures participation of electorates at community level in making decisions about the local systems, governance and community development. Article 140A of the Constitution of Pakistan mandates that each province shall, by law, establish local government system, devolve political, administrative and financial responsibility and authority to elected representatives of the local governments. The Election Commission is required to hold local government elections under Articles 140A(2) and 219(d) of the Constitution read with Section 219(1) of the Elections Act, 2017. Moreover, in terms of Section 219(4) of the Elections Act, 2017, the Election Commission is mandated to conduct local government elections within 120 days of the expiry of term of local governments in a province/area. The term of local governments of each province and ICT expired as shown in the table given below:

Table No. XVI: Detail of expiry of term of local governments of each province and ICT

S. No	Province	Expiry of Term of Local Governments	Cut-off Date for Conduct of Elections	Remarks
1.	Balochistan	27.01.2019	26.05.2019	Direct election to the General Seats and Reserved Seats held on 29.05.2022 and 14.12.2022, respectively. The election of upper tier (District Council) will be held in the near future.
2.	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	28.08.2019	27.12.2019	2 nd phase held on 27.03.2022 and Local Governments are in place in the province.
3.	Sindh	30.08.2020	30.12.2020	1 st phase held on 26.06.2022. The poll for 2 nd phase will be held shortly.
4.	Punjab	31.12.2021	30.04.2022	Delimitation exercise and enlistment of electoral groups completed by the Commission. However, due to stay by the Hon'ble Lahore High Court, election schedule was suspended.
5.	Islamabad Capital Territory	14.02.2021	14.06.2021	Due to increase in number of UCs from 101 to 125 by the Federal Government, the election could not be held due to litigations and frequent changes in the number of UCs and ICT Local Government Act, 2015.

To fulfil its constitutional and legal obligation, the Election Commission initiated several measures and engaged with Federal / Provincial Governments for conduct of Local Government Elections well before the expiry of term of local governments. Despite protracted correspondence and frequent meetings, the Federal and Provincial Governments took different stances on various occasions i.e. amendments in the local government laws/rules, final publication of results of Census, 2017 and failure to provide relevant documents/ data. Resultantly, local government elections could not be held in time.

7. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

7.1 Local Government Elections in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

7.1.1 First Phase of Local Government Elections

In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the term of local government expired on 28th August 2019. However, the elections could not be held in time for multiple reasons, which included reluctance of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government, changes in Local Government Act 2013 and court cases. However, the elections were eventually conducted in two phases. The first phase of Local Government Elections was held in seventeen districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on 19th December 2021. Notification of returned candidates was issued on 9th February 2022.

7.1.2 Re-poll of First Phase

Due to incidents of electoral violence, re-poll at 229 polling stations of 12 districts was held on 13th February, 2022. Similarly, the election of those councils where proceedings were terminated due to death of contesting candidates, was also held on 13th February, 2022. After the Election as well as re-poll on 13th February, 2022, the notification of returned candidates was issued on 4th March, 2022.



Provincial Election Commissioner, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa briefing Secretary, ECP on Local Government Elections

7. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

7.1.3 Second Phase of Local Government Elections

The schedule for the second phase of local government elections in 18 districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was issued on 20th January 2022 with poll day as 27th March, 2022. However, on the request of the Provincial Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the Hon'ble Peshawar High Court ordered to reschedule the elections after the month of Ramzan and normalization of weather in the districts. The Election Commission filed a civil appeal before the August Supreme Court on 9th February, 2022 against the said decision. The August Supreme Court suspended the Order of the Hon'ble Peshawar High Court, and ECP issued revised schedule with poll day on 31st March, 2022 accordingly.

7.1.4 Appointment of DROs, ROs and AROs

DROs, ROs and AROs were appointed, from District Administration as well as from amongst Election Commission officers for the conduct of 2nd phase of local government elections in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The data showing number of DROs, ROs, AROs, polling stations and registered voters is given as under:-

Table No. XVII: Number of DROs, ROs, AROs, polling stations and registered voters

Description	1 st Phase	2 nd Phase
Districts	17	18
DROs	17	18
ROs	331	253
AROs	359	253
Polling Stations	9,212	6,120
Total Registered Voters	13,029,259	7,641,092

7.1.5 Administrative and Security Arrangements

Necessary administrative arrangements which included printing of ballot papers, training of election officials and security arrangements were made for the smooth conduct of elections. A comprehensive contingency plan, including transportation and security plans were also devised for each district to ensure orderly and peaceful conduct of elections.

7.1.6 Training of Election Officials appointed for Second Phase of Local Government Elections

Total number of 75,488 election officials were trained through 2,090 training sessions for conduct of second phase of local government elections in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

7. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

7.1.7 Conduct of Re-Poll

Due to different incidents and electoral violence, re-poll at 56 polling stations of 10 districts was conducted on 22nd May 2022. Further, due to death of contesting candidates, fresh elections in 8 districts were held at 32 polling stations on the same day.

The election schedule for the slots of Chairmen of Village Councils and Neighbourhood Councils (where the General Members were elected unopposed during the second phase of the Local Government Elections) was issued on 1st July 2022 and the elections were held on 6th July 2022.

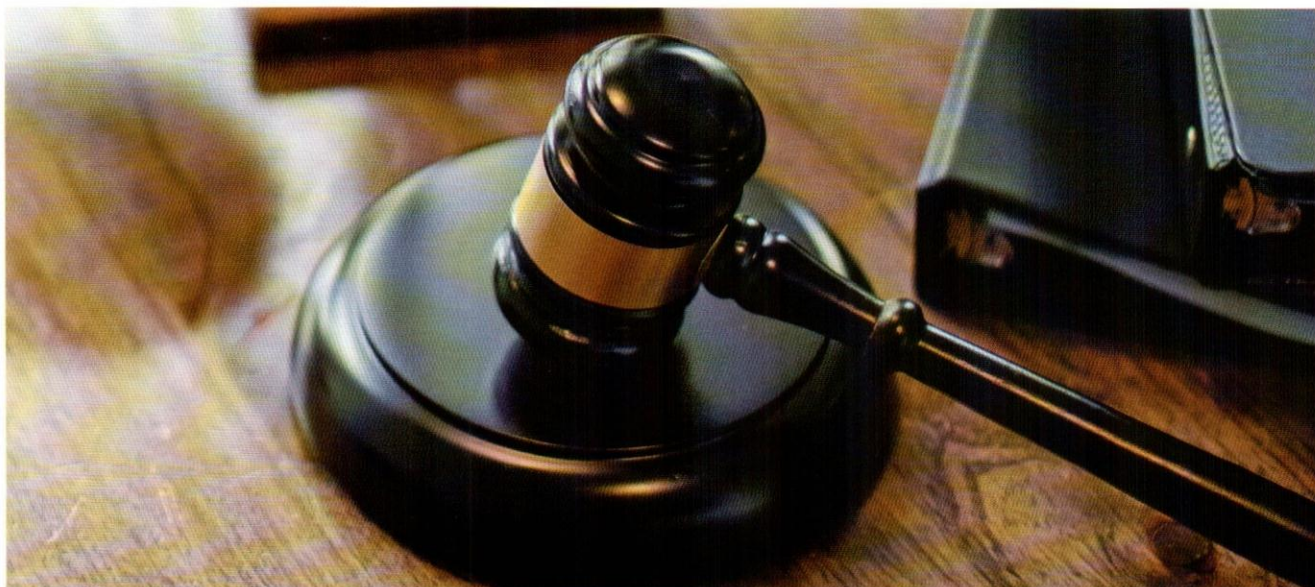
Table No. XVIII: Detail of tehsils/city councils and neighborhood/village councils

Phases	Districts	Tehsil/ City Councils	Neighborhood/ Village Councils
1st Phase	17	66	2,382
2nd Phase	18	65	1,830
Total	35	131	4,212

The 2nd phase of local government elections was conducted successfully with the assistance of provincial government and Law Enforcement Agencies. The notification of returned candidates was issued on the 21st May, 2022.

7.1.8 Election Tribunals

The Election Commission of Pakistan in consultation with the Honourable Chief Justice of the Peshawar High Court appointed 114 District & Sessions Judges/ Additional District & Sessions Judges to act as Election Tribunals to resolve the post election petitions arising out of the local government elections.



7. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

7.2 Local Government Elections in Balochistan

The term of local governments in Balochistan expired on 27th January 2019. The Election Commission was required to conduct the election within 120 days of the expiry of the term. However, the elections could not be held in time because of filing of a writ petition before the Honourable High Court of Balochistan by the Government of Balochistan on the pretext of carrying out fresh delimitation on the basis of official results of Census 2017. The Hon'ble Court stayed the Local Government Elections till the official publication of Census data 2017. The Bureau of Statistics published the final data of 6th Population and Housing Census on 6th May 2021. On the basis of Census data published by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, the Commission started delimitation process of the local councils and wards on 21st December 2021. Final list of constituencies of 32 districts was published on 10th March 2022. However, due to litigation, the final list of constituencies of districts Quetta and Lasbela was published on 29th April 2022. The detail of local governments delimited is as under:

Table No. XIX: Detail of local governments delimited

No. of Districts	Metropolitan Corporation	Municipal Corporation	Municipal Committee	Union Councils	Wards in Union Councils	Wards in Urban Areas
34	01 (Quetta)	08	54	978	5936	1036

7.2.1 Appointment of District Returning Officers and Returning Officers

The District Returning Officers and Returning Officers were appointed for conduct of elections from amongst the officers of Election Commission and the Provincial Government. The statistical data showing number of DROs, ROs, AROs, polling stations and registered voters is given as under:

Table No. XX: Statistical data showing number of DROs, ROs, AROs, polling stations and registered voters

Description	1 st Phase	2 nd Phase
Districts	32	2
DROs	32	2
ROs	132	8
AROs	145	14
Polling Stations	6,823	275
Total Registered Voters	4,102,449	269,612

7. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

7.2.2 Training of Election Officials

For conduct of local government elections in Balochistan, total number of 43,082 officials were trained through 1,280 training sessions.

7.2.3 Security and Contingency Plans

All DROs and DPOs were asked to develop and prepare a comprehensive contingency plan (including security, transportation, and communication plans), in coordination with the relevant authorities, to ensure peaceful local government elections in Balochistan.

7.2.4 Conduct of Elections

The election schedule for the conduct of local government elections in 32 districts was issued on 30th March, 2022 with poll date on 29th May, 2022. The electoral process was completed peacefully and the notification of the returned candidates was issued on 22nd June, 2022.



Female voters casting vote in Balochistan

7.2.5 Local Government Elections in Quetta and Lasbela

The election schedule for districts, Quetta and Lasbela was issued on 22nd June, 2022. However, due to heavy rains and floods, the election in Lasbela was postponed. The election in district Quetta could not be held due to Court case.

7. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

7.2.6 Creation of District Hub from District Lasbela

Meanwhile, on 31st August, 2022, the provincial government divided district Lasbela into two districts i.e. Lasbela and Hub. However, due to creation of new district, the delimitation already carried out by the Commission remained intact. The Commission conducted elections in both the districts on 11th December, 2022.

7.2.7 Elections on Reserved Seats

Elections to the reserved seats for women, peasants, workers and non-Muslims were conducted in 32 districts of Balochistan on 14th December, 2022 and notification of returned candidates was issued on 14th January 2023.

7.2.8 Election Tribunals

To resolve post-election disputes, the Election Commission of Pakistan, in consultation with the Honourable Chief Justice of the High Court of Balochistan appointed 29 District & Sessions Judges as Election Tribunals.

7.3 Local Government Elections in Sindh

a) Delimitation

After the final publication of the 6th Population and Housing Census, on 6th May 2021, fresh delimitation of Union Councils, Union Committees and wards was carried out in Sindh, in compliance with the provisions of Section 10 (4) of the Sindh Local Government Act 2013 (SLGA13). After completing all procedural and legal formalities, the final list of constituencies was published by the Commission on 24th March 2022. The detail of local councils in Sindh is given below:

Table No. XXI: Detail of local councils in Sindh

Description	No. of Districts	Metropolitan Corporation	Municipal Corporation	Municipal Committees	Union Councils	Union Committees	Wards in Urban Areas (TCs & MCs)
1 st Phase	14	0	4	23	794	93	1,048
2 nd Phase	16	1	1	13	325	406	432
Total	30	1	5	36	1,119	499	1,480

b) Fresh Delimitation in Districts Karachi West and Keamari

Due to change in the number of Union Committees in districts Karachi West and Keamari, the ECP had to carry out fresh delimitation for both these districts. Delimitation schedule was issued on 18th April 2022, and final list of constituencies was published on 31st May 2022.

7.3.2 Conduct of Elections – 1st Phase

In consultation with the Government of Sindh held on 10th March 2022, the Commission decided to hold the local government elections in two phases. In the first phase, the Election Commission decided to hold elections in Mirpurkhas, Larkana, Shaheed Benazirabad and Sukkur Divisions, while Karachi and Hyderabad/Thatta Divisions were kept in the second phase. For the first phase, the schedule was issued on 13th April 2022 with poll date on 26th June, 2022.

7. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

7.3.3 Appointment of District Returning Officers and Returning Officers

The Election Commission, appointed District Returning Officers and Returning Officers from amongst its own officers and officers of the Provincial Government. The statistical data showing number of DROs, ROs, AROs, polling Stations and registered voters is given as under:

Table No. XXII: Statistical data showing number of DROs, ROs, AROs, polling Stations and registered voters

Description	1 st Phase of Sindh LGEs
Districts	14
DROs	14
ROs	224
AROs	448
Polling Stations	9,526
Total Registered Voters	11,600,005

7.3.4 Training conducted for the Local Government Elections in Sindh

For conduct of local government elections in Sindh, a total number of 225,984 election officials were trained through 6,277 trainings.

7.3.5 Conduct of First Phase of Elections in Sindh

Poll for the first phase of local government elections was held on 26th June 2022 in 14 districts of Sukkur, Larkana, Shaheed Benazirabad and Mirpurkhas divisions. This included seats for the Chairman, Vice-Chairman of Union Committees and Union Councils, and general members in each Municipal Committee, Town Committee, Union Council, Union Committee and District Council. The entire process was accomplished with active assistance from the stakeholders including provincial government and law enforcement agencies.

In comparison with Sindh Local Government Elections held in 2015, during which 15 people became victim of election-related violence, one casualty was reported during the conduct of Sindh Local Government Elections 2022. It indicates marked improvement in the peaceful conduct of elections in 2022.

چیف الیکشن کمشنر کی بلدیاتی انتخابات کے کامیاب انعقاد پر حکومت سندھ کو مبارکباد، ترجمان
چیف الیکشن کمشنر کی پولیس، ریجنل ایف سی، آرمی اور وفاقی وزارت داخلہ کو بھی مبارکباد
چیف الیکشن کمشنر نے الیکشن عملے کے ساتھ مکمل تعاون پر سب کا شکریہ ادا کیا، الیکشن کمیشن

News Tickers after peaceful and transparent LG Elections Sindh

7. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

7.3.6 Preparations for the Conduct of Second Phase of Elections

ECP issued election programme for the second phase of the local government elections in 16 districts of Karachi and Hyderabad/Thatta Divisions on 29th April 2022 with poll date on 24th July, 2022. All administrative arrangements for the elections were efficiently completed. The statistical data showing number of DROs, ROs, AROs, polling stations and registered voters is given as under:

Table No. XXIII: Statistical data showing number of DROs, ROs, AROs, polling stations and registered voters

Description	2 nd Phase
Districts	16
DROs	16
ROs	171
AROs	344
Polling Stations	8,854
Total Registered Voters	13,440,784

On the request of MQM-P and other political parties, the elections were postponed for 20th July 2022 due to Ashura, with next poll date as 28th August 2022. Another cause for postponement was the report from Pakistan Meteorological Department, which predicted inclement weather and flooding in Karachi. For the conduct of peaceful elections in Karachi and Hyderabad/Thatta divisions, the Election Commission under Article 220 of the Constitution of Pakistan requested Ministry of Interior on 5th August 2022 for deployment of Pakistan Army / Rangers in static mode.

On 23rd August 2022, the Government of Sindh informed the Commission that the police and law enforcement agencies were occupied with the flood relief operations and would not be available to provide security for the elections. They requested for the postponement of the elections. Pakistan Meteorological Department also forecasted heavy rains on the scheduled poll day. Furthermore, the Provincial Election Commissioner, Sindh, also intimated that due to heavy rainfall, they would face logistics and transportation issues for the polling staff and polling material. Therefore, on 24th August 2022, the Commission, considering the reports of the Government of Sindh and the Provincial Election Commissioner, Sindh, and keeping in view, the public interest postponed the elections (to the extent of poll day) of both the divisions till normalization of the situation.

The Commission on 16th September 2022 after due deliberation, decided not to announce poll date in Hyderabad/Thatta divisions due to floods, and the poll date for Karachi division was fixed for 23rd October 2022. However, the Government of Sindh informed that the security personnel were still engaged in flood relief operations and requested for the postponement of elections for three months due to shortfall of 16,786 police personnel. On 18th October 2022, the Ministry of Interior expressed its inability to provide Pakistan Army troops or civil armed forces to cover the shortfall of police personnel in Karachi division. Subsequently, the Commission decided on 18th October 2022 to postpone the elections until the provision of sufficient security for peaceful elections.

7. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

7.4 Local Government Elections in Islamabad Capital Territory

The term of local governments in Islamabad expired on 14th February 2021. The Election Commission was required to conduct the election within 120 days after expiry of the term of local governments. For this purpose, the Election Commission delimited 50 Union Councils in Islamabad. However, the Federal Cabinet promulgated the new ICT Local Government Ordinance, 2021, on 23rd November, 2021, under which the tier of Neighbourhood Councils was introduced and the election methodology was changed. The Ordinance provided that each Neighbourhood Council should consist of approximately 20,000 population. As per the new law, ECP started the delimitation on the basis of 101 Neighbourhood Councils on 25th November 2021. Preliminary list of Neighbourhood Councils and wards was published on 8th January 2022. The final list was scheduled to be published on 16th February 2022. However, it could not be published due to a stay order granted by the Hon'ble Islamabad High Court on 10th February 2022.

The Hon'ble Islamabad High Court vide order dated 20th March 2022 restored the ICT Local Government Act of 2015. The Court also directed the Election Commission to conduct the local government elections as per the ICT Local Government Act, 2015. In compliance thereof, ECP issued schedule for carrying out delimitation on the basis of 50 Union Councils, 300 general wards, and 100 women wards on 25th March 2022. The final list of constituencies was published on 19th May 2022. The election programme was issued on 2nd June 2022 with poll date on 31st July 2022. On 12th June 2022, the Federal Government increased the number of Union Councils from 50 to 101. An election petition was filed before the Islamabad High Court with the prayer to direct Election Commission for carrying out delimitation and subsequently conduct the elections on the basis of 101 Union Councils. The Honourable Court issued an order dated 20th June 2022, in which the Election Commission was directed to conduct fresh delimitation and conduct election on the basis of 101 Union Councils.

In compliance with the order of the Honourable Court, ECP issued a delimitation schedule for 101 Union Councils, 606 General Wards, and 202 Women Wards on 22nd June 2022. The final list of constituencies was published on 26th August 2022. Resultantly, the election programme for the local government elections in ICT was issued on 20th October 2022 with poll date on 24th December 2022. Upon the request of the Christian community, the poll day was changed as 31st December 2022. All necessary arrangements including appointment of District Returning Officers, Returning Officers, training of election officials, procurement of election material, printing of ballot papers etc. were made. However, on 19th December 2022, the Federal Government once again unilaterally increased the number of Union Councils from 101 to 125.



Orientation Session of Monitoring teams in progress for ICT LG Elections



Training Session for conduct of local government elections at ECP Secretariat, Islamabad

7. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

By virtue of order on 20th December 2022, the Election Commission declared that the notification issued by the Federal Government violated Section 4(4) of the Islamabad Local Government Capital Territory Act of 2015 and decided to continue with the election proceedings according to the schedule. However, the above said order of the Commission was challenged before the Honourable Islamabad High Court through a writ petition with the prayer to conduct the election on the basis of 125 Union Councils. The Honourable High Court set aside the order of ECP and remanded the case to the Commission for reconsideration and for passing appropriate order. After hearing the parties, the Commission postponed the local government elections in Islamabad on 27th December 2022 until further orders.

7.5 Local Government Elections in Punjab

Local government institutions in the Punjab Province completed their tenure on 31st December 2021. The Government of Punjab promulgated a new ordinance, namely "Punjab Local Government Ordinance, 2021," on 11th December 2021, which expired on 8th June, 2022. The Provincial Government forwarded the draft "Punjab Local Government (Election) Rules, 2022" to the Election Commission for input and feedback. In response, ECP sent its input to the Government of Punjab on 15th February 2022. Unfortunately, the Government of Punjab failed to incorporate the feedback provided by the Commission and notified the Rules. To fulfil its Constitutional obligations, the Commission, by order notified the Rules on 16th April 2022, to ensure conduct of local government elections in Punjab.

The Commission issued the schedule for delimitation of constituencies on 27th December 2021 and after completing legal formalities, the final delimitation was published on 22nd March 2022. As per law, the schedule for the enlistment of electoral groups was issued on 10th March 2022, and the process was completed on 13th April 2022. The election programme for the first phase of the Punjab Local Government Elections was issued on 14th April 2022, with poll date set for 9th June 2022. However, the Honourable Lahore High Court, Multan Bench, suspended the election programme issued by the Commission and in compliance thereof, on 22nd April 2022, the Commission vide notification decided to maintain status quo till the final outcome of the petition. Meanwhile, on 8th June 2022, the Punjab Local Government (Ordinance), 2021 expired.

Subsequently, the Punjab Government enacted "the Punjab Local Government Act, 2022" on 24th June 2022. Due to frequent changes in the law and delay in providing the required documents and data for the delimitation, the case was fixed for hearing before the Commission on 18th and 25th October, 2022. The Chief Secretary along with the Secretary, Local Government, Government of Punjab, attended the hearings. However, the Government of Punjab again enacted a new law namely "the Punjab Local Government Act, 2022" on 16th November, 2022.

The Government of Punjab shared the draft "Punjab Local Government (Election) Rules, 2022" with ECP for input. ECP proposed amendments to the rules, following which the Punjab Government notified the "Punjab Local Government (Election) Rules, 2022", on 19th December 2022. ECP issued delimitation schedule on 8th December, 2022. Final list of constituencies was scheduled to be published on 12th February 2023.

7. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

7.6 Bye-Elections for Local Government Cantonment Boards

The Election Commission conducted following bye-elections in the cantonment boards in the year 2022:

Table No. XXIV: Detail of Bye-elections for local government cantonment boards in the year 2022

S. No	Name of Cantonment	Ward	Poll Date	Reason of Vacancy
1.	Rawalpindi	2	9 th Feb 2022	Death
2.	Walton	7		Death
3.	Kamra	1 to 5		Withdrawal of nomination papers
4.	Pano Aqil	2		Rejection of nomination papers
5.	Wah	2	4 th Dec 2022	Death
6.	Risalpur	2		Resignation



A female voter casting her vote during bye-elections for local government cantonment boards in the year 2022

CHAPTER 8



ELECTION MONITORING

08. ELECTION MONITORING

8.1 Monitoring and Evaluation Wing

The electoral process is regulated under the legal framework and code of conduct. To strengthen democracy and promote political rights and good governance, ECP established a robust monitoring system to monitor the electoral process during elections. The system includes the monitoring of election campaigns of candidates and political parties. Election Commission restructured the Monitoring and Evaluation Wing to meet the requirements of monitoring during the pre-election, election and post-election periods while keeping in view fast-changing political landscape of the country. From a paper based system, a new real-time electronic system has been developed with a software (EM²) and digital screens being set-up at the headquarters. This system is being deployed. In pursuance of Section 234 of the Elections Act, 2017, during the year 2022, the Terms of Reference (TORs) for the monitoring teams were formulated. The teams were deployed to monitor election campaign of the candidates and political parties as well as oversee the implementation of the code of conduct during the bye-elections to the National, Provincial Assemblies and local government elections held in the year 2022. The monitoring teams comprised of a District Monitoring Officer (DMO) and two Monitoring Officers (MOs). The MOs reported violations of the provisions of the Elections Act, 2017, rules and the code of conduct issued by the Commission to the DMO. The DMO after issuing notices and summary enquiry, imposed fine up to PKR 50,000 for each violation with information to the Commission. In case of any violation for the second time, the DMOs forwarded the cases to the Commission for initiation of action under the law. The aggrieved candidate or a political party could file appeal within three days before the Commission against the decision of the DMO.

Adhering to Article 218(3) of the Constitution, local government elections in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (second phase), Balochistan (first and second phases) and Sindh (first phase) were also monitored. To make proper monitoring arrangements for local government elections, the Joint Provincial Election Commissioners were notified as Provincial Monitoring Coordinators (PMC) in each province to oversee and coordinate the monitoring activities in all the constituencies where elections were held. The deployment of the monitoring teams increased the monitoring outreach of the Commission at the constituency level and helped in effective implementation of the code of conduct.

Table No. XXV: A summary of violations committed, warnings issued, and fines imposed by the monitoring teams

Election		Violations	Notices Issued	Warnings Issued	Fine Imposed	Banners, hoardings & panaflexes removed (approx.)
Bye-Elections National/Provincial		175	49	6	25	9,835
Local Government Elections	KP (2 nd phase)	990	83	26	57	2,832
	Balochistan (1 st & 2 nd phase)	86	1	1	-	85
	Sindh (1 st phase)	45	5	4	1	2,142
Grand Total		1,296	138	37	83	14,894



Removal of over-sized banners, panaflexes and hoardings by monitoring teams



CHAPTER 9



EMERGING ELECTORAL TECHNOLOGIES

9. EMERGING ELECTORAL TECHNOLOGIES

The Election Commission of Pakistan is fully aware that in the age of innovation and dynamic technological environment, need of the hour is to take initiatives with an aim to keep abreast with the changing digital landscape. The Commission has taken several initiatives to make it a knowledge – based, vibrant, modern and technology driven organization. ECP has ventured into the process of developing, testing, experimenting and inducting various technologies to expand its digital foot print across the enterprise. Some of the major IT initiatives are listed below:-

9.1 Result Management System (RMS):

- Automates Result Transmission and Compilation System
- Provides live progressive result updates
- Works in both online and offline modes

In compliance with Section 13 of the Elections Act 2017, ECP has indigenously developed “Result Management System” (RMS) for processing, counting and tabulating the election results. The RMS brings speed in result transmission and compilation and ensures accuracy and transparency in processing of National and Provincial Assemblies election results. This system was successfully tested during bye-elections held in the year 2022.

In order to measure the efficiency, efficacy and stability of the system, the RMS was deployed and tested under the supervision of trained IT Officers in the field. Similarly, the operational staff was also given sufficient exposure and hands on trainings for making them well conversant with all operational parameters of the system.

During the course of trainings for the bye elections, the Returning Officers were also given orientation about the system processes related to result management, transmission, tabulation, and compilation. On poll day, multiple workstations were setup in R.O offices manned by trained data entry operators for data entry of polling station wise results, its compilation and management with live publication of progressive results. The data entry of Form-45 was done in the system, and Form-47 was automatically generated with complete result of the constituency. To ensure transparency and facilitation of political parties, contestants, media personnel, the progressive results were displayed on multimedia screens. Further, the system was monitored in the offices of Returning Officers, ECP’s provincial headquarters and ECP Secretariat on real-time basis. In order to strengthen the existing system for transmission and tabulation of results based on the indigenous result management system, ECP also engaged a third party and outsourced development of a robust and state-of-the-art Election Management System encompassing all the dimensions of the elections.

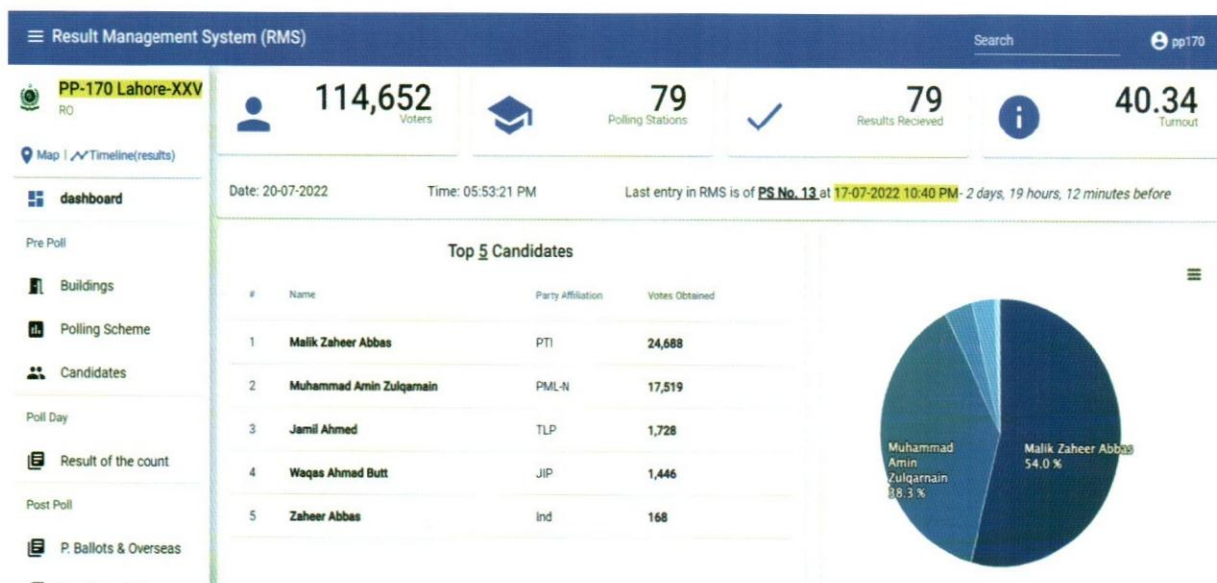
9. EMERGING ELECTORAL TECHNOLOGIES



Interface of RMS dashboard

During the bye-elections, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and the media personnel acknowledged ECP's initiative which improved efficiency and transparency in the election process. The RMS dashboard generates real-time info-graphics and reports. Some of the features of the system are given below:

- Comparison of results via online & offline system
- Graphs and progressive Reports
- Capacity to deploy multiple data entry points / workstations
- Polling station management and assignment of census blocks to the polling stations
- Generates pre-printed bi-lingual 'Result of the Count' (Form-45)



Interface of RMS dashboard, showing top 5 candidates

9. EMERGING ELECTORAL TECHNOLOGIES



Interface of RMS, showing polling station wise results

9.1.1 Skill development of IT professionals:

- Twenty-five Lead Trainers and over 800 Master Trainers were trained nationwide.
- Devised training plan and identification of around 3600 personnel from the pool of Federal/Provincial Government departments for RMS operations with Returning Officers in General Elections.
- Organized orientation sessions for District Returning Officers / Returning Officers and District Election Commissioners.

9. EMERGING ELECTORAL TECHNOLOGIES

9.2 Online Recruitment System and OMR Technology

- Facilitation to job hunters
- Enhanced recruitment capacity of ECP
- Helpful in preliminary screening of applications
- Speedy, efficient and transparent processing
- Enabled merit based recruitments

Use Of Optical Mark Recognition Technology

Adoption of Optical Mark Recognition (OMR) technology has helped ECP in minimizing the human interaction during the course of paper marking to a large extent. During year 2022, around 15,000 exam papers for various posts were checked and marked using this system. The OMR system has aided in speedy recruitment process besides making the whole process merit based, credible and transparent.

9.3 Complaint Management System

Complaint Management System (CMS) facilitates the general public for filing of online grievances and complaints to the Commission. This system handles, manages and processes response to the complainant. Through the system, the complainant can check the online resolution or status of his complaint along with its tracking mechanism. Following table shows detail of complaints received and processed;

Table No. XXVI: Complaints received in CMS

COMPLAINTS RECEIVED IN CMS	
Year 2022	7,246 Complaints
Total Complaints (9 th September 2020 to 30 th December 2022)	12,214 Complaints

9. EMERGING ELECTORAL TECHNOLOGIES

9.4 Human Resource Management System (HRMS)

- Provides complete Digital profile of all Employees
- Integrated attendance system in HRMS

ECP developed and deployed the Human Resource Management System (HRMS) for its secretariat and provincial headquarters. The significant features of this system include the following:

- Digitization of complete personal, service profiles, educational and trainings of 2,809 employees including transfers and postings, promotions, disciplinary proceedings, advances, dependents information, and leave records.
- Secure user verification via email, biometrics and is OTP driven.
- Machine-based user login/registration module.
- Address library management.
- Generates multiple types of reports for informed decision-making.
- Issuance of a family certificate, experience letter and employee service card in a centralized environment.
- Integration with the biometric attendance system.

9.5 Integrated Office Record Management System

- Digital Repository of ECP Records

ECP is in the process of automating and digitizing all the archived files into digital formats. The main feature of the system includes repository of digitized official records and desktop/web-based software. The system will initially house 1.6 million scans, covering more than 30,000 files pertaining to different wings of ECP Secretariat. The records will be retrieved through a quick search mechanism using different filters and parameters. In the next phase, the system coverage will be expanded to the Provincial Headquarter offices.

9. EMERGING ELECTORAL TECHNOLOGIES

9.6 ECP's Short Message Service (SMS) Solution

- Real-time and seamless communication with stakeholders

This technology offers to send bulk messages using SMS in both English and Urdu using the short code label "ECP SECTT". The system is capable of transmitting bulk messages to the stakeholders like beat-reporters, lawyers, candidates, etc. In the year 2022, more than 63,000 messages were sent to different applicants during the recruitment process. So far more than 650,000 (SMS) messages have been sent to different contacts.

Table No. XXVII: Number of messages sent using SMS service

NO. OF SMS SENT USING SMS SERVICE	
Year 2022	63,000 SMS
Total SMS (April 2020 to December 2022)	650,000 SMS

9.7 ECP's Telephone Helpline (051-8848888)

- Prompt response to General Public using Modern Technologies (Bilingual Automated Pre-recorded Voice System)

Telephone helpline based system was launched with the aim to assist and disseminate information to the general public through an automated pre-recorded voice messages. This system generates the required set of information on a click of the button and responds to the specific set of questions / selection to the caller in both, English and Urdu. The system has provision to escalate / transfer the call to a dedicated operator or senior official during office hours. During the year 2022, system answered approximately 81,927 calls and since its launch has handled around 154,000 calls.

9. EMERGING ELECTORAL TECHNOLOGIES

9.8 SMS Service 8300 (To check voting details)

- Global Award winning 8300 SMS facility through which about more than 200 million plus hits received since Feb, 12



ECP facilitates the voters and general public through this user-friendly SMS Service (8300) that is available 24/7. Public and voters send their 13 digit NIC to 8300 short code, through their mobile phones to know the status of their registration as voters in the electoral rolls. During the elections, this system also provides information of polling station to the voter concerned. Only during the year 2022, about 2 million inquiries have been responded through this system.

9.9 ECP's Data Network Upgraded

ECP has deployed and upgraded secure and high speed data network. The network operates on latest high speed Fiber Optics technologies and provides connectivity to Provincial Headquarters and the offices of Regional Election Commissioner with ECP Secretariat.

9.10 Election Management System

Election Management System (EMS) is a new and advanced flagship project covering end-to-end automation of election processes. The system consists of modules like constituency, candidate, polling station and polling staff management, mobile applications, dashboards & reporting, result management, result transmission and complaint management.

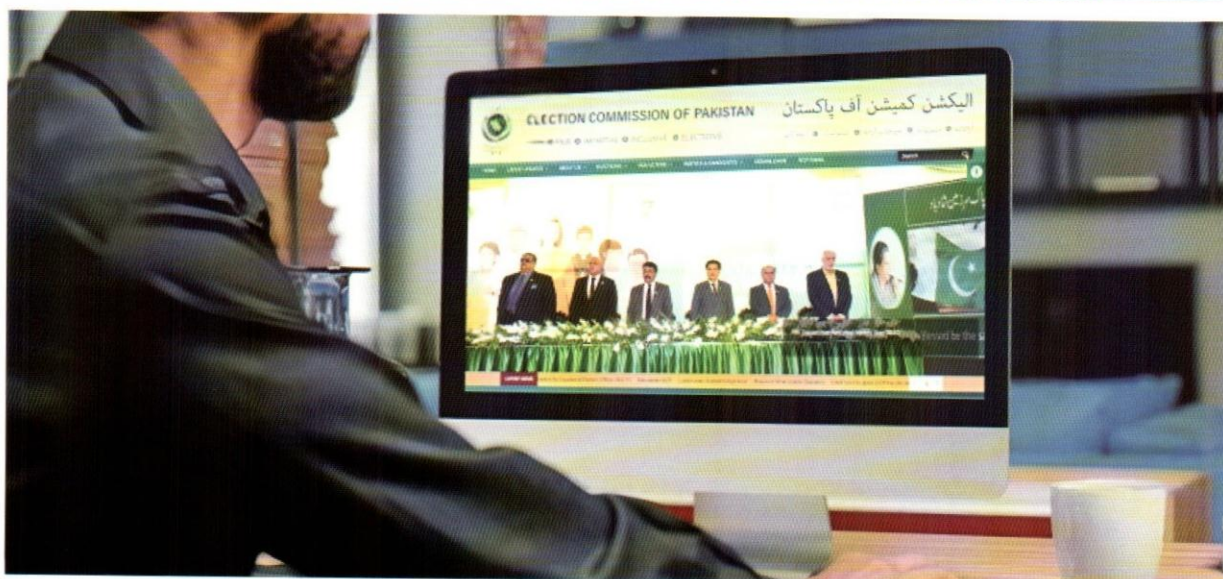


9. EMERGING ELECTORAL TECHNOLOGIES

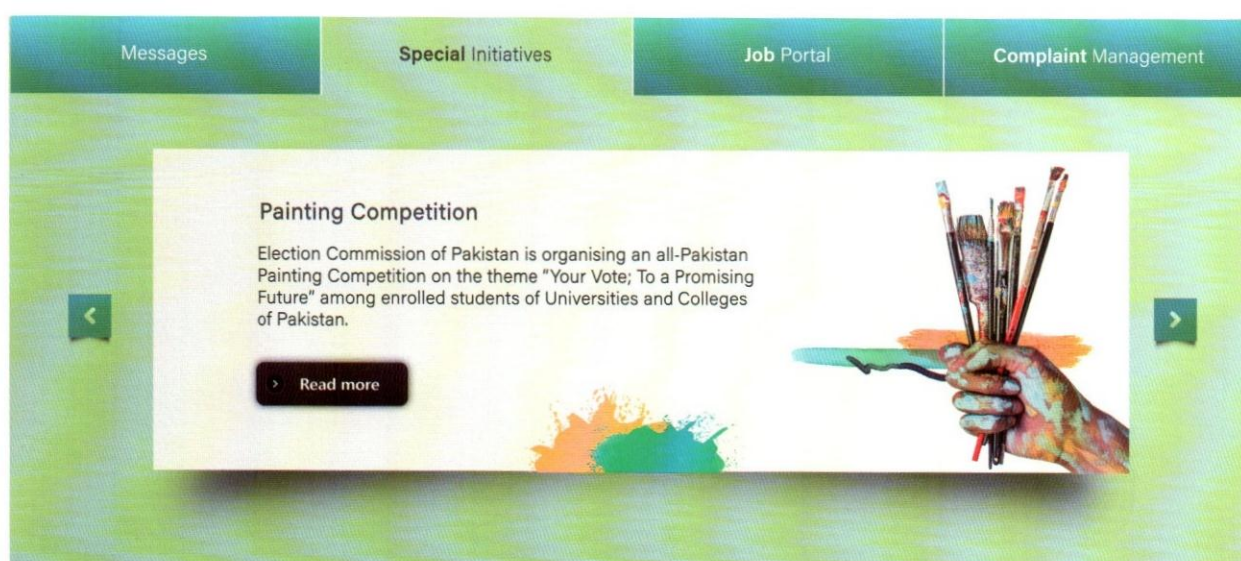
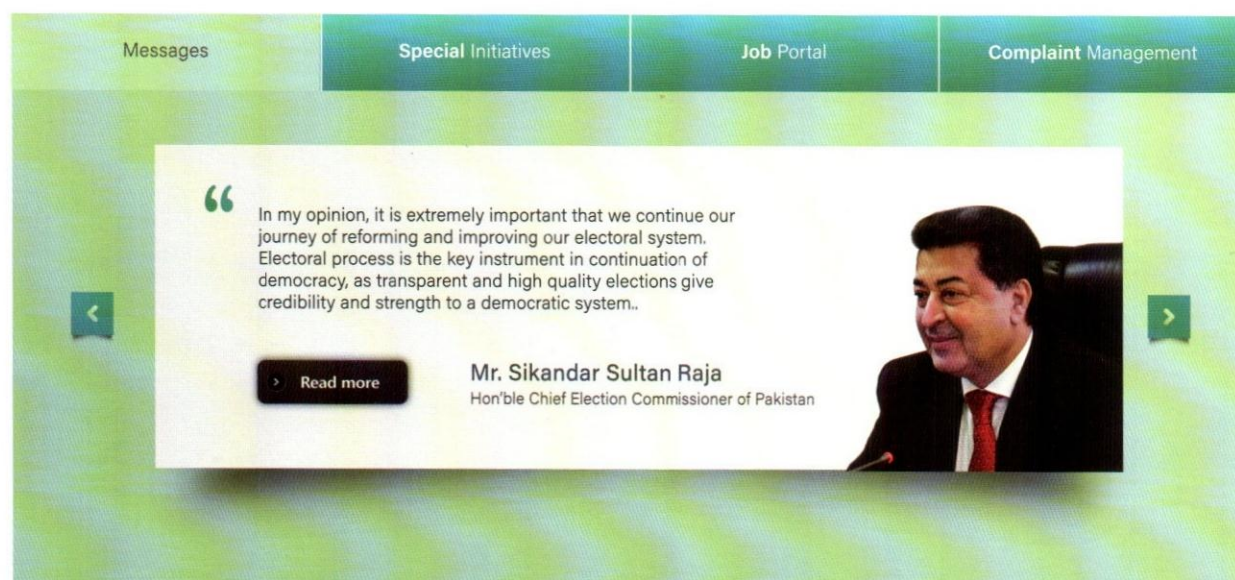
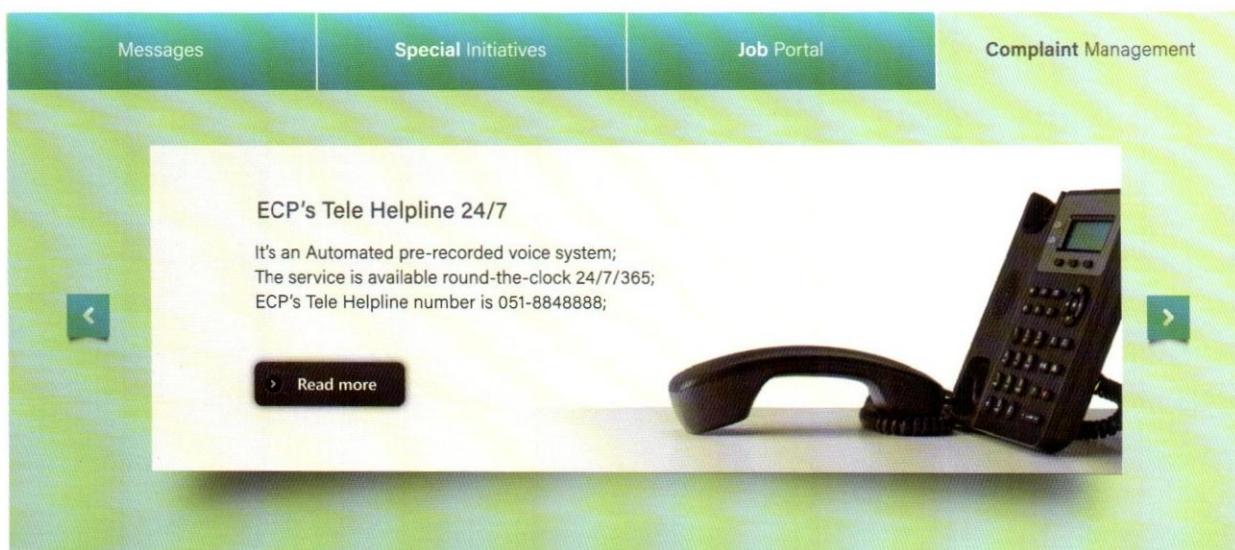
9.11 ECP's Official Website

ECP has developed and implemented a new interactive and dynamic website for dissemination of information and management. The following information will be available on the new website:

- | | |
|---|---|
| i. Press Releases | vii. Online Complaint Management System |
| ii. Notifications | viii. Online Recruitment System |
| iii. Cause List | ix. Electoral Rolls Statistics |
| iv. Judgements and Orders of the Commission | x. Delimitation along with Maps |
| v. Election Results | xi. Strategic Plan 2019-2023 |
| vi. Special Initiatives | xii. Various Reporting modules |
| | xiii. Linkages with social media |



Interface of ECP's New Official Website



Different segments of ECP's New Official Website

9. EMERGING ELECTORAL TECHNOLOGIES

9.12 Electronic Voting Machines (EVM) and Overseas Voting

- Under Section 94 and 103 of the Elections Act, 2017, ECP is in process of evaluating and testing various features, platforms and technologies related to EVMs and overseas voting system to ascertain technical efficiency, secrecy, security and financial feasibility.

ECP has taken concrete steps for evaluating various technological platforms, setting up of testing framework and evolving ECO system. Since adoption of these technologies is a capital intensive enterprise, ECP is not only looking at the procurement, development and testing regime but also exercising due care for understanding the mandatory housing, storage, maintenance and logistic requirements. Both the technology streams i.e. EVM and Overseas Voting have their cyber security sensitivities and challenges. Currently, ECP is working on achieving an appropriate level of preparedness for the next stage to conduct pilot tests of both the technologies. As EVM is one of the most expensive technologies, therefore, ECP has processed Expression of Interest (EOI) through which the interested vendors will be encouraged to bring their technology / machine, free of cost to ECP for conduct of pilots. ECP will engage all the Parliamentary political parties and other stakeholders for consultation and consensus building during the conduct of pilots. Similarly, the technical arrangements and contractual mechanism is at advanced stage with NADRA for developing a new overseas voting system based on modern state-of-the-art technologies for overseas / i-voting system.

9.13 Establishment of Project Management Unit

Project Management Unit (PMU) has been established as a vehicle of change. Through this platform, ECP intends to do research, experiment, develop, test, implement and operationalize the emerging technologies for automating various electoral processes / activities. For manning the PMU, services of market based professionals have been engaged which include an IT Consultant, Project Director, Project Manager, and Deputy Project Manager. To facilitate enablement/adoption of a Digital Culture as part of ECP's digital transformation drive, Project Management Unit is positioned to develop new applications using latest cutting edge technologies. The PMU has introduced following innovations:-

Integrated Intranet Portal

The PMU has developed and integrated Intranet Portal for managing ECP Applications and services, as single platform initiative with unified login, which includes following modules:

Legal Case Management System (LCMS)

LCMS module shall enable 'Law Wing' to organize, structure and effectively manage internal and external court cases. A Real Time Reporting System (RTRS) shall provide progressive status in the form of charts and graphs with the ability to keep the Cause List automatically posted on the ECP website.

9. EMERGING ELECTORAL TECHNOLOGIES

Gender Inclusion Management System (GIMS)

The module will digitize the registration of women (without NICs), transgender, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups.

Training Information Management System (TIMS)

TIMS will digitize and maintain record of trainers, trainees, training content, training material, training plans and monitoring & evaluation reports.

Unregistered Women Management Information System (UWMIS)

Through the system, ECP will collect and process data of registration of women without NICs and vulnerable groups in coordination with indigenous / local community based groups, civil society and development partners. The collected data will be processed and shared with NADRA for issuance of NICs and provision of data for registration of vote.

R & I Tracking System

In this automation drive, ECP is going to digitize all the correspondence processes with internal and external stakeholders through a tracking system. The system will be operated by R & I Wing and each and every in-bound and out-bound correspondence shall be digitally recorded.



CHAPTER 10



CIVIC AND VOTER EDUCATION FOR PUBLIC AWARENESS

10. CIVIC AND VOTER EDUCATION FOR PUBLIC AWARENESS

10.1 Restructuring of Public Relations Wing of the Offices of Provincial Election Commissioners:

The public relations wing of the Provincial Election Commission offices have been revamped and restructured to conform to the changing needs of the Commission. The Media Coordination and Outreach Wing is headed and manned by field experts. The initiative has enhanced the capacity and performance of the wings at the ECP Secretariat and provincial headquarters for proper media management and coordination.

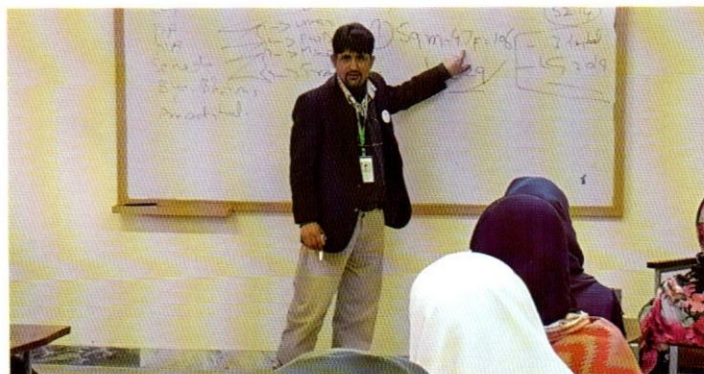
10.2 Activities of District Voters Education Committees

ECP has taken several measures to enhance voter education and participation in line with Section 12 of the Elections Act, 2017 and as per the Third Strategic Plan 2019-23 the focus of the measures has been to engage all segments of the society with special attention on youth and vulnerable groups. The District Voter Education Committees (DVECs) have been playing an active role in educating men and women about registration and casting of votes through awareness campaigns across Pakistan.

10.2.1 Students Voter Education and Awareness Program 2022

Students Voter Education and Awareness Program was initiated to encourage participation of youth in electoral processes and to increase voter turnout. During the year 2022, around 500 orientation sessions were conducted in prominent universities and colleges. Some of the activities are highlighted below:

Provincial, Regional and District Election Commissioners conducted student orientation sessions in schools, colleges, and universities in their respective jurisdictions. Students were sensitized and educated about the mandate and duties of the Commission. This included sessions on conduct of elections, legal framework, and procedures of elections. These sessions also encouraged youth to play their role in strengthening the electoral process by participating in the local government elections and General Elections. During the sessions, simulation and mock poll activities were arranged to educate the students. Information, Education and Communication (IEC) awareness material (pamphlets, brochures, and booklets) were also distributed among participants. Electronic, print and social media coverage of these sessions was also arranged.



Students Voters Education and Awareness Session in progress



Students Voters Education and Awareness Sessions across all four provinces



Students Voters Education Session at COMSATS University Abbottabad, regarding KP local government elections



Group photo with students' voter education session

10. CIVIC AND VOTER EDUCATION FOR PUBLIC AWARENESS

10.2.2 Awareness Sessions for Vulnerable Groups

Various awareness sessions for vulnerable groups were arranged. Under the umbrella of DVECs awareness campaigns for transgender, minority communities and persons with disabilities were also arranged. These sessions were aimed at sensitising vulnerable groups about their right to register and cast their votes besides encouraging them to actively participate in the electoral process.



Participation of ECP officials along with Transgender Community in Moorat TV Programme on Transgender at Lahore



ECP Arranged Awareness Sessions with the Transgender Community in Islamabad and Rawalpindi to encourage Vulnerable Groups to participate in the electoral process

10. CIVIC AND VOTER EDUCATION FOR PUBLIC AWARENESS

10.2.3 Awareness Workshops with the Media and Civil Society Organizations

Thirty-four workshops were jointly organized in partnership with civil society and media organizations as part of awareness programmes for the local government elections in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan and Sindh. The sessions included representatives of:

- Women
- Minorities
- Transgender Community
- Persons with Disabilities
- Academia
- Women's Commission in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
- Bloggers
- Student Volunteers
- Local print and electronic media

These workshops were aimed at maximising stakeholders' awareness about the local government elections and the importance of vote.



Media Workshop in South Waziristan for the Local Government Elections in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

10. CIVIC AND VOTER EDUCATION FOR PUBLIC AWARENESS

10.3 Radio messages

During the pre-election phase of the local government elections in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan and Sindh, radio messages in local languages were broadcast from different local radio channels. The radio messages helped in educating the local population on the procedures and laws for the local government elections.

10.4 Distribution of Material

Information, Education and Communication material was developed and distributed among the masses during local government elections in Balochistan, Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The detail of material distributed is as under:

Table No. XXVIII: Detail of IEC material distribution

S. No.	Province	No. of Brochures Distributed
1	Balochistan	26,000
2	Sindh	100,000
3	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	30,000



Flyer as IEC material for public awareness

10. CIVIC AND VOTER EDUCATION FOR PUBLIC AWARENESS

10.5 Display of Public Service Messages on ATM Machines

Public Service Messages were displayed on ATMs screens to create mass awareness about the importance of registration of votes on the National Voters Day.

10.6 Mass Awareness Activities for the Revision of the Electoral Rolls (2021-22)

ECP issued a comprehensive mass awareness programme in connection with periodical revision of the electoral rolls in all provinces. Awareness-raising programs through print, electronic and social media were launched to sensitise eligible citizens encouraging them to visit the display centres to ensure their registration of votes. For the purpose, regular press releases were issued in all national and regional Urdu, English, Sindhi, Balochi, Punjabi and Pashto newspapers. ECP officers also participated in national and regional TV and radio programmes, focusing on morning shows and talk shows to sensitize the public on the revision of the electoral roll. Public Service Messages were also aired through PEMRA.



IEC material to create public awareness for registration of votes

10. CIVIC AND VOTER EDUCATION FOR PUBLIC AWARENESS

10.7 Public Awareness Campaign About the Delimitation Process

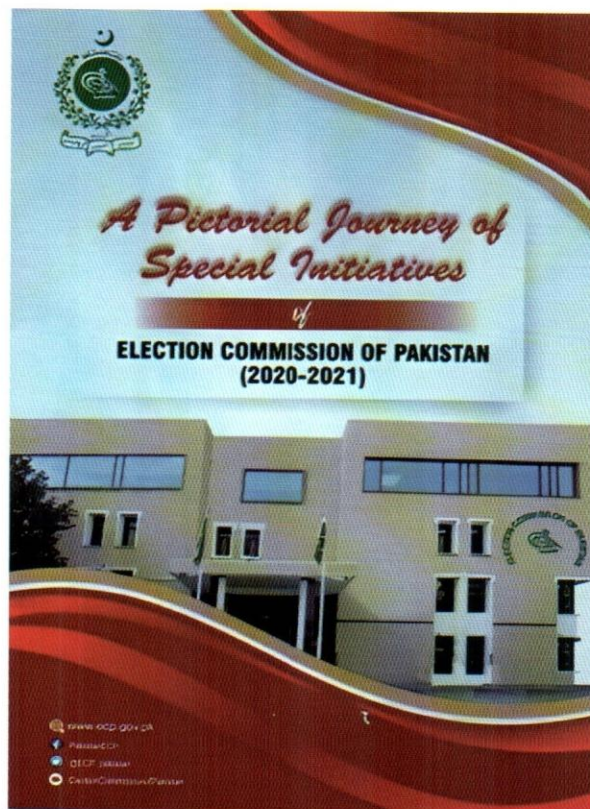
To create public awareness regarding the process of boundary delimitation of constituencies, television commercials were developed and aired on satellite channels and PTV. This was done through PEMRA nationwide, with the aim to address the public's queries on the process of delimitation.

10.8 Social Media Activity

To build a transparent and positive image of the Commission, linkages for dissemination and sharing of information through electronic and social media were established. The information mostly related to general awareness about the ongoing electoral activities regarding announcement of election schedules, delimitation process, revision of electoral rolls, registration of voters, various provisions of the Elections Act, 2017, etc. Public awareness messages and FAQs regarding electoral activities were regularly posted on different platforms of social media.

10.9 Publication of Magazine

ECP published a pictorial magazine - A Pictorial Journey of Special Initiatives - highlighting the milestones achieved by the Commission.

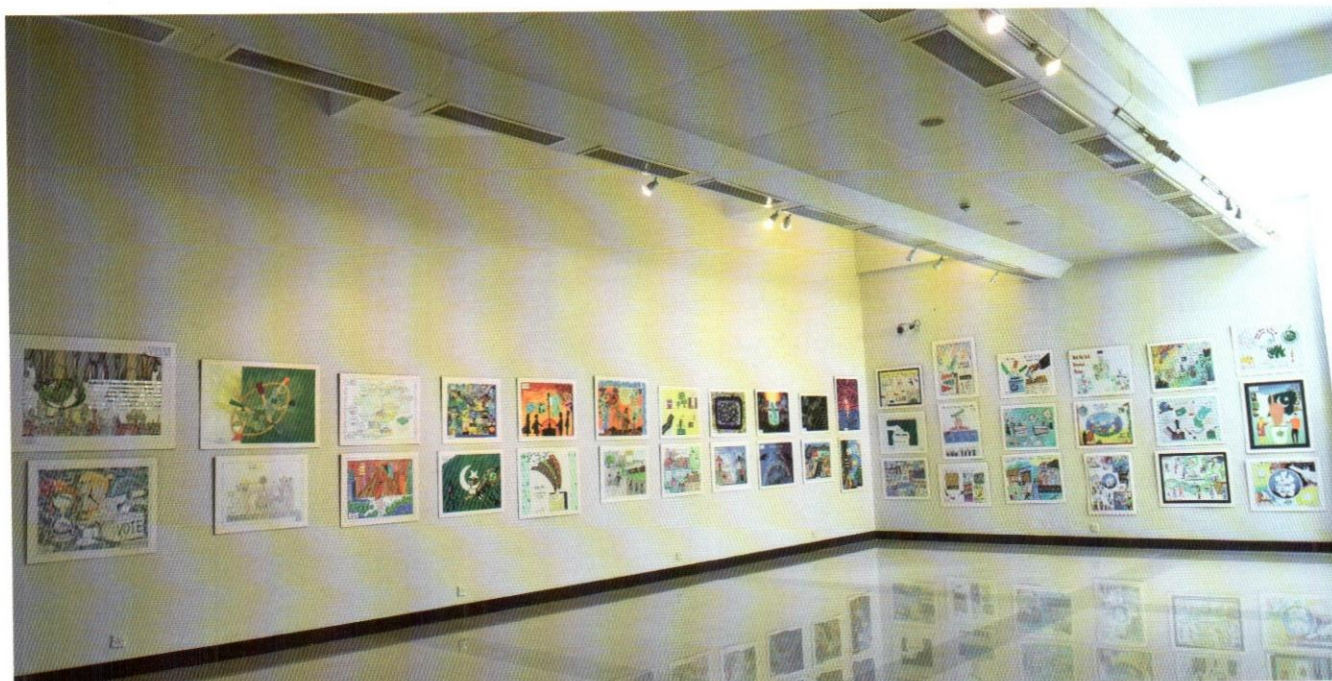


Report on "Pictorial Journey on Special Initiatives"

10. CIVIC AND VOTER EDUCATION FOR PUBLIC AWARENESS

10.10 National Youth Painting Competition

ECP organized a national youth painting competition on the theme “Your Vote: To a Promising Future” for students of different universities and colleges. The competition was organized on 26th and 27th October 2022 and received around 280 paintings from the students. Artwork of students was exhibited at Pakistan’s National Council of Arts which was inaugurated by the Secretary, ECP. A panel of judges comprising of Secretary, ECP, President of PILDAT, Director of Visual Arts, PNCA, and Director of the Nomad Art Gallery, evaluated the paintings. The Chief Election Commissioner distributed cash prizes and appreciation certificates among the top three national youth painting competition winners on the occasion of the National Voters Day, celebrated at ECP Secretariat on the 7th December 2022.





A Panel of Judges Inaugurating National Youth Painting Competition Exhibition at PNCA, Islamabad



10. CIVIC AND VOTER EDUCATION FOR PUBLIC AWARENESS

10.11 Celebrating the 7th National Voters' Day 2022

The 7th National Voters' Day was celebrated nationwide on 7th December, 2022. A ceremony was held at ECP Secretariat. Foreign dignitaries, diplomats, representatives of development organisations, civil society and media participated in the event. The Chief Election Commissioner, on this occasion also inaugurated ECP's fibre optics high-speed data connectivity system, connecting all Regional Offices of ECP through fibre optics data communication networks. National Voters' Day was also celebrated at the provincial, regional and district levels. Regional and District Election Commissioners arranged awareness activities such as walks, seminars and orientation sessions in collaboration with colleges and schools in their respective jurisdictions and distributed awareness material. Print and electronic media campaigns were also launched. Similarly, banners, standees, and streamers were installed across Islamabad to mark the occasion.



Honourable Chief Election Commissioner Addressing 7th National Voters' Day celebrated at ECP Secretariat, Islamabad



Representatives of Development Partners, Diplomats, Civil Society Organisations with Honourable Chief Election Commissioner and Members of the Election Commission of Pakistan on 7th National Voters' Day



Winners of the National Youth Painting Competition receive Cash Prizes and Certificates from the Chief Election Commissioner

CHAPTER 11



INCLUSIVE ELECTIONS

11. INCLUSIVE ELECTIONS

The Election Commission of Pakistan strongly believes that elections can be made more inclusive if equal opportunities are provided to all segments of the society to participate in the electoral process. During 2022, ECP took several critical initiatives to mainstream women, person with disability, minorities, transgender community and youth in the electoral processes. Some of the initiatives are:

11.1 Female NIC and Voter Registration Campaign

According to the provisional report of the 6th population census, women constitute 48.76% of the total population in Pakistan, and their participation as voters and candidates is essential in the electoral process. Section 47 of the Elections Act 2017 authorises the Commission to take special measures for enrolment of women as voters in the constituencies where the variation between registered men and women in the electoral rolls is more than ten percent.

Accordingly, to decrease the existing gender gap in the electoral rolls, ECP led NIC/Voter Registration Campaign in 32 districts across the country. ECP also launched the 'Female NIC /Voter Registration Campaign' in five newly merged districts in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as part of phase-IV of the Campaign and also planned to launch the Campaign in 13 districts of Balochistan in December 2022. However due to the emergency situation caused by floods in 2022, the launch of the Campaign had to be postponed.

As a result of the on going efforts of ECP, the gender gap in the electoral rolls has reduced from 10.34% in 2021 to 8.32% by December 2022.



Launch of the NIC Voter Registration Campaign in 5 Newly Merged Districts of KP as part of Phase-IV of the campaign

11. INCLUSIVE ELECTIONS

11.2 Strengthening of Gender and Social Inclusion Wing (GSI Wing)

ECP is fully committed to mainstreaming inclusion and gender in both institutional and electoral processes. During the current reporting year, the ECP continued its efforts to strengthen its dedicated Gender and Social Inclusion (GSI) Wing by bolstering its human resource capacity. To this end, the ECP created posts of two Deputy Directors for Sindh and Punjab, two Assistant Directors for Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Posts of a Deputy Director, and an Assistant Director at ECP Secretariat, were also created and recruitment for these posts was completed in May 2022. Four redundant posts of Directors were abolished in the offices of Provincial Election Commissioners. Accordingly, the 'In-service training' for the newly appointed officers was conducted for three weeks at ECP Secretariat in Islamabad.



In – service training of newly recruited staff

11. INCLUSIVE ELECTIONS

11.3 Gender Mainstreaming and Social Inclusion Framework

ECP is mindful of the importance of gender mainstreaming in the electoral processes. A policy document of 'Gender Mainstreaming and Social Inclusion Framework' was developed after due consultations with the stakeholders. The objective of the consultation was to develop a policy framework for an inclusive electoral process to encourage participation of women, transgender community, persons with disabilities and minorities in the democratic process.



Consultative meeting on Gender Mainstreaming and Social Inclusion Framework held in KP and Punjab

11. INCLUSIVE ELECTIONS

11.4 Reconstitution of Inquiry Committees under Harassment at Workplace Act 2010

ECP is committed to creating a safe work environment for all the staff members. The Gender and Social Inclusion Wing coordinated for the formation of the Inquiry Committees under Harassment Act 2010 at ECP and provincial headquarters as per Strategic Action 10.1.3 under Pillar 10 of the Strategic Plan 2019-2023. These Inquiry Committees are working efficiently according to their mandate. Sensitization trainings have been imparted to the officials of the Commission on code of conduct regarding Harassment at Workplace Act, 2010.

11.5 Gender Sensitive Monitoring during Local Government Elections

Monitoring of the polling process was done in line with Strategic Goal 7.3.4 of ECP's 3rd Strategic Plan 2019-2023, to ensure provision of safe and secure environment for female voters, the vulnerable groups and female polling staff at the polling stations. It was observed during the monitoring process that a conducive environment for female polling staff, female voters, transgender, and the elderly was provided.

11.6 Re-issuance of NICs to the Displaced Women Due to Floods

Due to severe flooding in Pakistan in 2022, many displaced men and women either lost or de-faced their NICs. Loss of NICs means disenfranchisement of affected population from exercising their right to vote. For this purpose, a meeting with Provincial Disaster Management Authorities (PDMAs) from all provinces was held in December 2022, to verify the number of NICs damaged or lost due to floods and to devise a mechanism for identification of population with damaged or lost NICs and re-issuance of NICs. The Election Commission is coordinating with NADRA and provincial governments for issuance of identity cards to the affected population to ensure their participation in the electoral process.

11.7 Interaction with International Delegation

The Canadian Parliamentarians visited ECP on 14th September 2022 and met the senior management of the Commission. The delegation showed a keen interest in the affairs of ECP besides desiring to gain further insight into the scope and nature of work being carried out by the Commission in different spheres of electoral processes with special focus on gender and social inclusion.



Glimpses of a meeting with Canadian Parliamentarians

11. INCLUSIVE ELECTIONS

11.8 Interaction with Development Partners

The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) during various initiatives around the electoral processes gets technical support from its development partners with the aim of significantly bridging the gender gap in the electoral rolls, improving the quality of trainings for election staff, strengthening ECPs' monitoring mechanism and enhancing capacity of ECP officers to adopt emerging technologies. ECP partners include United Nations Development Program (UNDP), International Foundation for Electoral System (IFES), Trust for Democratic Education and accountability (TDEA) etc. UNDP and IFES support ECP in arranging internationally acclaimed trainings such as Building Resources on Democracy and Governance (BRIDGE) engaging international experts to provide in-service training for newly recruited staff. In addition, IFES, under its Inclusive Democratic and Governance Process (IDPG) and other programs provides strategic support in strengthening ECP's civil society forum of GDEWG, and the initiatives of reaching out to youth, persons with disabilities and other marginalized groups with civic and voter education campaigns during elections. For the first time innovation was applied in civic and voter education for persons with disabilities, where materials were produced in sign language. These, and many other similar initiatives being planned are aimed at improving electoral integrity and public perception of elections.

TDEA on the other hand supports ECP's efforts to decrease the gender gap on the electoral rolls. Both TDEA and IFES work closely with DEC's to increase NIC and voter registration of female population in the country. ECP has enhanced its partnerships with development partners to further its agenda of promoting inclusive electoral processes and credible elections. These partnerships have been instrumental in helping ECP to draw on international best practices and improve the quality of elections in Pakistan.

To support ECP's efforts for inclusive elections, UNDP initiated a project named 'Strengthening Electoral and Legislative Processes'. An Appraisal and Review Board meeting of the project was held on 6th December 2022, chaired by Secretary ECP. During the meeting, an MOU was signed by Secretary ECP and Resident Representative of UNDP to support the Commission in strengthening the electoral processes in Pakistan.



MOU Signing ceremony between ECP and UNDP for the Project, "Strengthening Electoral Legislative Processes"

11. INCLUSIVE ELECTIONS

11.9 Gender and Disability Electoral Working Group of ECP

The Gender and Disability Electoral Working Group (GDEWG) of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) was established at both the ICT and provincial levels, and its membership was enhanced to facilitate an interface with civil society organizations. In 2022, ECP through the GDEWG, held several consultations with marginalized groups such as persons with disabilities, transgender individuals, and minorities. During these consultations, the ECP identified specific challenges faced by these marginalized groups and took measures to address their concerns. This helped create an environment where every citizen could participate in the electoral process freely and without any obstacles. The ECP also took steps to address concerns raised by persons of disabilities regarding the accessibility of polling stations. For instance, it established polling stations on the first floor during LG elections or provided ramps, accessible civic and voter education materials/voting instructions in Braille and sign languages.



Members of Gender and Disabilities Electoral Working Group

11. INCLUSIVE ELECTIONS

11.10 ECP Marks National and International Days

a) Rural Women's Day

To raise awareness among rural women about the electoral process and polling day activities, ECP officers coordinated and organised a policy dialogue during the 15th Annual Conference on Rural Women organized from 13th to 15th October 2022, at Lok Virsa, Islamabad. The theme was "Rural Women's Leadership in Disaster Risk Reduction and Good Governance". An election village was set up by the offices of ECP to provide an opportunity to rural women for a mock poll during all the three days of the Conference, enabling rural women to learn the voting process.



Policy Dialogue on "Rural Women's Leadership in Disaster Risk Reduction and Good Governance" organized on 13th of October at Lok Virsa

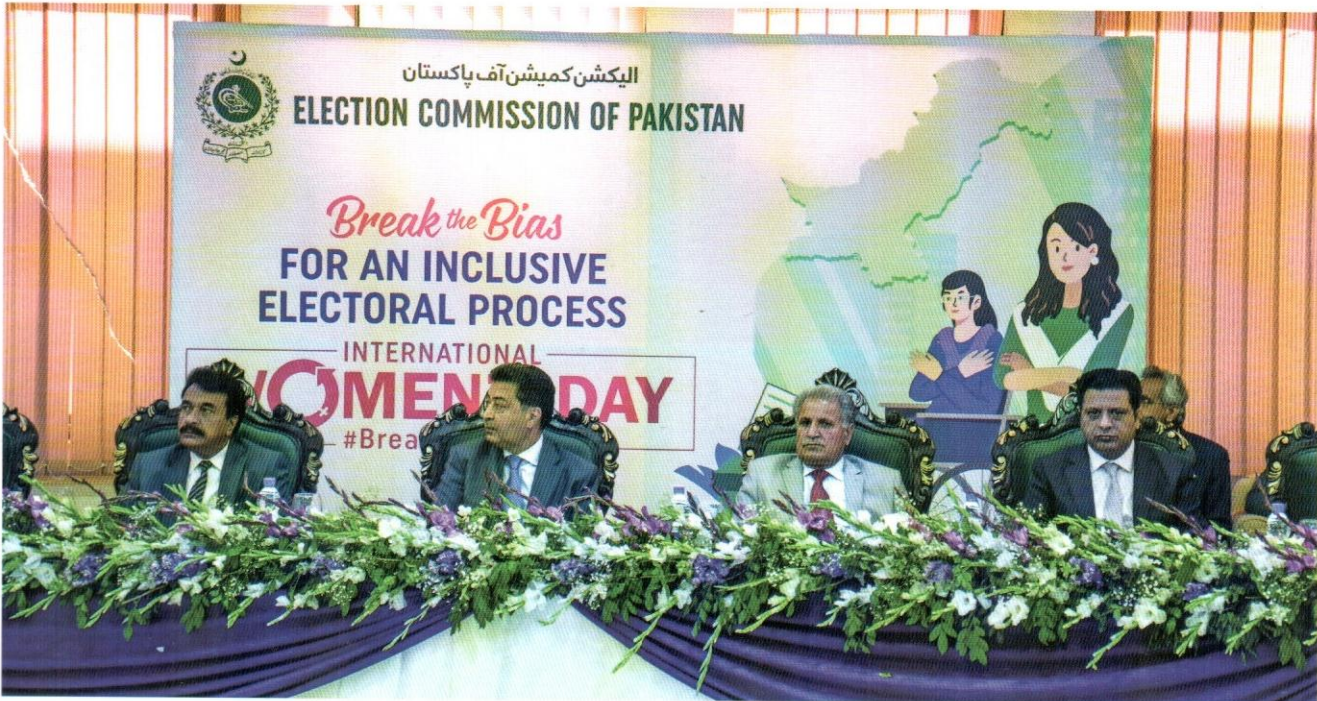


Election Village set up by ECP Officers on the occasion of 15th Annual Rural Women Leadership Conference

11. INCLUSIVE ELECTIONS

b) International Women’s Day

ECP observes different national and international days to engage vulnerable segments of the society in the electoral process. International Women’s Day is celebrated every year to raise awareness among masses about the importance of women’s political participation. This year, the day was celebrated by members of the Gender and Disabilities Electoral Working Group; a platform provided to civil society for Civic and Voter Education. By marking this day, ECP also acknowledges the importance of political participation and representation of female poulation in the electoral processes.



International Women’s Day celebrations at the ECP, Secretariat, Islamabad



Hon'ble Chief Election Commissioner signing the Campaign for Women Empowerment



Secretary, ECP signing the Campaign for Women Empowerment



CHAPTER 12



COMPLAINTS AND ELECTION DISPUTE RESOLUTIONS

12. COMPLAINTS AND ELECTION DISPUTES RESOLUTION

ECP performs a wide range of activities related to legal matters. The Law Wing primarily focuses on providing opinion on constitutional and legal matters, representing ECP at various legal fora, providing assistance on all legal matters related to election administration.

The Law Wing has been tasked with the responsibility of vetting and drafting of various legal documents, policy formulation, rules, procedures and regulations.

12.1 Processing and Disposal of Cases, Complaints and Appeals by the Commission

The Law Wing during the year 2022, has provided assistance to the Commission in disposal of cases, complaints, appeals, and petitions filed before the Election Commission. The detail of all the cases processed is as under:

Table No. XXIX: Detail of cases processed during the year 2022

Description	No. of cases
Conduct of LG elections (Suo-moto)	11
Complaints	6
Representations of delimitation (LGs)	60
Cases under Article 63A of the Constitution	46
Disqualification cases	7
Foreign Funding	3
Local government and general petitions	338
Writ Petitions (to decide as representation)	6
Intra Party elections	27
Statement of accounts	42
Code of Conduct	77
References under Article 63(2) of the Constitution	2
Contempt matters	7
Allocation of Symbol	6
Enlistment of political parties	5
Representation of delimitation of National and Provincial Assembly constituencies	910
Grand Total	1,553

12. COMPLAINTS AND ELECTION DISPUTES RESOLUTION

12.2 Hearing of Representations Filed Against Preliminary Delimitation of Constituencies of National and Provincial Assemblies

The Election Commission conducted fresh delimitation of general seats for the constituencies of National and Provincial Assemblies, allocated as per Articles 51(3) and 106 of the Constitution of Pakistan, based on the final results of 6th Population and Housing Census, 2017, published on 6th May, 2021. The draft list of constituencies was made available to the public, and representations were invited from the voters of the respective constituencies against the preliminary list of constituencies. Representations were required to be filed between 1st June, 2022 and 31st June, 2022. Representations filed before the Commission were heard and decided in July, 2022. The detail of cases is given below:

Table No. XXX: Province-wise detail of representations

Province/Area	No. of Representation
Punjab	568
Sindh	79
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	163
Balochistan	92
Federal Capital	8
Total	910

12.3 Delay in Conduct of Local Government Elections and Amendment Proposed by the Commission

Under Articles 140A (2) and 219(d) of the Constitution and Section 219 of the Elections Act, 2017, the Election Commission is under obligation to hold local government elections within 120 days of the expiry of term of a local government. As per Article 140 A(1) of the Constitution, each province is mandated by law to establish a local government system and devolve political, administrative and financial responsibility and authority to the elected representatives of the local governments. Article 220 of the Constitution bounds the federal and provincial governments to assist the Chief Election Commissioner and the Election Commission in conducting the elections.

To fulfil its constitutional obligations, the Election Commission made consistent efforts before and after the expiry of the terms of local government elections in the provinces and the Islamabad Capital Territory. However, the respective provincial governments and the Federal Government delayed the conduct of local government on one pretext or another. The causes of delay in holding local government elections, among others include changes in the local government laws, non-cooperation, lack of assistance by the provinces and restraining orders issued by the Courts against the process of delimitation and election schedule issued by the Commission. As the Election Commission is bound by law to hold local government elections in accordance with the applicable local government laws of the respective provinces and the ICT, any change in such law before and after the expiry of terms of the local governments causes hindrance and delay in the elections.

12. COMPLAINTS AND ELECTION DISPUTES RESOLUTION MECHANISM

To address these hindrances and delays, the Election Commission has proposed an amendment to Article 140A of the Constitution to the effect that:

“The Federal Government and the Provincial Governments shall make necessary arrangements including amendments in existing law, if so required, in such a way that the Election Commission may hold Election within 120 days after the expiry of term of a Local Government.”

Provided that in case of existing Local Government System is completely replaced with new local government system or substantially altered during its currency by any Government then such enactment shall be made at least one year prior to expiry/completion of tenure of existing Local Governments.”

The proposed amendment was forwarded to the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs for placing the proposal of the Commission before the Parliament for consideration and necessary legislation.

12.4 Litigation for the Conduct of Local Government Elections

The term of local government in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa expired on 28th August 2019. The issue of conducting local government elections in four provinces and Islamabad Capital Territory was taken up by the Supreme Court while hearing a Civil Miscellaneous Application (CMA) No. 6762/2020.

The Supreme Court summoned the Election Commission in the matter for apprising the Court regarding steps being taken by the Election Commission for conduct of local government elections in the provinces, including Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The Supreme Court called the representatives of Federal and Provincial Governments. The Court emphasized that under Article 140A(1) of the Constitution, the Federal Government and provinces must establish local government systems in Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) and provinces. On the assurance of the Election Commission regarding its ability to hold local government elections in the provinces and ICT without further delay, the Supreme Court disposed of the matter/CMA on 15th March, 2021. Due to the intervention of the August Court, the Commission was able to hold local government elections in the provinces of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh and Balochistan.



چیف الیکشن کمنشنر آف پاکستان جناب سکندر سلطان راجہ اور معزز ممبران الیکشن کمیشن، الیکشن کمیشن کی ہفت روزہ میٹنگ کی بریفنگ لے رہے ہیں

12. COMPLAINTS AND ELECTION DISPUTES RESOLUTION

12.5 Appointment of Election Tribunals for Local Government Elections

To resolve the post-election disputes in connection with local government elections, in the provinces of Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan, the Election Commission appointed District and Additional District & Sessions Judges as Election Tribunals. The detail is as under:

Table No. XXXI: Province-wise number of election tribunals appointed for local government elections in the province of Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan

Province/Area	No. of Tribunals
Sindh (1 st phase)	14
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	118
Balochistan	32
Total	164

12.6 Amendment Proposed regarding Conduct of Senate Elections

Under Article 186 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the President of Pakistan filed a Reference before the Supreme Court of Pakistan on 23rd December, 2020 seeking the opinion of the Court on the Question "whether the condition of 'secret ballot' referred to in Article 226 of the Constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan, is applicable only for the elections held 'under' the Constitution such as the election to the office of President of Pakistan, Speaker and Deputy Speaker of National Assembly, Chairman and Deputy Chairman of Senate, Speakers and Deputy Speakers of the Provincial Assemblies and not to other elections such as the election for the members of the Senate of Pakistan held under the Elections Act, 2017, enacted pursuant to Article 222 read with Entry 41, Part 1, Fourth Schedule to the Constitution, which may be held by way of secret or open ballot, as may be provided for in the Elections Act, 2017"

The Election Commission took the position before the Court that the elections to the Senate are conducted under the Constitution and the Elections Act 2017, and must be conducted through secret ballot. Secrecy of vote is mandated under the law and its violation attracts provisions of Section 178 of the Elections Act, 2017.



چیف الیکشن کمشنر آف پاکستان جناب سکندر سلطان راجہ الیکشن کمیشن آف پاکستان کی ہفت روزہ جنگ کی عمارت کر رہے ہیں

12. COMPLAINTS AND ELECTION DISPUTES RESOLUTION MECHANISM

The Hon'ble Supreme Court, after hearing, announced its opinion in the reference on the 1st March 2022 and answered the questions posed in the reference in the following manner:

- (i) The Elections to the Senate of Pakistan are held "under the Constitution" and the law;
- (ii) It is the duty of the Election Commission of Pakistan, in terms of Article 218(3) of the Constitution, to ensure that the election is conducted honestly, justly, fairly and in accordance with law and that corrupt practices are guarded against on which this Court has given successive judgments and the most exhaustive being Workers' Party Pakistan through Akhtar Hussain, Advocate, General Secretary & 6 others v. Federation of Pakistan & 2 others (PLD 2012 SC 681);
- (iii) The Election Commission of Pakistan is required by the Constitution to take all necessary steps to fulfil the above mandate/duty in terms of Article 222 of the Constitution, which empowers the Parliament, subject to the Constitution to legislate, inter alia, on the conduct of elections and matters relating to corrupt practices and other offences in connection with elections but categorically provides that, "no such law shall have the effect of taking away or abridging any of the powers of the Commissioner or the Election Commission" under Part VIII, Chapter 1 of the Constitution;
- (iv) Further in terms of Article 220 of the Constitution, all the executive authorities in the Federation and Provinces are obliged to assist the Commissioner and the Election Commission of Pakistan in discharge of his or their functions, as provided for in Article 218(3) of the Constitution; -
- (v) As far as the secrecy of ballot is concerned, this Court has already answered this question in a judgment of a 5-member Bench of this Court reported as Niaz Ahmad v. Aziz ud Din & others (PLD 1967 SC 466), where it has been held that secrecy is not absolute and that "the secrecy of the ballot, therefore, has not to be implemented in the ideal or absolute sense but to be tempered by practical considerations necessitated by the processes of election";
- (vi) Furthermore, to achieve the mandate of the Election Commission in terms of Article 218(3) read with Article 220 and other enabling provisions of the Constitution and the law, the Election Commission is required to take all available measures including utilising technologies to fulfil the solemn constitutional duty to ensure that the election is "conducted honestly, justly, fairly and in accordance with law and that corrupt practices are guarded against."

To comply with the observations of the Court, the Election Commission, in addition to other available options, focused its efforts on developing such technology that could be used to ensure that election is conducted transparently and corrupt practices are duly guarded against. The Election Commission developed a secured 'Election Management System' to identify polled votes. This can be used for secure QR-based ballot paper generation for Senate elections. This has an encrypted methodology with attached public and private keys for authentication. The Election Commission can use this system if it concludes, based on its knowledge or a complaint alleging corrupt practices, that votes have been bought during Senate elections.

12. COMPLAINTS AND ELECTION DISPUTES RESOLUTION MECHANISM

12.7 Hearing of Cases regarding Violations of the Code of Conduct

There were several complaints of staff abduction, material snatching and lawlessness before the poll day in Tehsil Baka Khel, Bannu. After proper inquiry, reviewing the record, obtaining reports from the District police Officer and other concerned authorities, the Commission concluded that the Provincial Minister for transport Shah Muhammad Khan and his accomplices were involved in these corrupt practices and declared the Provincial Minister disqualified from being a member of the Provincial Assembly. The Commission also debarred his son, Mamoon Rashid, a candidate, from contesting the election for the Chairman slot. ECP also ordered to file criminal complaints of corrupt practices against the accused.

During local government elections in the provinces and bye-elections to the National and Provincial Assemblies, several parliamentarians and public officeholders were issued notices by the Commission for violation of the code of conduct. Thirty (30) public office holders were issued notices by the Commission. Some public office holders filed appeals against the orders of the District Monitoring officers which after due hearing were either rejected or allowed by the Commission.

12.8 Contempt of Commission Proceedings

The Commission in exercise of its power, initiated contempt proceedings against the following political personalities for use of intemperate, derogatory and unparliamentary language against the Chief Election Commissioner and the Members of the Commission:

1. Mr. Imran Ahmed Khan Niazi
2. Mr. Fawad Hussain Chaudhary
3. Mr. Asad Umar
4. Mr. Azam Khan Swati
5. Mr. Jamshed Iqbal Cheema
6. Mr. Abdur Rehman (local government case)

All the above proceedings are pending adjudication before the Commission.

12.9 Amendments Proposed in the Election Laws

The Commission proposed 64 amendments in various provisions of the Elections Act, 2017, which have been sent to the Parliament for legislation. Moreover, two substantial amendments in Articles 140A and 223 of the Constitution have also been proposed to the Parliament.

12. COMPLAINTS AND ELECTION DISPUTES RESOLUTION MECHANISM

12.10 Initiative for Speedy Trial and Disposal of Petitions regarding General Election 2018 and Bye-Elections

Several letters and reminders were issued to the Registrars of the High Courts to ensure the speedy trial and disposal of pending Election Petitions. The detail of pending Election Petitions up-to December, 2022, is as under:

Table No. XXXII: Detail of pending Election Petitions up-to December, 2022

Province/Area	No. of Election Petitions Filed	Decided/ disposed of	Pendency
Punjab & ICT	139	139	0
Sindh	82	59	23
KPK including merged FATA	39	31	8
Balochistsan	56	56	0
Total	316	285	31



Meeting to discuss the law cases

12. COMPLAINTS AND ELECTION DISPUTES RESOLUTION MECHANISM

12.11 Important Cases Decided by the Commission

The Election Commission heard and decided several important cases during the year involving defection, disqualification, foreign funding, and others as per following detail:

Table No. XXXIII: Detail of important cases decided by the Commission during the year 2022

S. No	Description of Cases	Commission's decision
1.	Reference of disqualification from the Speaker, National Assembly against Mr. Imran Ahmed Khan Niazi, on account of concealment of assets/gifts received by him from Toshakhana, being a Prime Minister	The Commission after hearing all the concerned parties held that Mr. Imran Ahmed Khan Niazi has concealed certain gifts which he received from Toshakhana and thus has made false declaration in respect of his assets. He was disqualified to hold seat of NA-95, Mianwali. Mr. Imran Ahmed Khan Niazi was de-notified as MNA. Moreover, a criminal complaint of corrupt practice has also been filed in the Sessions Court, Islamabad, which is pending adjudication.
2.	Complaint filed by Mr. Akbar Sher Babar, against Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf on account of receiving prohibited funding from outside Pakistan	On the basis of complaint and the parameter set out by the Supreme Court of Pakistan in M. Hanif Abbasi's case, the Commission constituted a special scrutiny committee for examining the accounts and source of funding of PTI. The Commission on the basis of report of the Scrutiny Committee and after hearing the case held that the PTI has received certain funding which is prohibited under the Law and Rules. The Commission ordered to confiscate the prohibited funding in favour of the State subject to show cause notice to the Party and also referred the matter to the Federal Government for necessary action.
3.	Defection cases of 26 MPAs (PTI) forwarded by the Speaker Provincial Assembly, Punjab under Article 63A of the Constitution	The Commission after thorough hearing of the matters held that the 25 MPAs out of 26, have committed defection and were de-seated in May, 2022. Whereas, allegation of defection against one MPA was not proved.

S. No	Description of Cases	Commission's decision
4.	Defection cases of 20 MNAs (PTI) forwarded by the Speaker National Assembly under Article 63A of the Constitution	The Commission after thorough hearing of the matters held in May, 2022 that allegation of defection against 20 MNAs was not proved.
5.	De-seating of five MPAs (PTI) elected on reserved seats in pursuance of decision of the Commission de-seating 25 MPAs of Punjab Assembly on account of defection	After the decision of the Commission for de-seating of 25 MPAs of PTI, PML(N) approached the Commission with the prayer that the seats of PTI MPAs have been reduced and the reserved seats may not be allotted to PTI. Whereas, the PTI also sought issuance of notification of reserved seats of their nominees next in their priority list submitted before the Commission during General Elections 2018. After hearing PTI and PML(N), notifications of five MPAs elected on reserved seats according to the Party's Priority List, were stayed by the Commission till bye-elections in Punjab Assembly scheduled to be held on 17 th July, 2022. This was the case of first impression.
6.	Disqualification of Mr. Yousaf Raza Gillani and his son Ali Haider Gilani (MPA) on account of horse-trading in Senate elections	On the basis of some videos circulating on social media indicating element of alleged horse-trading in Senate elections, PTI through miscellaneous petitions sought disqualification of Mr. Yousaf Raza Gillani (candidate for Senate) and his son Ali Haider Gilani (MPA). The Commission after hearing, rejected the petitions of PTI to the extent of Mr. Yousaf Raza Gillani. However, with regard to Mr. Ali Haider Gilani (MPA) and two MNAs of PTI, complaint of corrupt practice was ordered to be filed. The case is pending adjudication before the learned Sessions Judge Islamabad.
7.	Disqualification of Ms. Faryal Talpur, MPA, Sindh Assembly on account of concealment of assets in nomination papers	Two MPAs of PTI filed petitions for disqualification of Ms. Faryal Talpur on the basis of allegations of concealment of assets in nomination papers. The Commission after extensive hearings held that the MPA has not concealed assets.

CHAPTER 13



INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT OF ECP

13. INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT OF ECP

Election Commission of Pakistan is operating through 160 offices, established across the country. With the exception of the 4 offices including the ECP Secretariat, Islamabad, rest of the offices are housed in rented buildings. The Election Commission, facing acute shortage of space for establishing strong rooms and storages for maintaining sensitive and permanent record/data in the rented building, took decision of acquiring plots for construction of RECs/DECs offices of its own.

The Commission has taken special measures in this direction for acquisition of government owned land for the construction of its own offices in the field. Concerted efforts were made for identifying suitable land for purchase by ECP after fulfillment of all codal formalities.

The present management till December, 2021 had purchased 11 plots from the Government of Punjab and 8 plots from Government of Balochistan. While during the year 2022, 7 more plots were purchased in Punjab and 3 in Balochistan. In order to secure the plots from encroachments, the construction of boundary walls in 10 districts has been completed during the year 2022, while estimate for construction of boundary walls of 19 plots was processed for approval.

The construction work of PSDP funded projects for 5 RECs/DECs offices i.e. Sargodha, Layyah, Okara, Attock and Jhelum has been undertaken with a targeted completion time period of two years. Furthermore, 5 PC-Is for the construction of REC/DEC offices i.e. Sahiwal, Khushab, Bhakkar, Rajanpur and Lodhran were also approved by DDWP in June, 2022. To cope up with the space constraints at ECP Secretariat, two additional floors have also been constructed at ECP Secretariat.

The preparation of PC-Is for remaining 19 ECP offices is also in process with the Pak PWD.

ECP also intends to construct PADRM at H-11/4. In this regard, the feasibility study along with design of the floor plan of H-11/4 building has been completed and preparation of PC-I is in process with Pak PWD.

All of the above mentioned projects are of vital importance for enhancing overall capacity of ECP in managing the rapidly changing scope of the Commission. Due to construction of ECP's own buildings, the problem of shortage of space for storage of sensitive record and inventories will be resolved.

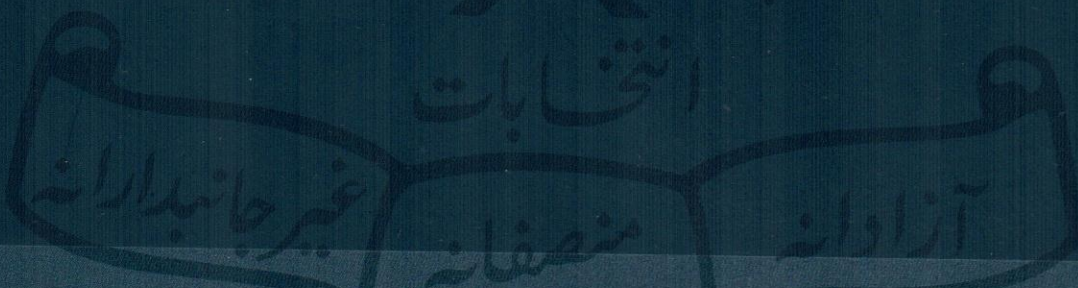




Ground breaking Ceremony for Construction of REC/DEC Offices, Sargodha



Uplifting of Front Facade of ECP building at Islamabad Secretariat



ELECTION COMMISSION OF PAKISTAN