

PART-I:

ANNUAL REPORT-2024

PART-II:

POST ELECTION REVIEW
ON GENERAL ELECTIONS-2024



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MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF ELECTION COMMISSIONER

The year 2024 was of vital significance for the democratic process in Pakistan as preparations for the General Elections 2024 were in full swing from the start of the year. Despite various challenges, the General Elections were successfully and peacefully held on 8th February 2024. All pre-poll and poll day activities were completed timely and in a peaceful manner.

After the General Elections, the Presidential and Senate elections were held, ensuring the completion of the parliamentary process. Additionally, bye-elections were also held in five National and seventeen Provincial Assembly constituencies.

Due to the proactive approach of the Election Commission, Local Government Elections were successfully conducted in three provinces, as well as in the Cantonment Boards, despite resistance from the provincial governments. However, the Local Government Elections Punjab and the Federal Capital Territory could not be held due to frequent changes in local government laws and delays in the legislative processes. It is hoped, that in the current year, after the completion of legislation, the Election Commission will be in a position to conduct these local government elections, which will provide an opportunity to the public to choose their representatives at the grassroots level to cater to their myriad community development issues.

A key feature of this report is the Post-Election Review of the Action Plan developed for the conduct of General Elections 2024. The report presents a dispassionate analysis of the challenges faced, along with recommendations for improvement in key electoral activities such as delimitation of constituencies, revision of electoral rolls, enlistment of political parties and other election-related processes. Some of these recommendations necessitate legislative action and it is hoped that Parliament will consider these proposals for legislation at the earliest.

To strengthen the Election Commission as an institution, various initiatives were taken, including imparting training programmes to the officers of the Election Commission on leadership and management at LUMS, Lahore, besides other related disciplines. Furthermore, due to the lack of ECP's own infrastructure, some field office buildings have been constructed while others are under construction. In some districts, suitable state land has been acquired for the construction of office accommodations, the idea being to provide accessible, modern and public friendly buildings.

Improvement in electoral processes is an ongoing endeavor which requires continuous support and collaboration from all stakeholders. The Election Commission envisions a future where the People of Pakistan take greater ownership of the electoral process, thereby contributing to the strengthening of democracy and democratic norms in the country.

Long live Pakistan and Democracy!

SIKANDAR SULTAN RAJA

Chief Election Commissioner of Pakistan

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

It is a great honor that by fulfilling required obligations, the Election Commission hereby presents the Annual Report of the year 2024. During the year, significant electoral activities were initiated and completed efficiently in a short span of time. The first quarter of the year saw the conduct of the General Elections, Presidential Election, Senate Elections, and several Bye-Elections. In the subsequent period, multiple activities were performed including the post-election review, conduct of Local Government Bye-Elections, Bye-Elections to the National/Provincial Assembly Constituencies and numerous re-polls.

This report reflects the Commission's commitments throughout the year, along with a comprehensive Post-Election Review of the Action Plan implemented during the General Elections. The insights gained from various electoral activities provide valuable lessons, offering an opportunity for continuous improvements in the electoral process. It is understood that such improvements are part of an ongoing, evolutionary process that will continue to develop over time and strengthen ECP as a strong and growing institution.

As always, we pledge to work diligently to make the electoral process more inclusive and participatory. Our concerted efforts will contribute to nurturing and strengthening the democratic culture of our nation. We extend our deepest gratitude to the Federal and Provincial Governments, law enforcement agencies, Appellate Tribunals, District Returning Officers (DROs), Returning Officers (ROs) and all staff engaged for election, for their invaluable support rendered during the General Elections and other electoral activities without which the General Elections-2024 could not have taken place. We also recognize and appreciate the contributions of all stakeholders and citizens who played an integral role in the success of the Election Commission's initiatives. The unwavering support from our partners further motivates us to pursue institutional excellence and uphold the democratic principles that define our nation.

Finally, we must also acknowledge the tireless dedication and commitment of the officers and staff of the Election Commission. Their relentless efforts have made these achievements possible, and we are deeply grateful for their invaluable contributions. The work ethic and tireless energy created by the ECP leadership has permeated downwards in all ranks as they are aware that merit, hard work and commitment are and shall be the way forward. There being no room for complacency, corruption or inefficiency, it can also be stated with a degree of certainty that the past 5 years have seen the workforce evolve into a synchronized machine.

May Allah Bless Pakistan!

Omar Hamid Khan Secretary, Election Commission of Pakistan

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Annual Report 2024 of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) provides a comprehensive overall view of the preparation of electoral activities, administrative initiatives, institutional reforms and innovative measures undertaken by the Commission throughout the year. The report highlights significant achievements in the conduct of General Elections, Bye-Elections, Presidential, Senate and Local Government Elections, along with various measures aimed at enhancing electoral transparency, political finance regulations and technological advancements in election management. The report also includes a Post-Election Review, identifies key areas for improvement and presents legislative recommendations to strengthen the future electoral process.

A landmark event of the year was the General Elections held on February 8, 2024, marking a significant step in Pakistan's democratic journey. The ECP was ready with the establishment of more than 90,000 polling stations and deployment of more than one Million polling personnel, the elections were conducted in a transparent, peaceful and organized manner. Pre-poll and post-poll complaint management mechanisms were effectively in place, to address concerns and resolve issues effectively. The Election City established at the ECP Secretariat, facilitated observers and media personnel in observing live results received from the Returning Officers (ROs) and was a unique feature and was bustling with activity throughout.

Following the successful conduct of the General Elections, bye-elections were conducted in 22 constituencies to fill vacant National and Provincial Assembly seats. These elections were held due to deaths of candidates or resignations of the members of the National Assembly and the Provincial Assemblies. The Presidential Election was conducted on March 9, 2024, where Mr. Asif Ali Zardari was elected as the President of Pakistan. The process adhered to the constitutional framework, ensuring transparency in the election at all levels. Similarly, the Senate Elections took place on April 2, 2024, to fill 48 vacant seats. Despite an initial delay due to incomplete electoral college following the General Elections, the Senate Elections were conducted with strict compliance with Article 224(3) of the Constitution, ensuring the continuity of Pakistan's upper legislative house.

The Local Government Elections (LGEs) were successfully conducted in three provinces and cantonment boards, while elections in Punjab and the Federal Capital Territory (ICT) were delayed due to frequent legislative amendments carried out by the recalcitrant governments. The ECP always emphasizes the importance of timely Local Government Elections to strengthen grassroots democracy and urges provincial governments to facilitate the electoral process in these regions. This has always been and shall continue to be ECP's raison, despite the provincial obduracy.

To ensure inclusivity and fairness, the electoral rolls were updated, with extensive voter registration awareness campaigns aimed at increasing participation, particularly among women and marginalized groups. Gender-inclusive registration process was improved, ensuring equal representation. Due to strategic action to ensure gender participation in the elections, ECP was highly successful in reducing gender gap from 11.7% to 7.8% which is indeed historic. In addition, the ECP conducted multiple training programs for election officials, including Presiding Officers, Polling Officers and District Monitoring Officers, as well as specialized training on political finance regulations and election oversight. Furthermore, Bridge Trainings and gender-responsive workshops were also conducted to ensure inclusiveness in the electoral process.

Political and Financial management remained a priority of the Commission in 2024 and it was implemented through strict financial monitoring, enforcement of election spending limits and compliance monitoring of political party funding regulations including digitization of statements of assets and liabilities submitted by Members Parliament and Provincial Assemblies. These measures were taken to minimize financial irregularities and promote accountability in election and campaign financing. Internally as well, the processes were strengthened to comply with financial reporting and management efficiency at all levels.

Another key area of focus for the ECP in 2024 was a high degree of technological advancement in election management. The introduction of the Election Management System (EMS) and the Complaint Management System (CMS) for public grievance handling significantly improved operational efficiency. These digital reforms played a crucial role in modernizing electoral processes, increasing

transparency and reducing the risks of electoral disputes, besides improving the digitization of ECP. To strengthen election monitoring, the most modern paperless Election Monitoring Control Centre (EMCC) was in place, deploying 180 subordinate control rooms across the country and District Monitoring Officers (DMOs), which were also functional at district level to ensure compliance of the Code of Conduct in the constituencies in real time, with feedback and analysis at the Provincial and Central Headquarters.

The General Elections 2024 showcased Pakistan's commitment to democratic governance despite numerous operational hurdles. The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) effectively managed the elections amid legal, logistical and security challenges, while ensuring maximum voter participation. However, the findings of this report emphasize the need for continued electoral reforms, digital transformation, increased inclusiveness and timely de-escalation of political depolarization by all concerned to strengthen democracy in Pakistan. By implementing the proposed recommendations and necessary legislation, the ECP can ensure a more inclusive, efficient and transparent electoral management in Pakistan, to the satisfaction of the public of Pakistan.

ACRONYMS

ADG	Additional Director General
ADS	Assistant Directors
APOs	Assistant Presiding Officers
Al	Artificial Intelligence
BRIDGE	Building Resources in Democracy, Governance and Elections
CERS	Computerized Electoral Roll System
	Code of Conduct
CoC	
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CMS	Complaint Management System
CNIC	Computerized National Identity Card
CEC	Chief Election Commissioner
CDWP	Central Development Working Party
C&W	Communication & Work Department
CBC	Census Block Code
CCTV	Close Circuit Television
DEC	District Election Commissioner
DRO	District Returning Officer
DDO	Drawing and Disbursing Officer
DVEC	District Voter Education Committees
DDWP	Departmental Development Working Party
DCR	District Census Report
DMO	District Monitoring Officer
DEO	Data Entry Operator
DD	Deputy Director
ECP	Election Commission of Pakistan
EMCC	Election Monitoring Control Centre
ER	Electoral Roll
ECC	Economic Coordination Committee
ECIAC	Election Commission Internal Audit Committee
EMS	Election Management System
EPW	External Publicity Wing
EMB	Election Management Body

EVM	Electronic Voting Machine
EO	Election Officer
EEM	Election Expert Mission
F.Y	Financial Year
FAQs	Frequently Asked Questions
FBR	Federal Board of Revenue
FAFEN	Free and Fair Election Network
FIA	Federal Investigation Agency
FC	Frontier Corps
G.E	General Elections
GRB	Gender Responsive Budgeting
GDEWG	Gender and Disability Electoral Working Group
GSI	Gender and Social Inclusion
GMSIF	Gender Mainstreaming and Social Inclusion Framework
GIS	Geographical Information System
GDA	Grand Democratic Alliance
HRMS	Human Resource Management System
HR	Human Resource
HQ	Head Quarter
IT	Information Technology
ICT	Islamabad Capital Territory
IBC	Indicative Budget Ceiling
IAR	Internal Audit Report
IORMS	Integrated Office Record Management System
ICPS	International Centre for Parliamentary Studies
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
IFES	International Foundation for Electoral Systems
IORMS	Integrated Office Record Management System
IDEA	International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance
IGP	Inspector General of Police
JPEC	Joint Provincial Election Commissioner
LGE	Local Government Election
LUMS	Lahore University of Management Sciences

LEA's	Law Enforcement Agencies
LLMs	Large Language Models
MNA	Member National Assembly
MPA	Member Provincial Assembly
MIS	Management Information System
MCI	Metropolitan Corporation Islamabad
MOI	Ministry of Interior
MT	Monitoring Team
MRS	Monitoring and Reporting System
MoFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MolB	Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
MO	Monitoring Officer
NA	National Assembly
NADRA	National Data Base and Registration Authority
NC	Neighbourhood Council
NIC	National Identity Card
NEC	National Election Commission
NSPC	National Security Printing Company
NAB	National Accountability Bureau
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
ORS	Online Recruitment System
OMR	Optical Mark Recognition
PA	Provincial Assembly
PBS	Pakistan Bureau of Statistics
PEC	Provincial Election Commissioner
PIARC	Provincial Internal Audit Review Committees
PMC	Provincial Monitoring Coordinator
PMCR	Provincial Monitoring Control Room
PWDs	Persons with Disabilities
PVEC	Provincial Voter Education Committees
PDMAs	Provincial Disaster Management Authority
PID	Press Information Department
Pak PWD	Pakistan Public Works Department

PSDP	Public Sector Development Programme
PEADRM	Pakistan's Electoral Academy for Democratic Practices, Research and Management
Pr.O's	Presiding Officers
PTA	Pakistan Telecommunication Authority
PEMRA	Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority
POs	Polling Officers
PCP	Printing Corporation of Pakistan
RO	Returning Officer
PQR	Police Qomi Razakar
REC	Regional Election Commissioner
RMC	Regional Monitoring Coordinator
RMCR	Regional Monitoring Control Room
STV	Single Transferable Voting
SOPs	Standard Operating Procedures
SMS	Short Message Service
SCO	Shanghai Corporation Organization
STC	Specialized Training Course
SPL	Security Paper Limited
SBP	State Bank of Pakistan
TSE	Tribunal Superior Electoral
TOMT	Training of Master Trainers
TSG	Technical Supplementary Grant
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UC	Union Council
USEP	United States Election Program
VCs	Village Councils
VOs	Verifying Officials
VPN	Virtual Private Network

PART-I ANNUAL REPORT 2024

1. INTRODUCTION

VISION

Deliver inclusive and credible elections that people trust

Vision

MISSION

We strive to hold free and transparent elections that truly reflect the will of the people in democratic process

Mission



1. Introduction

The Election Commission was formed on March 23, 1956, and since then it has been re-structured and overhauled many times. The Constitution of Pakistan, 1973, introduced a comprehensive framework for ECP, outlining the structure, powers and functions of the Commission, ensuring its independence and authority in carrying the electoral process in the country.

ECP consists of the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and four other Members appointed from each province who serve a five-year term. The CEC and the Members are appointed in consultation with the Prime Minster and the Leader of the Opposition in the National Assembly. In case there is no consensus between them the matter is referred to bi-partisan Parliamentary Committee, for approval of appointment. For the position of Chief Election Commissioner, a Judge of Supreme Court, a Civil Servant of BPS-22 or a Technocrat can be appointed. Whereas for a Member Election Commission a Judge of the High Court, a Civil Servant of BPS-22 or a Technocrat is eligible for the position.

In October, 2024 the 26th Constitutional Amendment was passed and Article 215 of the Constitution was amended with the insertion of a new proviso that after expiry of term of the incumbent CEC, or the Member Election Commission as the case may be, the incumbent CEC or the incumbent Member shall continue to hold office until his successor enters upon the office.

1.1 Duties of the Commission

The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) is an independent, permanent and constitutionally established body, responsible for organizing and conducting elections to the office of the President of Pakistan, the Parliament, Provincial Assemblies, Local Governments, as well as the conduct of delimitation of constituencies and preparation of electoral rolls. As per the Constitution, ECP is mandated to perform these responsibilities in a free, fair and transparent manner in accordance with the law, and to guard against corrupt practices. All authorities are constitutionally obligated to extend support to ECP in the

discharge of its functions. By organizing and conducting elections for various tiers, ECP facilitates inclusive political participation among all citizens. It is responsible for the protection of the electoral rights of all citizens, and takes sufficient measures to ensure that eligible voters are registered and represented in electoral rolls, polling stations are accessible and that all voters can cast their votes freely without intimidation or coercion. ECP also holds authority to adjudicate electoral disputes and grievances and appoints tribunals for election dispute resolution that contributes to a peaceful political atmosphere in the country. ECP adheres to highest levels of electoral integrity and serves to uphold the democratic processes and good governance in Pakistan by strengthening institutions, fostering political accountability and ensuring the peaceful transfer of power. Its commitment to transparency, accountability and fairness enhances public confidence in the electoral process.

1.2 Hierarchy of the Commission

Article 221 of the Constitution read with section 6 of the Elections Act, 2017 states that the Commissioner holds the authority to employ officers and staff to fulfil its functions as designated by the Constitution and the law. The Commission is supported by a Secretariat in Islamabad and field offices spread across Pakistan. The administrative hierarchy is headed by the Secretary, responsible for policy implementation and the overall management of organizational resources. The Secretary is supported by Special Secretaries (SSs), Additional Secretaries, Director Generals (DGs) / Additional Director Generals (ADGs) and Provincial Election Commissioners (PECs) and various ranks working as one unit.



THE COMMISSION



Left to right:

Mr. Babar Hassan Bharwana

Mr. Nisar Ahmed Durrani

Mr. Sikandar Sultan Raja

Mr. Shah M. Jatoi

Justice (R) Ikramullah Khan

(Member ECP from Punjab)

(Member ECP from Sindh)

(Chief Election Commissioner of Pakistan)

(Member ECP from Balochistan)

(Member ECP from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa)



2. CONDUCT OF GENERAL ELECTIONS-2024





2. Conduct of General Elections-2024

With the beginning of the year 2024, the election activities gained momentum and the election program for conduct of General Elections-2024 was issued on 15th December, 2023. The last date for filing of nomination paper was 24th December, 2023 and scrutiny of nominations was completed on 30th December, 2023 and accordingly list of validly nominated candidates was issued by the ROs. Statistical data is as under:

2.1 Nominations on General Seats

Assembly	Total No. of Nominated Candidates			No. of candidates whose Nomination Papers Accepted by ROs			No. of Candidates whose Nomination Papers have been Rejected by RO		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
National Assembly	7029	445	7474	6096	354	6450	933	91	1024
Provincial Assemblies	17665	812	18477	15727	678	16405	1938	134	2072
Total	24694	1257	25951	21823	1032	22855	2871	225	3096

2.2 Appeals Filed Against Acceptance / Rejection of Nomination Papers

As per the election program the timeline for filing of appeals against acceptance or rejection of nomination papers by the Returning Officers commenced on 3rd January 2024. Appellate Tribunals were appointed well before the timeline for filing of appeals against acceptance or rejection of nomination papers. The detail of appeals filed before the Appellate Tribunals is given below:

	Detail of	Appeals Filed Against Ge	neral Seats of National Asso	embly
Sr. No.	Province/ Area	No. of Appeals filed with the Appellate Tribunals against Acceptance of Nomination Papers	No. of Appeals filed with the Appellate Tribunals against Rejection of Nomination Papers	Total No. of Appeals filed with the Appellate Tribunals
1	2	3	4	5
1	Islamabad	2	68	70
2	Punjab	14	438	452
3	Sindh	11	124	135
4	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	13	106	119
5	Balochistan	7	82	89
	Total	47	818	865

Sr. No.	Province	No. of Appeals filed with the Appellate Tribunals against Acceptance of Nomination Papers	No. of Appeals filed with the Appellate Tribunals against Rejection of Nomination Papers	Total No. of Appeals filed with the Appellate Tribunals
1	2	3	4	5
2	Punjab	22	678	700
3	Sindh	33	179	212
4	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	18	195	213
5	Balochistan	10	306	316
	Total	83	1358	1441

2.3 Disposal of Appeals Filed Against Acceptance /Rejection of Nomination Papers

The Appellate Tribunals after hearing the parties decided the appeals filed before them against acceptance or rejection of nomination papers. The detail of appeals filed and their disposal is as under:

	Detail of	Disposal of Ap	peals Agains	t General	Seats of Nation	al Assembly	
Sr. No.	Province/ Area	No. of Appeals accepted against Acceptance of Nomination Papers	No. of Appeals accepted against Rejection of Nomination Papers	Total No. of Appeals accepted	Total No. of Appeals rejected against acceptance of Nomination Papers	Total No. of Appeals rejected against rejection of Nomination Papers	Total No. of Appeals Rejected
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Islamabad	0	65	65	2	3	5
2	Punjab	0	277	277	14	161	175
3	Sindh	0	90	90	11	34	45
4	Khyber Pakhtunkhawa	0	94	94	13	12	25
5	Balochistan	3	74	77	4	8	12
	Total	3	600	603	44	218	262

	Detail o	of Disposal of Ap	peals Against (General Sea	ts of Provincia	al Assemblies	
Sr. No.	Province/ Area	No. of Appeals accepted against Acceptance of Nomination Papers	No. of Appeals accepted against Rejection of Nomination Papers	Total No. of Appeals accepted	Total No. of Appeals rejected against ac- ceptance of Nomination Papers	Total No. of Appeals rejected against rejection of Nomination Papers	Total No. of Appeals Rejected
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Punjab	5	452	457	18	225	243
2	Sindh	1	102	103	32	77	109
3	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	3	146	149	15	49	64
4	Balochistan	1	277	278	9	29	38
	Total	10	977	987	74	380	454

2.4 Nomination on Reserved Seats (Women and Non-Muslims)

With respect to reserved seats the dates for filing of nomination papers were the same as were for general seats and last date for scrutiny was extended up to 13-01-2024 to facilitate the candidates. The Returning Officers issued a list of validly nominated candidates on 23-01-2024. The detail of filing, acceptance and rejection of nomination papers against seat reserved for women is as under:

Sr. No.			nated	nted Papers have be		No. of candidates whose Nomination Papers have been Accepted by ROs	
		National Assembly	Provincial Assembly	National Assembly	Provincial Assembly	National Assembly	Provincial Assembly
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Punjab	195	600	145	461	50	139
2	Sindh	118	309	81	226	37	83
3	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	98	318	71	248	27	70
4	Balochistan	49	133	21	69	28	64
	Total	460	1360	318	1004	142	356

The following number of candidates filed their nomination papers against seats reserved for non-Muslims in the National and Provincial Assemblies. The Returning Officers scrutinized the Nomination Papers against the seat reserved for Non-Muslims and data of the same is as under:

3341114111339				the National Asse		
Sr. No.	Total No. of Nominated candidates		whose Nom	uslim candidates nination Papers ed by ROs	No. of Non-Muslim candidates whose Nomination Papers Accepted by ROs	
110.	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	140	10	106	7	34	3

Sr. No.	Province/ Area			whose No Papers re	No. of candidates whose Nomination Papers rejected by ROs		No. of candidates whose Nomination Papers Accepted by ROs	
		Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
1	Punjab	118	9	97	7	21	2	
2	Sindh	117	8	81	6	36	2	
3	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	68	6	46	4	22	2	
4	Balochistan	58	9	31	4	27	5	
	Total	361	32	255	21	106	11	

2.5 Appeals Filed Against Acceptance / Rejection of Nomination Papers for Reserved Seats

The detail of appeals filed before the Appellate Tribunals against the nomination papers filed for seats reserved for women in national as well as provincial assemblies is mentioned below:

Sr. No.	Province/ Area	No. of Appeals filed with the Appellate Tribunals against Acceptance of Nomination Papers	No. of Appeals filed with the Appellate Tribunals against Rejection of Nomination Papers	Total No. of Appeals filed with the Appellate Tribunals
1	2	3	4	5
1	Punjab	0	0	0
2	Sindh	0	1	1
3	Khyber Pakhtunkhawa	1	0	1
4	Balochistan	0	0	0
	Total	1	1	2

De	etail of Filing of A	ppeals Against Reserved S	Seats for Women in Provin	cial Assemblies
Sr. No.	Province	No. of Appeals filed with the Appellate Tribunals against Acceptance of Nomination Papers	No. of Appeals filed with the Appellate Tribunals against Rejection of Nomination Papers	Total No. of Appeals filed with the Appellate Tribunals
1	2	3	4	5
1	Punjab	0	2	2
2	Sindh	0	0	0
3	Khyber Pakhtunkhawa	0	0	0
4	Balochistan	0	1	1
	Total	0	3	3

Detail of appeals filed before the Appellate Tribunal against nomination papers filed for the seat reserved for non-Muslims is as under:

De	etail of Filing of Appeals Agains	t Reserved Seats for Non-Muslim	s in National Assembly
Sr. No.	No. of Appeals filed with the Appellate Tribunals against Acceptance of Nomination Papers	No. of Appeals filed with the Appellate Tribunals against Rejection of Nomination Papers	Total No. of Appeals filed with the Appellate Tribunals
1	2	3	4
1	0	0	0
	Total	0	0

Sr. No.	Province	No. of Appeals filed with the Appellate Tribunals against Acceptance of Nomination Papers	No. of Appeals filed with the Appellate Tribunals against Rejection of Nomination Papers	Total No. of Appeals filed with the Appellate Tribunals
1	2	3	4	5
1	Punjab	0	0	0
2	Sindh	1	1	2
3	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	0	0	0
4	Balochistan	0	5	5
Total		1	6	7

2.6. Disposal of Appeals by the Election Tribunal

With respect to the seats reserved for women following number of appeals were accepted or rejected by the Appellate Tribunal in both national as well as provincial assembly:

Sr. No.	Province/ Area	No. of Appeals accepted against Acceptance of Nomination Papers	No. of Appeals accepted against Rejection of Nomination Papers	Total No. of Appeals accepted	Total No. of Appeals Rejected against Acceptance / Rejection of Nomination Papers	
1	2	3	4	5	6	
1	Punjab	0	0	0	0	
2	Sindh	0	1	1	0	
3	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	1	0	1	0	
4	Balochistan	0	0	0	0	
	Total	1	1	2	0	

Sr. No.	Province/ Area	No. of Appeals accepted against Acceptance of Nomination Papers	No. of Appeals accepted against Rejection of Nomination Papers	Total No. of Appeals accepted	Total No. of Appeals Rejected against Acceptance / Rejection of Nomination Papers	
1	2	3	4	5	6	
1	Punjab	0	2	2	0	
2	Sindh	0	0	0	0	
3	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	0	0	0	0	
4	Balochistan	0	0	0	1	
	Total	0	2	2	1	

With respect to the seats reserved for non-Muslims, following number of appeals accepted or rejected by the Appellate Tribunal in both national as well as provincial assembly:

De	tail of Disposal of Appeal A	gainst Reserved Seats for	or Non-Muslim	in National Assembly	
Sr. No.	No. of Appeals accepted against Acceptance of Nomination Papers	No. of Appeals accepted against Rejection of Nomination Papers	Total No. of Appeals accepted	Total No. of Appeals Rejected against Acceptance / Rejection of Nomination Papers	
1	2	3	4	5	
1	0 .	0	0	0	

Sr. No.	Province/ Area	No. of Appeals accepted against Acceptance of Nomination Papers	No. of Appeals accepted against Rejection of Nomination Papers	Total No. of Appeals accepted	Total No. of Appeals Rejected against Acceptance / Rejection of Nomination Papers	
1	2	3	4	5	6	
1	Punjab	0	0	0	0	
2	Sindh	0	0	0	2	
3	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	0	0	0	0	
4	Balochistan	0	2	2	3	
	Total	0	2	2	5	

Under Section 64 of the Elections Act, 2017, after completion of the stage of filing of appeals and their disposal, the validly nominated candidates may withdraw their candidature from contest. The detail of candidates after withdrawal of candidature is as under:

2.7 Validly Nominated Candidates after Withdrawal of Candidature

Sr. No.	Name of Province/ Area Male	of V Nom Candida issua revised on 11 th	al No 'alidly inated ates after ince of I Form-32 January, 024	Candida withdre the cor 12 th Ja	dates who rew from ontest till January, cand		Candidates lied after suance of f Validly ninated dates till nuary, 2024	Total No of Validly Nominated Candidates after withdrawal on 12 th January, 2024 (evening)	
		Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	Punjab Including ICT	3289	241	584	60	6	1	2699	180
2	Sindh	1498	101	405	12	0	1	1093	88
3	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	1226	36	505	7	0	0	721	29
4	Balochistan	589	19	160	4	0	0	429	15
	Total	6,602	397	1,654	83	6	2	4,942	312

Sr. No	Name of Province/ Area	of Va Nomi Candidat issuar		No of Candidates who withdrew from the contest till 12 th January, 2024		No. of Candidates who died after the issuance of list of Validly Nominated candidates till 12th January, 2024		Total No of Validly Nominated Candidates after withdrawal on 12 th January, 2024 (evening)	
1		Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	Punjab	7920	402	1412	69	73	4	6435	329
2	Sindh	3772	185	1026	23	0	0	2746	162
3	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	3102	105	1283	29	1	0	1818	76
4	Balochistan	1634	44	388	3	0	0	1246	41
	Total	16,428	736	4,109	124	74	4	12,245	608

2.8 Contesting Candidates

Sr. No.	Province/ Area	candidat	of contesting es in National sembly	Candidates	Contesting in Provincial nblies	Total Contesting Candidates	
		Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Punjab including ICT	2699	180	6435	329	9134	509
2	Sindh	1093	88	2746	162	3839	250
3	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	721	29	1818	76	2539	105
4	Balochistan	429	15	1246	41	1675	56
	Total	4,942	312	12,245	608	17,187	920

2.9 Polling Stations

As per Section 59 of the Elections Act, 2017, the District Election Commissioners (DECs) supplied draft list of Polling Stations to the ROs for physical verification

of Polling Stations and publication of final list of Polling Stations in the official gazette. Following timelines were issued by the Commission for finalization of list of polling stations by the Returning Officers:

Sr. No.	Activity	Section of Elections Act, 2017 involved	Timeline
1	Supply of draft list of polling sta- tions by the District Election Com- missioners to the Returning Officers	Section 59	20 th December, 2023
2	Physical verification of draft list of polling stations by the Returning Officers	Section 59 (4) (a)	21 st December, 2023 to 4 th January, 2024
3	Publication of preliminary list of polling stations	Section 59 (4) (c)	4 th January, 2024
4	Filing of objections/ suggestions on preliminary list of polling stations	Section 59 (5) (a) & (b)	5 th January, 2024 to 11 th January, 2024
5	Disposal of objections/ suggestions by the District Returning Officer	Section 59 (6)	12 th January, 2024 to 17 th January, 2024
6	Publication of final list of polling stations		24 th January, 2024

In light of the above timelines, the Returning Officers made physical verification of draft list of polling stations and after making necessary changes/alterations preliminary lists of polling stations were published by the Returning Officers for inviting suggestions/objections thereon. The suggestions/objections were lodged before the District Returning Officers concerned and after hearing the parties and verification of location of polling stations, wherever required, the DROs disposed off such applications. The detail of which is as under:

Sr. No.	Province	No. of objections/ suggestions filed for change of polling stations received by DROs	No. of objections/ suggestions accepted by the DROs	No. of objections/ suggestions rejected by the DROs	
1.	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	1036	413	623	
2.	Punjab/ICT	2057	902	1155	
3.	Sindh	1742	585	1157	
4.	Balochistan	685	291	394	
	Total	5,520	2,191	3,329	

After disposal of objections/suggestions, final lists of polling stations were published in the official gazette by the District Returning Officers (DROs) concerned. After publication of final list of polling stations, ECP was authorized to allow changes in the published list of polling stations in exceptional circumstances under Section 59 (8) of the Elections Act, 2017, not later than five days before the polling. Following is the number of the cases regarding change of polling stations received by the Election Commission through DROs and voters of the constituency and the same were disposed of and copy of such changes were transmitted to the contesting candidates as well.

Sr. No.	Name of Province	No. of Changes of Polling Stations Allowed by the Commission under Section 59 (8) of the Elections Act, 2017 to Facilitate the Voters				
1	Balochistan	26				
2	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	41				
3	Punjab	23				
4	Sindh	10				
	Total	100				

The detail of polling stations and polling booths established during general election 2024 is as under:

Sr.	Name of		No. o	f Polling Statio	ns		No. of Polling Booths			
No.	Province	Male	Female	Combined	Imp	Total	Male	Female	Total	
1	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	4,809	4,282	6,533	73	15,697	26,155	20,926	47,081	
2	Punjab including ICT	14,544	14,028	22,337	35	50,944	79,023	70,411	149,434	
3	Sindh	4,356	4,265	10,041	344	19,006	34,160	30,845	65,005	
4	Balochistan	1,506	1,314	2,138	70	5,028	8,222	6,660	14,882	
	Total	25,215	23,889	41,049	522	90,675	147,560	128,842	276,402	

2.10 Polling Personnel

Section 53 of the Elections Act, 2017 read with Rule 48 of the Elections Rules, 2017, provides the method for appointment of polling staff i.e. Presiding Officers, Assistant Presiding Officers and Polling Officers for each booth of the polling station. The Chief Secretaries of the Provinces were asked for issuance of directions to the district administration for provision of list of staff including

relevant Authorities of registered Schools, Colleges and Universities regarding provision of list of teaching staff for making up perceived deficiency of polling staff if any. Finally, following polling personnel were engaged for performing election duty during General Elections-2024.

Sr.	Name of	Total No.	Total No. of RO		Total No. of ARO		Total No. of Presiding	Total No. of Assistant Presiding	Total No. of Polling Officers	Naib Qasid (including
No.	Province	of DRO	NA	PA	NA	PA	Officers (including 5% reserve)	Officers (including 5% reserve)	(including 5% reserve)	5% reserve)
1	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	36	45	115	92	230	16,482	98,870	49,435	16,482
2	Punjab including ICT	42	144	297	288	594	53,492	310,501	156,906	53,492
3	Sindh	30	61	130	122	260	19,956	136,511	68,255	19,956
4	Balochistan	36	16	51	101	102	5,279	31,252	15,626	5,279
	Total	144	266	593	603	1,186	95,209	577,134	290,222	95,209

2.11 Complaint Cell

According to Section 15 of the Elections Act, 2017 any person aggrieved by any decision or action taken or direction issued by an authority subordinate to the Commission or any action of a political party or a candidate in violation of the code of conduct may, within seven days of such decision or action, submit a complaint to the Commission pertaining to matters other than relating to election disputes falling under Article 225. The ECP established a complaint cell and Complaint Management System to address general public, voters' and political parties' grievances regarding pre-poll, poll day and post poll complaints. In this regard all the complaints were dealt with smoothly, efficiently and systematically according to law & rules.

2.12 Election City

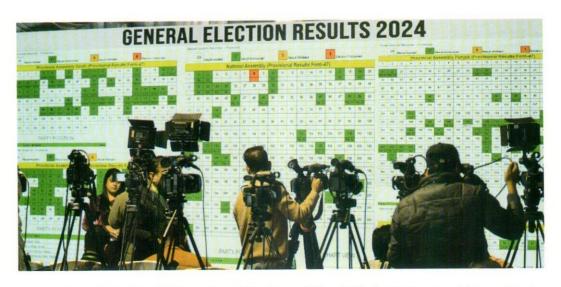
A unique feature was that a state-of-the-art "Election City" was established in ECP Secretariat Islamabad with primary aim to facilitate all stakeholders, while receiving and announcements of live provisional results from all 859 Returning

Officers across the country. It was equipped with the latest array of Digital Video Walls for displaying the results on real time basis (24/7) by ensuring transparency using specialized Management Information System accessible to all stakeholders. It also facilitated foreign diplomats, national and international observers, media (electronic & printed) reporters, candidates and representatives of various political parties and members of the civil society organizations. Dedicated teams were deputed in the 'Election City' who worked round the clock demonstrating their commitment for efficient displaying results with the use of smart digital video wall technologies. It was a marathon activity spanning over more than 48 hours uninterruptedly till the culmination of receiving of constituency-wise results.



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

This innovative effort reflected a collection of the fundamental principles of elections such as transparency, accessibility, inclusiveness and coordination under one roof, thereby enhancing public trust and confidence. This venture has been acknowledged by international team of observers including EU Mission and all stakeholders.



Live General Elections 2024 results publication on Video Walls for National and International Media and Observers on Poll Night.

The results received from ROs were also displayed simultaneously at ECP's website for global audience and convenience of the general public at large. The overall turnout (Province wise) is as under:

Turnout (%) of							
Province / Area	Registered Voters	Total Votes Polled	Total Votes Polled				
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	21928120	8439058	38.49				
Federal Capital	1083028	598126	55.23				
Punjab	73207897	38086489	52.03				
Sindh	26994770	11809679	43.75				
Balochistan	5371948	2342902	43.61				
Total	128,585,763	61,276,254	47.65				



3. BYE ELECTIONS





3. Bye Elections

Under Article 219(b) of the Constitution, it is the duty of the Election Commission to conduct election to fill casual vacancies in the National and the Provincial Assemblies. Article 224(4) of the Constitution, provides period for conduct of bye-elections within sixty days from occurrence of vacancy.

3.1 Constituencies where Contesting Candidates Passed Away during General Elections-2024

During the process of General Elections-2024, one contesting candidate of National Assembly constituency, one Provincial Assembly of Punjab and two Khyber Pakhtunkhwa passed away before commencement of the poll. Detail is as under:

Sr. No.	No. & Name of Constituency	Name of Deceased Contesting Candidates	
1	NA-8 Bajaur	Mr. Rehan Zeb	
2	PK-22 Bajaur-IV		
3	PK-91 Kohat-II	Mr. Asmat Ullah	
4	PP-266 R.Y Khan-XII	Mr. Israr Hussain	

Section 73 of the Elections Act, 2017 provides that "if a contesting candidate dies before commencement of the poll or during the polling hours, the Returning Officer shall, by public notice, terminate the proceedings relating to that election. Where the proceedings relating to an election have been terminated under sub-section (1), fresh proceedings shall be commenced in accordance with the provisions of this Act, as if for a new election but it shall not be necessary for the other contesting candidates to file fresh nomination papers or make a further deposit under section 61 of the Act ibid.

3.2 Constituencies Vacated by the Retuned Candidates under Article 223 of the Constitution

Four (4) seats in the National Assembly, eleven (11) seats in Provincial Assemblies of Punjab and two (2) seats in Balochistan fell vacant due to resignation tendered by the Returned Candidates who were elected against more than one seat. Under

Article 223 of the Constitution, a candidate returned on more than one seat can only retain one seat and resign from the other seats. Detail of constituencies, which were vacated by the Returned Candidates under Article 223 of the constitution, is given hereunder:

	National Assembly
Sr. No.	No. & Name of Constituency
1	NA-44 Dera Ismail Khan-I
2	NA-119 Lahore-III
3	NA-132 Kasur-II
4	NA-196 Kamber-Shahdadkot-I
	Provincial Assembly of Punjab
Sr. No.	No. & Name of Constituency
1	PP-22 Chakwal-Cum-Talagang
2	PP-32 Gujrat-VI
3	PP-36 Wazirabad-ll
4	PP-54 Narowal-I
5	PP-93 Bhakkar-V
6	PP-139 Sheikhupura-IV
7	PP-147 Lahore-III
8	PP-149 Lahore-V
9	PP-158 Lahore-XIV
10	PP-164 Lahore-XX
11	PP-290 D.G. Khan-V
	Provincial Assembly of Balochistan
1	PB-20 Khuzdar-III
2	PB-22 Lasbela

3.3 Constituency Vacated Due to Death of Returned Candidate in the Year 2024

A returned candidate against a seat of Provincial Assembly of Sindh passed away on 13th February, 2024 before issuance of notification as a returned candidate. A

bye-election against this seat was also required to be conducted under Article 224(4) of the Constitution.

Provincial Assembly of Sindh					
Sr. No.	No. & Name of Constituency	Name of deceased Candidat			
1	PS-80 Dadu	Mr. Abdul Aziz Junejo			

3.4 Conduct of Bye Elections

In order to conduct bye-election against above twenty-two (22) vacant seats, the election programs were issued by the Commission on 13th March, 2024 and 23rd May, 2024 and poll dates were fixed as 21st April, 2024 and 11th July, 2024 respectively. The bye-elections were held peacefully throughout the country and the following Returned Candidates were notified by the Commission.

	National Assembly					
Sr. No.	No and Name of Constituency	Cause of Vacancy	Date of Poll	Name of Returned Candidate	Party Affiliation	
1	NA-8 Bajaur	Death of contesting candidate		Mr. Mubarak Zeb	IND	
2	NA-44 Dera Ismail Khan-I	Under Article 223		Mr. Faisal Amin Khan	SIC	
3	NA-119 Lahore-III	Under Article 223		Mr. Ali Pervaiz		
4	NA-132 Kasur-II	Under Article 223	21.04.2024	Mr. Rasheed Ahmad Khan	PML-N	
5	NA-196 Kamber-Shahdad- kot-I	Under Article 223		Mr. Khurshed Ahmed Junejo	PPPP	

		Provincial Ass			D-1
Sr. No.	No and Name of Constituency	Cause of Vacancy	Date of Poll	Name of Returned Candidate	Party Affiliation
1	PP-22 Chakwal-Cum-Ta- lagang	Under Article 223		Mr. Falak Sher Awan	PML-N
2	PP-32 Gujrat-VI	Under Article 223	Mr. Musa Ellahi		PML
3	PP-36 Wa- zirabad-ll	Under Article 223		Mr. Adnan Afzal Chattha	
4	PP-54 Narowal-I	Under Article 223		Mr. Ahmad lqbal Chaudhary	
5	PP-93 Bhakkar-V	Under Article 223		Mr. Saeed Akbar Khan	PML-N
6	PP-139 Sheikhupura-IV	Under Article 223	21.04.2024	Mr. Rana Afzaal Hussain	
7	PP-147 Lahore-III	Under Article 223		Mr. Muhammad Riaz	
8	PP-149 Lahore-V	Under Article 223		Mr. Muhammad Shoaib Siddiqui	IPP
9	PP-158 La- hore-XIV	Under Article 223		Ch. Muhammad Nawaz	PML-N
10	PP-164 Lahore-XX	Under Article 223		Mr. Rashid Minhas	
11	PP-266 R.Y. Khan-XII	Death of contesting candidate		Mr. Mumtaz Ali	PPPP
12	PP-290 D.G. Khan-V	Under Article 223		Mr. Ali Ahmad Khan Leghari	PML-N
		Provincial Assembly	of Khyber Pak	htunkhwa	
1	PK-22 Bajaur-IV	Death of contesting candidate	21.04.2024	Mr. Mubarak Zeb	IND
2	PK-91 Kohat-II	Death of contesting candidate	21.04.2024	Mr. Daud Shah	SIC
3	PK-22 Bajaur-IV	Under Article 223	11.07.2024	Mr. Muhammad Nisar	ANP
		Provincial Assen	nbly of Baloch	istan	
1	PB-20 Khuzdar-III	Under Article 223	21.04.2024	Mir Jahanzaib Mengal	BNP
2	PB-22 Lasbela	Under Article 223	21.04.2024	Mr. Muhammad Zarain Khan Magsi	PML-N

During the calendar year-2024 some other bye-elections were also held due to various reasons. The detail of these bye-elections is being provided as under:

i. Mr. Asif Ali Zardari was elected as member National Assembly from NA-207

Shaheed Benazirabad-I. He became candidate to the office of the President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and as a result of election, he was elected as President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. Consequently, his seat from constituency No. NA-207 Shaheed Benazirabad-I fell vacant under Article 43 (2) of the Constitution which provides that the President shall not be a candidate for election as a member of Majlis-e-Shoora (Parliament) or a Provincial Assembly; and, if a member of Majlis-e-Shoora (Parliament) or a Provincial Assembly is elected as President, his seat in Majlis-e-Shoora (Parliament) or, as the case may be, the Provincial Assembly shall become vacant on the day he enters upon his office. Accordingly, the Election Commission of Pakistan under Article 224 of the Constitution conducted bye-election in NA-207 Shaheed Benazirabad-I with poll date on 21st April, 2024. As a result of bye-election, Ms. Asifa Bhutto Zardari a candidate from Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians was declared elected uncontested from NA-207 Shaheed Benazirabad-I under Section 75 of the Elections Act, 2017.

- ii. Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani got elected as member National Assembly from constituency No. NA-148 Multan-I. Afterwards in Senate Bye-Election held on 14th March, 2024, Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani got elected as Senator from the Federal Capital and was notified as Senator on 22nd March, 2024. Accordingly, his seat became vacant under Article 223 of the Constitution which stipulates that if a member of either House or of a Provincial Assembly becomes a candidate for a second seat which, he may not hold concurrently with his first seat, then his first seat shall become vacant as soon as he is elected to the second seat. The Election Commission of Pakistan conducted bye-election in NA-148 Multan-I on 19th May, 2024 and Syed Ali Qasim Gillani a candidate of Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians got elected and was notified as a returned candidate from NA-148 Multan-I on 29th May, 2024.
- iii. Mr. Mumtaz Mustafa was elected as member National Assembly from NA-171 R.Y Khan-III as a result of General Elections-2024 and due to his death the National Assembly Secretariat through a notification dated 16th August, 2024 declared the said seat vacant. A bye-election in NA-171 R.Y Khan-III was held on 12th September, 2024 to fill the vacant seat. Makhdoom Tahir Rashid Ud

- Din, a candidate from Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians got elected.
- iv. Sardar Sarfaraz Chakar Domki, was elected as member Provincial Assembly of Balochistan from PB-8 Sibi in General Elections-2024. A bye-election was held on 14th November, 2024 due to the death of said Member Provincial Assembly of Balochistan. Sardarzada Mir Kohyar Khan Domki, from Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians got elected against the vacant seat.
- v. Due to the death of Rana Afzaal Hussain, the seat of Provincial Assembly PP-139 Sheikhupura-IV became vacant. A bye-election in the said seat was held on 5th December, 2024. Rana Tahir Iqbal, from Pakistan Muslim League (N) got elected as MPA.









4. Presidential Election-2024

Office of the President is the highest constitutional office and the President is the Head of the State and represents unity of the Republic. The President is also part of the Parliament in terms of Article 50 of the Constitution and is elected by the electoral college provided in the Constitution after every 5 years. Under Second Schedule, the Election Commission is mandated to conduct the election to the office of the President.

Article 41 of the Constitution stipulates timelines for conduct of election to office of the President. The election cannot be held earlier than 60 days before the expiry of term as well as not later than 30 days before expiration of term of the President. The term of the incumbent President was to expire on 8th September, 2023 and the election was to be held between 11th July, 2023 and 9th August, 2023.

However, the election to the office of the President could not be held because of incomplete electoral college due to dissolution of Provincial Assemblies of Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in January, 2023, before expiry of their term. It is pertinent to mention here that under Article 41 of the Constitution, the Electoral College for election to the office of President of Pakistan, comprises members of the Senate, National Assembly and all four Provincial Assemblies. Consequently, the incumbent President continued to hold his office in terms of Article 44 of the Constitution. After the conduct of General Elections-2024 on 8th February, 2024 and completion of electoral college, the election to the office of President was held on 9th March, 2024. The Chief Election Commissioner officiated as the Returning Officer as per Paragraph 1 of Second Schedule of the Constitution.

4.1 Appointment of Presiding Officers

To conduct the election, the Chief Justices of all High Courts except Lahore High Court were appointed to perform the role of the Presiding Officers. The Chief Justice of Lahore High Court was going to retire in the first week of March, 2024, couple of days before the poll date, therefore, the Member, Election

Commission-I performed the duty of Presiding Officer for the Provincial Assembly of Punjab. The detail of Presiding Officers is as under:

Sr. No.	House/Assembly	Presiding Officer
1	i. Senate of Pakistan, Islamabad ii. National Assembly, Islamabad	Hon'ble Chief Justice, Islamabad High Court, Islamabad
2	Provincial Assembly of Punjab, Lahore	Hon'ble Member-I Election Commission of Pakistan
3	Provincial Assembly of Sindh, Karachi	Hon'ble Chief Justice, High Court of Sindh, Karachi
4	Provincial Assembly of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Peshawar	Hon'ble Chief Justice, Peshawar High Court, Peshawar
5	Provincial Assembly of Balochistan	Hon'ble Chief Justice, High Court of Balochistan, Quetta

4.2 Election Programme

After appointment of Presiding Officers, the next step was to issue election programme. Paragraph 3 of Second Schedule of the Constitution empowers the Chief Election Commissioner to fix the time and place for filing of nomination papers, hold a scrutiny, make withdrawal, if any, and hold the poll.

The Chief Election Commissioner through public notification issued election programme on 1st March, 2024 as per detailed below:

Sr. No.	Events	Dates
1	2	3
1	Dates for Filling of Nomination Papers with the Presiding Officers at Islamabad and with each Presiding Officer at Lahore, Karachi, Peshawar and Quetta.	2 nd March, 2024 Before 12 p.m. (noon)
2	Scrutiny of Nomination Papers by the Returning Officer at Islamabad.	4 th March, 2024 at (10:00 a.m.)
3	Withdrawal of Candidature before the Returning Officer at Islamabad.	5 th March, 2024 (up to 12:00 Noon)
4	Publication of List of Validly Nominated Candidates.	5 th March, 2024 at (01:00 p.m.)
5	Date of Retirement	6 th March, 2024

6	Polling day and Polling time	9 th March, 2024 (From 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.)
7	Places of Poll	 The Parliament House, Islamabad. The Provincial Assembly Building, Lahore. The Provincial Assembly Building, Karachi. The Provincial Assembly Building, Peshawar. The Provincial Assembly Building, Quetta

A booklet containing relevant provisions of the Constitution and the Presidential Election Rules, 1988 along with detail of election programme etc was prepared and provided to the offices of the Returning Officer and the Presiding Officers for dissemination to the prospective candidates of Presidential Election.

4.3 Filing of Nomination Papers

As per the election programme, a candidate was required to file nomination papers on 2nd March, 2024 (before 12:00 noon). Twelve candidates filed their nomination papers within the period fixed and their detail is as under:

Sr. No.	Names of Candidates	Number of Nomination Papers Filed	Place of Filing of Nomination Papers
1	Asif Ali Zardari	3	2 at Islamabad 1 at Karachi
2	Mahmood Khan Achakzai	2	Islamabad
3	Abdul Qudoos	1	Islamabad
4	Asghar Ali Mubarak	1	Islamabad
5	Waheed Ahmed Kamal	1	Islamabad
6	Imran Ahmad	1	Lahore
7	Sarfraz		Lahore
8	Muhammad Ayaz Farooqi	1	Lahore
9	Syed M. Iqtidar Haider	1	Lahore
10	Muhammad Hanif	1	Lahore
11	Tausif Muhammad Khan Lodhi	1	Lahore
12	Shamim Ahmed	1	Karachi
	Total	15	

4.4 Scrutiny of Nomination Papers

As per the Election Programme, the scrutiny of nomination papers was fixed for 4th March, 2024. The Returning Officer examined and scrutinized all nomination papers filed by the (12) candidates for Presidential Elections in presence of candidates or their nominated agents along with the proposers and the seconders. After completion of scrutiny, the nomination papers of ten candidates were rejected by the Returning Officer through speaking orders whereas nomination of the following two candidates were accepted and accordingly the notification of the validly nominated candidates was issued on 5th March, 2024:

- 1. Mr. Asif Ali Zardari
- 2. Mr. Mehmood Khan Achakzai

4.5 Guidelines for Electorates

For the guidance of voters (members of the Parliament and Provincial Assemblies), the Commission issued pamphlets containing procedure for marking of ballot paper whereby the voters were guided to put a cross (X) in front of the name of the desired candidate on the ballot paper, by using only a copying pencil issued by the Commission. Sufficient number of pamphlets were provided to the Secretary of each House of the Parliament and respective Provincial Assemblies for further circulation to the voters.

ECP declared the Halls of National and Provincial Assemblies as polling stations for the Presidential Election. Fool proof security arrangements were ensured around the premises of the polling stations on the poll day.

4.6 Poll Day

The polling for election was held simultaneously at Parliament House Islamabad and Provincial Assemblies of Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan on 9th March, 2024.

Immediately after the polling hours, counting process was commenced by the Presiding Officers in presence of the candidates or their authorized agents. After the completion of counting, the result at the respective polling station

was announced and candidates or their agents were provided copies of Form-V (Result of the Count) prepared by Presiding Officers. The result including ballot papers was sent to the Chief Election Commissioner/Returning Officer. Summary of the result of the count prepared by Presiding Officers in respect of five polling stations is given below:

Sr. No.	House/Assembly	Votes Polled	Invalid Votes	Valid Votes
1	Parliament House, Islamabad	375	1	374
2	Provincial Assembly of Punjab	352	6	346
3	Provincial Assembly of Sindh	161	1	160
4	Provincial Assembly of Khyber Pakh- tunkhwa	109	1	108
5	Provincial Assembly of Balochistan	47	0	47

4.7 Consolidation of Result

Under rule 28 of the Presidential Election Rules 1988, the Returning Officer recounts the ballot papers by opening the sealed packets received by him in presence of contesting candidates or their representatives. For this purpose, all contesting candidates through notices were informed that the count would be held on 10th March, 2024 at 11:30 a.m. in the ECP Secretariat, Islamabad. During the process, valid votes were recounted and each invalid vote was examined. Similarly, out of nine invalid ballot papers declared by the Presiding Officers none was found valid. The result on the basis of Form-V was prepared by the Returning Officer accordingly.

4.8 Declaration of Result

As per procedure laid down in Para 18 of Second Schedule and the formula given therein, each valid vote cast in the Parliament and the Balochistan Assembly is considered as one. Whereas the value of votes cast to each contesting candidate in respect of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab and Sindh Assemblies is determined by multiplying total valid votes obtained by a contesting candidate in that assembly, with 65 indicating the strength of Balochistan Assembly being the lowest. The number as a result of multiplication is then divided with the total strength of that Assembly where the candidates secured the votes. The outcome is the

total votes obtained by the candidate in that Assembly which are mentioned in the final result, that was prepared on Form-VII. It is also highlighted here that the fraction is rounded off to the nearest whole. For example, if a candidate obtains 14.51 votes, he is allocated 15 votes, in the result sheet. Similarly, if a candidate obtains 14.49 votes he is allocated 14 votes. After application of that formula, Mr. Asif Ali Zardari obtained highest number of votes i.e. 411, whereas Mr. Mehmood Khan Achakzai remained a runner-up by obtaining 181 votes. After preparation of the result, the same was sent to Federal Government for declaration by Notification in terms of Para 21 of Second Schedule of the Constitution. The process of Presidential Election completed smoothly.



5. SENATE ELECTION-2024





5. Senate Election-2024

In Pakistan bicameral legislature has been adopted under the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan 1973. The Constitution provides Federal Parliamentary system in the country. The President of Pakistan was made part of Parliament through 8th Constitutional Amendment because of his legislative role in two ways. Firstly, the bills passed by the National Assembly and the Senate are sent to the President for assent, secondly the President may promulgate an ordinance.

5.1 Background

According to the Constitution, the strength of the Senate was increased from 45 to 63 members in 1977. From 1985 till 2002, the Senate had 87 members. In 2002 the number of members was raised to 100. Yet again in 2010, four seats (Reserved for non-Muslims) were added through the 18th Constitutional Amendment increasing the membership from 100 to 104. However, the membership of Senate was reduced to 96 in 2018 after the 25th Constitutional Amendment.

5.2 Composition of the Senate

According to Article 59 of the Constitution, the Senate consists of 96 members as outlined below:

- 56 general seats, 14 from each province
- 16 seats reserved for women, 4 from each province
- 16 seats reserved for technocrats including Ulema, 4 from each province
- · 4 seats reserved for non-Muslims, one from each province
- 2 on General seats from the Federal Capital
- 2 seats reserved for women and technocrat/Aalim, from the Federal Capital (one for women and one for technocrat).

	Seats					
Province	General	Women	Technocrats Including Ulema	Non-Muslims	Total	
Federal Capital	2	1	1		4	
Punjab	14	4	4	1	23	
Sindh	14	4	4	1	23	
KPK	14	4	4	1	23	
Balochistan	14	4	4	1	23	
Total	58	17	17	4	96	

5.3. Electoral College for Senate Election

The members of National Assembly and the four Provincial Assemblies of Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan constitute the electoral college to fill the general as well as seats reserved for ulema/technocrats, women and non-Muslims from the Federal Capital and the Provinces respectively.

5.4 Term of the Members

The term of a member of Senate is six years which commences from the date of the first meeting of the Senate. The Senate is not subject to dissolution, in order to keep the Senate functional, half of the Senators retire after completion of their three-year term only once under Article 59 (3) of the Constitution. For the purpose of fixation of the term, a lot was drawn by the Election Commission to determine which of the Senators would retire after the first three years and which would complete a six years term. The present Senate came into existence in March, 2003 and to comply with the provision of the said Article a lot was drawn in 2006 in order to determine which Senators would retire after three years and which would complete their six-year term. Thereafter, all the Senators are completing their six-year term.

Under Article 59(4) of the Constitution, if a Senator is disqualified, resigns or passes away, the newly elected Senator against the vacancy will complete the remaining term of that Senator.

5.5 Detail of Vacant Seats

According to Article 224(3) of the Constitution, an election to fill the seats in the Senate, which are to become vacant on expiry of the term of the members, shall be held not earlier than thirty days immediately preceding the day on which the vacancies are due to occur. The Senate election-2024 was required to be held after 10th February, 2024 and before 11th March, 2024 being the last date of term of the Senators elected in 2018.

Though 52 Senators retired on 11th March, 2024 but the election against 48 seats was to be conducted because four seats of Ex-FATAs were abolished through

the 25th Constitutional Amendment. The detail of seats against which Senate Election-2024 was to be held is given as under:

	Seats							
Province	General	Women	Technocrats including Ulema	Non-Muslims	Total			
Federal Capital	1		1	-	2			
Punjab	7	2	2	1	12			
Sindh	7	2	2	1	12			
KDK	7	2	2		11			
Balochistan	7	2	2		11			
Total	29	8	9	2	48			

5.6 Non-Completion of Electoral College for Conduct of Senate Election

In term of Article 224(3) of the Constitution, the Senate Election is required to be conducted not earlier than 30 days before the expiry of the term of the Senators i.e. 11th March, 2024. The election of Senate was not possible to be held before 11th March, 2024 as all the pre-requisites i.e. issuance of election programme, filing of nomination papers, scrutiny, disposal of appeals, printing of ballots could not be managed due to non-completion of electoral college. The General Elections-2024 were held on 8th February, 2024 and the electoral college for Senate Elections was completed by 29th February, 2024, but the Election to the office of the President of Pakistan also coincided with the Senate Election, scheduled to be held on 9th March, 2024. Keeping in view the above mentioned impediments, the election programme for Senate Election was adjusted and Senate Election was held after the conduct of Presidential Election.

5.7 Appointment of Returning Officers and Polling Officers

For the conduct of Senate Election, the Returning Officers for each province and Federal Capital are appointed along with sufficient number of polling officers for assistance, especially on poll day. As per established practice, the Election Commission appointed its own officers as Returning Officers as per detail given below:

Province/Area	Returning Officers
1	2
Federal Capital	Mr. Saeed Gul, Director General (Training), ECP Secretariat, Islamabad
Punjab	Mr. Aijaz Anwer Chohan, Provincial Election Commissioner, Punjab
Sindh	Mr. Sharifullah, Provincial Election Commissioner, Sindh
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	Mr. Shamshad Khan, Provincial Election Commissioner, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
Balochistan .	Mr. Muhammad Farid Afridi, Provincial Election Commissioner, Balochistan

5.8 Election Programme

The following Election programme was issued on 14th March, 2024 and date of poll was set as 2nd April, 2024:

1	Public Notice to be issued by Returning Officers for inviting nomination papers	14-03-2024		
2	Dates for filing of nomination papers by the candidates with the Returning Officer 15-03-2024 to 16-0			
3	Publication of names of the nominated candidates	17-03-2024		
4	Last date for scrutiny of nomination papers	19-03-2024		
5	Last date for filing of appeals against acceptance or rejection of nominations	21.03.2024		
6	Last date for disposal of appeals by the Tribunal	25-03-2024		
7	Publication of revised list of candidates	26-03-2024		
8	Date for withdrawal of candidature	27-03-2024		
9	Polling day	02-04-2024 (From 0900 hours to 1600 hours)		

	10 Place of Poll	(1)	Federal Capital	Parliament House, Islamabad.
		(2)	Punjab	Provincial Assembly Building, Lahore.
10		(3)	Sindh	Provincial Assembly Building, Karachi.
		(4)	Khyber Pakh- tunkhwa	Provincial Assembly Building, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Peshawar.
		(5)	Balochistan	Provincial Assembly Building, Quetta.

5.9 Establishment of Facilitation Cell

A Facilitation Cell was established at ECP Secretariat to facilitate ROs in scrutiny of nomination papers. The Cell electronically got verified the data of nominated candidates from all the concerned departments including NADRA, State Bank of Pakistan, National Accountability Bureau, Federal Board of Revenue and Ministry of Interior. The same was shared with respective Returning Officers to complete the scrutiny process smoothly.

5.10 Filing of Nomination Papers

As per election programme, the nomination papers were required to be filed between 15th March, 2024 to 16th March, 2024. Total 105 nomination papers were filed. Province wise detail with category is given below:

	General	Seats Reserved	Seats for Ulema/	Seats for Non-Muslims
Area/Province	Seats	for Women	Technocrats	
Federal Capital	2	0	2	0
Punjab	16	5	4	3
Sindh	21	6	5	3
Balochistan	17	8	13	0
Total	56	19	24	6
Grand Total			105	

5.11 Scrutiny of Nomination Papers

After filing of nomination papers the Returning Officers made scrutiny of nomination papers within specified time given in election programme. As a result of scrutiny 92 nomination papers were accepted whereas 13 nomination papers were rejected by ROs. Detail of the same is as under:

	General Seats		Seats Reserved for Women		Seats for Ulema/ Technocrats		Seats for Non- Muslims	
Area/ Province	Accept- ed	Re- jected	Accepted	Re- jected	Accepted	Re- jected	Accepted	Re- jected
Federal Capital	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Punjab	12	4	4	1	4	0	2	1
Sindh	20	1	6	0	5	0	3	0
Balochistan	15	2	7	1	10	3	0	0
Total	49	7	17	2	21	3	5	1
Total Accepted				,	92			
Total Rejected					13			

5.12 Filing and Disposal of Appeals

The law provides an opportunity to the candidates as well as their objectors to file an appeal against rejection or acceptance of nomination papers. For adjudication of appeals, six (6) Tribunals were appointed and they after hearing the parties, disposed of all the appeals in accordance with law.

5.13 Withdrawal of Candidature

As per election programme, validly nominated candidate was allowed to withdraw his candidature on or before 27th March, 2024. Total 42 candidates withdrew from contest. The detail of withdrawal of candidature is as under:

Total No. of Candidates who Withdrew from the Contest							
Area/Province	General Seats	Seats Reserved for Women	Seats for Ulema/ Technocrats	Seats for Non-Muslims			
Federal Capital	0	0	0	0			
Punjab	5	0	1	0			
Sindh	10	3	1	1			
Balochistan	8	5	8	0			
Total	23	8	10	1			
Grand Total			42				

5.14 Final List of Contesting Candidates

After withdrawal of candidatures, the Returning Officers issued list of contesting candidates. The detail is as under:

	Tota	al No. of Final Contestin	ng Candidates	
Area/Province	General Seats	Seats Reserved for Women	Seats for Ulema/Tech- nocrats	Seats for Non-Muslims
Federal Capital	2	0	2	0
Punjab	7	4	3	2
Sindh	10	3	4	2
Balochistan	7	2	2	0
Total	26	9	11	4
Grand Total			50	

5.15 Pamphlets and Booklet for Guidance of Voters and Polling Staff

Election Commission provided all voters (Members of National Assembly and Provincial Assemblies) a pamphlet with voting procedure for general and reserved seats. Besides, a booklet titled "How to Vote under System of Proportional Representation by Means of a Single Transferable Vote" for guidance of the polling

staff and voters was also printed both in Urdu and English languages. The booklet provided basic information about the ballot paper, procedure of its marking and counting of votes.

5.16 Ballot Papers

The ballot papers for general seats were printed in white colour whereas ballot papers for seats reserved for women, technocrats/Ulema and non-Muslims were printed in Pink, Green and Yellow colours, respectively. Each ballot paper was with two boxes/columns with one name of contesting candidates and other for marking preference against each candidate. The names on ballot papers were printed in Urdu alphabetical order.

5.17 Venue of Poll

The poll for Federal Capital was held in National Assembly Hall. Similarly, poll for provinces of Punjab, Sindh and Balochistan was held in Provincial Assembly buildings of each Province, by declaring these buildings as Polling Stations.

5.18 Polling Hours

Under Section 120 of the Elections Act 2017, the polling hours were between 9:00 a.m and 4:00 p.m. on poll day.

5.19 Postponement of Senate Election in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province

An untoward situation arose when the elected members of Provincial Assembly of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa against reserved seats for women and non-Muslims could not be administered the oath before the Senate Election. The concerned Returning Officer sought guidance from the Election Commission about the written request made by members of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly elected against reserved seats for non-administration of oath by the Speaker Provincial Assembly. In response, due to the non-completion of electoral college, the Commission decided to postponed the Senate election on 2nd April, 2024 to the extent of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

5.20 Counting of Votes and Declaration of Results

Immediately after the close of poll, Returning Officers counted the votes and

declared the election results at the polling stations. The Election Commission in pursuance of Section 124 of the Elections Act, issued notification of 37 Returned Candidates from Punjab, Sindh, Balochistan provinces and the Federal Capital, in the official Gazette.

5.21 Conduct of the Senate Bye Elections

Under Article 224(5) of the Constitution read with Section 127 of the Elections Act, 2017, it is responsibility of the Commission to conduct election to fill vacant seat within 30 days from occurrence of vacancy in the Senate of Pakistan. As a result of General Elections-2024, six seats in the Senate fell vacant as six Senators whose terms was going to expire on 11th March, 2027 were declared Returned Candidates on general seats during the General Elections 2024, accordingly their seats in the Senate fell vacant under clause-4 of Article 223 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, which provides that:

"if a member of either House or of a Provincial Assembly becomes a candidate for a second seat which, in accordance with clause (1), he may not hold concurrently with his first seat, then his first seat shall become vacant as soon as he is elected to the second seat".

Detail of six Bye-Elections to the Senate of Pakistan is as under:

Sr. No.	Province/ Area	Category of Seat	Reason of Vacancy	Date of Issuance of Schedule	Date of Poll
1	Federal Capital	General	Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani Elected as MNA		14 th March, 2024
2	Sindh	General	Nisar Ahmed Khuhro Elected as MPA		
3	Sindh	General	Jam Mahtab Hussain Dahar Elected as MPA	1st March,	
4	Baochistan	General	Molana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri Elected as MNA	2024	
5	Baochistan	General	Prince Ahmed Umer Ahmedzai Elected as MPA		
6	Baochistan	General	Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti Elected as MPA		

5.22 Appointment of Returning Officers

For conduct of said bye-elections to the Senate of Pakistan, the Election Commission of Pakistan appointed following Returning Officers:

Sr. No.	Name & Designation of Returning Officers	Jurisdiction of Returning Officers
1	Mr. Zafar Iqbal Hussain, Special Secretary, ECP Secretariat, Islamabad.	One General Seat, from the Federal Capital
2	Mr. Sharifullah, Provincial Election Commissioner, Sindh, Karachi.	Two General Seats, from Sindh Province
3	Muhammad Farid Afridi, Provincial Election Commissioner, Balochistan, Quetta.	Three General Seats, from Balochistan Province

5.23 Notification of Returned Candidates

After successful conduct of six Bye-Elections to the Senate on 14th March, 2024, the following were notified by the Commission on 22nd March, 2024 as Returned Candidates:

Sr. No.	Province/Area	Category of Seat	Name of Returned Candidate	Party Affiliation
1	Federal Capital	General	Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani	PPPP
2	Sindh	General	Jam Saifullah Khan	PPPP
3	Sindh	General	Muhammad Aslam Abro	PPPP
4	Baochistan	General	Abdul Qudoos	PPPP
5	Baochistan	General	Mir Dostain Khan Domki	PML-N
6	Baochistan	General	Abdul Shakoor Khan	Independent



6. ELECTORAL ROLLS





6. Electoral Rolls

An accurate and inclusive electoral roll is an essential ingredient for a credible election. To keep the electoral rolls updated, periodical revision is carried out so that all the eligible voters are registered in the electoral rolls and ineligible/deceased voters are excluded from the electoral rolls.

6.1 Timelines for Supply of Electoral Rolls

The year 2024 started when the activities of General Elections were in full swing. Final electoral rolls had published on 01-12-2023. After the publication of final electoral rolls, the biggest challenge was to supply the updated electoral rolls to the offices of District Election Commissioners and Returning Officers in time. The timelines, for the provision of electoral rolls to the field offices were specified as under:

Sr. No.	Activity	Timelines
1	Updation of 8300-SMS and Vote Extract	30-11-2023
2	Supply of three sets of Updated electoral rolls (without photographs) to the offices of Concerned DECs by NADRA and Provision of Latest Statistics of Voters.	Till 01-12-2023
3	Updation of 8300-SMS with polling station details in Urdu as per final polling scheme.	22-01-2024 15 days prior to poll day
4	Supply of two sets of updated electoral rolls (with photographs) for Poll Day to the offices of concerned DECs by NADRA.	23-01-2024 14 days prior to poll day

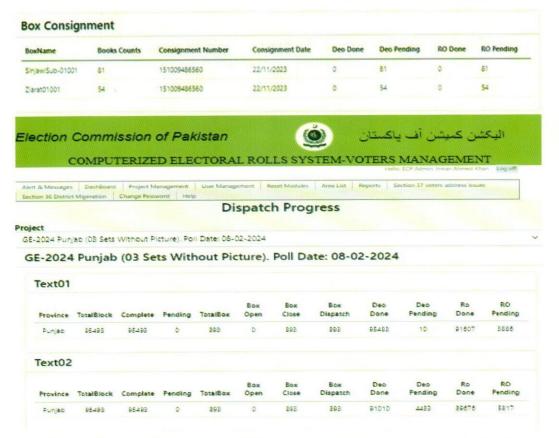
The electoral rolls were printed in the following categories:

- 1) Electoral rolls without photograph
- 2) Electoral rolls with photograph

6.2 CERS Module for Dispatch and Receipt of Electoral Rolls

For provision of the Electoral Rolls timely and efficiently, following strategy was adopted:

 CERS module was used to track progress of the printing, packing and delivery of the electoral rolls to the DEC offices. The entry and approval of the receipt of electoral rolls by the concerned office was made to ensure that the timelines were followed as per devised strategy.



Report displays the progress of dispatch and receiving of Electoral Rolls

 The DECs were provided with Bar Code Scanners to scan the received consignment boxes containing electoral rolls of their jurisdiction.

Photo 01

UMER KOT

Kunn26005

District Election Commissioner Office, Near Judicial Complex Umerkot 0238920022

صلعى اليكشن كمشدر آفيس، نزد جثيشل كاميليكس صركوث

- In case of missing copies of electoral rolls, CERS reflected the same and missing copies were provided immediately to the concerned District Election Commissioners.
- For completion of assignment the teams of ECP and NADRA were available round the clock till smooth completion of delivery of Electoral Rolls.

6.3 Resolution of Issues

A two-pronged strategy was devised to resolve any issue faced by the field offices of the Commission during the elections:

- A WhatsApp group was created that contained contact numbers of all Provincial Elections Commissioners, ADG (ER), Director (MIS), Director (ER), Deputy Director (ER), Officers of IT-Wings of all provinces, all the Regional Election Commissioners and District Election Commissioners/ Registration officers.
- Individual cell numbers of all the officers of ER wing were shared with the field offices for close coordination throughout the process. NADRA team was also present to resolve any issue, related to them so that the election activities could be run without any hindrance.

For the general public, phone numbers of Control Room were circulated through media and the CMS portal was also made available for guidance and redressal of any grievance.

6.4 Provision of Electoral Rolls

 For the conduct of General Election-2024, three sets of electoral rolls without photograph, as per the specimen below, were supplied to each District Election Commissioner for provision of one set of Electoral rolls to each Returning Officer for National and Provincial Assembly constituencies and another for official use by the District Election Commissioner for provision of copies under the law/ rules to the Candidates/Election Agents.

Electoral Rolls without Photograph

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Electoral Rolls with Photographs

Besides, one set of electoral rolls with photograph, as per below specimen, were provided each to Returning Officer of National and Provincial Assembly constituencies for use at the polling stations on poll day.

حتى انتخابی فهرست 2023 (مرد)

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6.5 SMS Service

For public convenience, 8300 SMS service was available 24/7 for checking of voting, polling station and constituency detail by voters. A screenshot of the message is as under:

7-0281797 مثاریاتی بلاک کوڈ 185400104 شاریاتی بلاک کوڈ 1179 سلسلہ نمبر 1179 گھرانہ نمبر 504 قومی اسمبلی حلقہ نمبر 125 لاہور صوبائی اسمبلی حلقہ نمبر 125 لاہور پولنگ سٹیشن ۔ گور نمنٹ سلیم ماڈل ہائی سکول، لو مرّ مال، ضلع لاہور

6.6 Post-Election Period

After General Election 2024, the ban on registration, transfer, deletion and correction of votes imposed under Section 39 of the Elections Act, 2017 was lifted and Sections 25, 37 and 43 of the Act ibid were restored, enabling the citizens to register/transfer/delete or correct the particulars of their votes. The number of registered voters increased from 1st March 2024 to 31st December, 2024 are as under:

Province/ Territory		01-03-2024			31-12-2024			Increase in Female Voters	Total Increase in Voters
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Islamabad	568,406	514,623	1,083,029	613,118	557,626	1,170,744	44,712	43,003	87,715
Punjab	39,122,082	34,085,814	73,207,896	40,241,112	35,304,883	75,545,995	1,119,030	1,219,069	2,338,099
Sindh	14,612,655	12,382,114	26,994,769	15,034,499	12,790,207	27,824,706	421,844	408,093	829,937
Khyber Pakh- tunkhwa	11,944,397	9,983,722	21,928,119	12,284,853	10,304,518	22,589,371	340,456	320,796	661,252
Baloch- istan	3,016,164	2,355,783	5,371,947	3,101,640	2,436,059	5,537,699	85,476	80,276	165,752
Total	69,263,704	59,322,056	128,585,760	71,275,222	61,393,293	132,668,515	2,011,518	2,071,237	4,082,755

6.7 Provision of Electoral Rolls for Bye-Elections and Re-Poll

During the year 2024, for the conduct of bye-elections and re-polls in different constituencies of National Assembly, Provincial Assemblies and Local Government Elections, Electoral Rolls with and without photographs were provided to the Returning Officers through the DECs concerned.

6.8 Physical Verification of Electoral Rolls in Balochistan

The Local Government Elections in Balochistan were conducted in 2022 in accordance with Local Government Act, 2010 of Balochistan. For the purpose of delimitation, in several districts, census blocks and electoral rolls had been bifurcated and adjusted in accordance with delimitation of different councils before the conduct of Local Government Elections in province. The

Local Government Elections of 2022 were conducted on the basis of above said delimitation and Census Block Scheme. However, after publication of the digital Census-2023, this process further became complicated as thousands of census blocks were either split, merged or recoded by the PBS. Hence, for conduct of Local Government Bye-Elections, announced in December 2024, readjustment of voters in the affected census blocks was required in accordance with delimitation of respective wards. For this purpose, door-to-door verification of voters was carried out in 136 bifurcated census blocks of concerned councils, through Verifying Officials. In addition to this, a new module was incorporated in CERS to facilitate the Registration Officers, for making entries in the CERS. The updated electoral rolls were provided to the districts for smooth conduct of Local Government Bye Elections in the respective Wards and Councils of Balochistan Province.





7. LOCAL GOVERNMENTS ELECTIONS-2024





7. Local Governments Elections-2024

Local Governments serve as the cornerstone of governance and administration at the grassroots level. They are tasked to deliver essential public services, address the specific needs of their communities and act as the voice of local interests in broader framework of governance. Election Commission of Pakistan is constitutionally mandated to conduct Local Government Elections as stipulated under Article 140 (A), Article 219 of the Constitution and Section 219(4) of the Elections Act, 2017.

It is well known reality that Federal and Provincial Governments are not willing to hold Local Government Elections as they are not ready to share the administrative or financial powers at the grassroots level. The Governments use delaying tactics in the conduct of Local Government Elections by making amendments in Local Governments Laws, administrative limits of Districts, Tehsils, Local Councils and Local Governments structures. Despite various hurdles, the Commission successfully conducted the Local Government Elections in three provinces i.e. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh, Balochistan and also in Cantonment Boards. However, the Local Government Elections in Punjab and Federal Capital could not be conducted due to the non-cooperation of successive Governments and frequent changes in Local Government Laws of the Federal Capital and Punjab.

The succeeding paragraphs will provide an overview on conduct of bye-elections and re-poll as well as the preparations and challenges faced by the Commission during the year 2024 regarding holding of Local Government Elections in Punjab province and the Federal Capital. It will also indicate how challenging it was for the ECP to conduct these elections in the face of Provincial governments obduracy.

7.1 Legal Framework

The legal framework which covers the conduct of Local Government Elections in the provinces and ICT is as below:

Sindh

- Sindh Local Government Act, 2013
- Sindh Local Councils (Election) Rules, 2015

Balochistan

- The Balochistan Local Government Act, 2010
- The Balochistan Local Government (Election) Rules, 2013.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

- Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Local Government Act, 2013
- Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Local Councils (Conduct of Election) Rules, 2021.

Islamabad Capital Territory

- The Islamabad Capital Territory Local Government Act, 2015.
- The Islamabad Capital Territory Local Government (Conduct of Elections) Rules, 2015.

Punjab

- The Punjab Local Government Act, 2022 (enacted on 16.11.2022).
- The Punjab Local Government (Election) Rules, 2022 (enacted on 19.12.2022).

7.2 Conduct of Local Government Bye-Elections in Sindh

In Sindh Province, the term of Local Government expired on 30.08.2020 and the 1st phase of elections was conducted on 26.06.2022 and 2nd phase on 15.01.2023. These elections were delayed almost for two years due to the administrative issues, litigations, and disaster of heavy flood in Sindh Province.

During the year 2024, numerous seats of different categories of Local Government institutions across Sindh became vacant and Commission in accordance with Section 28 of the Sindh Local Government Act, 2013 notified these seats as vacant. The Commission also issued election programme(s) to fill these vacant seats within the prescribed timeframe. For the purpose, Commission notified District Returning Officers, Returning Officers, Assistant Returning Officers and Appellate Authorities. The entire process of these bye-elections was completed smoothly in accordance with law /rules.

7.2.1 Conduct of LG Bye-Elections in Districts Sanghar and Hyderabad.

In District Sanghar, the Commission conducted a bye-election and a re-poll on 7th March 2024 to fill the vacant seats of General Members of wards No.12 & 18 of the Municipal Committee Sanghar and Tando Adam. Similarly, the Commission also conducted bye-election on the seat of Chairman, UC-51, Tehsil Municipal Committee Paretabad, District Hyderabad, on 4th August, 2024.

7.2.2 Conduct of Indirect LG Bye-Elections

The Commission also filled 12 vacant seats of Mayors, Chairmen/Vice Chairman, Heads of Councils which were lying vacant in ten districts of Sindh Province. The Commission issued election programme to fill these seats on 20th May, 2024 with the poll date as 12th June, 2024. The process was completed without any hindrance.

7.2.3 Conduct of Bye-Elections in Twenty-Six (26) Districts

On 1st October 2024, the Commission notified election programme for byeelections to fill 77 direct vacant seats across twenty-six (26) districts of Sindh Province. These seats included positions for Chairman/Vice Chairman of various Union Councils, General Members of Wards and District Councils. The byeelections were successfully conducted on 14th November 2024. The detail of vacant seats is as under:

Number of District Involved	Chairman	Vice Chairman	General Members	Member District Council	Total No of Seats
26	22	15	11	29	77

The statistical data of seats filled through conduct of bye-elections during the year 2024 in the province is tabled below:

Munic- ipal Corpora- tion	Town Municipal Corpora- tion	Munici Commi		Town Cor	nmittee	District Council		Union (
Dy. Mayor	Chairman/ Vice Chairman	Chairman/ Vice Chairman	Ward Mem- ber	Chair- man/ Vice Chairman	Ward Member	Chair- man/ Vice Chair- man	Ward Mem- ber	Chair- man/ Vice Chair- man	Gen- eral Mem- ber	Total
1	4	2	6	11	3	2	11	38	18	96

7.3 Conduct of Local Government Bye-Elections in Balochistan.

The term of LG in Balochistan expired on 27.01.2019 and the LG Election was held on 29.05.2022. In Balochistan, the conduct of LG Election also remained a challenge for the Commission due to administrative, security issues and frequent amendments in LG Laws.

The LG Elections in Quetta district have not been conducted till date. The Commission issued election programme for district Quetta on 22.06.2022. The Balochistan High Court, Balochistan suspended the Election Programme vide order dated 27.06.2022 and disposed of the case vide order dated 23.12.2022. After that the Commission completed the process of the delimitation on 11.09.2023 and then the election programme was issued on 19.10.2023 with a poll date 30.11.2023. Again the delimitation of Quetta district was challenged before the Hon'ble Balochistan High Court. The court suspended the election programme on 30.10.2023. The matter is still subjudice.

The Commission successfully conducted several Bye-elections in Balochistan to fill the seats fallen vacant due to deaths, resignations, no-confidence motions and other causes. Details regarding the conduct of Local Government Bye-Elections to fill vacant seats of Chairman / Vice Chairman in various Local Councils during the year 2024 are as below:

Name of District	Tiers of Local Council	Category of Seat	Total Seats	Poll Date	
		Chairman	1		
Duki	UC No. 8	Vice Chairman	1	20.03.2024	
Khuzdar	Municipal Committee Wadh	Chairman	1		
Jaffarabad	District Council, Jaffarabad	Chairman	1		
DeraBugti	Municipal Committee, Sui, DeraBugti	Chairman	1	22.05.2024	
Harnai	District Council, Harnai	Vice Chariman	1		
Loralai	Municipal Committee Loralai	Chairman	1	12.06.2024	
Kachi	Union Council No.8	Chairman	1		

Dera Bugti	Union Council No.20	Chairman	1		
Kachhi	Union Council No.7	Chairman	1	03.07.2024	
Mastung	Municipal Committee, Mastung	Chairman	1		
Sohbat Pur	Union Council No.6	Chairman	1	10.07.2024	
Panjgur	Union Council No.18	Chairman	1		
Gwadar	Union Council No.7	Chairman	1		
Mastung	Union Council No.24	Chairman	1		
Usta Muhammad	Union Council No.34, Ahmedabad	Chairman	1	31.07.2024	
Harnai	Union Council No.2	Chairman	1		
Loralai	Municipal Committee, Loralai	Vice Chairman	1	18.09.2024	
Kech	Union Council No. 16, Meno Malik Abad	Chairman	1	10.10.2024	
Duki	Union Council No.7, Gharbiluni	Chairman	1	13.11.2024	

The schedule for Local Government Bye-Elections to fill 202 vacant General Seats of various Local Councils in 33 districts was issued on 29th November, 2024, with the poll date on 26thJanuary, 2025.

7.4 Conduct of Local Government Bye-Elections in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

The term of LG institutions in KP expired on 27.08.2019 and the elections were held on 19.12.2021 (1st Phase) and 31.03.2022 (2nd Phase). The incumbent provincial government made amendments in the Local Government Laws which resulted delay in conduct of LG Elections almost for two years. Through Ordinance dated 12.05.2020, the period for completion of transition to LG Systems was extended from six months to two years.

For the conduct of 2^{nd} phase of LG Elections, the incumbent Provincial Government KP requested extension of six weeks in poll date. The case was

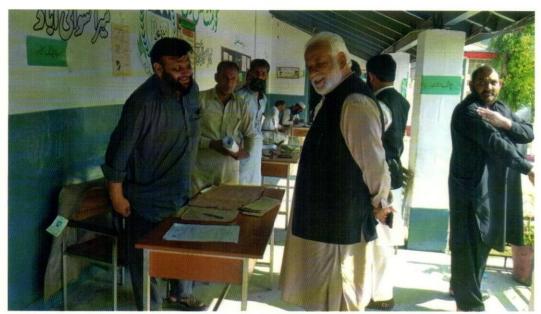
fixed for hearing before the Commission on 30.12.2021. The Commission after taking into consideration the snow bound weather conditions, fixed the poll date as 27.03.2022. Meanwhile, Peshawar High Court, on 01.02.2022 suspended the Election Programme issued by the Commission and directed to conduct 2nd Phase of LG Elections in KP after the month of Ramadan. However, the Commission assailed the said order before the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court set aside the order of Peshawar High Court on 14.02.2022. The Commission again fixed 31st March, 2022 as the poll date for conduct of 2nd Phase LG Elections and succeeded in conducting Local Government Elections.

7.4.1 Chairman Village/Neighbourhood Councils

The seats of Chairman fell vacant during the year 2024, which were duly notified by the Commission. Under Section 81(2) of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Local Government Act 2013, elections to the vacant seats of Chairman Village Council / Neighbourhood Council are to be conducted within 120 days after the occurrence of vacancy. Accordingly, Election Programme for the Local Government Bye-Elections was issued on 13.03.2024 with 25th March 2024 fixed as the poll date. The Elections were conducted successfully and the names of Returned Candidates were notified on 05-04-2024 in official gazette.

7.4.2 Chairman Tehsil Councils

Seats of six (6) Tehsil Chairman comprising (Tehsil Tangi, Katlang, Daraban, Dassu, Balambat and Drosh) fell vacant due to resignation/disqualification of the Tehsil Chairmen. Section 81(1) of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Local Government Act 2013 provides that elections to the vacant seat of Tehsil Chairman are to be conducted within 90 days after the occurrence of vacancy therefore election programme to fill these vacant seats was issued on 13.03.2024 with a poll date on 25-04-2024. However, the poll date was changed to 28-04-2024 on the request of DRO due to examination of Intermediate and Secondary Education in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Bye-Elections were conducted successfully and notifications of the returned candidates were issued on 09.05.2024 accordingly.



Monitoring of Electoral Activities by Monitoring Team Member During the Poll Day in KP Local Government Bye-Elections.

7.4.3 Bye-Elections on Various Categories of Seats in NCs/VCs

Section 81(4) of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Local Government Act, 2013, provides that the Commission shall hold bye-elections on vacant seats once in a calendar year. Accordingly, Election Programme for the conduct of bye-elections for the year-2024 was issued on 11.09.2024 with poll date as 20-10-2024. The Statistical data of these bye-elections is as under:

Category wise No. of vacant seats

No. of Districts	No. of NCs / VCs	General	Woman	Peasant / Worker	Youth	Minority	Total
36	795	159	455	31	75	186	906

After filing of nomination papers, scrutiny, withdrawal of candidature and postponement of elections in district Khyber, total number of seats on which elections were conducted reduced from 906 to 54 as per details below:

No. of Districts	General Seats	Woman Seats	Peasant/Worker Seats	Youth Seats	Minority Seats	Total
17	37	06	04	07	0	54

The Elections were conducted successfully and the Returned Candidates were officially notified on 01-11-2024.

7.5 Conduct of Local Government Elections in Cantonment Boards

The Local Government Elections for the 42 Cantonment Boards out of 44 were held in 2021. The province-wise classification of Cantonment Boards across the country where elections were held is as below:

Province	Total No. of Class-I Cantt	Total No. of Class-II Cantt	Total No. of Class-III Cantt	Province Total
Punjab	08	05	07	20
Sindh	04	02	02	08
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	01	01	09	11
Balochistan	00	01	02	03
Total	13	09	20	42

The detail of province-wise number of Wards is as under.

Province	Total No. of Wards
Punjab	119
Sindh	54
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	37
Balochistan	09
TOTAL	219

Under Section-67 of the Cantonments Ordinance, 2002 (as amended from time to time) term of Cantonment Board Member is four years, starting from the date of taking oath of office. Bye-elections for vacant Seats, whether general or special interest, are to be held once in a year, as provided under Sec.63 (3) of the Cantonments Ordinance, 2002 (as amended from time to time). During the preceding year, six General Seats and two Special Interest Seats of different wards of the Cantonment Boards became

vacant. The detail is given below:

Vacant General Seats

Sr. No.	Name of Cantonment Board	No. and Name of Constituency
1	2	3
1	Rawalpindi Cantt	Ward No.06
2	Wah Cantt	Ward No.04
2	Wall Calltt	Ward No.08
3	Pano Aqil Cantt	Ward No.02
4	Korangi Creek Cantt	Ward No. 04
5	Nowshera Cantt	Ward No. 03

Vacant Special Interest Seats

Sr. No.	Name of Cantonment Board	Category of Seat	
1	2	3	
1	Chaklala Cantt	Non-Muslims	
2	Sialkot Cantt		

The proper physical verification of proposed polling stations was made before notifying the buildings as polling stations for conduct of Cantonment bye-elections.





Verification of Buildings to be Used as Polling Stations

The Commission through its notification dated 30.09.2024 issued two separate Election Programmes for the conduct of bye-elections on the above said vacant seats. The poll date for vacant General seats (direct election) was set as 14.11.2024, while poll date for reserved / Special Interest seats (indirect election) was scheduled for 19.11.2024. After the smooth conduct of Bye-Elections, notification of the Returned Candidates for General and Special Interest seats was issued on 02.12.2024.

7.6 Conduct of Local Government Elections in ICT

The term of the Local Government in Islamabad Capital Territory expired on 14th February, 2021. Since then, the Commission took several steps to conduct Local Government Elections in ICT. The Commission conducted delimitation of Union Councils in ICT on four separate occasions and issued Election Programme thrice. However, despite extensive efforts including training of election officials during the years, 2022-24, the Local Government Elections in ICT could not be conducted due to frequent changes of LG laws by the successive governments. The Commission on 10th July, 2024 in compliance with the Order dated 4th June, 2024, passed by the Islamabad High Court in W.P.No.1508/2024, submitted the proposed date of poll as 29th September, 2024 for the conduct of Local Government Elections in ICT. The Delimitation of 125 Union Councils and Wards based on the 7th Digital Population Census, was completed on 23rd July, 2024. After receiving the notification of reserved seats of Metropolitan Corporation, Islamabad from Ministry of Interior on 1st August, 2024, District Returning Officers, Returning Officers & Assistant Returning Officers were notified by the Commission and two days training of 17 DROs and ROs was also conducted. In the meantime, all election material including forms, packets, bags, stationery items, paper for ballot papers were procured and arranged by the Commission. The Commission also issued the Election Programme for the Local Government Elections in ICT on 8th August, 2024. However, the same was revised on 20th August, 2024, with the poll date set as 9th October, 2024 for public convenience.

The Parliament on 30th August, 2024 made amendments in the ICT Local Government Act, 2015 which resulted the following changes in the composition

of Local Government and procedure of Election in ICT:

- The Number of Wards / General Seats in a UC was increased from six to nine.
- ii. The two Wards of women were omitted and two women seats were reduced to one in a UC.
- "Businessman or technocrat" was added in category of peasant / Worker seat of Union Councils.
- iv. Mode of election for reserved seats (Women, Peasant / Worker, Youth & Non-Muslims) and Chairman / Vice Chairman seats in UCs was changed from direct to indirect (in-house election).
- v. Criteria for contesting election to the seats of Mayor / Deputy Mayors in Metropolitan Corporation was changed, as earlier General Members and Members on reserved seats of MCI both were eligible to contest the election of Mayor / Deputy Mayors in Metropolitan Corporation. After amendment only General Members can contest election.
- vi. The function of conducting L.G. election to the reserved seats (Women, Peasant / Worker, Youth & Non-Muslims) as well as Chairmen / Vice Chairmen seats of UCs was granted to Secretaries of Union Councils.

These amendments made redundant the previously completed delimitation as well as all the steps taken by the Commission for the conduct of Elections. Additionally, the Ministry of Interior, requested the ECP to recall the election programme in ICT in the light of amended law. Consequently, the Local Government Election scheduled for 9th October, 2024, was held in abeyance on 4th September, 2024.

The Election Commission examined the amendments and pointed out discrepancies in said amendments. A meeting was convened in the ECP on 11th September, 2024, with the representatives of Federal Government, including Secretaries of MOI, Law & Justice Division and the Chief Commissioner of Islamabad. During this meeting, the Commission highlighted discrepancies in the amended law, particularly regarding conduct of indirect elections for the reserved and Chairman / Vice Chairman seats by the Secretaries of UCs. The following decision was

made by the Commission;

A four (4) member committee was constituted, consisting of the Secretary and Special Secretary (Law) of ECP, the Secretary of MOI, and the Secretary of the Law & Justice Division with a mandate to:

- a. Review the amendments made to the ICT Local Government Act, 2015.
- b. Submit recommendations and proposals regarding necessary amendments to the ICT Local Government Act, 2015, and the Rules within 10 working days so that Commission could make a decision regarding the conduct of the Local Government Elections.

The Committee held meetings on 30th September, 2024 and 10th October, 2024 respectively and the amended law was reviewed in detail. To address the discrepancies in the amended law, MOI drafted the ICT Local Government (Second Amendment) Act, 2024 and shared it with ECP on 21st October, 2024, for concurrence. The Commission conveyed its concurrence in writing to MOI and also asked MOI to expedite the process of getting the said amendments passed from the Parliament.

The Commission issued fresh programme for delimitation of constituencies i.e. Union Councils and Wards in ICT (for the fifth time) on 12th December, 2024.

7.7 Conduct of Local Government Elections in Punjab

The term of Local Governments in Punjab expired on 31.12.2021. The successive Provincial Governments have had changed the LG Laws five times since 2019 to 2024. The ECP carried out the most tedious delimitation process thrice and also enlisted the Electoral Groups twice. However, each time, when ECP was all set to hold LG Elections, the sitting provincial government made amendments in the LG Laws, resultantly all the steps taken by the Commission became redundant.

An Election Programme for conduct of LG Elections in the Province was also issued on 14.04.2022 but the same was suspended by the Lahore High Court, Lahore, Multan Bench vide order dated 21.04.2022. The Commission also pleaded the

case regarding delay in conduct of LG Elections in Punjab in the Supreme Court of Pakistan and the High Court. The Commission also submitted detailed reports highlighting therein the preparations and steps undertaken by the Commission towards conduct of LG Elections.

Despite these challenges, the Commission remained committed to fulfil its constitutional responsibility to conduct Elections in the province.

After the 7th Digital Population Census, the Commission initiated a fresh Delimitation process under the Punjab Local Government Act, 2022. A schedule for delimitation was issued on 20th June, 2024, fixing the date for final publication of lists of constituencies as 1st September, 2024. For the purpose, Delimitation Committees and Delimitation Authorities were notified. Two days training of Master Trainers (ToMT) was also conducted for the training of Delimitation Committees and Delimitation Authorities who further trained 132 members of Delimitation Committees and Delimitation Authorities.

A directive to the Government of Punjab was also issued to freeze changes to the boundaries of administrative units till the completion of the delimitation process. In response the Government of the Punjab, informed the ECP of its intention for introduction of a new Punjab Local Government Act, 2024 and requested the ECP to withdraw its notification regarding carrying out delimitation and directives issued on 20th June, 2024.

The Provincial Government of Punjab informed that in the proposed law, the structure and tiers of Local Government institutions in Punjab has been revised. Further fresh rules in accordance with law as well as urban and rural demarcation will be required. For the purpose, the government of Punjab sought 3-4 weeks to deliberate and finalize the draft legislation. The Commission considered the Provincial Government's request and granted one-month extension, setting cutoff date as 8th August 2024. However, no response was received from the Provincial Government by the deadline. Consequently, the matter was placed before the Commission and notices were issued to the Chief Secretary and Secretary Local Government, Punjab for hearing the case on 20th August 2024. The matter

was again fixed for hearing on 22nd October 2024 during which the Provincial Government requested an additional six weeks time to finalize the legislation. The Commission changed the cut-off date as 3rd December 2024. Despite this extension, no positive response received from the Provincial Government and as a result, a formal reminder was issued and in response Government of Punjab conveyed that the Chief Minister of Punjab and the provincial cabinet, in its 20th meeting, approved the draft Bill of the Punjab Local Government Act, 2024 but minutes of the meeting were still awaited and upon receipt of minutes the draft would be reintroduced in Punjab Assembly for enactment. Afterwards, the Commission asked the Government of Punjab to formally share the draft bill with the Commission for necessary input and feedback. Response from Government of the Punjab has not been received till December, 2024.

The delays in finalizing the Punjab Local Government Act, 2024, have significantly impacted the delimitation process and the timely conduct of Local Government Elections in Punjab. The Commission remains steadfast in its commitment to ensure conduct of election in the province, at the earliest.

7.8 Amendment in Article 140-A of the Constitution and Section 219 of the Elections Act, 2017 to Ensure Timely Conduct of Local Government Elections.

It is an established fact that Local Government is the third tier of the state and delay in election of Local Government violates Article 32, 140-A(1) 219(d) of the Constitution and also hampers the devolution of powers at grassroots level. In order to fulfil its Constitutional obligation, the Commission has always strived to hold timely Local Government Elections but the Federal or Provincial Government concerned repeal or amend the Local Government laws even after the expiry of the term of the Local Government which causes inordinate delay in the conduct of elections and the Commission faces difficulty in timely fulfilment of its Constitutional duty. The Election Commission of Pakistan through its concerted efforts succeeded in conducting Local Government Elections in Sindh, Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces. However, Local Government Election in Punjab and ICT could not be held due to above mentioned obstacles

faced by the Election Commission of Pakistan.

For timely conduct of elections, amendment in Article 140-A of the Constitution and Section 219 of the Elections Act, 2017, is imperative. ECP proposed amendment in Article 140-A of the constitution and section of 219 of the Elections Act, 2017. The proposed amendments is as under for consideration and necessary legislation:

"The Federal Government shall make necessary amendments in Article 140-A that no amendments shall be made in the existing local government laws, rules six months before the expiry of the term of Local Government. The Federal and Provincial Government shall not change or alter administrative limits of districts, tehsils and local areas after the expiry of term of Local Governments.

Provided that, in case the existing Local Government system is required to be replaced completely with the new local government system or substantially alter during its currency by the Government, then such enactment shall be made by an Act of Majlis-e Shoora (Parliament) at least six months prior to the expiry of local government"





8. TRAININGS





8. Trainings

Training is essential for an Election Management Body to ensure efficient, transparent and credible elections. It enhances staff skills, minimizes errors, ensures consistent application of laws and builds public trust and confidence.

Under Section 12(a) of the Elections Act 2017 and Rule 6(1) of the Election Rules 2017, the capacity building and training of staff of the Commission and election officials engaged during electoral activities is a fundamental and mandatory requirement. This training equips staff with the technical expertise and knowledge essential for fulfilling their respective roles effectively. Additionally, it enhances their ability to manage various election-related tasks with efficiency. By adhering to these statutory obligations, the ECP reaffirms its dedication to maintaining democratic principles and ensuring the fair and systematic conduct of elections.

During the year 2024, the Training Wing of the ECP organized numerous training sessions and capacity-building programs for its officers and officials. The details of trainings organized by the commission during the year 2024 are as under:

8.1 Trainings of Election Officials

8.1.1 General Elections-2024

The General Elections-2024 witnessed the most extensive training program ever conducted by the ECP all over the country. With a total of 1,481,590 officials trained through 37,399 sessions. This program highlighted the enormous scope and significance of the elections. Especially, the entire training initiative was carried out using indigenous resources, including the printing of handbooks for polling staff and the provision of refreshments during training sessions. This achievement show cased the ECP's ability to manage large-scale training operations independently and efficiently. Details of these trainings are as follows:

Sr. No.	Description	No. of Participants	No. of Sessions	Duration
1	Orientation Sessions for Assistant Presiding Officers & Polling Officers (POs)	785,060	19,630	Half Day Session
2	Trainings of Presiding Officers & Sr. APOs One and Half Day Training on Polling process Half Day Training on use of EMS Mobile App	191,526	7,659	2 Days

	Total	1,481,590	37,399	-
4	Trainings of Security Personnel (Police)	503,495	10,070	1 Day
3	Training of Master Trainers for Security Personnel (Police etc) engaged in General Elections-2024	1,509	40	2 Days



8.2 Presidential Elections-2024

The ECP organized a one-day online training session of thirty (30) election officials engaged during the Presidential Election-2024. This training covered all aspects of the presidential election, including candidate nomination, voting procedures, counting and result compilation, with a focus on transparency, fairness and accuracy. Practical exercises and simulations were included to prepare officials for real-time challenges, ensuring smooth and efficient conduct of election.

8.3 Senate Elections-2024

The Senate election, conducted through proportional representation system, using the Single Transferable Vote (STV) method, is a complex process that requires careful handling of votes and preferences. To facilitate the smooth conduct of elections, it is essential that the polling staff i.e. Returning Officers and Polling Officers, are well-trained. ECP arranged a comprehensive training for the officials engaged in the senate elections to ensure that they are equipped with the knowledge, skills and confidence to manage the election process efficiently, accurately and in accordance with the law. The detail of trainings conducted for Senate Elections is as under:

Sr. No.	Description	No. of Participants	No. of Sessions	Duration
1	Online Training of Election Officials (ROs & POs) for Senate Elections (Bye Elections)	19	1	One Day
2	Training of Election Officials (ROs & POs)	35	1	Two Days
	Total	54	02	-

8.4 Bye Elections-2024

During 2024, the ECP conducted a total of twenty-nine (29) bye-elections, during which 12,770 personnel were trained across 484 training sessions. These massive sessions were designed to equip the officials with the necessary knowledge and skills to manage the electoral process effectively, ensuring professionalism, transparency and adherence to electoral laws throughout the bye-elections.

8.5 Interaction with National Training Institutions

20th Briefing Session -Study Tour of Civil Services Academy, Lahore at ECP

As part of ECPs interaction with national stakeholders, voter awareness and civic educational drive, 20th briefing session-study tour was arranged for eleven faculty and officers from the 1st Specialized Training Course (STC) of Pakistan Administrative Service, PAS Campus Lahore, at ECP Secretariat, Islamabad on 02nd May, 2024. The briefing session was chaired by Special Secretary ECP Mr. Zafar Iqbal Hussain. The objective of the briefing session was to provide in-depth understanding to the trainees regarding administrative structure and operational workings of the ECP. The interaction allowed the officers to gain valuable insights into the electoral processes and administrative frameworks critical for their professional development. The delegation visited Election Monitoring Control Centre (EMCC) in ECP Secretariat, Islamabad, where they were briefed on EMCC functioning, as this centre plays a crucial role in utilizing technology in electoral process for addressing irregularities or disputes and also providing real-time updates to relevant stakeholders during elections. The delegation also visited Data Centre established in the ECP Secretariat, Islamabad, where they were briefed by IT team regarding different aspects and functions of the Center.

8.6 Local Government Elections

In 2024, ECP conducted several Local Government bye-elections and organized comprehensive training programs to ensure their smooth and transparent

execution. These training sessions equipped election officials and polling staff with essential skills and knowledge on electoral laws, polling procedures, voter facilitation and security measures. The training emphasized addressing challenges such as accessibility for persons with disabilities, maintaining law and order and safeguarding the integrity of voting process. Following is the detail of trainings conducted for LG bye-elections:

Sr. No.	Description	No. of Participants	No. of Sessions	Duration
1	Training of Master Trainers (ToMT) for the training of Delimitation Committees and Delimitation Authorities (Local Government Punjab 2024)	10	1	Two Days
2	Training of Delimitation Committees and Delimitation Authorities (Local Government Punjab 2024)	132	5	Two Days
3	Training of Election Officials (DRO & ROs) in connection with Local Government Elections in ICT	17	1	Two Days
4	LG-Bye Election of Chairman at Tehsil Jamrud District Khyber (DRO, RO & ARO)	3	1	One Day
5	LG-Bye Election of Chairman at Tehsil Jamrud District Khyber (DMOs & MOs)	3	1	One Day
6	Training of Master Trainers for the training of Polling Personnel (LGE-ICT)	30	1	Three Days
7	Training of DMO & MOs(LGE-ICT)	17	1	One Day
8	LG-Bye Election of Chairman at Tehsil Jamrud District Khyber (PrOs & Sr. APOs)	190	7	One Day

8.7 Capacity Building Trainings of ECP Officers and Officials in Diverse Sectors

A well-trained human resource is an asset to any organization and ensures the efficient and timely completion of all assignments. As a constitutional body responsible for conducting free, fair, and transparent elections, ECP must have a highly skilled and professional workforce, well-versed with the latest laws, rules and procedures. Therefore, it is crucial that such expertise is available. To build the capacity of its officers and officials, ECP's Training wing conducted the following training programs:

Sr. No.	Description	No. of Participants	No. of Sessions	Duration
1	Training on Procurement Rules and Procedures	22	1	One Day
2	In Service Training for newly promoted ECP Officers (BS-18)	16	1	Two Weeks

3	Training of ECP Officers (BS 17-19) on Secretariat Instructions by STI	88	4	One Day
4	System Based Training Program on Oracle Apex	12	1	Ten Days
5	Training on use of HRMS for ECP Officers	620	4	One Day
6	Training for ECP Officers on uploading of Form 45, 46, 48 & 49 on ECP Website	182	4	One Day
7	Training of ECP Officers & officials on Digital Services	277	11	Two Hours

8.8 Leadership Management Course for ECP Officers at LUMS

ECP organized a 5-day customized training course on Leadership Management at the Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS), Lahore from November 30 to December 4, 2024. Recognizing the importance of leadership training for professional development and strategic decision-making, the course focused on leadership, result-based management, negotiation skills, communication, strategic planning, change management and team building. Designed through a Learning Needs Assessment by experts from the Rausing Executive Development Centre, LUMS the training employed innovative methods such as simulations, group discussions, brainstorming and case studies. A total of 25 ECP officers participated, enhancing their capacity to take on active and impactful roles within the organization.



LAHORE UNIVERSITY OF MANAGEMENT SCIENCES Rausing Executive Development Centre Leadership and Management Programme for ECP



8.9 BRIDGE Trainings

Building Resources in Democracy, Governance and Elections (BRIDGE) international trainings sponsored by IFES were conducted for ECP officers to enhance their skills, strengthen their capacity and increase their awareness of the tools and resources available for capacity building. The BRIDGE trainings are characterized

by adults learning techniques, internationally accredited trainings and modules based on international best practices. The details of the BRIDGE trainings are provided below:

Sr. No.	Description	No. of Participants	No. of Sessions	Duration
1	BRIDGE Training / Workshop on Disability Rights and Elections	5	01	Three Days
2	BRIDGE Training / Workshop on Gender and Elections	20	01	Three Days
3	BRIDGE Training / Workshop on Electoral Disputes Resolutions (EDR)	22	01	Three Days
4	BRIDGE Training / Workshop on Disability Rights and Elections	100	04	Three Days
5	BRIDGE Training / Workshop on "Introduction to Election Administration"	25	01	Three Days
6	BRIDGE Training / Workshop on Strategic Planning for Electoral Management	23	01	Three Days



BRIDGE Training / Workshop on Strategic Planning for Electoral Management

8.10 Beat Reporters Training

A one-day training session for ECP Beat Reporters belonging to different media groups was conducted at Pakistan's Electoral Academy for Democratic Practices, Research and Management (PADRM), ECP Secretariat, Islamabad. The training focused on presidential elections and was attended by 40 media personnel (reporters) from various organizations, including media channels, newspapers and social media.

9. POLITICAL FINANCE





9. Political Finance

Political Finance is the means by which political parties and candidates raise, spend and report money used in electoral campaigns and other political activities and is integral to governance in democratic systems as it underpins the fairness, integrity and legitimacy of electoral processes. The ECP, by regulating political finance effectively, plays its part to uphold its democratic principles, prevent corrupt practices and foster public trust in democratic institutions. Throughout the year, the Political Finance Wing engages its resources to sift and streamline processes to ensure a transparent system ranging from enlistment of political parties, allocation of symbols, intra party elections, scrutiny of party annual accounts, scrutiny of assets of members of Senate, National Assembly and Provincial Assemblies, election expenses and campaign finance.

Other tasks include but are not limited to:

- Consolidated statements of accounts of political parties annually and publication in the official gazette.
- 2. Statements of assets and liabilities of Senators and members of the Assemblies and publication in the official gazette.
- Returns of election expenses submitted by contesting candidates after end of elections.
- 4. Campaign finance i.e. election expenses of political parties during an election.

9.1 Enlistment of Political Parties

Chapter-XI of the Elections Act, 2017, describes the procedure for the enlistment of political parties with the ECP. A political party that fulfils the criteria for enlistment given therein may apply for its enlistment.

During the year 2024, the following five political parties were enlisted with the ECP:

Sr. No	Name of Political Party
1	Technology Movement Pakistan
2	Pashtoonkhwa National Awami Party Pakistan
3	Pakistan Qaumi Ittehad
4	Pakistan Awami Quwat
5	Pakistan Khidmat-e-Khalq League

9.2 De-Listment of Political Parties

On the Orders of Election Commission, the following political parties were delisted:

Sr. No.	Name of Political Party
1	All Pakistan Minorities Alliance
2	All Pakistan Tehreek
3	Awami Party Pakistan-S
4	Bahawalpur National Awami Party
5	Sub Ka Pakistan
6	Sunni Tehreek
7	National Peace Council Party
8	Pakistan National Muslim League
9	Pakistan Aman Party
10	Pakistan Barabri Party
11	Masihi Awami Party
12	Pakistan Qaumi Yakjehti Party
13	Nizam-e-Mustafa Party
14	Pakistan Muhafiz Watan Party

9.3 Assigning Symbols to Political Parties

The process of allocating symbols to political parties for General Election 2024 was initiated and completed as per the provisions of Section 216 of the Elections Act, 2017. Accordingly, a notification for allocation of symbols was issued with the approval of the Commission. During the year 2024, the Commission allocated following symbols to 151 enlisted political parties and one (01) Alliance after fulfilment of legal criteria by these parties/ alliance:

Sr. No.	Name of the Political Party / Alliance	Type of Symbol	Symbol Code
1	Pak League	Apple	11
2	Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians	Arrow	12
3	Balochistan National Party	Axe	14
4	Pasban Democratic Party	Balloons	17

5	Tehreek-e-Azmat-e-Pakistan	Basket	18
6	Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (Nazriati)	Batsman	20
7	First Democratic Front	Bell	25
8	All Pakistan Muslim League (Jinnah)	Bicycle	27
9	Tehreek-e-Tarraqi-o-Kamal	Binoculars	28
10	Khadmeen-e-Sindh	Boat	30
11	Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam Pakistan	Book	31
12	Tehreek-e-Difa-e-Pakistan	Bow	33
13	Pakistan National Reformist Party	Bridge	36
14	Kissan Ittehad	Bucket	39
15	Awami Workers Party	Bulb	40
16	All Pakistan Kissan Ittehad	Bullock Cart	41
17	Pashtoonkhwa National Awami Party Pakistan	Bunch of Grapes	42
18	Pakistan Muslim League (J)	Bus	43
19	Hazara Qaumi Mahaz Pakistan	Butterfly	44
20	Balochistan National Party (Awami)	Camel	49
21	Mohajir Qaumi Movement Pakistan	Candle	50
22	Tehreek-e-Labbaik Islam	Cannon	51
23	Mohib-e-Wattan Nowjawan Inqilabion Ki Anjuman (MNAKA)	Cap	52
24	Sindh United Party	Car	53
25	Pakistan Markazi Muslim League	Chair	55
26	Qaumi Watan Party	Chiragh (Lamp)	58
27	Jamiat Ulma-e-Pakistan (Imam Noorani)	Chitrali Cap	59
28	Hamdardan-e-Watan Pakistan	Coat	61
29	Istehkam-e-Pakistan Tehreek	Coins	63
30	Mustaqbil Pakistan	Comb	64
31	Muttahida Ulema-e-Mashaikh Council of Pakistan	Combat Aircraft	65
32	Nazria Pakistan Council	Combat Tank	66

33	Kissan Ittehad Awami Party	Corn	69		
34	Balochistan Awami Party	istan Awami Party Cow			
35	Tehreek Labbaik Pakistan	Crane	71		
36	Hazara Democratic Party	Crescent	72		
37	Pakistan Tehreek-e-Such	Crocodile	74		
38	Tabdeeli Pasand Party	Crown	75		
39	Peoples Muslim League (Pakistan)	Cup & Saucer	76		
40	Pakistan Freedom Movement	Date Tree	78		
41	Saraikistan Democratic Party	Deer	80		
42	Pakistan Supreme Democratic Party	Diamond	82		
43	Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party	Eagle	93		
44	Jamote Qaumi Movement	Electric Pole	95		
45	Tehreek Tabdili Nizam-e-Pakistan	Elephant	97		
46	Ittehad-e-Ummat Pakistan	Energy Saver	99		
47	Pakistan Muhafiz Party (National)	Fan	101		
48	Pakistan Muslim Alliance	Pakistan Muslim Alliance Fish			
49	Pakistan Peoples Party (Shaheed Bhutto)	les Party (Shaheed Bhutto) Fist			
50	Pakistan Aam Admi Movement	Flower Pot	107		
51	Islami Jamhoori Ittehad Pakistan	Foot Ball	108		
52	Pakistan Tehreek-e-Shariat Party	Fort	110		
53	Jannat Pakistan Party	Fountain	111		
54	Sulaiman Khel Qabail Movement	Gate	117		
55	Pakistan Justice & Democratic Party	Gavel	118		
56	Tehreek-e Ahl-e-Sunnat Pakistan	Generator	119		
57	Awami Tehreek	Ghulail	121		
58	All Pakistan Minority Movement	Giraffe	122		
59	Pakistan Muslim League (KQK)	Gun	128		
60	Pakistan People's Alliance Party (A)	Hammer	129		
61	Pakistan Awami Quwat	Hanger	132		

			4
62	Pakistan Muslim League (Zia-ul-Haq Shaheed)	Helicopter	134
63	Pakistan Awami League	Hockey	136
64	Sunni Ittehad Council	Horse	137
65	Pakistan Tehreek-e-Eithad	House	139
66	Pakistan Tehreek-e-Emaan	Hud Hud	140
67	Awam League	Human Hand	143
68	Aam Log Party Pakistan	Hut	144
69	Awami Muslim League Pakistan	Ink pot with Pen	146
70	Pakistan Rah-e-Haq Party	Iron	147
71	Pakistan Islamic Republican Party	Jeep	149
72	Pakistan Awami Raj	Jharoo	150
73	Allah-o-Akbar Tehreek	Jug	151
74	All Pakistan Mutahida League	Kangaroo	152
75	Jamiat Ulema-e-Pakistan (Noorani)	Key	154
76	Pakistan Masiha Party	King	158
77	Muttahida Qomi Movement Pakistan	Kite	159
78	Pakistan Tehreek-e-Shadbad	Knife	160
79	Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam Pakistan (S)	Ladder	161
80	Awami National Party	Lantern	162
81	Pakistan Awami Jamhuri Ittehad	Leaf	164
82	Awami Tehreek-e-Ilam Party	Lock	167
83	Haqooq Khalq Party	Loud Speaker	169
84	Pakistan Muslim League Council	Minar-e- Pakistan	174-A
85	Pakistan Aman Tehreek	Missile	175
86	Pak Muslim Alliance (Dewan)	Mobile Phone	177
87	Pakistan Awami Tehreek	Motorcycle	179
88	National Democratic Movement	Mountain	180
89	Aam Admi Tehreek Pakistan	Mug	181
90	Awami Democratic Party Pakistan	Oil Tanker	185

91	Pakistan Welfare Party	Olympic Torch	186
92	Move on Pakistan	Ostrich	189
93	Awami Jamhoori Party Pakistan	Ox	190
94	Barabri Party Pakistan	Pen	195
95	Aam Loeg Ittehad	Pencil	196
96	Pakistan Reform Party	Pickup	201
97	Mazloom Olsi Tehreek Pakistan	Pitcher	204
98	Pakistan Kissan Ittehad (Ch. Anwar)	Plough	206
99	Haq Do Tehreek Balochistan	Rabbit	213
100	Pakistan Nazriyati Party	Railway Engine	216
101	Tehreek-e-Tameer-e-Pakistan	Railway Track	217
102	Tehreek-e-Tahafuz-e-Pakistan	Revolver	218
103	Pakistan Muslim League (Sher-e-Bangal) A.K. Fazal-Ul- Haq	Rickshaw	219
104	Rabita Jamiat Ulma-e- Islam (RJUI)	Ring	220
105	Peoples Movement of Pakistan	Rope	225
106	Pakistan Muslim League (F)	Rose	226
107	Jadeed Awami Party	Safety Helmet	229
108	National Party	Saw	230
109	Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan	Scale	232
110	Awami Falahi Party	School Bag	233
111	Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaniat	Scissors	234
112	Pakistan Peoples League	Scooter	235
113	Apni Party Pakistan	Sewing Machine	239
114	Pakistan Falah Party	Ship	242
115	Pakistan Siraiki Party (T)	Spade	250
116	Pakistan Muslim Party	Sparrow	251
117	Markazi Jamiat Ahl-e-Hadith Pakistan	Spectacles	252
118	Pak Defence Qoumi Movement	Spider	253

119	Pakistan Muslim League Organization	Stag	257
120	Grand Democratic Alliance	Star	259
121	Tehreek-e-Ehsas-e-Pakistan	Street Light	262
122	Green Democratic Party	Sun	265
123	Tehreek Jawanan Pakistan	Sun Flower	266
124	Pakistan Peoples Party	Sword	270
125	Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Nazaryati Pakistan	Takhti	274
126	Tehreek-e-Awam Pakistan	Telephone	280
127	Labour Qoumi Movement Pakistan	Television	281
128	Majlis Wahdat-e-Muslimeen Pakistan	Tent	282
129	Pakistan Falahi Tehreek	Thermos	283
130	Pakistan Muslim League (N)	Tiger	284
131	Pakistan Kissan Labour Party	Tonga	285
132	Pakistan Conservative Party	Torch	289
133	Roshan Pakistan League	Tortoise	290
134	Pakistan Muslim League	Tractor	292
135	Pashtoonkhwa Milli Awami Party	Tree	295
136	Pakistan Awami Inqelabi League	Trophy	298
137	Tehreek-e-Suba Hazara Pakistan	Truck	300
138	Hassar-e-Muslim	Tulip	302
139	Awami Justice Party Pakistan	Tumbler	303
140	Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Parliamentarian	Turban	305
141	Islami Tehreek Pakistan	Two Swords	307
142	Amun Taraqqi Party	Tyre	309
143	Front National (Pakistan)	Unity	311
144	Pakistan Peoples Party (Workers)	Victory Sign	312
145	Tehreek-e-Darveshan Pakistan	Waist Coat	314
146	Aam Awam Party	Wheat Bunch	322
147	Jamhoori Wattan Party	Wheel	323

148	Qomi Awami Tehreek Pakistan	Whistle	326
149	Pakistan Qaumi Ittehad	Window	328
150	Tehreek-e-Inqilab Political Movement	Wrist Watch	330
151	Pakistan Human Rights Party*	Umbrella	310
152	Pakistan Khidmat-e-Khalq League*	Dove	88

^{*} Parties were enlisted and allocated election symbols after conduct of General Elections-2024

9.4 Intra-Party Elections

Every political party is required to conduct Intra-Party Elections as per its Constitution to elect office bearers. Parties have to submit certificates to Election Commission within seven days from completion of Intra Party Elections, confirming that the elections were held according to the party's Constitution and Elections Act, 2017.

ECP has a crucial role in overseeing Intra Party Elections, ensuring that parties comply with the law and with their own Constitution in terms of Rule 158 (2) of Election Rules 2017. If a party fails to conduct Intra Party Elections within timeline provided in its Constitution, the Commission can proceed against such party under Section-215 of the Elections Act, 2017.

The Commission during the year took all necessary steps to ensure that Intra Party Elections were conducted by all those Political Parties whose elections were due as per term specified in their respective Constitutions. Intra Party Elections of thirty-one parties were due in year 2024. Fifteen (15) political parties succeeded in conducting their Intra Party Elections, however Show Cause Notices were issued to sixteen (16) political parties on failure to conduct Intra-Party Elections within due date and the matter was fixed before the Commission for hearing. Six (06) political parties submitted Intra Party Elections certificate before Commission which were accepted whereas three (03) failed to conduct valid Intra Party Elections and were consequently delisted. Cases of seven (07) political parties were under proceedings in regular hearing before the Commission at the close of calendar year.

The case of Intra Party Elections of PTI remained highlighted before and after

the General Elections 2024. Intra Party Elections of PTI were due on 13-06-2021 for which party was apprised by ECP well before time. On failure to hold Intra Party Elections within timeframe provided in its party constitution, PTI was served Show Cause Notice on 27-07-2021. In response, PTI requested for grant of one year extension to hold Intra Party Elections. The Commission granted extension and directed the party to conduct Intra Party Elections on or before 13-06-2022. During the period, PTI made changes in its Constitution and conducted Intra Party Elections on 10-06-2022. These amendments were not communicated to the Commission as required under Section 201(3) of the Elections Act 2017. The matter was fixed before the Commission, which after providing opportunity and hearing decided the matter vide order dated 23-11-2023, and taking a lenient view, the Commission directed the party to hold intra party elections in accordance with its Constitution, 2019, within 20 days. Afterwards, PTI conducted Intra Party Elections on 02-12-2023 and submitted Form-65 (Certificate regarding Intra Party Elections) which was challenged by a number of party's own members with the plea that "PTI has not conducted its Intra Party Elections in accordance with the provisions of PTI Constitution, 2019 rather have held the elections in a clandestine and secret manner; no member was afforded an opportunity to contest the elections; that neither nomination forms were issued nor available with any office of PTI; that no notice in respect thereto regarding holding of Intra Party Elections was ever published in any daily newspaper or displayed on notice board of main Secretariat office of PTI". During the examination of Intra Party Elections results, it was held by the Commission that these were conducted in violation of PTI's Constitution as well as the Elections Act 2017 vide order dated 22-12-2023. The PTI filed a petition in Peshawar High Court against the Order of the Commission, which revoked the same vide Judgement announced on 10-01-2024. The Commission assailed the order of the Peshawar High Court before the Supreme Court of Pakistan which in its judgement dated 13-01-2024, upheld the decision of the Election Commission with consequential effect of withholding of election symbol.

The party conducted its intra party elections again on 03-03-2024 and filed its results / certificate to the ECP vide letter dated 04-03-2024. The documents

submitted by the party were scrutinized and it was found that these were not in accordance even with the party's own constitution and Elections Act / Rules 2017. In view of the legal implications relating to absence of party structure after expiry of five (5) years period provided under Section 208 (1) of the Act. & various petitions received by ECP, the matter was fixed for hearing before the Election Commission on 30-04-2024. During the proceedings, the Election Commission raised various observations. The response of the party was also sought on the five (5) complaints received in ECP, vide Commission's letter 30-04-2024. The party submitted its stance before the Election Commission and out of ten (10) hearings, the party on one pretext or the other, sought adjournments eight (08) times. Lastly, on the request of PTI, the case of Intra Party Election was adjourned till 08-04-2024. During this period PTI filed a W.P No. 34104 of 2024 before Lahore High Court, Lahore wherein it was prayed that the provisions of Section 201 (f) (i), 202 (2), (3) (4) (5), 207, 208, 209,215 (1), (2) (4) (5), 217 (1) of the Act & Rules 153, 154, 155, 157, 158, 163 as well as the explanation to Rule 94 of the Election Rule 2017 may be declared ultra vires to the Constitution. The Lahore High Court, Lahore vide Order dated 18-10-2024 restrained the Election Commission from passing any final order in the proceedings initiated by the Commission. The matter is still pending before the Lahore High Court, Lahore.

9.5 Digitization of Statements of Assets & Liabilities

As per Section 137(1) of the Elections Act 2017, members of all Assemblies and the Senate are obligated to submit to the Election Commission, by 31st December of each year, a copy of their statement of assets and liabilities, including the assets and liabilities of their spouse and dependent children as on the preceding 30th day of June on "Form B". It is pertinent to mention here that:

- > Two (2) Provincial Assemblies ceased to exist before 30th June, 2023 i.e Provincial Assemblies of Punjab & Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.
- ➤ To this end, a total of 521 Parliamentarians from the National and Provincial Assemblies (Sindh & Balochistan) including Senate submitted their Form B for the financial year ending on 30th June, 2023. All data

- submitted on their Form B was digitised for an item-wise comparison with data of previous years.
- ➤ Item-wise scrutiny was duly performed on the respective assets and liabilities of Parliamentarians and members Provincial Assemblies within the prescribed period of 120 days, thereafter published in the official gazette under section 138 of the Elections Act, 2017. It is also pertinent to mention here that cases of those members who failed to file their statement of assets and liabilities under Section 137 of the Elections Act 2017 were placed before the Commission and orders against twenty five members were passed for non-filing of statement of assets and liabilities.
- ➤ The Returned Candidates of General Elections-2024 and Bye-elections held in the calendar year 2024, have filed their statements of assets and liabilities under Section 137 of the Elections Act 2017.

A total of 942 Parliamentarians and members of Provincial Assemblies out of 1081 submitted their Form B for the financial year ending on 30th June 2024. Membership of 139 Parliamentarians and members of Provincial Assemblies was suspended by the Commission till filing of Form-B for 2023-24.

9.6 Consolidated Statement of Accounts (Form-D)

Under Section 210 of the Elections Act, 2017, all enlisted Political Parties have to submit their consolidated statement of accounts on "Form-D" within sixty days from close of the financial year. Form-D from 166 political parties enlisted with the ECP, was due for the financial year 2023-2024. Till close of calendar year, 137 political parties had submitted their financial statements for the financial year ended on 30th June, 2024 and show cause notice(s) under Section 210 have been served to the remaining delinquent parties.

9.7 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 names of Returned Candidates in the official gazette, whereas the Returned

Candidates must submit the same within 10 days from the date of polls.

The PF Wing got approved an Action Plan from the Commission on receipt and scrutiny of Election Expenses from Returned and Contesting Candidates of General Elections 2024 with an objective to ensure completion of this task within the time limit prescribed in Section 136 of the Elections Act, 2017.

The Political Finance Wing on the advice of the Commission conducted the scrutiny of returns of election expenses of Returned Candidates of National and Provincial Assemblies within the stipulated time as determined under section 136(1) of Election Act 2017. The scrutiny of returns of contesting candidates, other than Returned Candidates, has been carried out in coordination with the concerned District Election Commissioner in respect of relevant constituencies.

9.8 Campaign Finance

Under Section 211 of the Elections Act, 2017, all political parties which have been allocated symbols have to submit their campaign finance accounts to the Commission after every election for scrutiny purpose. These accounts must include the list of contributors who donate funds to political parties for their election campaign, up to a certain limit as specified under the law. During the year 2023, Section 211 was amended after which the political parties are required to submit these account for bye elections as well. Moreover, the limit for disclosure of contributors was made equal to or more than Rs.1 Million in case of each contributor. This amendment was implemented in 2024 in letter and spirit.

After the GE-2024, various schedules were issued for holding Bye-Elections on National/Provincial/Senate Seats. These Bye-Elections were held in the months of March, April, May, July, September, November and December 2024.

The overall status of receipt of Campaign Finance Account pertaining to General Election 2024 and bye-Elections is tabulated as under:

Sr. No.	Descriptions	GE-2024 Held on 08-02- 2024	Senate Bye Election held on 14-03- 2024	Senate Term Election held on 02-04- 2024	Bye Elec- tion Held on 21-04- 2024	Bye Election Held on 19-05- 2024	Bye Election Held on 11-07- 2024	Bye Election Held on 12-09- 2024	Bye Election Held on 17-11- 2024	Bye Election Held on 05-12- 2024
1	Total Parties participated in Election	150	3	8	13	4	5	2	3	2
2	Total CFA Received	144	3	8	13	4	5	2	1	1
3	CFA Still not received from the Political Parties	6*	-	-			-	-	2	1

* Due to the non-compliance of Section 211 of the Elections Act, 2017 and Election Rule 161, the symbols of six political parties were withheld by the Commission (vide notification No.F.6(1)/2024-Confd dated 09th August, 2024).

9.9 Procurement and Storage of Special Watermarked Paper

After consumption of 1800 tons of watermarked paper in General Elections-2024, ECP was left with the stock of 358 tons. Keeping in view the Constitutional obligation and in order to meet future requirements, a need assessment was carried out keeping in view the anticipated increase in the number of voters. As per the need assessment, ECP requires 3000 tons of paper for future elections. To store this paper, the printing presses were asked to enhance their storage capacity as per the following requirement:

r. No. Name of Press		Total Storage Capacity Required
1	NSPC, Karachi	1,500 tons
2	PCP, Islamabad	1,100 tons
3	PPF, Islamabad	1,300 tons

By the end of the year-2024, 700 tons of Special Watermarked Paper was received and stored in the designated printing presses as per Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) issued by the ECP for the safe storage of Special Watermarked Paper.





10. LEGAL MATTERS





10. Legal Matters

The Election Commission of Pakistan deals with all the cases pending adjudication before the Supreme Court of Pakistan, High Courts, District and Sessions Courts, Service Tribunals and Pakistan Information Commission. The overview of the major activities undertaken by the Commission during the year 2024 is as under:

The Provision of Sections 8, 9 and 95 of the Elections Act, 2017 came in field immediately after the conduct of General Elections held on 08.02.2024. The Petitioners by invoking above said provisions started filing of petitions, applications and complaints before the Commission. For this purpose, proper SOPs were formulated and approved by the Commission and circulated for the ease of general public and uploaded on the official website of the Commission. At the first instance, the process of receiving of the complaints, petitions and applications was started and 620 petitions were received from the applicants/ petitioners which were filed under Sections 4, 8, 9 and 95 of the Elections Act, 2017. Thereafter, cause lists were prepared on daily basis alongwith issuance of notices to the parties which were served through the concerned DECs and in addition to it, services of phone calls and SMS system were also utilized to inform the litigants and their counsels regarding fixation of the matters before the Commission. The cause lists were also uploaded on the website of the Commission and rosters for hearing were issued. After hearing of the matters by the Commission, large number of attested copies of the orders were issued and the same were forwarded to the concerned wings and the Returning Officers for compliance. The detailed description of the petitions, notices and obtained reports from the Returning Officers is given below:

Sr. No.	Description
1	After the conduct of General Elections 2024, total 620 petitions / applications were filed before the Commission under Sections 8, 9 and 95 of the Elections Act, 2017 which were heard and decided accordingly,
2	Total 6500 notices were issued and served to the parties through concerned DECs/ RECs & PECs. These notices were also e-mailed and SMS service was also utilized to inform the litigants.

Sr. No.	Description
3	Total 450 reports obtained from the ROs and has been placed before the Commission for hearing.
4	Around 3863 certified copies of petitions, orders, replies & reports of ROs were provided to the parties for pleading the cases.
5	Latest edition of books on various laws were issued to all the assistant director laws across the board for their facilitation and enhancing their skill on Laws and Rules.
6	Almost 1820 short orders were passed by the Commission during the hearing in miscellaneous matters.

10.1 Appointment of Election Tribunals

Section 140 of the Elections Act, 2017 provides that for the trial and disposal of the election petitions, the Commission shall appoint as many Election Tribunals as may be necessary for disposal of petitions. For this purpose, the Parliament has passed an amendment through Elections Amendment Act, 2024 whereby the word "Retired Judges" and "has been" is added in addition to appointment of sitting Judges as an Election Tribunal. The process for the appointment of Election Tribunal was initiated by the Commission and letters dated 14.02.2024 were issued to all the Chief Justices of the High Courts of all four Provinces for provision of a panel of sitting Judges for their appointment as Presiding Officers of the Election Tribunals. After receipt of the recommendations from the Chief Justices of High Courts, the Commission issued Notifications of the names of Presiding Officers of the Election Tribunals alongwith their jurisdiction. However, the Commission faced difficulties while appointing the Election Tribunals for the province of Punjab. Initially the Chief Justice of Lahore High Court, Lahore (vide letter dated 20.02.2024) nominated two sitting Judges for their appointment as Election Tribunals and the Commission (vide Notification dated 20.02.2024) immediately notified both the sitting Judges as Presiding Officers of the Election Tribunal. However, on 7.03.2024 the Chief Justice of Lahore High Court, Lahore himself assigned constituency-wise jurisdiction to the Election Tribunals, which was the prerogative of the Commission. On 4.04.2024 in addition to the earlier two appointed Judges, the Chief Justice nominated 6 more Judges for their appointment as Election Tribunals, which includes three judges for the Principal

seat Lahore and a single name of sitting Judge each for the Rawalpindi, Multan and Bahawalpur Divisions. From this, the Election Commission of Pakistan notified two Judges as Election Tribunal at Lahore on 26.04.2024 and sought a panel of sitting Judges for appointment of Election Tribunals at Rawalpindi and Bahawalpur Divisions through letter dated 26.04.2024. The Chief Justice of Lahore High Court, Lahore responded vide Registrar of Lahore High Court letter dated nil received on 30.04.2024 raising query on the request of ECP for the panel of Judges. The Hon'ble Chief Justice of Lahore High Court, Lahore insisted for issuance of notification of nominated six (6) Judges forwarded by him on 4.04.2024 as Election Tribunals for the Province of Punjab. The Commission replied on 6.05.2024 through its Secretary and conveyed that in absence of a panel of sitting Judges, the process of meaningful consultation could not be undertaken and it would amount to appointment of Tribunals solely by the Hon'ble Chief Justice of Lahore High Court, Lahore which vitiated the spirit of Section 140 of the Elections Act, 2017. Therefore, the Commission for the swift disposal of election petitions pertaining to Rawalpindi and Bahawalpur Division decided to assign the said Petitions to the already notified Election Tribunals at Lahore and Multan through Notification dated 9.05.2024. After the issuance of notification dated 9.05.2024 the Hon'ble Chief Justice of the Lahore High Court through letter dated 10.05.2024 asked for any precedent from the Commission whereby such demand for panel of judges, in the past, had been asked during the General Elections or Bye-Election. In response to the letter the Commission vide letter dated 16.05.2024 provided a detailed summary alongwith documents since 1977 to 2018 whereby such panels for appointment of Election Tribunals were sought by the Commission repeatedly.

While the consultation process in terms of Section 140(3) of the Elections Act, 2017 was ongoing, W.P Nos. 28985 and 31120 of 2024 were instituted before the single Judge of Lahore High Court which was decided on 29.05.2024. The single bench Lahore High Court, Lahore while deciding the matter, surprisingly allowed the petitions and held that the opinion of the Chief Justice of High Court has pre-eminence over the views of ECP and the Commission is bound to appoint Judges nominated by Chief Justice. The Court further set-aside the notification

of the Commission dated 26.04.2024 and 9.05.2024 and directed the Commission to appoint 6 Judges of Lahore, High Court, Lahore as Election Tribunals which were nominated by the Hon'ble Chief Justice on 4.04.2024. It was further stated that the jurisdiction would be assigned by the Chief Justice of Lahore, High Court, Lahore to the Election Tribunals and not by the Election Commission of Pakistan. In the meantime, while the matter was before the Commission, the Chief Justice of Lahore, High Court, Lahore himself issued the notification of the name of six sitting judges which were nominated earlier by him through letter dated 04.04.2024, in compliance with the judgement of the single bench dated 29.5.2024. The Commission being aggrieved with the Judgment passed by the Lahore High Court, Lahore and the notification issued by the Chief Justice Lahore High Court, challenged the Judgment and the notification of six judges before August Supreme Court of Pakistan through CPLAs which were converted into Civil Appeals Nos. 842 and 843 of 2024. In the meantime, the Parliament passed amendment in Section 140 of the Elections Act, 2017, through Elections Amendments Act, 2024, whereby the option of appointment of retired Judges was provided alongwith sitting Judges of the High Courts. The Supreme Court of Pakistan passed an interim order in the above mentioned CAs, advising the Chief Election Commissioner and the Chief Justice of Lahore High Court to meet for meaningful consultation on the matter. During the process of consultation, the Chief Justice Lahore, High Court, Lahore observed that the appointment of retired Judges is the sole power of the Commission and there is no requirement for consultation with the Chief Justice of Lahore, High Court, Lahore. The Supreme Court of Pakistan decided the matter through order dated 24.09.2024 and allowed the appeals and after meaningful consultation of Hon'ble CEC with the Hon'ble Chief Justice of Lahore, High Court, Lahore agreed on the appointment of 4 sitting Judges. Furthermore, pursuant to the amendment in the Elections Act, 2017, four (4) retired Judges were appointed by the ECP to facilitate the public and keeping in view the work load.

After passage of above said amendment to the Act ibid and keeping in view the workload of sitting judges and to facilitate the general public, the services of some retired Judges were also secured and they were notified as Tribunals by the

Commission. Following is the detail regarding number of the Election Tribunals appointed and election petitions filed and disposed of by the Tribunals:

Province	No. of Tribunals Appointed	Total E.Ps	Decided E.Ps	Pending E.Ps
Punjab	08	197	44	153
Sindh	04	87	18	69
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	05	42	10	32
Balochistan	03	52	43	09
Federal Capital	01	03	-	03
Total	21	381	115	266

The Commission at the Secretariat and Provincial level with the assistance of Law Wing is vigilantly pursuing the cases before different Courts including the election petitions, Writ Petitions and appeals filed by the aggrieved parties. The number of petitions filed by the petitioners and decided by the August Supreme Court of Pakistan, High Courts and its benches is given below:

Sr. No.	Hon'ble Courts	No. of petitions filed & disposed of
1	Supreme Court Of Pakistan	150
2	Lahore High Court & its benches	1114
3	High Court of Sindh & its benches	600
4	Peshawar High Court & its benches	212
5	Balochistan High Court & its benches	550
6	Islamabad High Court at Islamabad	64
	Total	2,690

In 2024, besides the above petitions, the Commission also decided 156 cases of various issues after hearing the parties. The detail of these cases is given below:

Sr. No.	Subject	Cases disposed o	
1	Cases under Article 63A of the Constitution	02	
2	Disqualification cases	03	
3	Local government and general petitions etc.	71	
4	Cases on Statement of accounts regarding 48 political parties	48	
5	Code of Conduct	13	

Sr. No.	Subject	Cases disposed of		
6	6 References under Article 63(2) of the Constitution			
7	Six Contempt matters is pending			
8	Allocation of Symbol	1		
9	Representation of delimitation of National and Provincial Assembly constituencies after remanded back from High Court	16 Districts		
	Total	156		

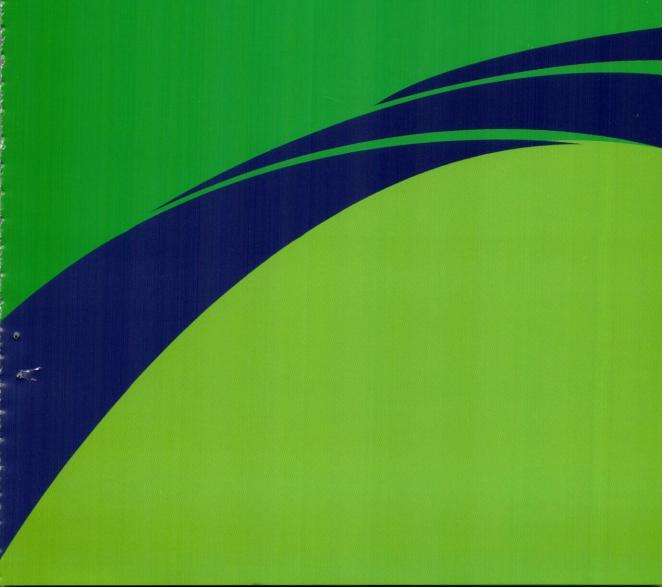
For efficient working of the Law Wing the Hon'ble CEC has changed the nomenclature of the post of Director General (Law) to Special Secretary (Law). The post of Director (Law) at ECP secretariat was advertised and filled on contract basis. Similarly, the post of Deputy Director (Law) in Balochistan was also filled on contract basis after adopting proper procedures.

The Legal Reform Committee (LRC) was formed by the Commission in the year 2017 for proposing amendments to Elections Act, 2017, Election Rules, 2017 and Constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan, 1973 whenever necessary. In 2024, the LRC held several meetings to discuss proposed amendments in Election Laws. The detail of the proposed amendments is given below:

- Amendment to Article 140-A of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan 1973.
- 2. Amendments to Sections 57(2), 132(2), 133(2), 136(1)(5)(7), 167(d), 202(2), 206, 208(4), 215(4)(5), 219 & 231 of the Elections Act, 2017.
- 3. Amendments to Rules 153 and 154-A of the Election Rules, 2017.



11. MONITORING OF GENERAL ELECTIONS-2024 AND BYE-ELECTIONS





11. Monitoring of General Elections-2024 and Bye-Elections

Under Section 234 of the Elections Act 2017, the Election Commission monitors the Election Campaign of candidates and political parties to guard against violations of Act, Rules, Code of Conduct and directives of the Election Commission. To ensure proper monitoring of electoral activities, including the implementation of the Codes of Conduct, the DMOs, Monitoring teams and Regional Monitoring Coordinators were appointed with the following mandate and duties:

11.1 District Monitoring Officers (DMOs)

The District Monitoring Officers were appointed in each district to monitor election campaign of contesting candidates and political parties. They were supported by monitoring teams that reported violations of the Code of Conduct, the Elections Act 2017, the Elections Rules 2017 or directives issued by the Commission on Form M-I. The teams also handled complaints directly received; conducted summary inquiries into violations, and imposed fines of up to fifty thousand. In cases of repeated violations of the Code of Conduct, the cases were forwarded to the Election Commission for the initiation of proceedings against the violators including potential disqualification.

11.2 Monitoring Officers (MOs)

Monitoring Officers were appointed to oversee each Provincial Assembly Constituency, as well as the corresponding areas of National Assembly constituencies in the assigned Provincial Assembly Constituency. They reported violation of the Code of Conduct to the DMO using Form M-I. The statistical data for the notified monitoring teams is as follows:

S.No.	Province	No. of PMCs	No. of RMCs	No. of DMOs	Monitoring Officers
1	Punjab	01	11	42	594
2	Sindh	01	07	30	260
3	KP	01	07	37	230
4	Balochistan	01	07	36	102
5	ICT			01	06
	Total	04	32	146	1,192

11.3 Regional Monitoring Coordinators (RMCs)

Regional Election Commissioner (REC) in each division across the country was assigned the duty as Regional Monitoring Coordinator (RMC) who was overall in-charge of the division and looked after all the monitoring activities in his iurisdiction.

11.4 Provincial Monitoring Coordinators (PMCs)

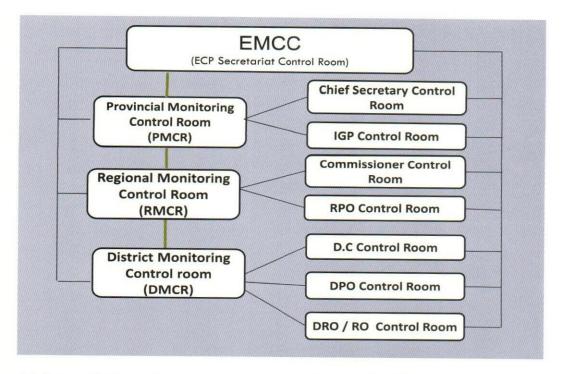
An officer of BS-20 i.e. Joint Provincial Election Commissioner (JPEC-Admn) in each provincial Headquarters was assigned the duty as Provincial Monitoring Coordinator (PMC) who was overall in-charge of the province and looked after all the monitoring activities in the respective province.

The summary of actions taken by the monitoring teams throughout the country is as follows:

Summary of actions taken by the Monitoring Teams								
S. No.	Name of Province	Total No. of Violations	Notices Issued	Warnings Issued	Disciplinary Action	Fines Imposed	Publicity Material Removed (Approx.)	
1	Punjab	509	444	225	2	60	7825	
2	Sindh	363	353	119	-	31	5580	
3	KP	162	357	49		200	5390	
4	Balochistan	212	44	17	-	10	3550	
	Total	1,246	1,198	410	2	301	22,345	

11.5 Establishment of Control Rooms

Establishing a four-tiered monitoring system, spanning from the Control Room at the grassroots level to the Central level, created a robust framework for oversight and coordination during the General Election 2024. This setup allowed for a decentralized approach of monitoring and empowered local authorities for swift actions while support and guidance were provided by the ECP Control Room when needed. It fostered accountability and effective management of resources and responses to various situations to effectively deal with violations and ensure strict implementation and compliance of Code of Conduct.



11.5.1 Election Monitoring & Control Centre (EMCC)

For effective monitoring of General Elections and coordination with the field monitoring teams as well as other election officials, a state-of-the-art facility, i.e. Election Monitoring Control Centre equipped with modern technology was established and operationalized at ECP Secretariat w.e.f 26-12-2023 till consolidation of results. To assist the EMCC 180 subordinate Control Rooms at the provincial, divisional and district levels were also made operational. Besides, monitoring election activities, the Control Room had resolved complaints received from the general public. The detail of the Control Rooms is given hereunder:

11.5.2 Provincial Monitoring Control Room (PMCR)

- Established at PEC HQs under the supervision of PMC.
- The PMCR vigilantly monitored election activities, assisted EMCC and supervised the lower tiers i.e., RMCR and DMCR.

11.5.3 Regional Monitoring Control Room (RMCR)

- Established at the office of REC under the supervision of RMC.
- The RMCR vigilantly monitored election activities, supervised DMCR, and assisted the PMCR and EMCC.

11.5.4 District Monitoring Control Room (DMCR)

- Established in the office of DRO under his/her supervision.
- The DMCR vigilantly monitored election activities and reported to all upper-tiers namely RMCR, PMCR and EMCC.

The above Control Rooms were established and made functional from 26th December, 2023 and continued till consolidation of results. The reports were collected daily, which were presented to the Election Commission for appropriate action under the law and rules.

11.6 Monitoring of Bye-Elections

As per the approved policy Framework of Monitoring, during General Elections-2024, the Bye-Elections in 26 different constituencies of National and Provincial Assemblies throughout the country and Re-polls in PB-50 Killa Abdullah, were also monitored during the year 2024. For the purpose, 27 District Monitoring Officers (DMOs) and 54 Monitoring Officers were appointed. Supervisory Role of PMC and RMC was activated for effective monitoring. Implementation of the Code of Conduct was also ensured by the Commission and constituency-wise summary of actions taken by the concerned DMOs against violations of CoC is as under:

Summary of Notic District M	es, Warning onitoring Of	s Issued and ficers During	Fines Impo	sed by the ons
Elections	Notices Issued	Warnings Issued	Fine Imposed	Unauthorized publicity material removed
Bye-Elections in 21 constituencies throughout country	04		01	900

PP-139 Sheikhupura-IV	01			250
Bye-Election	04			
Bye-Election PB-08 Sibi	-	Ė	-	290
Bye-Election NA-171R.Y. Khan-III	-		-	400
Bye-Elections PK-22 Bajaur-I	02		01	310
Bye-Election NA-148 Multan-I	10	01	01	400
Re-poll in PB-50 Killa Abdullah	-	-	-	350

The Control Room in the Election Monitoring & Control Centre (EMCC) was made operational at ECP Secretariat and Control Rooms were also established at Provincial, Divisional & District level for effective communication and to receive and resolve complaints of general public and stakeholders before poll and on poll day.

11.7 Monitoring of Local Government Bye-Elections in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Sindh Provinces

As per practice in vogue and under direction of the Commission, Local Government Bye-Elections of various categories to the seats in Neighbourhood Councils / Village Councils of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Local Government Bye-Elections in Union Councils of Sindh were also monitored. In this connection, 49 DMOs and 92 Monitoring Officers were appointed for the monitoring of said Elections. The DMOs took strict actions against the violations of the Code of Conduct.

The summary detail of actions taken by the concerned DMOs against violations of CoC is as under:

Summary of Notices, Warnings Issued and Fines Imposed by the District Monitoring Officers During L.G Bye-Elections in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Sindh

Elections	Notices Issued	Warnings Issued	Fine Imposed	Unauthorized publicity material removed
Local Government Bye- Elections in various vacant seats of NCs/VCs in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	01	01	0	1330
Local Government Bye- Elections in various vacant seats of UCs in Sindh	06	02	03	970
Total	07	03	03	2300

The supervisory Role of Provincial Monitoring Coordinators (PMCs) and Regional Monitoring Coordinators (RMCs) was also activated as well as Control Rooms were operationalized at concerned Provincial, Divisional & District level.



12. EMERGING ELECTORAL TECHNOLOGIES



12. Emerging Electoral Technologies

The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) is fully cognisant that in the age of innovation and a dynamic technological environment, the need of the hour is to take initiatives with the aim of staying abreast with the changing digital landscape. The Commission has taken various initiatives to make itself a knowledge-based, vibrant, modern and tech-driven organization. The ECP has ventured after due consideration into the process of developing, testing and implementing various technologies to expand its digital footprint across the enterprise and to experiment with and adopt emerging technologies. The steps taken by the Commission for using technologies during the year-2024, are listed below:

12.1 Election Management System (EMS)

In compliance with Section 13 of the Elections Act, 2017, EMS (a web-based software application) was developed to automate, enhance the Result Tabulation Process and to increase the overall efficiency of the election system. It also aims to improve the accuracy and transparency of the National and Provincial Assembly elections while compiling and transmitting official results.

The Election Management System (EMS) was designed to streamline and enhance the workflow of various key election personnel, including the Returning Officers (ROs), District Election Commissioners (DECs), Election Officials and Presiding Officers. The primary objective of the EMS was to automate and simplify the management of the entire result compilation process by encompassing major tasks such as creating the election program, generating lists of polling stations, managing constituencies, candidates, polling stations, polling staff, desktop-based offline application, helpdesk, display of results on dashboard, creating reports and transmitting results through a mobile application. A detailed cascade training plan was planned and executed for the training of ECP Staff, EMS operators, Returning Officers and Presiding Officers.



To provide effective support and address any concerns or questions that may arise during the election process, a dedicated helpdesk team was deputed to technically assist Returning Officers (ROs) and other users throughout the process. This helpdesk served as a central point of contact for election officials, provided assistance and prompt support whenever needed during General Elections-2024.

The system performed successfully in the General Elections-2024 as well as in subsequent bye-elections of National / Provincial Assembly constituencies.

12.2 Nationwide Upgradation of ECP Data Network

In the year-2024, the ECP Secretariat, alongwith all PECs and 182 field RECs/DECs offices nationwide, made significant advancements in its digital infrastructure. Previously, it was reliant on traditional copper wire networks with a speed of just 256 Kbps. This obsolete technology with lower data speed created hurdles and caused delays in the routine operations of updation of Electoral Rolls. The data



transmission system was then upgraded to high-speed fiber optics and advanced digital radio technologies, boosting connectivity speed up to 8 Mbps. This

enhancement has drastically increased overall efficiency, enabling multiple tasks to be performed seamlessly over a highly secure and speedy data rate. The benefit of this upgradation was extensive, particularly for enterprise level and electoral applications such as the Computerized Electoral Rolls System, Complaint Management System, Video Conferencing and Election Management System.

12.3 Online Recruitment System (ORS)

The Online Recruitment System (ORS) is a state-of-the-art, fully automated platform that adheres to international standards for digitally assisted processes. It allows candidates from across the country and around the world to create his/her job profiles and apply online with ease. The system has automated various



processes, including application management, provisional scrutiny, call letter issuance, candidate notifications, sending SMS to candidates, provision of written test and interview call letters. During the year-2024, additional 26,475 candidates have successfully created their profiles reflecting the system's accessibility and efficiency. This approach streamlines the recruitment process, making it more transparent, efficient and user-friendly for applicants.

12.4 Optical Mark Recognition (OMR) Technology

The Optical Mark Recognition (OMR) system is a cutting-edge technology that allows for automatic checking of examination papers and accumulation of scores into a centralized database. This



also ensures the highest levels of impartiality, secrecy, accuracy and speed, while also providing transparency through complete event logs of every process and record. During the year- 2024, additional 8,472 papers had been checked in a fool-proof manner, demonstrating the effectiveness of this innovative approach

by following the global principles of transparency, accuracy, auditability and confidentiality.

12.5 Complaint Management System (CMS)

The Online Complaint Management System (CMS) is an essential service that allows individuals or general public to submit complaints and suggestions directly to the ECP. Each complaint is tracked via a ticket generation mechanism and recorded electronically for real-time monitoring. Complaints are addressed and resolved to the satisfaction of the complainant. The system is designed to give ECP's top management real-time visibility into the status and resolution of complaints, thereby enhancing accountability and responsiveness. During the year-2024, 5,102 complaints were successfully addressed, enhancing public trust and confidence. The introduction of the Online Complaint Management System has significantly improved efficiency and accountability in handling complaints.

12.6 Integrated Office Record Management System (IORMS)

During the year-2024, the office successfully launched an Integrated Office Record Management System (IORMS) to modernize by digitizing and streamlining its record-keeping processes. This initiative focuses on digitizing all records from the central record room and various



branches within the Secretariat and field offices creating a comprehensive digital repository integrated with users friendly MIS. About more than 2.8 million pages / records have been digitized and integrated with database for easy access in a secure manner. Previously, records were placed in an unorganized and scattered manner on files.

IORMS enables digitally efficient storage, retrieval, management of essential electoral documents and historical records. By transitioning from paper-based systems to a digital format, ECP has enhanced the accessibility and security

of records, reduced physical storage needs and improved overall operational efficiency. This digital transformation also facilitates better organization of digital hygiene, streamlines administrative processes and underscores the ECP's commitment to modernization, transparency and effectiveness in its operations and effectively reduced paper work through weeding out un-important physical paper records, after proper time based categorization. The practice is ongoing for both Headquarters and field offices.

12.7 SMS Service 8300 (To Check Voting Details)

The International Award winning SMS 8300 Service was initiated by the ECP to help voters quickly access their voting details, including seeing their voting details, constituency and polling station. Voters can also check their block code and serial number in the printed Electoral Rolls. Through this service, voters can instantly get their voting details by sending their 13-digit CNIC to the short code 8300 via SMS within the territorial boundaries of the country.

The infrastructure of the ECP's 8300 Service was upgraded in year 2024 to ensure quick responses for users during elections, minimizing any lags or delays. In collaboration with the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA), a push SMS was also broadcasted to mobile users nationwide, encouraging them to check their voting details through SMS 8300 Service on or before poll day during the General Elections-2024. This proactive approach aims enhanced voter accessibility and streamlined the voting process by sending free public service message of ECP to all 180 million mobile customers across Pakistan. During the year, 2024, about 30 million plus hits were received through SMS 8300 Service.

12.8 ECP's Official Website

The upgraded official website of ECP serves as a central platform for accessing comprehensive information on electoral processes, including voter registration, election schedules,



candidates' details, polling stations locations and other essential updates. Features like interactive maps, search capabilities and multimedia content greatly enhanced user experience on the ECP website during General Elections-2024, simplifying navigation and quick access to information. The website managed the influx of millions of visitors effectively across all phases of the election process. Approximately 9.0, million visitors accessed the ECP's website during the period of poll night and onwards.

12.9 Election Monitoring Control Center

A modern Election Monitoring and Control Center (EMCC) was established in the ECP Secretariat in 2024 to oversee various monitoring activities and evaluating them, including pre-poll, poll-day and post-poll processes and incident management. This Control Center is equipped with advanced technologies and innovative software applications to effectively monitor all operations, at all phases of elections ensuring real-time oversight and enhanced coordination. It enables the real-time recording of all digital activities, maintaining valuable logs for accountability and audit purposes. This advanced system displayed the graphical data on large video walls during hearing and deciding the cases of delimitation, allows to take immediate action in case of any electoral violence based on live reports. It also provides a Rapid Response Mechanism to address and resolve the issue on a real time basis to improve stakeholder's confidence in



the integrity and transparency of the electoral process. The EMCC is a giant leap forward in stock taking of monitoring activities for the ECP.

12.10 Server Room Upgradation of Data Center

Realizing the future needs of IT development, the newly established Data Center was inaugurated on 25th January, 2024 at the ECP Secretariat, Islamabad. Upgrading the ECP's server room into a data center was a vital step



for enhancing the reliability and security of the electoral digital infrastructure in accordance with international ISO standards.

The upgraded Data Center features a stabilized power of redundant cooling system, high processing speed, ample storage capacity and robust data safety measures, including firewalls and fire prevention capabilities. With an enhanced digital setup, it ensures efficient computing power across all functions. Adedicated IT staff monitors the data Center 24/7 to maintain security, accessibility and robustness.

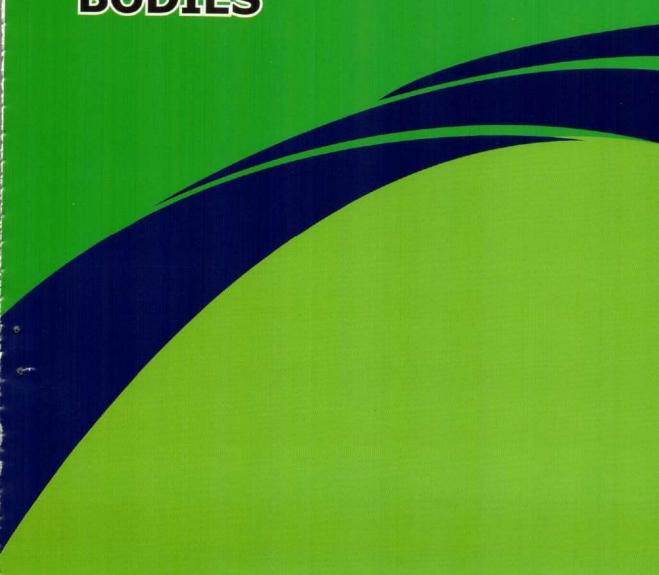
These enhancements were crucial for managing the increasing volume of digital record election-related data and protecting against cyber threats. As the well-maintained data Center ensures data integrity and minimizes disruptions, reinforcing the commitment to secure and efficient processing, ultimately fostering public trust in the electoral system.

12.11 LAN Upgradation

The ECP has upgraded its LAN infrastructure in 2024 and installed latest equipment to provide better and managed high speed internet facilities to its employees by installing a Wi-Fi controller and manageable Wi-Fi system access points. Additionally, ECP has deployed Internet Access Manager Appliances to safeguard digital assets. Latest Wi-Fi 6 technology, along with over 500 network points, have been installed and operational. This new technology significantly improves data communication mechanisms and provides ECP with the control to manage the electronic systems properly and implement security parameters.









13. Meeting With International Election Management Bodies

As part of learning and outreach aspect, ECP interacts with international stakeholders to exchange first-hand knowledge and experience with each other. During the year 2024, following activities were performed:

13.1 Participation at International Electoral Forums

13.1.1 Presidential Elections and Conference in Russia

On an invitation from the Central Election Commission (CEC) of the Russian Federation, the Chief Election Commissioner of Pakistan participated alongwith officers as an international observer in the Presidential Elections of Russia and as a speaker in Conference from 14th-18th March, 2024 in Moscow, Russia. The electoral register in Presidential Elections is comprised of 112,309,947 voters within the territory of the Russian Federation and 1,890,863 voters residing outside its borders. Voting took place at 94 thousand polling stations. Initiatives such as remote electronic and mobile voting enabling voting outside the polling premises, were implemented to bolster voting rights.

Further, the International Conference on "Electoral Sovereignty and International Standards", was hosted by the Central Election Commission (CEC) of the Russian Federation on March 15th and 16th, and more than 200 participants participated. The conference focused on addressing modern challenges within national electoral systems while examining international standards in conjunction with unique national electoral features. CEC of Pakistan as a speaker addressed the conference. He conveyed his gratitude to the Russian Federation and Chairperson of the CEC of the Russian Federation. The CEC also briefed the forum about General Election 2024 in Pakistan and the challenges faced. He also stated that ECP remains vigilant and committed in keeping all stakeholders engaged for a responsible socio-political culture where real democracy thrives.

In total, 1,115 international observers and experts from 129 countries participated to witness the voting process at the Russian Presidential elections.



Chairperson of the Central Election Commission of Russian Federation (Most left) and CEC of Pakistan at the International Conference "Electoral Sovereignty and International Standards" on 15th March 2024, in Moscow, Russia

13.1.2 International Election Observation Program (IEOP) of Korea

The National Election Commission (NEC) of the Republic of Korea invited ECP to observe the 22nd National Assembly Elections of Korea and 2024 Seoul International Forum on Elections from 04th-12th April, 2024 in Seoul, Korea. Election observers from 19 Election Management Bodies (EMBs) and four international organizations around the world also observed the election process. The Member Election Commission-I Mr. Nisar Ahmed Durrani and Member Election Commission-II Mr. Shah Muhammad Jatoi from Pakistan represented the country.

Hallmark of the visit was the Seoul International Forum on Elections 2024, which was held during the program on April 8, 2024 under the theme of "Crisis and Challenges in Modern Democracy: Paving the New Way in the Era of Rapid Changes". More than 120 participants attended the forum actively including domestic and foreign election officials, international election observers and officials from diplomatic missions in Korea.

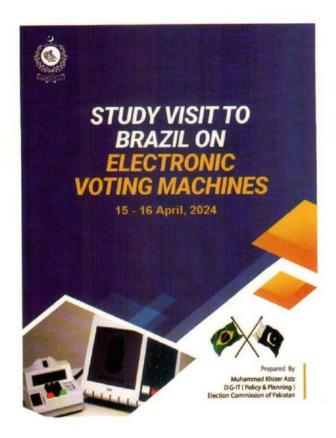
The program served as an opportunity to understand besides the electoral system procedures, the culture of the Republic of Korea and promote exchanges and cooperation between organizations.



Hon'ble Members Election Commission with international election observers visited Blue House Presidential Residence in South Korea in the 22nd National Assembly Elections observation in Korea on 04th-12th April, 2024

13.2 EVM Study Visit to Brazil

Brazil is one of the leading countries in the world which has introduced advanced Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs). Keeping in view this aspect, the Election Commission decided to visit the country for the purpose of inspection of machines and exploring options for use of EVMs in Pakistan as a Pilot Project. Accordingly, the Chief Election Commissioner of Pakistan alongwith Members visited Tribunal Superior Electoral (TSE) of Brazil from 15th-17th April, 2024. The study also covered Brazilian electoral system, EVMs usage stages, their legal framework, issues associated with EVMs and successful implementation in the country. The delegation was also given practical demonstrations of EVMs use and was provided with an opportunity to witness the court proceedings/hearings in Superior Electoral Court of Brazil. A significant meeting on usage of EVM was held between CEC and President of the Tribunal Superior Electoral (TSE) of Brazil. The discussion covered legal, electoral and technological challenges linked with the use of EVMs and possible way forward to overcome these challenges.



Study Visit Report to Brazil on Electronic Voting Machines

13.3 Observation of Elections in Azerbaijan

The Elections to the Milli Majlis of Azerbaijan were scheduled from 29th August - 03rd September, 2024. The Central Election Commission (CEC) of the Republic of Azerbaijan, invited Election Commission of Pakistan to observe the Elections. The Chief Election Commissioner alongwith one officer visited the country. During the visit the CEC and Chairman of the Central Election Commission of the Republic of Azerbaijan held meetings. The Chairman briefed the CEC of Pakistan about the process of elections. It was also highlighted that the Elections to the Milli Majlis would be held across all sovereign territories of Azerbaijan for the first time wherein 990 candidates were participating. The elections were observed by 112,749 local and 598 international observers from 69 countries.

13.4 Observation of Elections in Uzbekistan

The elections to the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan were held from 26th- 28th October, 2024 in Uzbekistan. The Central Election Commission (CEC) of the Republic of Uzbekistan, invited the Chief Election Commissioner of Pakistan alongwith one officer to observe the elections. During the Election observation the CEC of Pakistan visited polling stations located at the University of Journalism and Mass Communication of Uzbekistan and the University of Economics, Tashkent.

A meeting of the Chief Election Commissioner with the Chairman of the Central Election Commission of the Republic of Uzbekistan was also held. The Chairman of CEC of Uzbekistan enlightened the CEC that a mixed electoral system has been introduced for the first time in the country's history, with 75 seats for single mandate constituencies and 75 seats for proportional representation. The elections were contested by five political parties and 19,944,859 voters including 165,631 overseas voters were eligible to cast vote. Technological innovations featured included "E-Saylov" interactive portal for accreditation of election observers, electronic voting in some polling stations in Tashkent, real-time video broadcasting from polling stations and advanced voter verification systems were used in the elections.

850 international observers from 43 countries including 13 international organizations observed the elections.

13.5 Observation of Presidential Election of USA

The elections to the office of president in USA were held on November 05th, 2024. The election was a singular opportunity to learn about the U.S. electoral system and to exchange ideas on elections and voting from a comparative perspective. The Member Election Commission-III Mr. Babar Hassan Bharwana and Member Election Commission-IV Justice (R) Ikramullah Khan of Pakistan alongwith two officers observed the US Presidential Elections.

During the visit the IFES and United States Election Program (USEP) arranged a two-day conference for the observers to discuss various aspects of the US electoral system. The voting process was observed at various polling stations on poll day. The significant feature of the Election was the real-time display of election results at the end of the poll day. More than 500 participants from 60 countries observed the Presidential election of USA through USEP 2024 program.



Delegates of ECP at USEP 2024

13.6 SCO Election Observer Mission

During the year 2024, Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) offered various election observations opportunities, the details of which are given below:

Country	Type of Election	Date
Azerbaijan	Presidential Election	07th February, 2024
Belarus	Elections	25th February, 2024
Russian Federation	Presidential Election	15th - 18th March, 2024
Azerbaijan	Parliamentary Election	1st September, 2024
Uzbekistan	Parliamentary Election	27 th October, 2024

The Embassy of Pakistan in the respective countries represented ECP during these elections.

13.7 Workshop on Artificial Intelligence (AI) Literacy in Malaysia

International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEAs) a Sweden based organization dedicated to support and strengthen democratic institutions and processes around the world. It organized a workshop on Artificial Intelligence

(AI) Literacy for Electoral Actor in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 18th-20th November, 2024. During the workshop Microsoft and OpenAI provided the professional insight on use of Artificial Intelligence in electoral process, ECP was represented by Director (MIS).

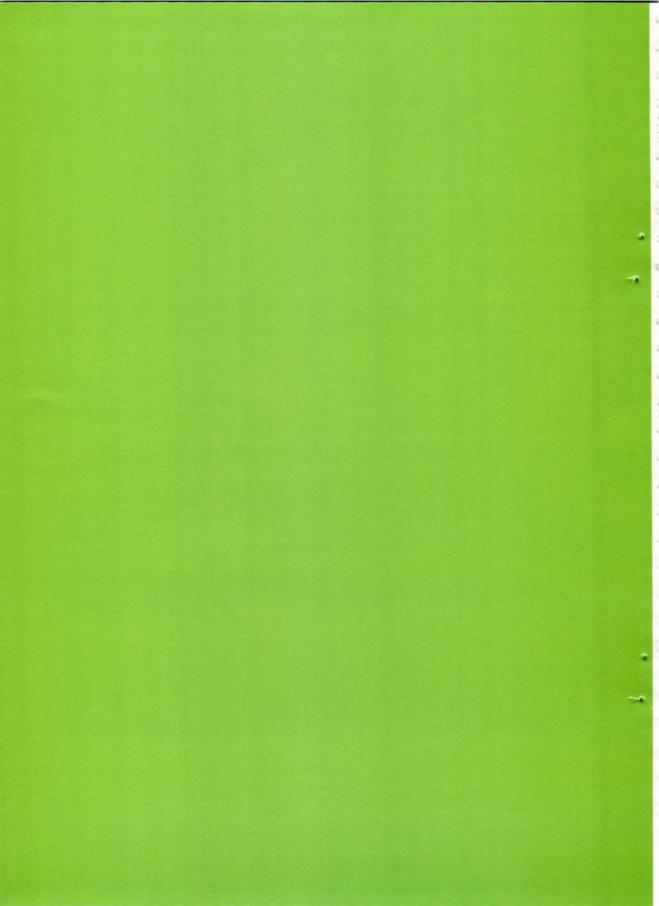
Over the two and a half days workshop, the participants explored important topics like ethical implications of AI and enhancing electoral integrity and equality through AI adoption. Participants also discussed the basics technical details of modern AI systems, Large Language Models (LLMs) current applications of AI and key issues related to modern AI systems, AI impact on human rights and gender inequalities, social media platforms, information dissemination, content generation, disinformation, misinformation, legislation, regulations and electoral management.

More than 20 participants including Australia, New Zealand, Indonesia, Malaysia, India, Korea, Sri Lanka, Philippines and Pakistan attended the workshop in Malaysia.



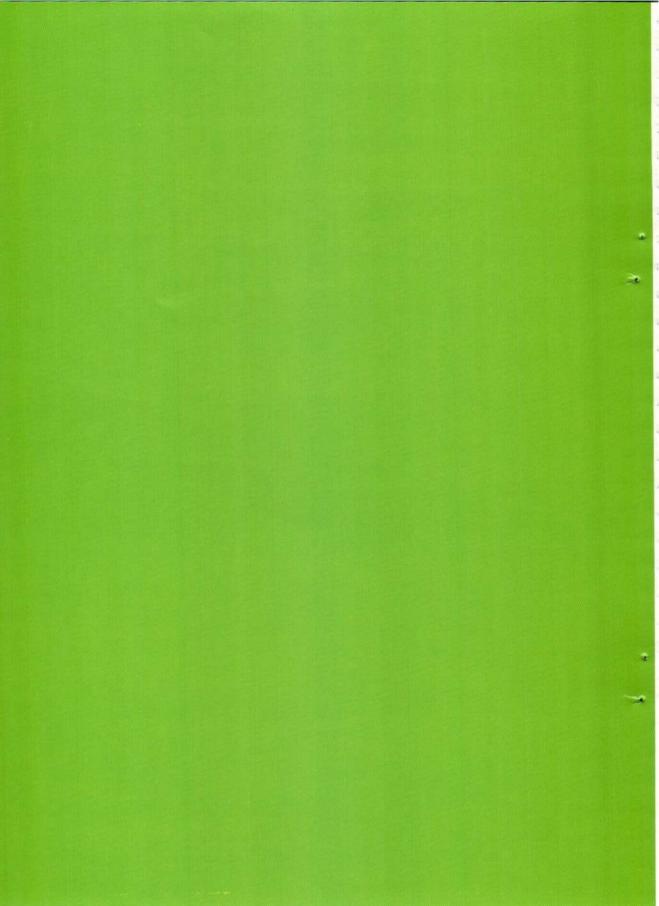
Participants at the workshop on Al Literacy for Electoral Actor in Malaysia.





14. PUBLIC OUTREACH AND MEDIA CAMPAIGN





14. Public Outreach and Media Campaign

14.1 Voter Education and Awareness Initiatives for General Elections 2024.

Media Coordination and Public Outreach programs play a pivotal role in increasing public awareness, voter turnout and participation in the elections. During the year several initiatives, including social media campaigns, community-based initiatives and voter education programs were conducted to educate 128.6 Million voters, with an increase of 106 million as compared to General Elections 2018. Special measures were taken to enlighten youth as first-time voters, women and other vulnerable groups including persons with disabilities, transgender citizens and minorities about the significance of their vote and the correct procedures for casting of votes. For this purpose, the Commission launched a comprehensive and inclusive Voter Education & Awareness Campaign through all mediums i.e. print, electronic and digital media.

14.1.1 Print Media Campaign

The Commission launched an awareness campaign for general public regarding establishment of monitoring control rooms at the district, regional, provincial and secretariat levels for lodging election related complaints.

14.1.2 Electronic Media Campaign in Collaboration with PEMRA

During the General Elections 2024, the Commission developed approximately 50 public awareness videos which were aired 6,518 times on various electronic media channels as Public Service Messages, with the support of the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA), which were also broadcasted via Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation (PBC) on radio channels.

Additionally, the ECP created four radio messages for providing essential information on voter registration and polling procedures focusing on men, women, youth, persons with disabilities, the elderly, minorities and transgender persons. These messages were also translated into Urdu and four regional languages, ensuring accessibility for diverse populations.

14.1.3 Digital Media Campaign

ECP developed a series of 33 Videos as part of a campaign for electoral awareness among voters on the following topics:

- Prevention against corrupt practices
- Code of conduct for different stakeholders
- · Prevention of ballot paper from rejection
- Use of postal ballot
- Awareness of various electoral processes, such as nomination, scrutiny, bulk breaking and polling process

These videos were prepared in various regional languages and disseminated through social media platforms and WhatsApp channels during General Election 2024. Through these videos ECP reached out to 10,558,449 social media users. This awareness campaign was also coordinated with civil society organizations, universities and PEMRA for electronic media channels across Pakistan for wider dissemination, which impacted the overall voter turnout.

14.1.4 Voter Education and Outreach Campaign

Dissemination of Information, Education & Communication Material

- Posters: The ECP designed and printed 150,000 posters encouraging women's participation in elections, providing guidance to avoid vote rejection and postal ballot process, which was provided to district offices for display at different places including polling stations, educational institutions and key stakeholder offices.
- Posters in Regional Languages: 03 different types of posters were also designed and approx. 100,000 of these were distributed through District Voters Education Committees (DVECs), Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), Public and Private sector organizations and academia at the district level in all four provinces to educate and engage the voters. These posters depicted the messages/information on women's participation in the electoral process, contesting elections on general seats, casting their

vote in elections and how a voter can avoid his/her vote from getting rejected.

- Brochures: 100,000 copies of the Urdu brochure and 23,000 copies of the Sindhi brochure were provided to Provincial Election Commission (PEC) offices for further dissemination through ECP's District Voter Education Committees (DVECs) across Pakistan
- ATM Messages: Displayed Public Service Messages through Bank's ATMs for checking of location of polling station on poll day.

14.1.5 Media Workshops and Awareness Sessions on Code of Conduct

The Commission arranged different media workshops and trainings across the country for the awareness of media personnel regarding different electoral processes. Special workshops of CSOs, media and other stakeholders were also conducted on awareness of the Code of Conduct issued by the Commission. Additionally, 344 media personnel (285 males and 59 females) were trained on the Code of Conduct designed for national media, and 359 media personnel (278 males and 81 females) were trained on responsible and inclusive reporting, both with the technical support of development partners i.e. "The International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES)." The training mainly covered the topics of effective reporting on elections, ECP's code of conduct for media personnel and countering disinformation, misinformation and hate speech.

14.1.6 Capacity Building Training on Use of Social Media

The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), with the support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), conducted two-days capacity-building training on use of social media w.e.f 29th to 30th May, 2024 in Islamabad. The training covered a wide range of topics, including combating misinformation and disinformation, running voter education campaigns, effective communication strategies, the role of social media in elections and best practices for online engagement. This initiative was part of ECP's ongoing efforts to strengthen its digital presence and ensure dissemination of accurate information to the public.

14.1.7 Appearance on TV Shows Highlighting Soft Initiatives

For the General Elections 2024, MCO Wing of the Commission arranged a detailed media briefing at the EMCC and server room, which was widely covered by the media. During the General Election heads of the wings of ECP also appeared in various talk shows on Radio and TV channels highlighting the importance of various procedures and aspects of the electoral process. These talk shows were telecasted on PTV for awareness of the general public and were appreciated.

14.2 Arrangements for National and International Media and Observers

The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) implemented a comprehensive and well-coordinated approach to facilitate national /international observers and media for the General Elections 2024.

i. Open-Door Policy Implementation

Legal Framework: ECP adopted an "Open Door Policy" which aligns with Section 238 of the Elections Act 2017, allowing national/ international observers and media to observe the electoral process with full facilitation provided through Ministry of Information, Foreign Affairs and Interior.

ii. Invitations and Visa Facilitation

Invitation: On 24th October 2024, the ECP extended an open invitation to international observers through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Visa Deadline: The visa application deadline was extended to 31st January 2024 to facilitate international observers.

iii. Facilitation and Coordination

ECP coordinated with Ministry of Interior (MOI), Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MoIB), Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) and law enforcement agencies to ensure security, visa issuance, free movement and access of national international media / observers to polling stations.

Information Kit: Observers and media received a kit including a booklet, diary, pen, folder and bag.

iv. Facilitation Desk

Desk at ECP Secretariat: A dedicated desk was set up at the ECP Secretariat to assist international observers and media.

v. Briefings

Observers were briefed on ECP's constitutional obligations, election preparations, electoral reforms, the working mechanism of EMCC, social inclusion, institutional reforms, digital systems, voter education and gender mainstreaming.

These arrangements reflected ECP's commitment to ensuring transparency, security and accessibility for international observers and media during the General Elections 2024.

14.2.1 International Observers and Media

The ECP, in coordination with the External Publicity Wing (EPW) of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MOIB), formally invited foreign media outlets to observe the 2024 General Elections. Accreditation applications were made available on the ECP website and the EPW diligently forwarded lists of foreign media entities to the ECP. In accordance with EPW's policy, international media personnel were deployed in Lahore, Karachi and Islamabad. A total of 341 accreditation cards were issued to international media representatives and 86 cards were issued to international observers.

14.2.2 Accreditation Cards Issuance Mechanism

To facilitate the process of election observation, ECP with help of other stakeholders provided through special initiative a congenial environment to both national and international media and observers, involved in the election observation process.

Election observation Accreditation Cards are official cards issued by the ECP to authorize individuals and organizations for observing the polling process at the polling station. For General Elections 2024, accreditation cards were prepared in 4 categories in distinguished colours having security features, for issuance

to the national and international media, national and international observers. To facilitate the observers and media following strategy was devised to ensure timely issuance of accreditation cards:

Sr. No.	Category for Issuance of Accreditation Card	Issuing Authority	
1	International observers and media	MCO Wing at ECP Secretariat, Islamabad	
2	National Organizations, CSOs and Media based at Islamabad	MCO Wing at ECP Secretariat, Islamabad	
3	 National Organizations, CSOs and Media based at Provincial Level Organizations, CSOs and Media based at Provincial Level 	Provincial Election Commissioner (PEC)	
4	Local Organizations, media, CSOs based at District level	District Returning Officer (DRO)	

Consequently, a significant number of national journalists were accredited by the ECP to observe the electoral process. The Press Information Department (PID), an adjunct entity of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MOIB), significantly coordinated with ECP during the issuance of accreditation cards. A total of 19,094 Accreditation Cards were issued to national media personnel and 14,630 to national observers.

The observers not only observed the process of polling but also observed the counting and result tabulation process. A leading number of domestic/national observers were also deployed by Free and Fair Election Network (FAFEN) in Pakistan. FAFEN, international observers and national observers from different CSOs and national NGOs have also acknowledged in their reports the timely and effective facilitation and support by the ECP.

14.3 Workshops on Role of Media to Strengthen Democracy

On September 10th, 2024, the MCO Wing of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), successfully conducted a training session for journalists. This training aimed at enhancing their understanding of electoral processes. The event featured with interactive workshops on



election laws, the media's role in democracy and ethical reporting practices. ECP officials emphasized the importance of empowering journalists to ensure accurate information dissemination during elections, while UNDP representatives underscored the critical role of an informed media in strengthening democratic accountability.

14.4 The Communications and Public Outreach Framework

MCO Wing, in consultation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), has developed a comprehensive media policy document i.e "The Communications and Public Outreach Framework for the Election Commission of Pakistan".



مور تد 10 عتبر 2024: الیکشن کمیشن آف پاکستان نے بوائن فری لیا اور سینتر فار ایکسیلنس ان جر طوم (ک ای ہے)، آئی لیا اے اشر آگ سے ''قبل کا بیٹ کے مجاب کے مجاب کا جو میں ایک موان سے آپکے ورکشانے کا اضفاد

This strategic framework encompasses a wide range of communication channels and methodologies, including:

a. Traditional media (print and electronic) coverage and monitoring

- b. Newsletter dissemination
- c. Social media strategy and monitoring across multiple platforms
- d. Voter education initiatives
- e. Strategic advertisement placement
- f. Crisis Communication protocols

This multifaceted approach of the Commission aims to enhance public engagement and awareness regarding electoral processes and related matters, utilizing both modern and traditional media channels to ensure broad reach and effectiveness.

14.5 Coffee Table Book

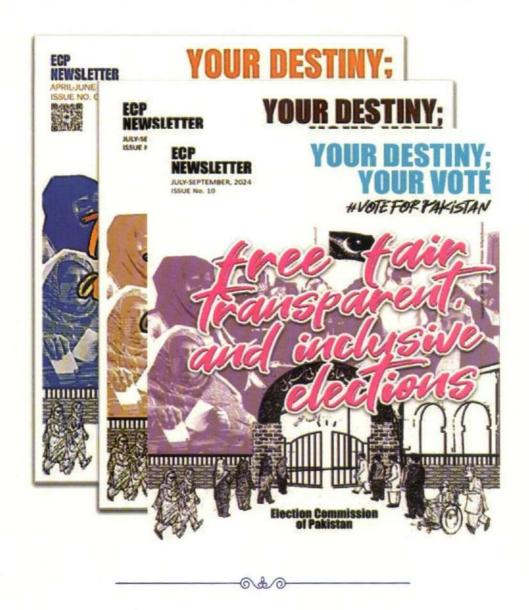
Transformation of ECP." This book provides a vibrant overview of the structural transformation that the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has undergone in the past five years. Over this period, the ECP has evolved significantly, embracing innovative changes that have reshaped its operations and approach. This transformation has streamlined internal processes and enhanced transparency, accessibility and responsiveness. These advancements, both in equipment and structure, aimed at improving electoral management, have been implemented for the public good, ensuring a more reliable and user-friendly electoral system. This colourful and meticulously designed book showcases the ECP's remarkable journey, highlighting its achievements and future aspirations to inform and engage the public in its evolving story.

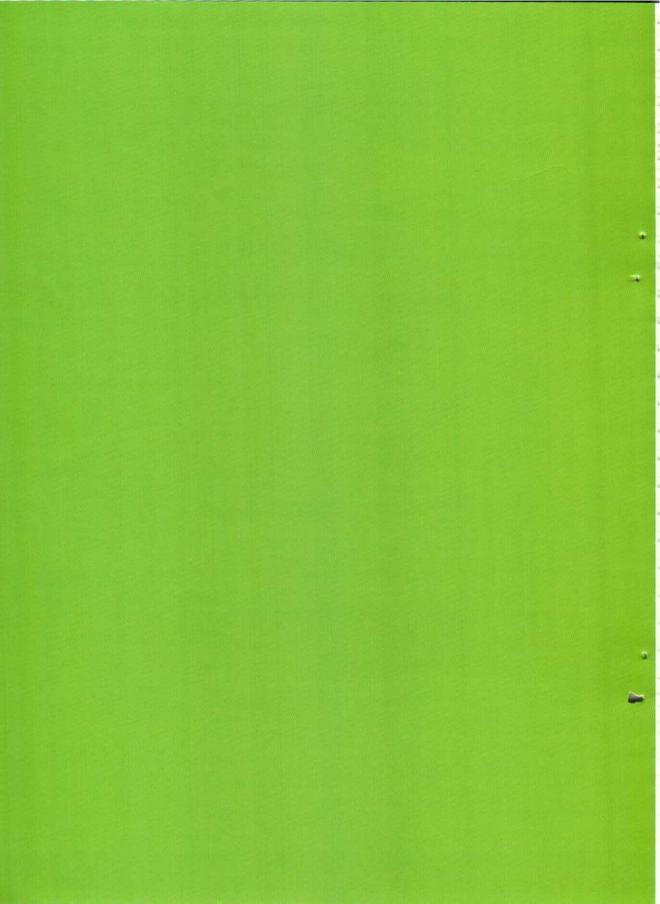
14.6 Quarterly Newsletter

The Commission has published regular quarterly newsletters and these publications are an essential tool of communication and update the readers on all the initiatives, successes and future activities of the organization while highlighting contributions by the secretariat and all field offices of the Commission.

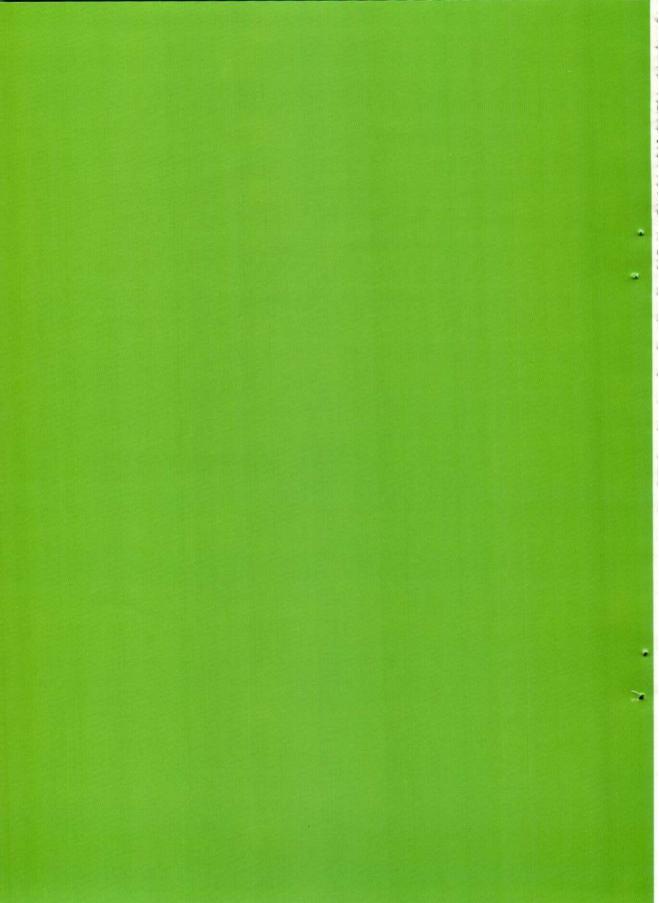
Each issue is designed to not only connect its readers but also to provide an informative mix of insightful news and graphics that highlight the organization's activities. Regular communication within the organization fosters a strong sense

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





15. INCLUSIVE ELECTIONS, INCREASING VOTER REGISTRATION AND REDUCING THE GENDER GAP



15. Inclusive Elections, Increasing Voter Registration and Reducing the Gender Gap

Article 25 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan ensures equality for all citizens and explicitly prohibits discrimination based on gender. Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) is committed to ensure inclusivity in the electoral process by providing equal opportunities to both men and women and a conducive environment for all sections of the society, regardless of their status in society. Throughout the year-2024, ECP has taken various initiatives to integrate perspective of women, persons with disabilities, minorities and the transgender community in the electoral process.

As per the Elections Act, 2017 and ECP's 3rd Strategic Plan, ECP carried out numerous activities to ensure that Pakistan's electoral process is not only free, fair and impartial but also inclusive with creating an enabling environment for the marginalized communities, to exercise their right to vote without discrimination and intimidation.

15.1 Establishment of Dedicated Gender Desks

Embedded within the Election Monitoring Control Centres (EMCCs), dedicated Gender Desks with complaint numbers were established at the Secretariat and Provincial Headquarters during Elections-2024. These desks received complaints related to gender based electoral violences while monitoring pre-poll, poll day and post poll activities through a gender lens, fostering a strong perception and confidence among women and marginalized groups about ECP's commitment

to prioritize and address their concerns. The desks worked round the clock from 2nd February till 10th February 2024, to take prompt actions on complaints received from marginalized sections of the society including women, transgender, PWDs and minorities. Such complaints were dealt with prompt action.



15.2 Capacity Building Workshops

15.2.1 Workshops on Protection Against Harassment of Women at Workplace Act-2010

A series of training workshops were held in the month of June and July, 2024 for officers of the Commission at the Secretariat and Provincial Headquarters regarding Code of Conduct for the Harassment Act-2010. The training was attended by the members of the Inquiry Committee as well as ECP officers and officials. The purpose of these workshops was to enhance participants understanding of the Act and to create a harassment-free work environment at ECP. These workshops helped to foster a culture of respect and dignity, contributing to a more inclusive and productive work environment within the office. About 121 ECP officers/officials were trained through these workshops for further imparting awareness to their staff. The response of the participants who attended the trainings was very encouraging and has contributed to create a positive and harassment free environment largely at the ECP Offices all over the country.





Training at Serena Hotel, Quetta, Balochistan

15.2.2 Workshops on Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB)

During the Year -2024 for the first time at ECP, workshops on Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB) were arranged at the Secretariat and all Provincial Headquarters. The purpose of these workshops was to enhance the capacity of its officers to understand the concept of GRB, its principles and the use of tools required for planning and implementation of GRB. The workshops also highlighted the techniques for allocation of resources based on the specific needs of women and other marginalized groups.

15.2.3 BRIDGE Training Workshops on "Gender Equality and Elections"

BRIDGE training Workshops on "Gender Equality and Elections" for female officers of ECP and Civil Society Organizations as members of the Gender and Disability Electoral Working Group were conducted in the year 2024. The training workshops aimed to highlight the importance of women's participation in electoral process and democracy. Participants delved into the challenges women faced in elections and developed effective strategies to promote their inclusion. The workshop also facilitated networking among women staff of the Election Commission of Pakistan and Civil Society Organizations with a focus on advancing women's electoral participation and fostering collaboration to create strategies for increasing women's engagement in electoral process.



BRIDGE Training on "Gender Equality and Elections" at PC Bhurban

15.3 Consultations with Stakeholders for Gender Mainstreaming and Social Inclusion in Electoral Processes

During the year, ECP engaged with different stakeholders on diverse issues mainly focusing on the mainstreaming of women, minorities and marginalized groups in the electoral processes. The details of the activities are provided in the succeeding paras.

15.3.1 Consultative Session with Female Employees Working in the Office of Provincial Election Commissioner (PEC) Balochistan

To ensure conducive environment for female staff at their workplace, a consultative meeting was held with all female employees of PEC office Balochistan, on 31st May, 2024, under the chairpersonship of Hon'ble Member Election Commission, Balochistan. The purpose of the said meeting was to discuss and address the challenges faced by ECP female staff in their offices.

15.3.2 Consultative Workshop for Reducing Gender Gap and Launching Voter Registration Strategy Phase -V

Currently there is a gender gap of 7.6% between men and women in the electoral rolls. To reduce the gender gap, ECP is striving to enhance its voter registration through a strategy of including women, transgender and persons with disabilities in the electoral rolls. The focus of the 5th phase of the campaign is to institutionalize the registration process by ensuring complete geographical coverage. The strategy also aims to minimize the impact of climate change on NIC/Voter registration process and also its impact on other electoral processes. Accordingly, a series of consultative workshops were held across the country with key stakeholders, including ECP Officers, NADRA staff, members of Provincial Voter Education Committees (PVEC) and District Voter Education Committees (DVEC), implementing partners, CSOs and other experts, to discuss past challenges and provide insights for refining the "Inclusive NIC/Voter Registration Strategy Phase-V". Around 180 participants including 40 females participated in these workshops. The participants of the workshops strongly recommended

to launch the registration campaign in all the Districts across the country. The representatives of the Commission informed the participants that Election Commission in coordination with relevant stakeholders including NADRA is launching Phase V of NIC/Voter registration Campaign to increase the registration of women and to reduce the Gender Gap.

15.3.3 Consultative Workshops on Climate Change

A round of consultations on the impact of climate change on the electoral process as well as voters registration activities were simultaneously held in 2024 in all provinces. These consultations engaged experts, policymakers, government officials, representatives from PDMAs, NADRA and CSOs to assess impacts of the climate change and develop climate resilient strategies and plans for voter registration. A comprehensive report has been prepared on the potential risks and ECP's response to events of flooding, storms and their overall impact on the electoral process.

15.3.4 Consultative Sessions with Transgender Community Regarding Issuance of NIC and Voter Registration

To promote inclusive elections, consultative sessions were held with members of the transgender community across the country to identify regions in all the provinces, with low NIC and voter registration of Transgender citizens. The goal of this identification process was to provide NIC registration services of NADRA to Transgender communities at their doorsteps.

15.4 Gender and Disability Electoral Working Group

In 2016, ECP established a "Gender and Disability Electoral Working Group" for engaging Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to discuss and strategize policies to enhance gender mainstreaming and social inclusion in electoral processes. This platform is working at Federal level as well as all the Provincial headquarters. More than 100 organizations are members of the Group. This Group meets regularly to discuss challenges in mainstreaming the marginalized communities

and provide feedback to enhance their electoral participation.

15.4.1 Consultation with Gender and Disability Electoral Working Group in Sindh

A Consultative session with Gender and Disability Electoral Working Group (GDEWG) was held at the Provincial Election Commissioner (PEC) office Karachi, to discuss ECP's special initiatives for inclusive elections. During the meeting, proposals for simplifying the postal ballot process was discussed with proposed amendments in the Elections Act of 2017. Additionally, guidelines on filling of Forms 37, 38, 39, 40 and 41, as well as an online application for postal ballots was also suggested by the participants. Recommendations made during the meeting also included a conduct of a mock poll exercise for voters with disabilities.

15.4.2 Consultations on Gender Mainstreaming and Social Inclusion Framework (GMSIF) with the Members of Gender and Disability Electoral Working Group

Consultative session on Gender Mainstreaming and Social Inclusion Framework (GMSIF) was held in April 2024, at the office of PEC-Sindh and at Karachi University with members of Gender & Disability Electoral Working Group (GDEWG) and representatives from line departments, academia, students of the university and concerned ECP staff. The objective of the consultations was to discuss and enhance marginalized communities participation in electoral process, providing wheelchairs to PWD voters on poll day, information in Braille at the polling stations and also information about ongoing NIC / voter registration campaigns for marginalized communities. Moreover, participants were informed regarding ECP's strategic plan, awareness raising campaign highlighting assistance and coordination required from educational institutions.



GMSIF Consultation at PEC office-Sindh

15.4.3 GMSIF Consultations with the Female Parliamentarians and Members of Gender and Disability Electoral Working Group-Balochistan

Two consultative sessions were held with women parliamentarians and members of Gender and Disability Electoral working Group (GDEWG) on Gender Mainstreaming and Social Inclusion Framework (GMSIF) in June, 2024, in Quetta, under the chairpersonship of Hon'ble Member Election Commission Balochistan. Participants included female MNAs and MPAs, representatives from line departments, CSOs particularly working women, transgender, PWDs and concerned ECP staff. Participant held a detailed discussion on the steps taken by the Commission to reduce the gender gap in electoral rolls, the implementation of legal frameworks to support marginalized communities and challenges faced by transgender individuals and people with disabilities. The participants proposed various recommendations, such as improving accessibility and security at polling stations, increasing voter awareness and enhancing the representation of women and marginalized groups in electoral process. Female parliamentarians also suggested the formation of Women Parliamentary Electoral Working Group for enhancing women participation.



GMSIF Consultation at Serena Hotel, Balochistan

15.4.4 Launch of Gender Mainstreaming and Social Inclusion Framework (GMSIF)

ECP has successfully prepared a five years' policy document "Gender Mainstreaming and Social Inclusion Framework (GMSIF) 2024-2028" through a consultative process and launched it on 3rd December 2024 to commemorate the International Day of Persons with Different Abilities. Thus, ECP became one of the first EMBs in the region with its Gender Mainstreaming and Social Inclusion Policy Framework to integrate gender concerns and perspectives in all the stages of electoral process.

15.5 Special Measures to Empower Female Youth

Civic and voter education is essential for inclusive electoral process. Voter education bridges knowledge gaps, addresses barriers to participation, ensures maximum voter turnout and better representation. These initiatives empower all groups, particularly marginalized communities.

In line with the Elections Act of 2017, Gender and Social Inclusion (GSI) Wing of the Commission has led various outreach programs to empower women and raise awareness regarding ECP's Special Initiatives for marginalized groups. Below are some of the key activities during 2024:

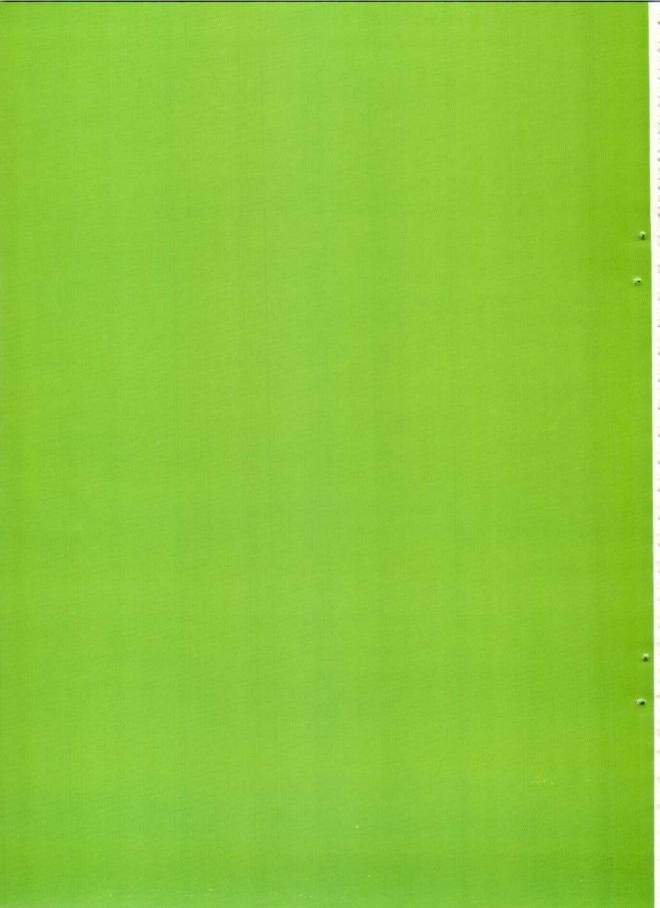
Youth particularly female students were engaged from different universities, colleges and schools of the country to enhance their understanding of voter

registration process, democracy and elections. Civic and voter education sessions were held at leading universities such as Shaheed Benazir University, Peshawar, Sardar Bahadur Khan University, Quetta, Fatima Jinnah Medical University, Lahore, University of Punjab, Kinnaird College University, UCP Lahore and Jinnah University for Women, Karachi and many other Institutions. These sessions were attended by thousands of female students and faculty members from various departments. In these sessions, students were informed about the different stages of electoral process, the importance of their vote and the role of youth in Pakistan's Democracy. This initiative was also aimed to equip students with the knowledge of registering their vote and casting their vote on the poll day. All the sessions were followed by mock poll exercises to enhance students understanding of the poll day activities.

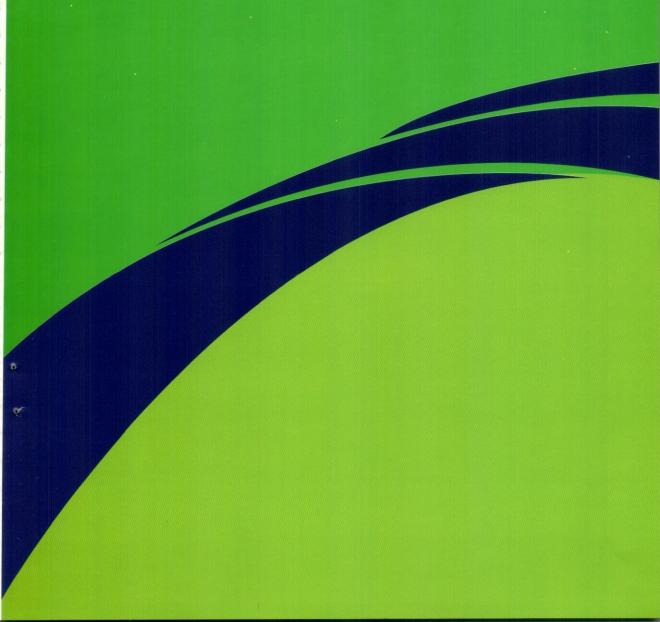


Additional Director General GSI ECP Ms. Nighat Siddique, JPEC (Admin) Mr. Ali Asghar Sial conducted a dialogue on "Gender Mainstreaming & Social Inclusion Framework 2024-28 at University of Karachi





16. HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT





16. Human Resource Management

Human Resource Management (HRM), entails adopting a systematic and strategic approach to manage individual's efficiently within an organization with an ultimate aim of achieving organizational objectives. The core objective is to optimize employees' performance, aligning it with the employer's strategic goals. The purview of HR department extends across diverse areas, which include recruitment, employee's benefits design, performance appraisal and reward management. Essentially, HR encompasses the entirety of employee-related matters, spanning from the initial recruitment phase to career progression to their eventual retirement.

The Commission is committed to stay abreast of contemporary human resource management methodologies and to this end, has employed a transformative approach to its human resource management practices. The Establishment Wing has been transformed into a dynamic HR Wing and specialized officers have been hired. This strategic restructuring not only underscores the Commission's dedication to modern HR practices but also signifies a proactive approach towards aligning human resource management with the evolving needs of the organization.

16.1 Promotions

Career advancement mutually benefits an organization and its employees. Recognition of hard work and performance of employees in addition to financial remuneration is a key aspect in qualitative employee retention. Adhering to this approach, an unprecedented series of Departmental Promotion Committee meetings were held to recommend promotions relevant to different cadres of employees based upon the assessment according to a well-defined eligibility criterion. The detail of promotions made during the year 2024 is as under:

	Promotions						
SI. No.	BS	ECP Secretariat, Islamabad	Punjab	Sindh	KP	Balochistan	Total
1	BS-20	04	-			-	04
2	BS-19	04	-	-	<u>-</u>	-	04
3	BS-18	16	-		-	-	16
4	BS-16		03	05	-	01	09
5	BS-15	-	07	01	02	01	11

	Total	24	24	09	02	04	63
8	BS-05	4	-	01	-	-	01
7	BS-11		07	01	-	-	08
6	BS-13	-	07	01	-	02	10

16.2 Recruitment

Recruitment is a continuous facet of Human Resource Management (HRM) and serves as the lifeline for organizational evolution. Embracing fresh talent becomes imperative for sustained growth. To uphold principles of fairness, meritocracy and transparency, the Commission has integrated cutting-edge technology i.e. Optical Mark Recognition (OMR), into the recruitment process. This modern approach significantly minimizes human involvement in paper marking, ensuring an impartial selection process. Currently, the recruitment process encompasses a screening test and a descriptive test, filtering candidates based on qualifications. Those matching the criteria proceed to the interview stage, embodying ECP's commitment to a comprehensive and technologically advanced recruitment strategy that aligns with evolving organizational needs. Detail of recruitments made during the year 2024 is as under:

Recruitment							
SI. No	BS	ECP Secretariat	Punjab	Sindh	KP	Baluchistan	Total
1	BS-19	01			-	-	01
2	BS-18	01	-		-		01
3	BS-17	02	-		-	-	02
4	BS-14	10	17	01	-	34	62
5	BS-02	03					03
	Total	17	17	01	-	34	69

16.3 Human Resource Management System (HRMS)

Human Resource Management Systems (HRMS) provides a means of acquiring, storing and analyzing the personal information of an organization's employees and creates a smooth end-to-end process for the employers to engage in conventional decision making. Some elements are managing organizational hierarchies, tracking development and progress of tasks, managing employees' attendance

and other personal data. HRMS is developed to facilitate the HR operations at the Secretariat level as well as in offices of all Provincial Election Commissioners. Data/Service profiles of 549 employees have further been incorporated in HRMS during the year 2024 and details are here under:

Sr. No.	Description	No. of Employees
1	ECP Secretariat	110
2	Punjab	177
3	Sindh	124
4	KP	2
5	Balochistan	136
	Total	549

16.4 Disciplinary Proceedings

Discipline in an organization plays a pivotal role to ensure a framework of accountability, fostering professionalism, conduct and fairness. Disciplinary proceedings serve as a preventive measure, providing a conducive work environment. An exclusive supervision of such cases has been put in place to deal with disciplinary proceedings which allow for timely finalization and objection. This proactive approach not only deters inappropriate behaviour but also reinforces a culture of tolerance and responsibility amongst employees of the Commission. Detail of disciplinary cases is presented hereunder:

16.4.1 Ongoing Disciplinary Proceedings Against the Employees of ECP During the Year 2024

Sr. No.	Name of Office / Province	Disciplinary Cases Under Process
1	ECP, Secretariat, Islamabad	57
2	Punjab Province	Nil
3	Sindh Province	02
4	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province	01
5	Balochistan Province	Nil
6	Other Departments	Nil
	Total	60

16.4.2 Disciplinary Cases ECP Employees Decided During the Year 2024

Sr. No.	Action Taken	No. of Cases
1	Exonerated (Officers/officials)	26
2	Penalties Imposed (Officers/officials)	31
	Total	57

16.4.3 Detail of Decided Disciplinary Cases Initiated Under Section 55 of the Elections Act, 2017 Against the Employees of other Departments During the Year 2024

Sr. No.	Employees	No. of Cases
1	Officers/officials of Government of Sindh	12
2	Officer of Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	01
	Total	13

16.5 Court Cases Pertaining to Service Matters Decided During the Year 2024

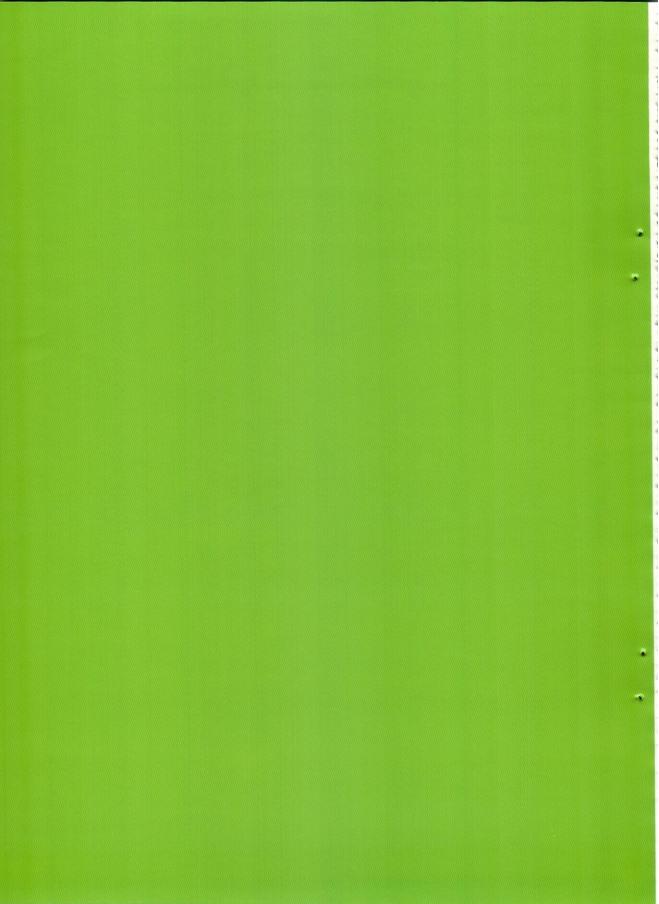
The officers and officials who have been imposed upon major/minor penalties approached appropriate legal forums. All cases filed in Federal Service Tribunal, High Courts & Supreme Court were followed-up properly by the officers of HR and Law Wing of the ECP. The detail of cases decided by the Courts during the year 2024 pertaining to service matters is given hereunder:

Sr. No.	Name of the Court	No. of cases
1	Hon'ble Supreme Court of Pakistan	37
2	Hon'ble Islamabad High Court	Nil
3	Hon'ble Peshawar High Court	01
4	Hon'ble Lahore High Court	03
5	Hon'ble Balochistan High Court	02
6	FST, Islamabad	17
7	FST, Lahore	03
8	FST, Karachi	08
9	FST, Peshawar	01
	Total	72



17. ACQUIRING OF STATE LAND AND CONSTRUCTION OF OFFICES





17. Acquiring of State Land and Construction of Offices

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

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

By December 2023, ECP had acquired state land in 29 districts, for the construction of field offices, 18 in Punjab (Layyah, Khushab, Narowal, Okara, Sargodha, Jhelum, Attock, Faisalabad, Sahiwal, Rajanpur, Lodhran, Bhakkar, Jhang, T.T. Singh, Pakpattan, Khanewal, Chakwal and M.B. Din) and 11 in Balochistan (Gwadar, Lasbella (Hub), Chagai, Washuk, Nushki, Kharan, Loralai, Sibi (Lehri), Jaffarabad, Mastung and Loralai).

In 2024, ECP further acquired state land at 9 locations, from provincial

governments for the construction of field offices. This includes 04 sites in Punjab—Lahore, Chiniot, Hafizabad, and Muzaffargarh and 5 in Balochistan, located in Quetta, Naseerabad, Kachhi, Khuzdar and Killa Saifullah. Summary of the same is tabulated as under:

Sr. #	Provincial Districts	By End of 2023	In Calendar Year 2024	Total State Land Acquired
1	Punjab	18	04	22
2	Balochistan	11	05	16
	Total	29	09	38

PC-Is for construction of 31 offices at 27 sites were prepared by the Pak PWD and approved by the DDWP for the construction of office buildings through Federal PSDP.

The construction work of five (05) PSDP funded projects REC/DECs offices i.e., Sargodha, Okara, Layyah, Jhelum and Attock has already been completed in June, 2024 by Pak PWD.

OFFICE BUILDING OF REC/DEC SARGODHA

(Centrally located state of the art building with fully functional facilities, easily accessible for general public)



NEWLY CONSTRUCTED OFFICE BUILDING OF OFFICE OF DEC OKARA (Located in District Complex, easily accessible, spacious plot with spacious parking, state of the art building with fully functional facilities)



NEWLY CONSTRUCTED OFFICE BUILDING OF OFFICE OF DEC LAYYAH (Located in District Complex, easily accessible, spacious plot with spacious parking and Lawn, state of the art building with fully functional facilities)



NEWLY CONSTRUCTED OFFICE BUILDING OF OFFICE OF DEC ATTOCK (State of the art building at prime location with spacious parking and fully functional facilities)



NEWLY CONSTRUCTED OFFICE BUILDING OF OFFICE OF DEC JHELUM (Located on the G.T Road, State of the art building adjacent to District Complex with spacious parking and fully functional facilities)



17.1 Projects in Progress

Further 06 PC-Is of 8 Projects approved by DDWP are included in PSDP during current financial year 2024-25. These projects are undertaken with the target completion by June, 2025. Details of the projects are tabulated as under:

Punjab

Sr.#	PC-I Title	Physical Progress (%age)
1	Construction of office building of REC/DEC Faisalabad	75%
2	Construction of office building of DEC Narowal	70%
3	Construction of office building of REC/DEC Sahiwal	51%
4	Construction of office building of DEC Rajanpur	48%

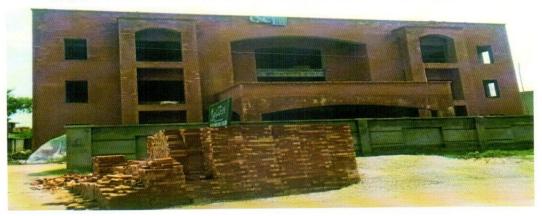
Balochistan

Sr.#	PC-I Title	Physical Progress (%age)
1	Construction of office building of DEC Jaffarabad	47.25%
2	Construction of office building of DEC Mastung	38%
3	Construction of office building of DEC Gwadar	51%
4	Construction of office building of DEC Hub	52%

UNDER CONSTRUCTION OFFICE BUILDING OF REC/DEC FAISALABAD



UNDER CONSTRUCTION OFFICE BUILDING OF DEC NAROWAL



UNDER CONSTRUCTION OFFICE BUILDING OF DEC SAHIWAL





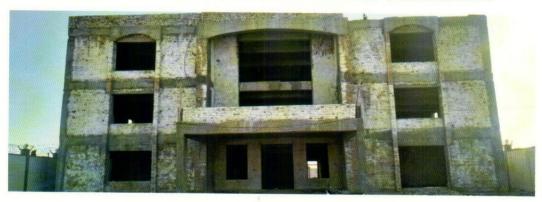
UNDER CONSTRUCTION OFFICE BUILDING OF DEC RAJANPUR



UNDER CONSTRUCTION OFFICE BUILDING OF DEC JAFFARABAD



UNDER CONSTRUCTION OFFICE BUILDING OF DEC MASTUNG



UNDER CONSTRUCTION OFFICE BUILDING OF DEC GWADAR



UNDER CONSTRUCTION OFFICE BUILDING OF DEC LASBELLA (HUB)



17.1.1 Construction of Federal Election Academy and other Offices at H-11/4, Islamabad

The PC-I for the construction of Federal Election Academy and other offices at H-11/4, Islamabad has been approved in the CDWP, meeting held on 07-06-2024 at a cost of Rs. 1994.811 Million with an allocation of Rs. 400.00 Million for current financial year i.e., 2024-25. The project is being undertaken by CDA for

execution with target completion period of 3 years.

17.1.2 Acquisition of Building for Office of PEC KP

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

17.1.3 Construction of Boundary Walls to Secure Acquired State Land To secure ECP's state lands from encroachment fifteen (15) boundary walls were constructed in various districts of Punjab and Balochistan in 2022-2023. Further, 12 boundary walls (06 in Punjab & 06 in Balochistan) have been completed by June, 2024. Details are as under:

Sr. #	Name of REC /DEC	Province	Remarks
1	REC/DECs Faisalabad Complex		
2	DEC, Jhang		Completed
3	DEC, M.B Din		
4	DEC T.T. Singh	Punjab	
5	DEC Pakpattan		
6	DEC, Khanewal		
7	DEC Loralai		
8	DEC Mastung		
9	DEC Noshki		
10	DEC Lasbela	Balochistan	Completed
11	DEC Jaffarabad		
12	DEC Lehri (Sibi)		

Cost estimates have been received from the C&W, Punjab for the construction of further 05 boundary walls (04 newly purchased plots and 01 substituted plot of Chakwal) in various districts of Punjab. Construction work will be started soon.

PICTURES OF BOUNDARY WALLS IN PUNJAB

CONSTRUCTED BOUNDARY WALL OF REC/DECS OFFICE OF FAISALABAD



CONSTRUCTED BOUNDARY WALL OF OFFICE OF DEC JHANG



CONSTRUCTED BOUNDARY WALL OF OFFICE OF DEC PAKPATTAN



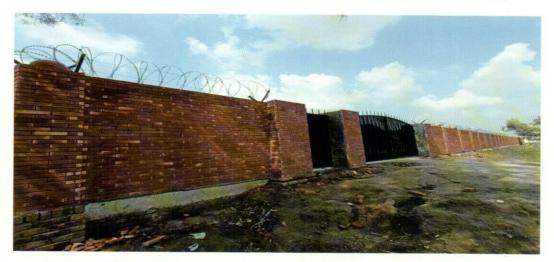


CONSTRUCTED BOUNDARY WALL OF OFFICE OF DEC M. B. DIN





CONSTRUCTED BOUNDARY WALL OF OFFICE OF DEC T.T SINGH



CONSTRUCTED BOUNDARY WALL OF OFFICE OF DEC KHANEWAL



PICTURES OF BOUNDARY WALLS IN BALOCHISTAN CONSTRUCTED BOUNDARY WALL OF OFFICE OF DEC LORALAI





CONSTRUCTED BOUNDARY WALL OF OFFICE OF DEC MASTUNG





CONSTRUCTED BOUNDARY WALL OF OFFICE OF DEC NUSHKI



CONSTRUCTED BOUNDARY WALL OF OFFICE OF DEC LASBELLA (HUB)

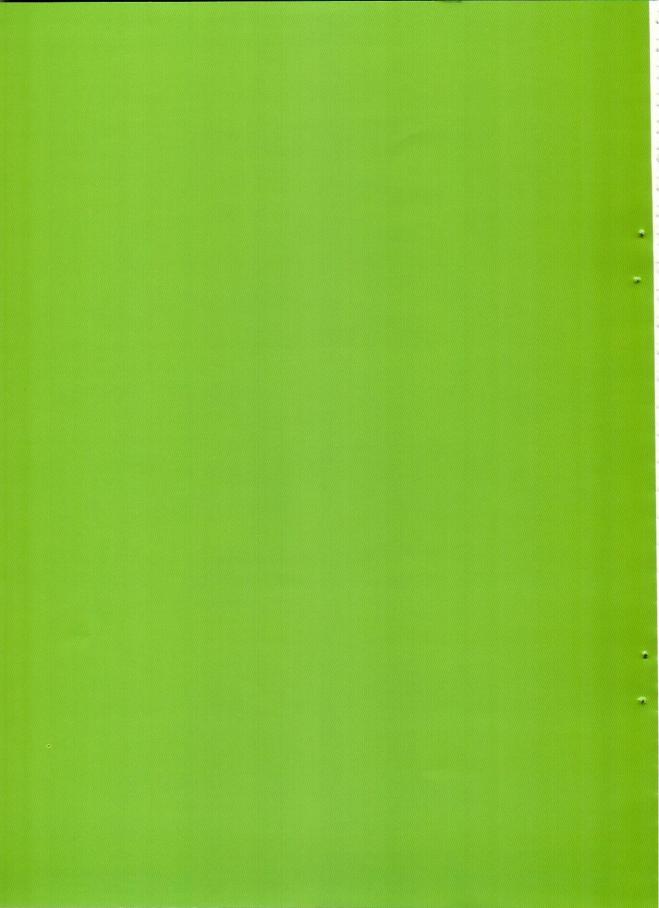


CONSTRUCTED BOUNDARY WALL OF OFFICE OF DEC JAFFARABAD



CONSTRUCTED BOUNDARY WALL OF OFFICE OF DEC SIBI (LEHRI)





2. REVISION OF ELECTORAL ROLLS



2. Revision of Electoral Rolls

Background

The Electoral Roll is a living document that caters to the inclusion of eligible persons as voters, transfer of votes and exclusion of votes of all ineligible and deceased voters. To update the rolls, ECP conducts the exercise of periodical revision. District Election Commissioners and Election Officers are notified as Registration Officers to process applications for voter registration, transfer, deletion, or correction of particulars. After a routine update exercise, the Electoral Rolls were anticipated to be frozen by July 13th, 2023, as the terms of the National Assembly, Provincial Assemblies of Sindh, and Balochistan were set to expire by August 14th, 2023. In light of section 39 of the Elections Act, the Electoral Rolls were to be frozen one month prior to the expiration of these terms.

However, the publication of the 7th Population Census results in August, 2023 changed the situation. The Population Census resulted in changes in census blocks (such as increased, merged, and split Census Blocks) across various tehsils and districts in Pakistan. These changes made it imperative for the Commission to delimit the constituencies and synchronize the Electoral Rolls with the new population data. To adjust the voters, the ECP was required to perform a door-to-door verification exercise in the affected blocks.

2.1 Implementation

The 7th Digital Census introduced a new census block scheme. This increased the number of census blocks from 163,686 to 180,051 and affected 30,332 census blocks due to splitting, merging, or both which impacted more than 17 million voters. Hence, it was crucial to conduct an exercise to verify and update the voters data. The ECP obtained updated maps and census block data from the PBS for reconciliation with the 2017 census data. A door-to-door verification exercise was then conducted to adjust the voters in their relevant census blocks as per the following timelines:

Timelines for Updating, Printing and Delivery of Electoral Rolls

S. No.	Activity	Responsibility	Timeline
1	Procurement of Maps from PBS	PBS, PECs	28-08-2023
2	Delivery of Maps (Census Circle and Census Blocks) to field offices	ECP, PECs	02-09-2023
3	Reconciliation of new census blocks and comparison with Gazette Notification of Census Block Scheme of 2017, District Census Reports, and reconciled data and removal of all discrepancies.	PECs, DECs	By 08-09-2023
4	Confirmation from DECs and PBS that all issues relating to New Census Block Scheme have been resolved/addressed	PBS, ECP, PECs, DECs	By 08-09-2023
· 5	Procurement of required stationery etc. Booklets/Guidelines	PECs, DECs	By 08-09-2023
6	Appointment of Supervisors and VOs	ECP, PECs, DECs	By 09-09-2023
7	Data processing, printing of CBCs wise lists of affected Electoral Rolls (Split CBCs only) and supply of two sets to the offices of DECs	ECP, NADRA, PECs, DECs	By 10-09-2023
8	Confirmation from all PECs that stage is set for door-to-door verification	PBS, ECP, PECs, DECs	By 11-09-2023
9	Verification of Voters of affected Electoral Rolls (Split CBCs only) Monitoring of door-to-door verification by the ECP	ECP, PECs, RECs, DECs, AROs, Supervi- sors, VOs	20 Days 12-09-2023 To 01-10-2023
10	Data Entry of Verified Voters of affected Census Blocks at District level	PECs, RECs, DECs	By 31-10-2023
11	Processing, printing and supply of 3 sets of Electoral Rolls without pictures to the DECs for use during General Elections	NADRA	By 25-11-2023

The door-to-door verification exercise was completed in November 2023, successfully adjusting 17 million voters to their relevant census blocks. During the exercise, voter education and media campaigns were conducted to ensure the electoral rolls were current and accurate for the upcoming General Election. The final Electoral Rolls were published on December 1st, 2023 and the following number of male and female registered voters were eligible to cast their votes in the General Election 2024:

Province/Area	Male Voters	Female Voters	Total
Balochistan	3,016,164	2,355,783	5,371,947
KPK	11,944,397	9,983,722	21,928,119
Punjab	39,122,082	34,085,814	73,207,896
Sindh	14,612,655	12,382,114	26,994,769
ICT	568,406	514,623	1,083,029
Total	69,263,704	59,322,056	128,585,760

2.2 Challenges

Multiple challenges emerged during the execution of the aforesaid verification exercise of Electoral Rolls, as summarized below:

Address Issues

As defined in Section 27 of the Elections Act, 2017, a person is deemed to be a resident of an electoral area, if his temporary or permanent address, mentioned on the NIC, is of that area. However, practically, this definition proves to be a major challenge for the ECP during registration or transfer of votes. In several cases, the addresses mentioned on the NICs are either incomplete or insufficient to assign voters to the correct electoral area. For instance, an area namely Kot Hathial in district Islamabad consists of 60 census blocks where most of the NICs just bear the Kot Hathial as the address. Such incomplete addresses of NICs make it difficult to allocate voters accurately. This leads to issues for the voters as well as candidates, especially during delimitation, establishment of polling stations and conduct of Local Government Elections.

ii. Hiring staff from other departments

ECP hires the verifying staff from other government departments for revision exercises. Many of these officials appointed as AROs, supervisors, or verifying officials could not perform their tasks with requisite level of diligence, thus compromising the accuracy of the verification exercise. Furthermore, these appointed officials are not under the legal jurisdiction of the Election Commission and as such, they cannot be held accountable for any errors made during the verification process.

iii. Inaccurate maps and data

The revision of electoral rolls relies on maps and descriptions provided by PBS. In some cases, inaccurate or incomplete maps, as well as overlapping census blocks, created significant challenges during the verification and adjustment process.

iv. Unregistered societies

The rapid expansion of new localities, especially unregistered societies / towns, lacking proper street lanes and house numbers hindered the proper verification process.

2.3 Recommendations

To address these challenges, the following recommendations are proposed:

- i. The Federal / Provincial governments may legislate or issue directives to the Commissioners / Deputy Commissioners, making it mandatory that no society or town be issued NOC unless the area designated to be developed is assigned street and house numbers in the master plan. For existing towns and urban areas lacking street and house numbers, the government may make arrangements to assign those numbers. In rural areas, every house should be given a specific number for proper identification, as scattered houses in villages make it difficult to assign accurate household numbers during voter verification and registration.
- ii. The Federal Government may direct NADRA to ensure the mentioning of complete addresses on NICs specifying house and street numbers, and mohallah / Basti at the time of processing applications for fresh or modified NICs.
- iii. The definition of Election Official provided in Section 2 (xviii) of the Elections Act, 2017 may be amended as stated under:

"Election Official" includes an officer or official of the Commission, the District Returning Officer, a Returning Officer, an Assistant Returning Officer, a Presiding Officer, an Assistant Presiding Officer, a Polling Officer or any officer or official from law enforcement or other agencies or any other official appointed or deputed for election duties as well as Revising Authority, Assistant Registration Officer, Supervisor, Verifying Official and Display Centre In-charge appointed or deputed to perform duty in connection with the preparation, updation, and revision of Electoral Rolls."



In such case, the allocation of seats in the National Assembly to each province and the Federal Capital shall be made after the conduct of the immediate General Election"

Similarly, the following proviso may be incorporated in Section 17(2) of the Elections Act, 2017:

"Provided that the delimitation of constituencies shall not be made if the publication of Census is made within six months before the expiry of the term of National Assembly or any Provincial Assembly."

ii. PBS while undertaking the census exercise, should:

- Prepare maps on the basis of updated revenue limits and data of a district.
- Mention legends and physical features on digitized maps for both urban and rural areas.
- Ensure accuracy by reconciling the records of Census Charges Circles and Blocks with revenue record before the official publication of the Census.

iii. Provincial Governments should:

- Prepare and provide maps strictly as per the requirement of the Commission and notified administrative units, (i.e. tehsils, qanungo halqas/supervisory tapedar circles, patwar Circles / tapedar Circles, etc.) for delimitation exercise.
- Provide accurate maps to the Commission according to the prescribed scale to prevent issues during the delimitation of constituencies.
- Resolve the land settlement issues before providing details of administrative units and maps to the Commission.



Commission. The DCRs were not updated as per the latest revenue units such as newly created tehsils, qanungo halqas, and patwar circles. Additionally, in urban areas, the maps provided by PBS lacked clarity on physical features. These impediments made the task of delimitation committees arduous.

In districts where no land settlement was made, the collection
of revenue data comprising notified revenue units indicating
administrative boundaries was also a challenge due to the nonavailability of the record.

iii. Litigations Following Final Delimitation

After the disposal of 1327 representations by the Commission, the delimitation was finalized and published on November 30th, 2023. Legally, there was no avenue to challenge the final delimitation. However, the parties invoked the writ jurisdiction of High Courts. This not only further burdened the High Courts but also prolonged the litigation even after the announcement of the Election Program. For example, the delimitation of Khyber district was decided a few days before the poll day, resulting in amendments in the final list of polling stations and the printing of additional ballot papers at the eleventh hour due to a change in the number of voters assigned to the concerned constituencies.

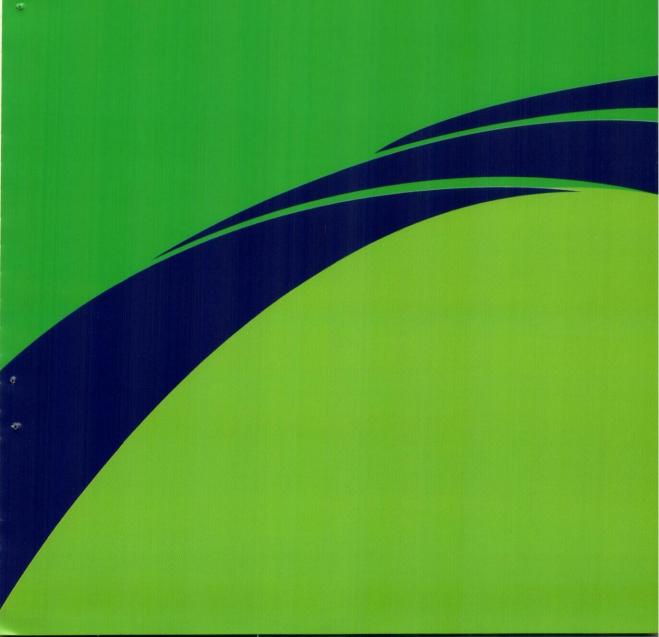
1.5 Recommendations

i. To avoid any delay in the conduct of future general elections on account of the publication of Census results near the expiry of the term of all assemblies leading to the fresh delimitation and revision of electoral rolls, the following two amendments to the Constitution and the Elections Act, 2017 are proposed:

In Article 51 of the Constitution after sub-article 5, the following proviso may be added:

"Provided that the allocation of seats shall not be revised if the publication of Census is made within six months before the expiry of the term of the National Assembly.

18. DEPLOYMENT OF IORMS (INTEGRATED OFFICE RECORD MANAGEMENT SYSTEM))





18 Deployment of IORMS

18.1 Deployment of IORMS

The IORMS (Integrated office Record Management System) software was deployed in ECP Secretariat in the year 2024 as a part of the Strategic Goal outlined in the Strategic Plan 2019-2023. IORMS aims to replace the outdated physical record management system, reducing errors and streamlining processes. The software is capable of storing, tracking and managing institutional records electronically, which improves accessibility, security and efficiency. This system is now accessible at branch level. The officers / officials of the ECP were trained on IORMS software for efficient performance and managing record systematically. Moreover, SOPs for IORMS were also drafted to use the system efficiently. Further, login details (Wing Admn, Branch Admn, Data Feeder and Data Verifier) were created at each level of the hierarchy to make the system easily accessible.

Through the above system, all branches at the ECP Secretariat have been now scanning their records since July, 2023. So far 1,280,608 pages have been scanned by the relevant wings/branches. A report detailing branch wise scanning of record is obtained and prepared on weekly basis.



PART-II

POST ELECTION REVIEW ON GENERAL ELECTIONS 2024

INTRODUCTION





Introduction

The Election Commission successfully conducted General Elections on February 8th 2024. A total of 128,585,760 voters were registered to vote across 266 National and 593 Provincial Assembly constituencies. This election was the largest ever held, with 92,353 polling stations established and over 1.4 million election officials including 0.5 million security personnel deployed to ensure its smooth execution. However, the electoral process encountered several challenges, many of which were identified during the Post-Election Review, offering crucial insights into areas that needed improvement.

Section 14 (1) of the Elections Act 2017 required the Commission to prepare an Action Plan before the conduct of elections. In April 2023, the Commission issued a comprehensive Action Plan specifying all legal and administrative actions taken or required to be taken for the General Election 2024 including the following:

- a. Delimitation of constituencies
- b. Revision of electoral rolls
- c. Enlistment of political parties
- d. Allocation of symbols
- e. Appointment and training of district returning officers, returning officers, assistant returning officers, presiding officers, assistant presiding officers, polling officers and other election officials
- Preparation of constituency-wise list of polling stations and list of polling personnel
- Determination and printing of requisite number of ballot papers and designation of printing presses
- h. Establishment of a transparent result management system for election results
- i. Introduction of new technology
- j. Arrangements for election observers
- k. Appointment of the Appellate and Election Tribunals
- Security measures and
- m. Monitoring mechanism to report progress regarding implementation of the Action Plan

Section 14(2) and (3) of the Act mandates the Election Commission to undertake a comprehensive post-election review of the implementation of the prescribed Action Plan. This review aims to identify any potential shortcomings and offer recommendations for improving the electoral system. The Commission is required to incorporate the findings of the Post-Election Review into its subsequent annual report, as stipulated under Section 16 of the Act.

In compliance with these legal requirements, the Commission established a Core Committee at the ECP Secretariat, supported by four provincial sub-committees, to carry out the Post-Election Review. These committees were tasked with evaluating the electoral process and preparing an Annual Report that includes a detailed section on the findings and recommendations from the review exercise.



1L DELIMITATION OF CONSTITUENCIES





1. Delimitation of Constituencies

Background

Delimitation of constituencies is one of the essential prerequisites of an election conducted after official publication of census results. It is worth recalling here that the General Election 2018 was held based on the publication of provisional results of the 6th Population and Housing Census, 2017. A special one-time dispensation was provided through the 24th constitutional amendment to utilize the data of provisional results for carrying out delimitation for General Election 2018 and subsequent bye-elections. In 2021, the Council of Common Interest approved the release of the final results of the 2017 Census, which were subsequently published by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics on May 6th, 2021. The delimitation for the upcoming 2023 General Election was carried out from April to August 2022, based on the officially published data mentioned above. The ECP had planned this activity in the first quarter of 2022, and executed it in the second and third quarters of the year. As a result, the first activity of the Action Plan was completed well before the expiration of the Assembly term and the scheduled General Elections. However, the situation changed when the government decided to conduct the 7th Digital Population and Housing Census in 2023, within the election year, between March and April. The census was completed, and the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) officially published the final results of the 7th Population and Housing Census 2023 through Gazette notification no. S.R.O. 1012(I)/2023, dated August 7th, 2023. This was after the approval of the Council of Common Interest, and just as the terms of the National Assembly and the Provincial Assemblies of Sindh and Balochistan were set to expire in the second week of August 2023.

The unusual and unique event of publishing the 7th Population Census data rendered the delimitation conducted in 2022 redundant. In light of this, the Election Commission of Pakistan carefully considered the situation and consulted with political parties. As a result, it was decided to conduct a fresh delimitation exercise based on the final results of the 7th Population and Housing Census 2023. The Election Commission vide order dated August 17th, 2023 initiated the delimitation exercise.

1.1 Legal Provisions

Election Commission, in pursuance of the provisions of section 17 of the Elections Act, 2017 read with Rule 07 of the Election Rules, 2017 is obligated to conduct a fresh delimitation of constituencies for elections to the assemblies and local governments after every census officially published. The relevant legal provisions are as follows:

A. The Elections Act, 2017

"17. Commission to delimit Constituencies

- The Commission shall delimit territorial constituencies for elections to the National Assembly, each Provincial Assembly and to the local governments in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution, this Act, the Rules and the applicable local government law.
- The Commission shall delimit constituencies after every census officially published."

B. The Election Rules, 2017

"7. Commission to delimit constituencies

 After the allocation of seats in the National Assembly under clause (5) of 11 Article 51 to each Province 1 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."

C. Composition of Seats

Article 51(3) of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan outlines the composition of seats for the National Assembly. The details are as under:

Province/Area	General Seats	Women Seats	Total Seats
Balochistan	16	04	20
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	45	10	55
Punjab	141	32	173
Sindh	61	14	75
Federal Capital	03		03
Total	266	60	326

In addition to the above, ten seats are reserved for non-Muslims in the National Assembly.

Article 106 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan provides for the composition of seats of Provincial Assemblies, the details of which are given below:

Province/Area	General Seats	Women Seats	Non-Muslims Seats	Total Seats
Balochistan	51	11	03	65
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	115	26	04	145
Punjab	297	66	08	371
Sindh	130	29	09	168
Total	593	132	24	749

The constituencies for the general seats are single-member territorial constituencies, whereas there is no need for delimitation for the seats reserved for women and Non-Muslims by law.

1.2 Implementation

The ECP issued the timelines for the delimitation exercise and accordingly boundaries of administrative units were frozen across the country on August 17th, 2023. To perform the exercise, the Commission constituted five (05) delimitation committees for all four provinces, including ICT, on August 21st, 2023 to prepare draft proposals for the delimitation of constituencies for the National and Provincial Assemblies. The following procurements and administrative arrangements were made to complete the delimitation exercise from August 22nd to 31st 2023 smoothly:

- Revenue records (Notifications of Qanungo Halqa / Supervisory Tapedar Circles, Patwar / Tapedar Circles and Mouzajaat / Dehs including their descriptions) of districts along with maps on a prescribed scale were obtained from Provincial Governments.
- ii. Digitized maps for Census Charges, Circles, and Blocks, including descriptions of urban areas and the District Census Report (DCR), were acquired from the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS).

The timelines for other delimitation activities are given below:

S. No.	Actions	Dates
1	Training of Delimitation Committees	
2	Determination and Sharing of District Quotas for National and Provincial Assemblies Seats with Delimitation Committees (Rule 8 & Rule 9(3) of the Election Rules, 2017)	01-09-2023 To 04-09-2023
3	Preliminary Delimitation of Constituencies by the Delimitation Committees Section 19 & 20 of the Elections Act, 2017	05-09-2023 To 26-09-2023
7	Publication of Preliminary proposals for Delimitation of Constituencies along with a report Section 21 of the Elections Act, 2017	27-09-2023
8	Filling of Representation on Preliminary Proposals for Delimitation of Constituencies before the Hon'ble Commission (Section 21(2) of the Elections Act, 2017)	28-09-2023 To 27-10-2023
9	Disposal/Hearing of Representation by the Hon'ble Commission (Section 21(4) of the Elections Act, 2017)	28-10-2023 To 26-11-2023
10	Final Publication of Delimitation	30-11-2023

The members of the committees underwent a four-day training session from September 1st to 4th, 2023. Following Rule 8 of the Election Rules, 2017, the Election Commission determined and notified a population quota per seat for National and Provincial Assemblies constituencies, including the Federal Capital, which was provided to the committees to prepare draft constituency proposals. These proposals (Form-5) for National and Provincial Assemblies were published in the official gazette on September 27th, 2023. Additionally, the proposals were uploaded on the ECP's website, along with marked and unmarked maps of each district, showing the details of the constituencies. This was done to inform the

public to invite representations and suggestions from voters in the constituencies.

Five representation receiving desks for each Province and Federal Capital were established at the ECP Secretariat Islamabad to receive representations from the voters of the constituencies. To assist and guide the general public, an exclusive help desk was set up. Additionally, a separate counter was established to provide maps.

A total of 1327 representations were filed by the voters of the respective constituencies all over the country. The breakup is as follows:

S.No. Province / Area		No. of Representation			
1	Punjab	675			
2	Sindh	228			
3	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	293			
4	Balochistan	124			
5	ICT	07			
	Total	1327			

The parties were facilitated and provided with a reasonable opportunity to plead their proposals/representations. The Commission heard and disposed off the representations from October 28th to November 26th, 2023. In light of the orders of the Commission, amendments were made to the preliminary list of constituencies. The final list of constituencies was then published on November 30th, 2023 for public information.

1.3 Achievements

The Commission completed the colossal activity of delimitation in a very short period despite facing several challenges. The ECP obtained the census data from PBS and revenue records from the Provincial governments through intensive efforts. The field formation of the Election Commission and Delimitation Committees analyzed and reconciled census and revenue data before the delimitation of constituencies. Any discrepancies identified were addressed swiftly in collaboration with PBS and Revenue Authorities. This effort made the delimitation process seamless and helped the other departments correct their records.

1.4 Challenges

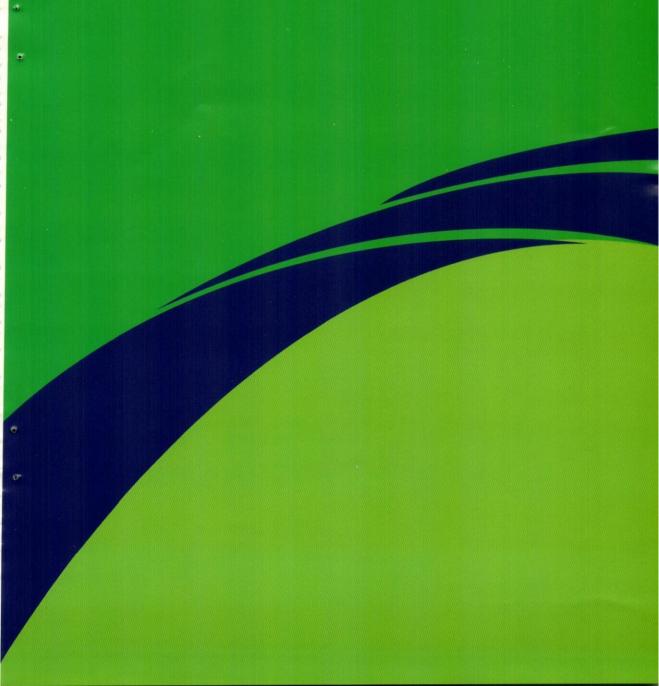
Conduct of 7th Digital Population Census 2023

The Action Plan for conducting an election mandates that all prerequisites be completed, where possible, well before the elections, and the plan must be issued at least four months prior. Considering this, it was initially planned to complete the delimitation exercise well before the General Elections. Consequently, delimitation based on the final results of the 6th Census was carried out between April and August 2022, with the Election Commission publishing the final list of constituencies on August 5th, 2022. This delimitation activity was marked as completed in the Action Plan published in April 2023. At that time, it was not anticipated that the delimitation process would need to be revisited so close to the General Election. However, the publication of the final results of the 7th Population and Housing Census-2023 on August 7th, 2023, posed a significant challenge for the ECP. Hence, the Commission had to re-conduct the exercise, despite completing it just one year earlier.

ii. Acquisition of Accurate Data from Other Departments

- Collecting the reconciled, consolidated, and accurate census data from PBS and revenue data from the Provincial governments presented a significant challenge due to the limited timeframe to complete the delimitation exercise and conduct elections immediately afterward.
- 2. The delimitation exercise relies on the provision of accurate data comprising population statistics, census maps including descriptions from PBS and notifications of revenue units along with authenticated revenue maps by Provincial governments. Unfortunately, after receiving the required data and maps from the concerned departments, several variations and errors were noticed by the Commission that made it difficult to prepare the preliminary list of constituencies within the given timelines. In some cases, the census maps were not drawn according to the notified revenue units, or the revenue maps lacked clarity, physical features, and legends. Further, some maps were not drawn according to the prescribed scale of the Election

3. ENLISTMENT OF POLITICAL PARTIES





3. Enlistment of Political Parties

Background

Political parties are pivotal in promoting democracy by representing diverse interests and ensuring government accountability. They provide a platform for political expression, organization and mobilization, which are preconditions for the functioning of a healthy democracy. The primary function of political parties is to offer alternatives and expound their merits, thus fostering a constitutional and democratic political culture. The Elections Act, 2017 defines a mechanism for enlisting political parties with the ECP and regulates certain activities of these parties. In the light of Sections 200 and 201 of the Act, each political party must have a distinct name and a constitution that outlines the party's aims and objectives, organizational structure, designation and tenure of office-bearers, criteria for receiving and collecting funds, procedures for elections of officebearers, selecting party candidates for public offices, mechanisms for resolving disputes between members and the party and the method for amending the party constitution etc. A copy of the party constitution must be submitted to the Commission. The political parties are required to hold their Intra Party elections regularly in accordance with their constitution, the Elections Act, 2017, and the Election Rules, 2017. Additionally, under Section 210 of the Act, parties submit a consolidated statement of their annual accounts, duly audited by a Chartered Accountant, within sixty days from the close of a financial year in which they disclose their annual expenses, assets, and sources of their income.

3.1 Implementation

The enlistment of political parties is a continuous process, with no restriction or timeframe regarding their registration. Applications for enlistment are received at the ECP Secretariat where a dedicated Scrutiny Committee examines these applications and supporting documents. To facilitate applicants, a checklist is designed specifying requirements for enlisting their parties. Some of the basic requirements for enlistment are as follows:

 A list of at least 2000 members, with their signatures or thumb impressions and copies of NICs

- ii. Proof of deposit of Rs. 200,000/- in favour of the Election Commission
- iii. Constitution of the political party
- iv. Copy of consolidated statement of accounts of political party
- v. Website address of the political party
- vi. A certificate regarding completion of intra party elections signed by an office-bearer, authorized by the party head

Before the General Election, 166 political parties had been enlisted with the Election Commission. However, due to the publication of the 7th Population Census 2023, the Election was delayed, giving the public additional time for party enlistment. The details of political parties enlisted till the General Elections 2024 are provided in Annexure-I.

3.2 Achievements

A proactive approach was adopted in the enlistment process. Some political parties applied for enlistment after the issuance of the election programme notification for the General Elections 2024, and even after the allocation of election symbols to political parties. Hence, despite the Commission's engagement in multifarious official activities during elections, these applications were processed timely under the law. Consequently, 03 Political Parties were enlisted and election symbols were allocated.

3.3 Challenges

i. Cut-off date for Enlistment

The Elections Act, 2017 read with the Election Rules, 2017, establishes a mechanism for the enlistment of political parties. However, this process is ongoing and does not have a fixed cut-off date, with this Commission continuing to receive applications for enlistment even after the issuance of the election programme. This creates challenges for the Commission in processing these applications as the election programme has been issued and election symbols have already been allocated. To streamline the process, a cut-off date for the enlistment of political parties is required to be prescribed.

ii. Monitoring Intra Party Elections

The transparency of intra party elections cannot be assessed due to the lack of legal provisions to monitor these elections by the Election Commission. This encourages unchecked growth of political parties without proper infrastructure on the ground.

iii. Outdated Membership Lists

The Elections Act, 2017 prohibits public servants from participating in electoral activities. However, it is possible that a person, listed as a member by a political party at the time of enlistment, may later join the service of Pakistan, pass away, or withdraw membership. These factors can render the list outdated after certain period.

3.4 Recommendations

The following amendments to the electoral laws may be approved by the Parliament to streamline the enlistment process of political parties:

i. Section 202 of the Elections Act, 2017 be amended by defining the cut-off date for enlistment of political parties. The following proviso may be added after sub-section (1) of Section 202 of the Elections Act, 2017:

"Provided that no application for the enlistment of political party shall be entertained by the Commission after the issuance of election program and till the publication of names of retuned candidates in the official gazette."

ii. Section 208 of the Elections Act, 2017 be amended by adding the following new sub-section (4) enabling ECP to observe and monitor the Intra Party Elections to ensure that the legal requirements are fulfilled and to improve the validity of Intra Party Elections for further flourishment of democratic values:

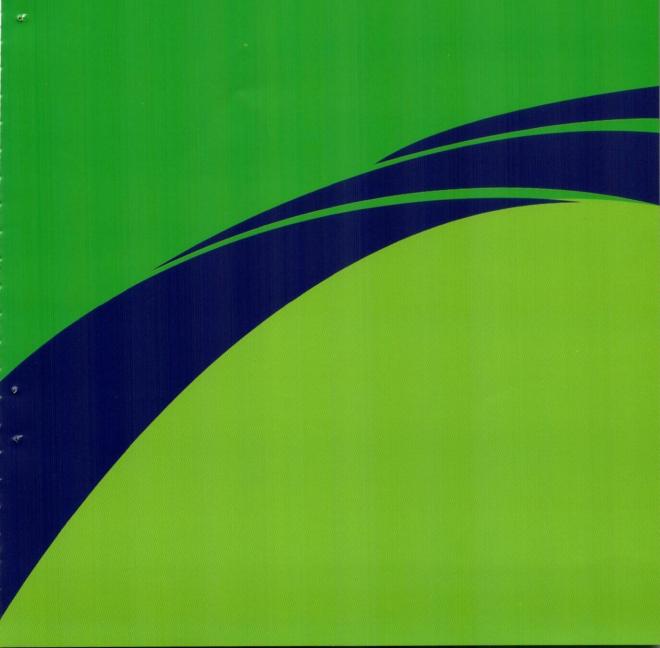
"The Commission shall monitor the conduct of Intra Party Elections of political parties by constituting a team comprising ECP's officers. The team shall submit a report to the Commission for appropriate action. The Commission shall include the monitoring report of Intra Party Elections in its Annual Report which is submitted in the Parliament"

iii. Section 209 of the Elections Act, 2017 be amended by inserting new subsection (3) and re-number the existing sub-section (3) to sub-section (4) to keep the list of 2000 members up-to-date:

"After every Intra Party Election, the concerned political party shall submit an updated list of 2000 members, excluding the members who have withdrawn their membership, expelled, died, or joined the service of Pakistan."



4. ALLOCATION OF SYMBOLS





4. Allocation of Symbols

Background

The electoral process in Pakistan mandates an election symbol for any political party's candidate or independent candidate to contest elections. Under the Elections Act 2017, the Election Commission allocates symbols to the political

parties or their candidates, and independent candidates. Any political party enlisted with the Commission is eligible to obtain an election symbol for contesting elections to both the National and Provincial Assemblies, upon submitting the required documents, certificates, and statements required under sections 202, 206, 209, and 210 of the Elections Act. As mentioned in section 214 of the Act, the law mandates the Election Commission to prescribe a list of election symbols for allocation to political parties and candidates. One of the preconditions for symbol allocation is that each symbol shall be visibly and perpetually different.

4.1 Implementation

For each General Election, under section 216 of the Act ibid, political parties are required to submit applications to the Election Commission for the allocation of a symbol of their choice within a period specified by the Commission in its press release. The application must include, among other details, a list of symbols applied for in order of preference, and the symbol or symbols if allocated to the party in the previous General Election. Before General Election 2024, 166 political parties were enlisted with the Commission. To initiate the process of allocating election symbols to the political parties, a press release was issued on July 1st, 2023, followed by a 2nd press release on July 12th, 2023, for inviting applications by the political parties. The last date for submission of applications was fixed as July 19th, 2023. In total, the Commission received 149 applications from the enlisted political parties including an alliance. After scrutiny, symbols were allocated to political parties without disputes over their symbol preference. Such cases, where an election symbol was claimed by more than one political party, were referred to the Commission for adjudication. The Commission, after hearing the political parties concerns, allocated symbols to the parties that had contested previous election(s) on the same symbol. Consequently, 145

political parties including an alliance (GDA) were allocated symbols vide ECP Notification dated December 26, 2023. In addition to these parties, the election symbols were allocated to five (05) more political parties to contest the General Election 2024. Thus, 150 political parties including an alliance were allocated election symbols. The remaining symbols were available for allotment to the

independent candidates by the Returning Officers. However, only 112 political parties participated in the General Election 2024.

During the election process, the Returning Officers allotted an election symbol to each contesting candidate, in accordance with the procedures outlined in the Election Rules, 2017. The candidates affiliated with a party were assigned the symbols of that party, while independent candidates were given the option to select from symbols reserved specifically for independents. A detailed list of the political parties and symbols allocated to them is provided in Annexure II.

4.2 Challenges

Issues in the Symbol Allocation Process

It has been observed that some already enlisted political parties did not apply for the allocation of symbols during the symbol allocation process for the General Elections. Resultantly, the symbol previously allocated to them became available for other parties. However, the situation became complicated when a symbol once allocated to another political party, was requested by the party that had contested the earlier elections on that symbol.

ii. Ensuring 5% Women Representation Quota

Section 206 of the Elections Act, 2017 requires political parties to allocate at least 5% representation of women candidates while selecting candidates for general seats. Besides, Section 215 of the Act ibid mandates fulfilling this condition for allocating election symbols. The allocation of symbols to political parties was completed before the announcement of the election programme. However, political parties finalized their candidates for general seats at a belated stage, even on the same day when the allotment of symbols was carried out by the Returning Officer. This issue hampered the Election Commission from effectively enforcing the nomination of 5% women candidates for general seats. Similarly, any abrupt/sudden withdrawal of a symbol by the ECP on account of violations of

the said precondition by the contesting parties could impact the overall election process. Due to these reasons, the printing of ballot papers began on the last date of symbol allocation by the Returning Officers. Though an affidavit is obtained from political parties at the time of submission of allocation applications to ensure compliance with the 5% quota, however, this arrangement does not fully restrict parties to follow the law due to the above-mentioned reasons. This gap in the process needs to be addressed to ensure proper implementation.

4.3 Recommendations

The following provisions may be added to the Act to streamline the symbol allocation processes:

i. Section 216 of the Elections Act, 2017 may be amended by adding the following proviso:

"Provided that after the last date prescribed in the press release by the Commission for submission of applications for allocation of symbols by the political parties, no new application for allocation of election symbol shall be entertained till the culmination of the election process of that General Elections."

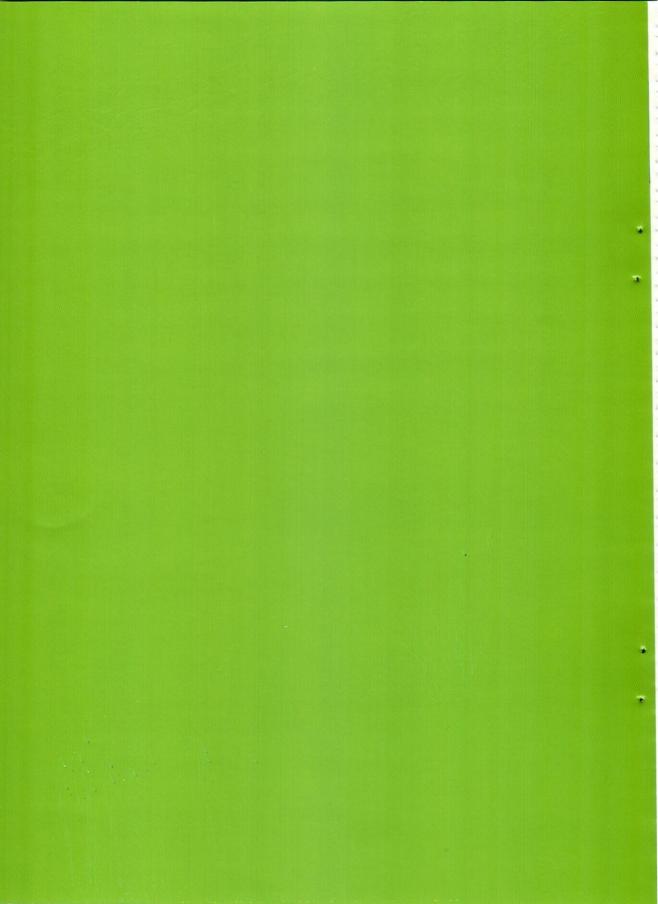
ii. Section 215 of the Elections Act, 2017 may be amended to include the following provision:

"if a political party fails to comply with the requirements of Section 206 in the previous General Elections or Local Government Elections as the case may be, it shall be prohibited to contest elections on that symbols in the bye-elections. Moreover, for future General Elections, the party shall be eligible to obtain a symbol, however in case of failure of implementation, a fine of Rs.10 million shall be imposed by the Commission"





5. APPOINTMENT AND TRAINING
OF DISTRICT RETURNING OFFICERS
(DROS), RETURNING OFFICERS (ROS),
ASSISTANT RETURNING OFFICERS
(AROS), PRESIDING OFFICERS,
ASSISTANT PRESIDING OFFICERS,
POLLING OFFICERS AND OTHER
ELECTION OFFICIALS



5. Appointment and training of District Returning Officers (DROs), Returning Officers (ROs), Assistant Returning Officers (AROs), Presiding Officers, Assistant Presiding Officers, Polling Officers and other Election Officials

5.1 Appointment of DROs, ROs and AROs

Sections 50 and 51 of the Elections Act 2017 empower the Commission to appoint DROs, ROs, and AROs at least 60 days before the issuance of the election programme in light of the following criteria:

- From amongst its own officers subject to availability
- By selection from a list of officers provided by the Government or a Provincial Government, or
- From the subordinate Judiciary, in consultation with the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court

However, for bye-elections or in exceptional circumstances, for reasons to be recorded, the Commission shall make the appointments simultaneously with the issuance of the election programme.

5.1.1 Implementation

The strength of ECP's officers is insufficient to be appointed as DROs and ROs during General Elections. A Returning Officer must be appointed for each constituency, and in many districts, the number of constituencies exceeds ten. Very few districts have fewer than five constituencies. However, the total strength of ECP's officers in large districts is often not more than three. Additionally, District Election Commissioners were tasked with coordinating multifarious electoral activities and providing technical assistance to the Returning Officers. Hence, the Commission initially sought to obtain the services of judicial officers from the subordinate judiciary with requests made to the Registrar of the respective High Courts. For this purpose, the Hon'ble Chief Election Commissioner met with the Hon'ble Chief Justice of Supreme Court of Pakistan and Hon'ble Chief Justice of

Lahore High Court and requested them for provision of services of judicial officers from subordinate judiciary for appointing them as District Returning Officers and Returning Officers. The matter was also taken up officially with all High Courts. However, the services of judicial officers were not provided by the judiciary. Given these challenges, the Commission had to appoint the executive officers as DROs, ROs and AROs. All possible efforts were made to appoint competent and credible officers. The following number of DROs, ROs, and AROs were appointed for the General Election 2024:

S.No.	Province / Area	DROs	National Assembly		Provincial Assemblies		Total
	Province / Area		ROs	AROs	ROs	AROs	
1.	Punjab	41	141	282	297	594	1355
2.	Federal Capital	1	3	6		-	10
3.	Sindh	30	61	122	130	260	603
4.	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	36	45	92	115	230	518
5.	Balochistan	36	16	101	51	102	306
	Total	144	266	603	593	1186	2792

5.1.2 Challenges

i. Challenges faced by first-time ROs

Although the ECP imparted comprehensive training to DROs and ROs before their election duties, the first time ROs faced certain difficulties in performing the electoral activities. In contrast, ROs from the judiciary who have a clear understanding of laws and rules, can perform and complete the electoral activities more smoothly.

ii. Accessibility of DROs and ROs

The DROs and ROs, being administrative officers, remained involved in performing their principal duties, and were not easily accessible for electoral duties.

iii. Appointing separate ROs for National and Provincial Assemblies

Appointing separate ROs for both the National Assembly and Provincial Assemblies

caused multifaceted problems such as the finalization of polling stations, appointment of polling staff, and dispatch/retrieval of election materials, etc. Furthermore, coordination with such a large number of ROs during elections posed a significant challenge.

5.1.3 Recommendations

- i. The Judicial Officers may be preferred for appointment as DROs and ROs as they are well conversant with the law and rules. For this purpose, an amendment to sub-section 1(c) of Section 50 of the Elections Act, 2017 is proposed by adding the following proviso after sub-section 1(c):
- i. "The Chief Justice of the High Courts shall provide services of Judicial Officers for their appointment as DROs and ROs upon request of the Commission".
- ii. Utmost care should be exercised while appointing the officers as DROs/ROs and experienced officers may be appointed as far as possible. Further, the training of DROs and ROs may not be curtailed to the election period rather periodical training programs may be held for potential officers in the year leading up to elections.
- iii. Proper training for preparation of Form 48 in accordance with Form 28 may be imparted to the ROs.
- iv. The Elections Act, 2017 may be amended to add a provision to allow for appointing one Returning Officer for both the National Assembly and its corresponding Provincial Assembly's constituencies by replacing the existing subsection (2) of section 51 as below:

Existing Provision	Proposed Amendment		
Returning Officer for more than one constituency, save in exceptional	"A person may be appointed as Returning Officer for one or more than one constituency(s). If a Returning Officer is appointed for more than one constituency it shall be ensured that the National Assembly constituency and its corresponding Provincial Assembly constituency(s) are assigned to the same Returning Officer"		

5.2 Appointment of Presiding Officers, Assistant Presiding Officers, Polling Officers & other Election Officials

Appointment of Presiding Officers, Assistant Presiding Officers and Polling Officers is one of the pivotal steps in the election process which is made as per instructions and criteria laid down in Section 53 of the Elections Act, 2017 and Rule 48 of the Election Rules, 2017.

5.2.1 Implementation

For the first time, considering the importance of polling staff, the ECP established a database of eligible officers and officials from various federal / provincial government departments, and autonomous bodies at the district level well before the General Election 2024. The data was regularly updated to account for any transfers / postings, leaves, casualties, etc. The experienced polling staff was appointed from the said database by the Returning Officers, details of which are given below:

Sr. No.	Province	Presiding Officers (including 5% reserve)	Assistant Presiding Officers (including 5% reserve)	Polling Officers (including 5% reserve)	Naib Qasid (including 5% reserve)
1	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	16,482	98,870	49,435	16,482
2	Punjab (including ICT)	53,492	310,501	156,906	53,492
3	Sindh	19,956	136,511	68,255	19,956
4	Balochistan	5,279	31,252	15,626	5,279
	Total	95,209	577,134	290,222	95,209

5.2.2 Challenge

Shortage of Polling Staff

During the appointment of polling staff, the issue of shortage of staff, especially female staff, arose in several districts. This issue emerged due to a limited number of officials available within government, semi-government, or autonomous bodies as compared to the requirement. The prime reason for the shortage of staff was

an increase in the number of polling stations. This challenge is anticipated to aggravate further in the future as the population growth and resultant rise in the number of voters would require an increase in the number of polling stations as well.

5.2.3 Recommendations

In line with section 59 (10) of the Elections Act, 2017, the buildings of privately registered institutions are used as polling stations. Hence, allowing private staff (from private educational institutions, banks, and other financial institutions) to serve as polling personnel in cases of acute shortage would help the Returning Officer perform their duties more efficiently. Accordingly, in Section 53(1) of the Elections Act, 2017, the following proviso may be added:

"Provided that in case of shortage of officers / officials of any government or corporation, autonomous, semi-autonomous bodies controlled by any government for appointment as Presiding Officers, Assistant Presiding Officers, Polling Officers, the Returning Officer may appoint polling personnel from amongst the staff of private registered universities, other educational institutions and private banks including other financial institutions. For this purpose, the regulating authorities of private educational institutions and the State Bank of Pakistan shall assist the Commission"

5.3 Training of District Returning Officers, Returning Officers, Assistant Returning Officers, Presiding Officers, Assistant Presiding Officers, Polling Officers & other Election Officials

Conducting credible elections requires skills in every phase of the electoral cycle. Effective training of election officials ensures that staff can apply election procedures accurately, impartially, and consistently throughout every phase of the elections. Under Section 12(a) of the Elections Act 2017 and Rule 6(1) of the Election Rules 2017, training the ECP's permanent and temporary staff is an

obligatory component of the ECP's responsibilities. The training primarily aims to:

- Enhance the knowledge and learning skills of the election officials.
- Enable them to complete their electoral assignments effectively.
- Increase their understanding of election matters.
- Ensure their capabilities in handling their electoral responsibilities.
- Expand their legal knowledge relevant to the electoral process.

5.3.1 Implementation

For General Elections, the Commission ensured the conduct of well-planned training programs for the following categories of election officials:

- District Returning Officers (DROs)
- Returning Officers (ROs)
- Presiding Officers (PrOs)
- Assistant Presiding Officers (APOs)
- Polling Officers (POs)
- District Monitoring Officers (DMOs) and Monitoring Officers (MOs)
- Election Management System Operators (DEOs)
- Security Personnel

The following number of Election Officials were trained by the Commission for the General Election 2024:

S. No.	Training Types	No. of Election Officials	No. of Training	Duration of Training
	Training of DROs, ROs, PrOs, Sr. A	APOs, APOs & F	POs	
1	Training of Lead Trainers for DROs / ROs	37	01	03 Day
2	Training of Lead Trainers for ToMT	40	02	03 Day
3	Refresher of Lead Trainers for DROs & ROs	38	01	01 Day
4	Training of District Returning Officers (DROs)	144	04	01 Day
5	Training of Returning Officers (ROs)	862	37	03 Day

6	Training of Master Trainers for Polling Staff	2431	102	02 Day
7	Training of Presiding Officers and Sr. APOs	191,274	7,663	02 Day
8	Half-Day Orientation Session of APOs and POs	768,536	19,220	Half Day
	Training of Monitoring Teams (D	MOs & MOs)		
1	Training of RMCs	31	01	01 Day
2	Online Orientation Session for RECs / RMCs		01	02 Hour
3	Training of District Monitoring Officers & Monitoring Officers	1334	51	01 Day
	Training of Security Perso	nnel		
1	Training of Lead Trainers for ToMT	35	01	01 Day
2	Training of Master Trainers (Police)	1509	40	02 Day
3	Trainings of Security Personnel (Police)	503,495	10,070	01 Day
	EMS Training			
1	Training of ECP IT Officers	42	01	01 Day
2	Training of DEOs of ECP & EMS Operators for ROs	3664	147	03 Day
3	Briefing on EMS to ECP Officers (Directors/RECs/DDs/DECs/EOs/ADs)	235	04	01 Day
4	Orientation Session of DROs/ROs	1000	37	01 Day
5	Training of NADRA Officers (RO office support)	35	01	05 Day

In total, 1.49 million election officials were trained for the General Election 2024.

5.3.2 Challenges

Non-Availability of Training Venues

Locating the appropriate training venues was one of the critical challenges faced during the execution of training for election staff. The training was planned for December 2023-January 2024 when the academic session was at its peak hence, there was a dearth of suitable training venues having requisite facilities like

required seating arrangements, multimedia, whiteboards, etc.

ii. Trainees' Attendance

The second significant challenge was ensuring the attendance of trainees. It has been observed that the duties of elections are considered a burden and the officers/officials engaged are reluctant to perform the duty. This challenge ultimately caused a lot of hassle and mismanagement during the training.

5.3.3 Recommendations

- i. The federal government and all provincial governments may be made responsible for facilitating the Election Commission during the training of election officials by amending the following sections of the Elections Act 2017:
 - a. Section 12 of the Elections Act, 2017 may be amended by including a new sub-section (2) as stated below:
 - i. "The federal, as well as provincial governments, including autonomous, semi-autonomous bodies controlled by any of these governments shall provide all type of logistic support, training equipment, machinery and human resource including training facilities required for the smooth conduct of training, to the Commission as and when required"
 - ii. Section 54(6) of the Elections Act, 2017 empowers the Returning Officer to suspend any Presiding Officer, Assistant Presiding Officer, or Polling Officer only during the poll, while Section 55(3)(C) of the Elections Act, 2017 authorizes the Election Commission to suspend any election official who disobeys any order or instruction of the Commission or an officer authorized by the Commission. Therefore, to address the attendance issues in the training of election officials, the existing jurisdiction of the Returning Officer to suspend the polling staff may be broadened by including the reluctance to perform the election duty and absenteeism in training. Moreover, the said power may also be delegated to any officer of the Commission at a district level. It is proposed that the following

necessary amendment may be made in Section 55(3)(e) of the Elections Act, 2017:

Existing Provision

- (3) The Commission may, at any time, for reasons to be recorded in writing, suspend or withdraw any election official, a public servant or any other person in the service of Pakistan who
- (e) disobeys any order, or avoids to carry out any instruction issued by the Commission or any officer authorized to issue any order or instruction or violates any provision of the Act.

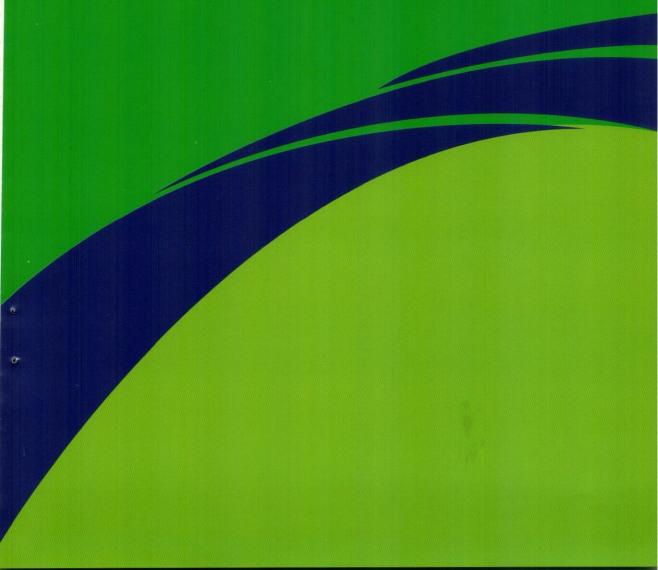
Proposed Amendment

- (3) The Commission or an officer authorized by the Commission may, at any time, for reasons to be recorded in writing, suspend or withdraw any election official, a public servant, or any other person in the service of Pakistan who
- (e) disobeys any order, shows reluctance to perform duty <u>including non-attendance of training</u>, or avoids carrying out any instruction issued by the Commission, or any officer authorized to issue any order or instruction, or violates any provision of the Act.





6. PREPARATION OF CONSTITUENCY-WISE LIST OF POLLING STATIONS AND LIST OF POLLING PERSONNEL





6. Preparation of Constituency-Wise List of Polling Stations and List of Polling Personnel

Establishing polling stations is a pivotal administrative measure in the conduct of the General Election to allow voters to exercise their right to vote. As per Section 59 of the Elections Act, 2017, the ECP provides a draft list of polling stations to the ROs who physically verify these locations before submitting a preliminary list of polling stations to the DROs for disposal of objections/suggestions within the prescribed timelines. The DROs publish the final list of polling stations 30 days before the poll day.

6.1 Implementation

The ECP is committed for establishing accessible polling stations with all basic facilities during the elections. In October 2021, a comprehensive physical survey was conducted to achieve the following objectives:

- Verify the suitability of buildings designated as polling stations for upcoming elections.
- Identify new buildings as polling stations to ensure accessibility for all voters.
- Review the availability of essential facilities at each proposed polling station.
- Assess the accessibility of proposed polling stations for persons with disabilities.
- Geo tag each proposed polling station to facilitate voters and ensure proper monitoring.

During the exercise, suitable buildings were identified for establishment as polling stations, however, devastating floods particularly in Sindh affected several regions across Pakistan in 2023, hence a follow-up physical survey was conducted to ensure that the buildings proposed as polling stations were intact. The damaged polling stations were either repaired with the support of provincial governments or replaced with the closest nearby buildings. Also, efforts were made to establish polling stations within a 1 km radius of voters and assign not more than 1200 voters to a polling station and 300 voters to each polling booth.

After the completion of the survey, the draft list of polling stations was prepared and submitted to the ROs. The ROs, following the instructions issued by the ECP, conducted physical surveys of proposed polling stations and prepared

a preliminary list of polling stations on January 4th, 2024. After disposing of objections/suggestions, the DROs published the final list of polling stations by January 24th, 2024. The 8300 SMS service was accordingly updated and the final list of polling stations (along with geo-coordinates) was uploaded on the ECP's website for voter facilitation and information.

6.2 Challenges

i. Polling Stations Infrastructure

Although most of the problems highlighted in the survey were addressed by the provincial governments, some of the buildings identified as polling stations still lacked basic amenities like drinking water, functional washrooms, boundary walls and ramps etc. and ECP had no other choice except to designate such buildings as polling stations because of absence of any suitable alternatives.

ii. Meeting Legal Requirements in Remote Areas

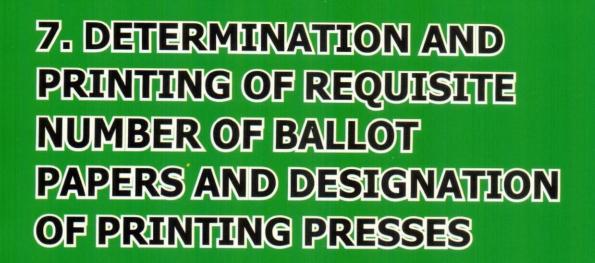
In remote, underdeveloped, and hilly areas, it is difficult to meet the legal requirement of establishing a polling station within a 1 km radius and limiting the number of voters assigned to a polling station to 1200, as no other suitable building for the establishment of a polling station is available in the vicinity.

6.3 Recommendations

To overcome these challenges, the following recommendations are proposed:

- The federal/provincial governments may be directed to ensure the provision of necessary facilities in all public buildings to be used as polling stations.
- ii. Given the increasing number of voters after every general elections and the slow pace of the establishment of new buildings, the provincial governments may be asked to construct new government buildings for use as polling stations. Further, the following amendments to sub-sections (2) and (3) of section 59 of the Elections Act may be made to facilitate voters:
 - "i. The distance between the polling station and the voter may be increased from 1 km to 2 km.
 - ii. The number of voters assigned to a polling station be increased from 1200 to 1800 in case of non-availability of any other suitable building."









7. Determination and Printing of Requisite Number of Ballot Papers and Designation of Printing Presses

Background

The printing of ballot papers is a sensitive and time-bound activity of the election process. Any delay in the printing process can derail the overall election procedure. Section 71 of the Elections Act, 2017 and Rule 61 of the Election Rules, 2017 provide the legal framework and guidance for executing this process. Watermarked paper was first used in the General Elections 2018 for printing ballot papers under Section 71(4) of the Elections Act, 2017. Before the General Election 2018, NSPC imported 2000 tons of Watermarked Paper for printing of ballot papers. In that Election, 800 tons of paper were utilized and 142 tons in bye-elections held between 2018 and 2023 for the printing of ballot papers, while 1058 tons of paper were available in stock for future use.

7.1 Implementation

For the timely completion of the procurement of watermarked paper for the General Elections 2023, a committee was constituted in 2022 to ascertain the availability of the paper in the presses and estimated requirement of paper for the forthcoming General Elections. The working assessment was based on candidates who filed the nominations and the number of validly nominated candidates in previous elections. The statistical data from the General Elections 2013 and 2018 showed the following:

General Election 2013

Total nomination papers filed	=	26,874
Validly Nominated Candidates	=	23,356
% age decrease	=	13%
Genera	al Election 2018	
Total nomination papers filed	=	19,433
Validly Nominated Candidates	=	11,677
% age decrease	=	40%

After analysing the above trends, it was estimated that 2158 tons of watermarked paper would be required for the General Elections 2024. As 1058 tons of paper was already available in stock,1100 tons of additional paper was procured through local manufacturing by engaging M/s Security Paper Limited (SPL).

For coordination and assigning of printing work to the presses, meetings with the management of all printing presses were held and on the basis of their printing capacities, the quantities of ballot papers required to be printed were assigned to presses for the upcoming General Elections 2024 as per following detail:

S.No.	Name of Press	Assignment
1	National Security Printing Company (NSPC), Karachi	90 Million
2	Printing Corporation of Pakistan (PCP) Press, Islamabad	70 Million
3	Pakistan Post Foundation (PPF), Golra Mor, Islamabad	100 Million
	Total	260 Million

Section 71 (1) of the Elections Act, 2017 defines the procedure of calculation of the requirement of ballot paper for each polling station. As per that formula, ballot papers for a polling station were worked out by rounding off the numbers of the voters to the next hundred. e.g. if a polling station is assigned 910 voters, 1000 ballot papers shall be printed. The Returning Officer of each constituency works out the requirement of ballot papers and conveys this to the Provincial Election Commissioner through the District Returning Officer. The same procedure was also followed for the General Elections 2024.

7.2 Challenges

Unprecedented Increase in Number of Candidates

A well-thought-out calculation of paper requirements was made for General Elections 2024, keeping in view the past trends of candidates. However, an unexpected increase in the number of candidates during the General Elections 2024 resulted in an anticipated shortfall of paper. Since the procurement of ballot paper is a time-consuming activity, therefore, at a time when elections were 20 to 25 days away, the additional procurement of paper was impossible as special watermarked paper was not an available commodity in the market, rather

it had to be manufactured. This challenge was addressed by decreasing the size of the box on the ballot paper, which increased the space to accommodate up to ten candidates/symbols per column, resulting in saving of 348 tons of paper. This measure also fulfilled the immediate requirements for the upcoming Bye-Elections.

ii. Time Constraints

Under Article 224(1) of the Constitution, a General Elections is required to be held within sixty days after the expiry of the term of an Assembly. This period is very limited considering the administrative arrangements required to be made for printing of ballot papers. Not more than 28 days can be allocated for printing of ballot papers in the election program issued under Section 57 of the Elections Act, 2017. This is a recurring challenge faced in each General Elections. Because of the increase in a number of voters, the printing requirement of ballot papers is also rapidly increasing. In 2024, only 18 days were available to print and dispatch over 260 million ballot papers with the additional task to pre-print the names of contesting candidates on Form-45 accurately.

iii. Capacity Issues of Press

The capacity limitations of PCP were another critical challenge as it lacked state-of-the-art printing machines, which delayed the printing process.

iv. Litigations

Due to litigation in the High Courts after disposal of appeals by the relevant Appellate Tribunals and decisions of the High Courts to restore/reinstate or disqualify the candidates especially after the issuance of the list of contesting candidates made the printing task more challenging owing to last minute changes.

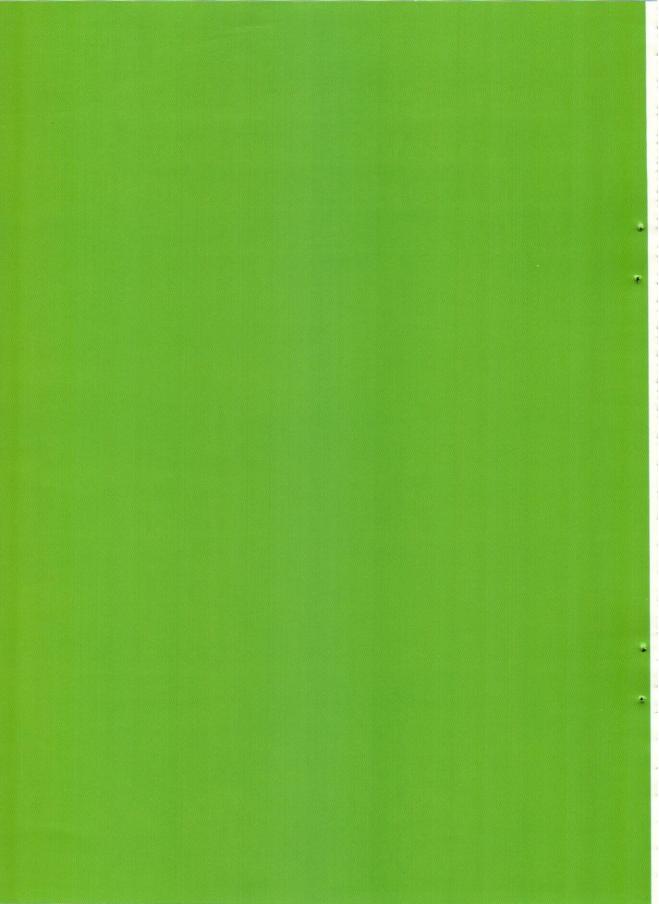
7.3 Recommendations

i. An amendment in the Constitution may be made by extending the time for holding of General Elections from 60 days to 90 days after the expiry of term of an Assembly and from 90 days to 120 days in case the assembly is dissolved. Similarly, amendment is also required to be made in Section 57 of the Elections Act, 2017 to raise the time between the issuance of list of contesting candidates and the date of poll from 28 to 45 days.

- ii. All the election related activities have to be performed within the prescribed timeline. The delay in completion of one activity can cause delay in the completion of other activity. The process of printing of ballot papers is directly connected to the number of contesting candidates. Any decision of the Court adding or removing a person from the list of contesting candidates, at a belated stage, creates serious challenges in timely printing of ballot papers. The Registrars of the Supreme Court and High Courts may therefore be approached to take up the matter with the Chief Justice of the respective Court to amend the relevant rules of procedure so that the writ petitions filed as a consequence of the decisions of the Appellate Tribunal may be disposed of within two days of filing.
- iii. Federal Government may revamp printing corporation of Pakistan to modernize the infrastructure by providing state-of-the-art printing machines and imparting trainings to make the available human resource more efficient. Moreover, for safe and secure storage of paper, the federal government may allocate land at Islamabad and assist in construction of state of the art storage place for the Election Commission of Pakistan.

8. ESTABLISHMENT OF A TRANSPARENT RESULT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM FOR ELECTION RESULTS





8. Establishment of a Transparent Result Management System for Election Results

8.1 Election Management System (EMS)

Background

In compliance with section 13 of the Elections Act 2017, the Election Management System (EMS) was developed for prepration of polling scheme (list of polling stations and list of polling staff), management of candidates and tabulation and compilation of election results to ensure accuracy and transparency in National and Provincial Assemblies election processes. The EMS aimed to automate election processes at the offices of the Returning Officers nationwide. The system was installed in all 859 RO offices, enabling them to generate Forms 25, 26, 28, 31, 32, 33, 34, 36, 47, 48 and 49 as required under section 13 of the Elections Act, 2017.

ECP launched a cascade training plan for training of Lead Trainers, Master Trainers, Facilitators, and Helpdesk Officers on utilizing EMS at R.O offices. Proper training sessions were held to accomplish the EMS operational activities effectively on time. As a result, the ECP trained approximately 1,000 DROs/ROs, 190,000 Presiding Officers / Sr. Assistant Presiding Officers and 3,600 EMS operators engaged from various federal/provincial departments. The EMS operators were deputed to assist the ROs in prepration of polling scheme (list of polling stations and list of polling staff), management of candidates and for compiling and tabulating the election results. To enhance technical and operational support, ECP established a dedicated facilitation cell/helpdesk to assist with the election activities.

In the 2024 General Elections, a key component of the Election Management System (EMS) was introduced, allowing Presiding Officers to send a snapshot of Form-45 directly to Returning Officers via a mobile app, streamlining the process and expediting data transmission. However, the mobile service was suspended on poll day due to security concerns by the Caretaker Government. As a result, the Presiding Officers were unable to transmit Form-45 electronically to the Returning Officers (ROs) and instead submitted it physically, in accordance with section 90 of the Elections Act, 2017. Consequently, the Returning Officers prepared

Form-47 based on the manually received Form-45 and also prepared From-48 and 49 thereon.

8.2 Challenges

Connectivity Issues in Transmitting Results

Dependency on state infrastructure especially the telecommunication system for transmission of electronic results from polling stations to the respective ROs created hurdles due to the un-availability of mobile and internet connectivity on poll day.

Timely IT Deployment and Connectivity

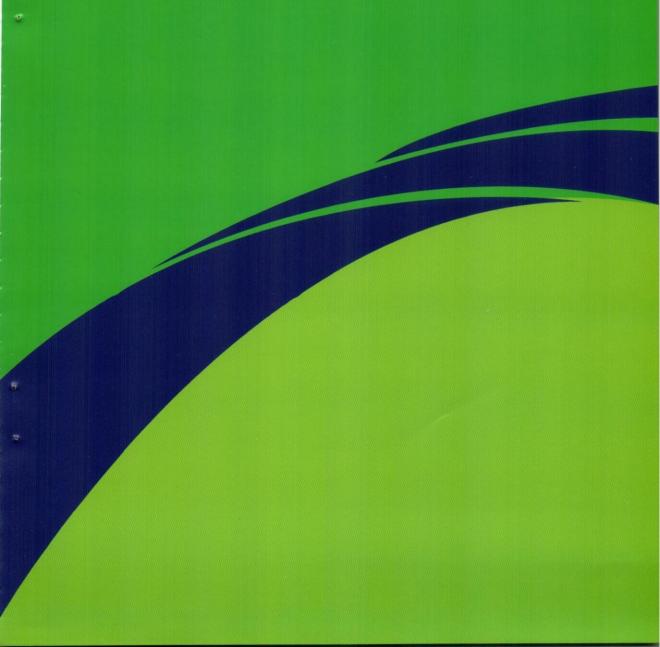
Due to time constraints, ensuring timely secure network connectivity and deploying IT resources to ad-hoc RO camp offices posed a significant challenge for the Commission.

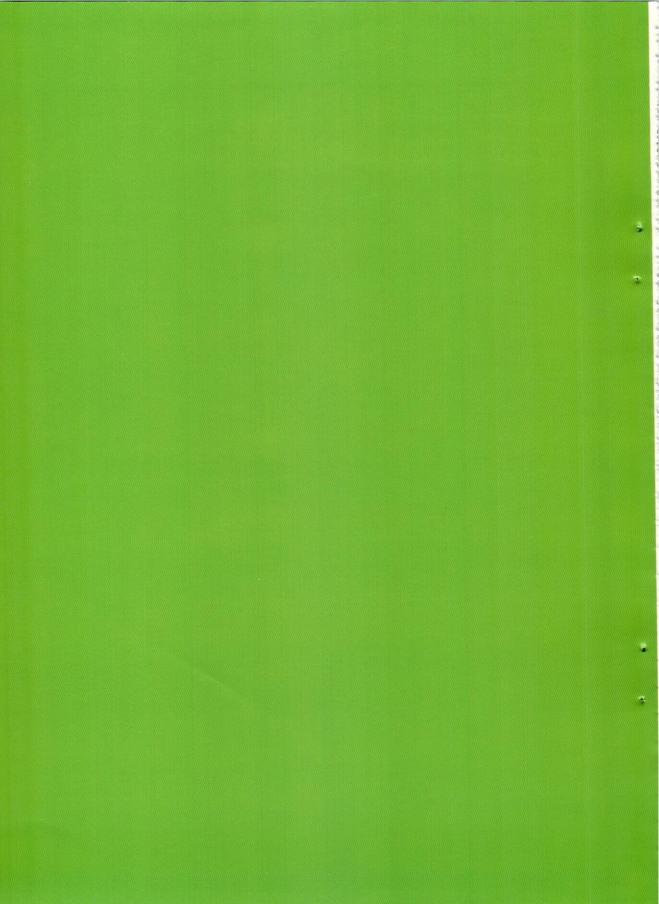
8.3 Recommendations

- The Federal Government / Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) should ensure 100% availability of 3G / 4G connectivity at all nationwide polling stations on poll day.
- ii. As soon as the ROs are notified, they may be asked to declare and identify their offices / camp office locations immediately for smooth completion of all electoral activities.



9. INTRODUCTION OF ANY NEW TECHNOLOGY





9. Introduction of Any New Technology

Background

The Election Commission of Pakistan is fully aware that, in the age of innovation and a dynamic technological environment, it is the need of the hour to take initiatives to keep pace with the rapidly evolving digital landscape. To this end, the Commission has undertaken various initiatives to transform into a knowledge-based, modern and technology-driven organization. The ECP has ventured into the process of development, testing, experimentation and induction of various technologies to expand its digital footprint across the enterprise and adopt emerging technologies. Below are some of the key IT initiatives taken for the 2024 General Elections:

9.1 Establishment of Online Facilitation Cell

The Online Facilitation Cell was a digital setup for examining the candidates' data by using specialized MIS software that connected the ECP Secretariat with key government organizations like NADRA, FBR, SBP, NAB, and FIA through adhoc secure VPN. The Commission directed these organizations to assist all 859 ROs during the scrutiny of the nomination papers process. The Facilitation Cell collected approximately 28,053 candidate records from 859 ROs and forwarded it to concerned above departments for obtaining feedback of the candidates' credentials. The system then verified each candidate's credentials by cross-checking with the databases of the relevant government departments, providing instant validation of the information through the facilitation cell. The verified records were then shared with the respective RO for further action by the law and Section 62 of the Elections Act, 2017.

9.1.1 Challenge

Time Constraints in Processing Data

The main challenge observed during this process was the time constraint to process the data of thousands of contesting candidates in just seven days.

9.1.2 Recommendation

The time allotted for scrutiny of nomination papers should be extended through a legal amendment so that the time available for online scrutiny of data should be extended.

9.2 SMS 8300 Service (To Check Voting Details)

The SMS 8300 Service is a 24/7 service to facilitate the voters and the general public. Voters check their voting details by sending their 13-digit National Identity Card (NIC) numbers to 8300 via SMS. This service not only provides easy access to voting and polling station details but also contributes to building trust and confidence in the electoral system by promoting transparency and accountability. Approximately 17 million hits were recorded from January 1st to February 7th, 2024.

9.2.1 Challenge

Connectivity Issues

The SMS service entirely relies on the nationwide availability of telecommunication services. In case of non-availability of service connectivity, the voters cannot avail of this service and verify their vote credentials.

9.2.2 Recommendation

The Federal Government / Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) should ensure 100% availability of telecom services across the country during the display of electoral rolls and elections.

9.3 ECP's Official Website

An interactive website of the Commission serves as a centralized hub for accessing a wide range of information related to electoral processes, voter registration, election programs, schedules of delimitation and other electoral activities, candidate profiles, polling stations location, and other relevant updates. The provision of further features such as interactive maps, search functionalities and multimedia content further enhances the user experience and facilitates

easy navigation.

Before the General Election 2024, the ECP developed and operationalized a new interactive and dynamic website for disseminating electoral information to the stakeholders, political parties, candidates and general public. The Hon'ble CEC inaugurated the new website. At present, the following information is available on the new website in a dynamic manner:

- Election Laws
- Voters' Awareness
- Electoral Rolls Statistics
- Election Results
- Judgements and Orders of the Commission
- Cause Lists of Cases Fixed before the Commission
- Notifications
- Press Releases
- Special Initiatives
- Online Complaint Management System
- Online Recruitment System
- Delimitation along with Maps
- Strategic Plan 2019-2023
- · Linkages with Social Media
- Various Reporting Modules
- · Latest Updates and Top Stories
- Interactive Videos
- Codes of Conduct
- Public awareness video clips regarding the complete Electoral cycle and its processes in six different languages i.e. Sindhi, Saraiki, Punjabi, Pashto, Balochi, Urdu and English are also available on the website.
- Information/ Forms concerning the Election process which includes a
 constituency-wise list of polling stations (Form-28), List of contesting
 candidates (Form-33), Result of the count (Form-45), Ballot Paper account
 (Form-46), Provisional consolidated statement of result of the count
 (Form-47), Consolidated statement of the results of the count furnished

by the presiding officers (Form-48), final consolidated results (Form-49) has also been made available on website.

The website proved instrumental in disseminating vital information regarding all electoral phases, i.e. pre-poll, poll-day, and post-poll as per the mandate given in the Elections Act, 2017 for the convenience of the general public.

9.3.1 Challenge

Cyber Threats

The website is consistently exposed to cyber threats, with risks emerging from both national and international actors. These threats require constant vigilance and proactive measures to ensure the security and integrity of the platform.

9.3.2 Recommendation

The Federal Government may provide technical support to ensure the implementation of the international standards for information and cyber security.

9.4 Social Media Accounts

The ECP took significant steps to ensure its presence on social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube during the General Election 2024. This move aimed to enhance transparency, increase accessibility, and engagement with voters. By sharing crucial information and updates on these widely used platforms, the ECP effectively reached a broader audience to ensure their participation in the electoral process.

Overall, by embracing social media to disseminate public information, the ECP is proactively taking steps towards enhancing civic participation and strengthening democracy in Pakistan.

To build a promising, transparent and positive image, ECP's social media accounts are active for raising general awareness about the following electoral activities:

- (i) Election Programs
- (ii) Electoral Rolls statistics
- (iii) Monitoring & Coordination

- (iv) Press Releases and Notifications
- (v) Public Awareness Messages and FAQs Regarding Electoral Activities

Following are the social media accounts of ECP with registered official tags:

- ® ElectionCommissionofPakistan
- @ PakistanECP
- @ ECPPakistan

9.4.1 Challenges

i. Regulating Social Media Accounts

All social media platforms can't be properly regulated or controlled as they operate on foreign Servers.

ii. Misinformation through Fake News

Usually, misinformation, disinformation or fake news spreads through fake user accounts. The Commission also encountered this challenge on a large scale during the General Election.

9.4.2 Recommendation

Cyber laws may be enforced in letter and spirit by the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) and the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) to minimize the misuse of social media accounts in the country. These collaborative efforts will help mitigate the spread of fake content and ensure a secure online environment for all.

9.5 Election Monitoring and Control Centre (EMCC)

Establishing a state-of-the-art Election Monitoring Control Centre (EMCC) was a significant achievement of the ECP by enhancing its monitoring capacity for electoral coordination with stakeholders. The installation of cutting-edge technologies including Media Wall, high-speed internet, live TV channel streaming, deployment of video conferencing facility, telephone exchange system and fax

emails etc. within the EMCC digital ambiance improved its capacity to monitor all electoral activities on a real-time basis. A comprehensive monitoring strategy, supported by digital tools, was implemented during the General Elections, as outlined below:

- The EMCC was made operational 24 / 7. A comprehensive Monitoring and Reporting System was developed and deployed for election activity monitoring and complaint resolution, connecting it with the ECP Secretariat and Provincial, Divisional and District Control Rooms. The system was also used by District Monitoring Officers and Monitoring Officers to register/ resolve complaints regarding election campaigns under Section 234 of the Elections Act, 2017.
- 2. This system encompasses a video conferencing facility to connect up to 150 participants simultaneously for audio/video calls, which proved useful during the elections. Additionally, the ECP deployed a telephone exchange system capable of handling up to 150 simultaneous calls from the public.
- 3. A dedicated whatsapp number for lodging complaints with multimedia evidence was provided to the public, reflecting ECP's proactive approach to enhance the transparency and fairness of the electoral process during the General Election. Also, a Complaint Management System was also set up in the EMCC to file complaints directly to the ECP Secretariat.

9.5.1 Challenges

i. Time Constraints

Due to time constraints, following up on complaints within the stipulated timeframe and resolving them efficiently proved challenging during the General Election.

ii. Fake Complaints

Ascertaining authenticity of complaints posed a significant challenge, especially when addressing fraudulent or false complaints.

9.5.2 Recommendations

- The Federal Government must ensure internet and landline connectivity during elections to ensure smooth completion of electoral activities.
- ii. The Federal and Provincial governments should take swift action on the Commission's complaints regarding the submission of fake complaints in order to identify the responsible individuals.

9.6 Delimitation of Constituencies (Digitization of Records)

For public information and to facilitate voters in filing representations, about 7218 maps were printed and scanned. Further, colourful maps of all districts of the country (marked, unmarked, preliminary and final) were uploaded on the ECP's website. Likewise, delimitation representations and proposed maps were also uploaded on the website to facilitate the parties in defending their cases during the hearing of representations before the Commission.

The Courtrooms were equipped with multimedia for displaying scanned digital maps of the constituencies supported by Google Maps. The entire process was fully transparent and accessible to all stakeholders. Media coverage was allowed during the hearing of delimitation cases to ensure transparency and accountability, thereby fostering trust in the electoral process.

9.7 Display of Provisional Results in Election City

The state-of-the-art "Election City" was established at the ECP Secretariat in Islamabad to facilitate all stakeholders during the live announcement of election results and the receipt of provisional results from Returning Officers across the country. It was equipped with advanced Digital Video Walls to display real-time results, ensuring transparency through a specialized Management Information System accessible to all stakeholders. The city also facilitated foreign diplomats, national and international observers, media representatives (both electronic and print), candidates, political party representatives and civil society members during elections.

Dedicated teams worked around the clock, demonstrating their commitment to efficiently display results using cutting-edge digital technology. This marathon

operation lasted for more than 48 hours, continuing without interruption until all constituency-wise results were received. The initiative received recognition from stakeholders, including diplomats, international missions, media personnel and election observers.

In addition, results were simultaneously displayed on the ECP's website, providing

the general public with an easy access to the latest electoral information. This concerted effort underscored the core principles of elections transparency, accessibility, inclusivity and coordination ultimately strengthening public trust and confidence in the election process.



10. ARRANGEMENTS FOR ELECTION OBSERVERS





10. Arrangements for Election Observers

Background

Section 238 of the Elections Act 2017 states that:

- (1) The Commission, at its own motion or upon an application made in this behalf may allow any domestic or international election observation organization to observe the process of conduct of election, having an access to polling station, counting of votes and consolidation of results.
- (2) No person shall be allowed to observe the process of conduct of Election, if he:
 - a) is not accredited as an observer by the Commission or its authorized officer;
 - b) is affiliated with any political party;
 - fails to provide his full particulars and documents, including photographs, which may be required by the Commission;
 - has been involved in activities prejudicial to the peace and tranquillity of the people of a constituency;
 - e) fails to provide an authorization from the organization of which he is a member; and
 - f) has not obtained security clearance from the Government
- (3) Every observer while observing the process of conduct of election shall display prominently a card of his identification issued to him by the Commission or an officer authorized by it.
- (4) Every observer or, as the case may be, organization may submit a report to the Commission highlighting the electoral irregularities which were noticed during observation relating to the conduct of election, with recommendations, if any.

10.1 Implementation

For General Election 2024, the Commission adopted an Open Door Policy by extending an open invitation to International Observers / Media for observing the General Election 2024 through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs using media and diplomatic channels. The Observers were allowed to observe all phases of electoral cycle till the culmination of process. Applications received through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs were sent to the Ministry of Interior for security clearance. After clearance, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs asked Pakistan's mission abroad to issue visas to the Election Observers. To ensure fool-proof security arrangements, a committee was formed under the chairmanship of the Secretary ECP and several inter-ministerial meetings were convened to streamline the arrangements for international observers. ECP also held meetings with the stakeholders i.e., representatives of MoFA, Ministry of Interior, MoIB, FBR, and security agencies to ensure the implementation of SOPs established for the security and facilitation of international observers.

Under the law, international/local observers obtain accreditation cards to observe the polling process. The cards were issued to international observers and media by the ECP Secretariat for all the constituencies across Pakistan. Additionally, accreditation cards to Islamabad-based central CSOs, central media and observer organizations were issued by the Secretariat, whereas cards to domestic NGOs, organizations and media were issued by the Provincial Election Commissioners for all the constituencies within their concerned provinces. Likewise, accreditation cards to the domestic observers and media were issued by the District Returning Officers for constituencies in their respective districts. The detail of the accreditation cards issued is given below:

Accreditation Cards Issued to the National Media & Observers

S. No.	Province	Accreditation Cards Issued to the National Media	Accreditation Cards Issued to National Observers
1	Sindh	7176	4762
2	Punjab	7257	858
3	KPK	1900	190
4	Balochistan	811	508
5	ECP Secretariat	1950	8,312
	Total	19094	14630

Detail of International Observers & Media

S. No. of Representatives of International Media		No. of International Observers	
1	341	91	

Detail of Observer Countries/ Organizations/ Missions

S.No.	No. Name of Observer Country, Organization/Mission		
1	United Kingdom (British High Commission, Islamabad)	15	
2	Commonwealth Observer Group		
3	Russian Federation (Embassy of the Russian Federation Islamabad)	16	
4	Japan (Japan Embassy, Islamabad)	7	
5	European Union (Election Expert Mission) EEM	03	
6	European Union Delegation to Pakistan (EU Delegation to Pakistan, Islamabad)		
7	Republic of South Africa (High Commission of South Africa, Islamabad)	02	
8	Republic of Zimbabwe (Embassy of the Republic of Zimbabwe, Islamabad)		
9	Malaysia	03	
10	Kyrgyz Republic	02	
11	Embassy of Uzbekistan		
12	Embassy of Kazakhstan	02	
13	United Nations Development Programme	09	
	Total	91	

Any intervention during the poll can impact the whole process, therefore, the Commission issued a Code of Conduct for all the observers binding them to follow the guidance mentioned therein to ensure that the observation was done without affecting the polling process at the polling stations. Unhindered access to polling stations was provided to political parties, politicians, candidates, civil society and polling stations.

10.2 Challenges

Coordination with other Departments

Numerous challenges were faced by the Commission in maintaining consistent and effective coordination with various organizations, including MoFA, MoIB, and LEAs. This necessitated a concerted effort to establish and maintain communication channels, align objectives, and ensure seamless collaboration among these diverse entities. The recurring nature of these coordination efforts requirements posed a substantial administrative challenge for ECP and highlighted the complexity of inter-organizational cooperation.

ii. Delayed Submission of Deployment Plan

The delayed submission of the Deployment Plan for observers by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs made it difficult for the Commission to ensure timely completion of arrangements for international observers.

10.3 Recommendations

- i. A facilitation cell, comprising officers from all the relevant ministries/ departments, may be established at ECP Secretariat Islamabad from issuance of the Action Plan till the culmination of the election process
- ii. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs be made responsible for the timely submission of the Deployment Plan for international observers to the ECP.



11. APPOINTMENT OF THE APPELLATE AND ELECTION TRIBUNALS

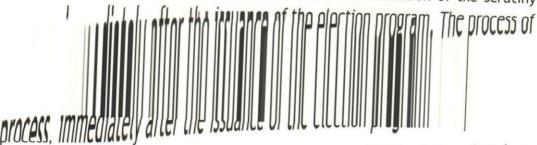




11. Appointment of the Appellate and Election Tribunals

11.1 Appellate Tribunal

Under section 63 of the Elections Act, 2017, the Commission appoints Appellate Tribunals in consultation with the Chief Justices of the High Courts to decide appeals within the stipulated timeframe against the decisions of the Returning Officers about accepting or rejecting nomination papers filed by candidates. The Appellate Tribunals are usually appointed before the initiation of the scrutiny



soliciting proposals from the Registrar of the respective High Courts is undertaken by the Commission.

11.1.1 Implementation

The Commission notified the Election Program on December 15th, 2024 for General Election 2024. Subsequently, nomination papers were filed before the concerned Returning Officers by the candidates of both National and Provincial Assembly constituencies. To decide the appeals filed against the decisions of ROs, the Commission, following section 63(1) of the Elections Act, appointed and notified the following Appellate Tribunals:

S. No.	Province / Area	No. of Appellate Tribunals	Locations	Jurisdiction
1	Punjab	12	Lahore, Bahawalpur, Multan, Rawalpindi	All General Seats and Reserved Seats for Women and Non-Muslims in National / Provincial Assemblies in Punjab province
2	Federal Capital	2	Islamabad	All General Seats in National Assembly of ICT
3	Sindh	6	Karachi, Larkana, Sukkur	All General Seats and Reserved Seats for Women and Non-Muslims in National / Provincial Assemblies in Sindh province
4	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	7	Peshawar, Abbottabad Mingora, Bannu, D.I. Khan	All General Seats and Reserved Seats for Women and Non-Muslims in National / Provincial Assemblies in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province
5	Balochistan	2	Quetta	All General Seats and Reserved Seats for Women and Non-Muslims in National / Provincial Assemblies in Balochistan province
	Total =	29		,

The Tribunals appointed by the Commission are required to decide the election petitions following the law. The total number of election petitions of the National / Provincial Assemblies filed before the tribunals and referred by the Commission for the 2024 General Election is as under:

Election Petitions Filed In Respect Of General Election 2024 (For National Assembly / Provincial Assembly)

	THEO PETITIONS
Balochistan	47
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	42
Punjab	198
Sindh	86
Federal Capital	3
Total	376

11.2.2 Challenges

i. Delays in Timely Disposal of Election Petitions

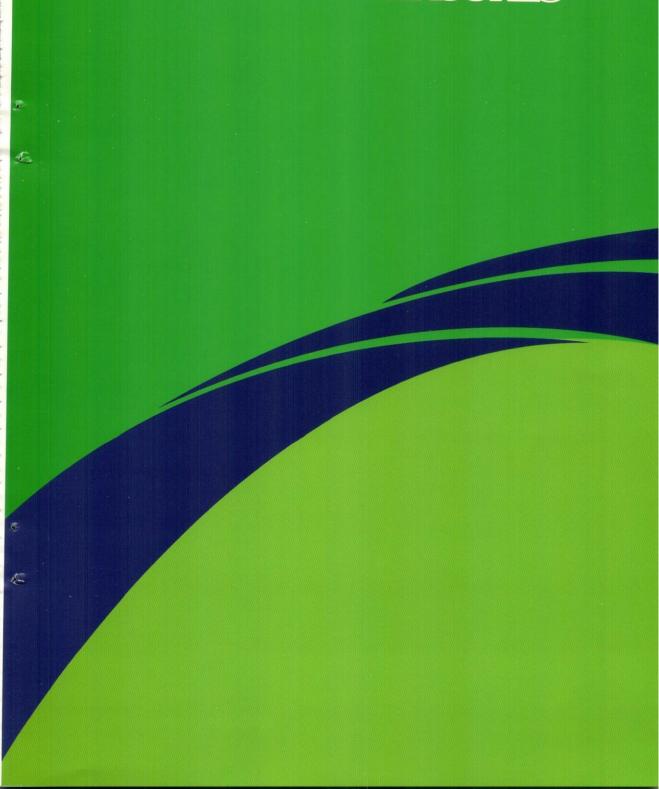
Under the Elections Act, the tribunal is required to dispose of an election petition within 180 days. However, this does not happen practically as the disposal of petitions often prolongs till the expiry of the term of an Assembly. This challenge needs to be addressed.

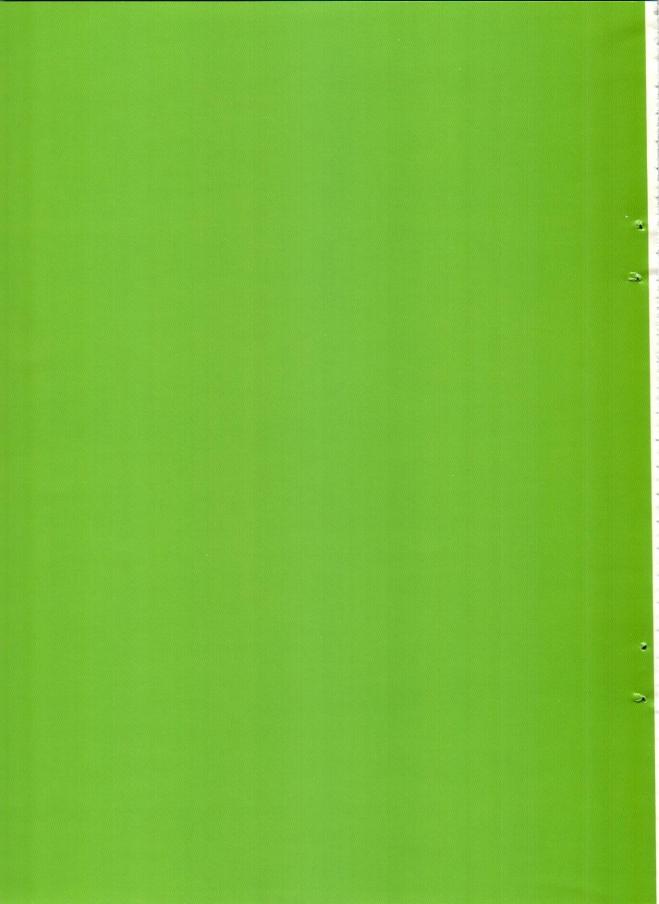
ii. Impact of Judges' Regular Duties

The judges appointed as Election Tribunals also perform their regular duties as judges of their respective High Courts. Resultantly, the hearing and disposal of election Petitions are often delayed.



12. SECURITY MEASURES





12. Security Measures

Article 218 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan mandates the Election Commission must conduct the elections honestly, fairly and that corrupt practices are guarded against. As such, providing a peaceful and secure environment to the political parties, voters and the contestants during election campaign and poll day is one of the pivotal tasks of ECP.

12.1 Implementation

The Election Commission adopted a proactive approach to make arrangements for a secure environment well before the issuance of the election program. For this purpose, the law enforcement agencies were engaged in making preparatory measures and assessment of personnel required at the polling stations as well as for providing security during political activities such as rallies, processions, corner meetings, etc. Besides, various meetings with the Chief Secretaries and IGPs of Police were held. Initially, the LEAs faced significant challenges in adhering to the deployment plan. However, through effective micro-management and adjustments to the deployment strategy, the shortfall was reduced considerably. During the elections, Police and other law enforcement agencies such as Rangers and the Frontier Corps (FC) performed duty as first and second-tier forces whereas Pakistan Armed Forces were entrusted to act as QRF (third tier) to have effective control over the law and order situation.

To train the security personnel about their roles and responsibilities, especially the do's and don'ts, a comprehensive code of conduct for security personnel was issued and orientation sessions were conducted for Master Trainers. Also, special security arrangements were ensured for international observers and media persons during their field visits in connection with elections. Similarly, foolproof security arrangements were assured during the transportation of Ballot Papers and election material from the printing presses to the respective District Returning Officers' offices as per the approved plan. Pakistan Armed Forces/Civil Armed Forces were deployed to provide security during the transportation of election material from the offices of Returning Officers to polling stations and back, after completion of the poll and vote count. During the process, the

Commission in terms of Article 220 of the Constitution read with sections 5 and 193 of the Elections Act, 2017 (XXIII of 2017) authorized each designated officer in charge of Pakistan Armed Forces/Civil Armed Forces (gazetted as well as Junior Commissioned Officer) to exercise powers of Magistrate First Class for the entire period of deployment for maintaining law and order. At district level, the District Police Officer was tasked with to prepare a contingency plan. The DROs and ROs were engaged in the process and they along with polling staff were also provided security.

According to the Act, the DRO was responsible to get installed CCTV cameras at all highly sensitive polling stations. In this regard, the Commission directed the Chief Secretaries of all Provinces including Chief Commissioner Islamabad to ensure the installation of CCTV Cameras at highly sensitive polling stations across the country.

12.2 Challenges

i. Shortage of Security Personnel

During the assessment and implementation of the security plan, the shortage of security personnel, particularly the female security officials, was a challenge, which was managed by rationalizing the deployment plan.

ii. Law and Order Situation

During the election campaign period, the law and order situation in some parts of the country remained extremely volatile. Incidents of bomb blasts in the areas of Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa were also reported. One of the contesting candidates in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was shot dead during the campaign, which resulted in the postponement of the election in that constituency. The security apparatus managed to control the overall situation to a great extent so that the polling process was completed smoothly.

iii. Absence of CCTV Cameras at Polling Stations

CCTV cameras are only installed at highly sensitive polling stations as per section 59 of the Elections Act, whereas incidents of violence outside or inside a polling

station may occur anywhere. Given this, the circumstantial evidence of the incidence cannot be recorded due to the absence of such facilities in sensitive and normal polling stations. Additionally, the arrangements for the installation of CCTV cameras by the provincial governments are made slowly, which results in a delay in installation.

12.3 Recommendations

- To meet the shortage of security personnel, especially female staff, the PQR may be engaged (both male and female) during the elections.
- ii. To ensure a peaceful environment and to ward off any serious security issues, it would be helpful if intelligence activities are enhanced during the election period. Moreover, prompt and effective coordination between all the security intelligence agencies may be ensured for swift flow of information and necessary actions accordingly.
- iii. To improve transparency and deterrence against violence and manipulation inside and outside the polling stations, the provincial governments may be sensitized to install CCTV cameras at each polling station as far as possible.





13. MONITORING MECHANISM TO REPORT PROGRESS REGARDING IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTION PLAN





13. Monitoring Mechanism to Report Progress Regarding Implementation of Action Plan

The Action Plan issued in April, 2023, encompassed all prerequisites for conduct of an Election. It contains 12 major electoral activities which were either completed before issuance of the election plan or carried out later at the appropriate time. To ensure the implementation of Action Plan for the 2024 General Election, a robust monitoring mechanism was deployed by the Commission.

13.1 Implementation

13.1.1 Delimitation of Constituencies and Revision of Electoral Rolls

The delimitation of constituencies and revision of electoral rolls were the key activities completed before the issuance of the action plan. The deadline for freezing electoral rolls was set as July 13th, 2023, which was met successfully. However, the publication of the 7th Population and Housing Census-2023 prompted the re-execution of these major exercises before the conduct of the General Elections 2024. Effective monitoring of both activities was done to ensure their completion within the stipulated timeframe before the issuance of the election program.

13.1.2 Enlistment of Political Parties

Enlistment of political parties is an ongoing process. At the time of preparing the Action Plan, 165 parties were enlisted. One enlistment case was under consideration, while another was returned with observations. It was ensured that no enlistment cases were pending when the election program was finalized.

13.1.3 Allocation of Symbols

As required in the Elections Act 2017, the Commission invited applications through a press release, to allocate election symbols to eligible parties for the General Election 2024. All applications were examined and decided upon under the law and established procedures, completing the process timely.

13.1.4 Appointment and Training of DROs, ROs, AROs, Presiding Officers, APOs, POs and other Election Officials

Appointing and training the DROs, ROs, and election staff is a crucial activity. In June 2023, the respective Chief Justices of High Courts were requested to provide judicial officers as DROs and ROs for the upcoming General Election. However, the required services from the judiciary could not be secured. Further, the publication of the results of the 7th Population Census delayed these appointments, hence, the training plan, which was initially scheduled to be completed by October 2023, had to be rescheduled due to these challenges.

13.1.5 Preparation of Constituency-wise List of Polling Stations and List of Polling Personnel

After issuance of the election program, the schedules for preparation of final list of polling stations and instructions regarding preparation and appointment of polling personnel were issued. Both the activities were completed within the stipulated time. Additionally, keeping in account the precarious law and order situation, the law enforcement agencies were engaged well before the issuance of the election program.

13.1.6 Printing of Requisite Number of Ballot Papers

The procurement of special watermarked paper, alongwith all necessary arrangements, was completed well in advance of the General Election. Approximately 1,800 tons of paper was utilized in the General Election 2024.

13.1.7 Arrangements for Election Observers

The Commission adopted an Open Door Policy for allowing International and National election observers to observe the electoral process, for the General Election 2024. All necessary arrangements were made accordingly in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Interior.

For effective monitoring of all these multi-dimensional tasks, the Election Commission conducted regular meetings. Initially, the Commission's meetings were held every fortnight, and later regularly. The Hon'ble CEC also convened

meetings with heads of the wings daily to ensure the smooth completion of election activities. The Wing heads submitted fortnightly reports regarding the implementation of timelines set in the Action Plan. The effective supervision of all electoral activities helped meet the timelines.

13.2 Challenges

Publication of 7th Digital Census

The Action Plan was prepared in April, 2023 when two major activities, i.e. delimitation of constituencies and revision of electoral rolls, were already completed. These activities laid the foundation for other activities mentioned in the Action Plan. However, after the publication of the final results of 7th Population and Housing Census 2023, both above-mentioned exercises were re-conducted, which rendered the Action Plan ineffective, to the extent of activities about the given timeframe.

13.3 Recommendations

A provision may be added in section 14 of the Elections Act, 2017 allowing the Action Plan to be adjusted based on circumstances that directly impact the timeline for completing electoral activities outlined in the Plan.

13.4 Monitoring of Election Campaign

According to Section 234 of the Elections Act, 2017 the Commission is mandated to constitute monitoring teams to monitor Election Campaign of the candidates and political parties. The teams so appointed report to the District Monitoring Officers regarding violation of the provision of the Act, Rules *ibid* or the Code of Conduct issued by the Commission on regular basis till culmination of Electoral process.

13.4.1 Implementation

For implementation of the above statutory provisions the Commission appointed a District Monitoring Officer for each district. As such 144 District Monitoring Officers throughout the Country were appointed. In order to assist the District Monitoring Officers, a two member monitoring team for each provincial assembly

constituency was also appointed. The main function of District Monitoring Officer and Constituency Monitors was to ensure implementation of Code of Conduct issued for political parties and contesting candidates. However, during the course of implementation of the Act and the Rules <u>ibid</u> as well as the Code of Conduct various challenges were faced. The detail is given here under:

13.4.2 Challenges

Enforcement of Code of Conduct and Penalties for Violations

The DMOs were authorized to implement code of conduct issued for political parties and contesting candidates. They were empowered to impose fines up to Rs. 50,000/- in case of any violation of provision of the Elections Act or the code of conduct but there is no mechanism, if the fine is not paid or deposited by the violator.

ii. Lack of Magisterial Powers for DMOs and Constituency Monitors

There are no Magisterial powers granted to the DMOs and constituency monitors under the law, which at times limit their effectiveness and even face threats and violence while removing illegal publicity material.

13.4.3 Recommendations

The following amendments are proposed in the Elections Act 2017 to improve monitoring of the electoral process:

- i. An amendment to the Elections Act may be made, granting the DMOs and Monitoring Teams magisterial powers to take punitive action against violators of the Code of Conduct and persons resisting the implementation of Code of Conduct measures.
- ii. An amendment to the Elections Act may also be proposed to stipulate that if a candidate violates the Code of Conduct and is subsequently declared the winner, their notification shall not be issued unless the fine is paid. Additionally, if a candidate fails to pay the fine after winning, they may be barred from contesting the next election until the fine is settled.



Annexure-I

Sr. No	Name of Political Party
1	Aam Admi Tehreek Pakistan
2	Aam Awam Party
3	Aam Log Ittehad
4	Aam Log Party Pakistan
5	All Pakistan Kissan Ittehad
6	All Pakistan Minority Movement.
7	All Pakistan Muslim League (Jinnah)
8	Allah-o-Akbar Tehreek
9	Amun Taraqqi Party
10	Awam League
11	Awami Justice Party Pakistan
12	Awami Muslim League Pakistan
13	Awami National Party
14	Awami Tehreek
15	Awami Workers Party
16	Balochistan Awami Party
17	Balochistan National Party
18	Balochistan National Party (Awami)
19	Barabri Party Pakistan
20	Front National (Pakistan)
21	Humdardan-e-Watan Pakistan
22	Hazara Democratic Party
23	Islami Jamhoori Ittehad Pakistan
24	Islami Tehreek Pakistan
25	Ittehad-e-Ummat Pakistan
26	Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan
27	Jamhoori Wattan Party
28	Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Nazryati Pakistan

29	Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Pakistan
30	Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Pakistan (S)
31	Jamiat Ulema-e-Pakistan (Noorani)
32	Jamiat Ulma-e-Pakistan (Imam Noorani)
33	Jamote Qaumi Movement
34	Jannat Pakistan Party
35	Majlis Wahdat-e-Muslimeen Pakistan
36	Markazi Jamiat Ahl-e-Hadith Pakistan
37	Mohajir Qaumi Movement Pakistan
38	Mohib-e-Wattan Nowjawan Inqilabion Ki Anjuman (MNAKA)
39	Move on Pakistan
40	Mustaqbil Pakistan
41	All Pakistan Mutiahida League
42	Mutahida Ulema-e-Mashaikh Council of Pakistan
43	Muttahida Qaumi Movement Pakistan
44	National Democratic Party
45	National Party
46	National Peoples Party
47	Nazria Pakistan Council
48	Pak Muslim Alliance (Dewan)
49	Pak Sarzameen Party
50	Pakistan Aman Tehreek.
51	Pakistan Awami Inqelabi League
52	Pakistan Awami Jamhuri Ittehad
53	Pakistan Awami League
54	Pakistan Awami Raj
55	Pakistan Awami Tehreek
56	Pakistan Citizen Movement
57	Pakistan Conservative Party
58	Pakistan Falah Party
59	Pakistan Falahi Tehreek

60	Pakistan Freedom Movement
61	Pakistan Human Party
62	Pakistan Human Rights Party
63	Pakistan Islamic Republican Party
64	Pakistan Justice & Democratic Party
65	Pakistan Kissan Ittehad (Ch. Anwar)
66	Pakistan Masiha Party.
67	Pakistan Muhafiz Party (National)
68	Pakistan Muhafiz Watan Party
69	Pakistan Muslim Alliance
70	Pakistan Muslim League
71	Pakistan Muslim League (F)
72	Pakistan Muslim League (J)
73	Pakistan Muslim League (N)
74	Pakistan Muslim League (Sher-e-Bangal) A.K Fazal-Ul-Haq
75	Pakistan Muslim League Council
76	Pakistan Muslim League Organization
77	Pakistan Muslim League (Zia-Ul-Haq Shaheed)
78	Pakistan National Party
79	Pakistan Peoples Party
80	Pakistan Peoples Party (Shaheed Bhutto)
81	Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians
82	Pakistan Peoples Party (Workers)
83	Pakistan Rah-e-Haq Party
84	Pakistan Siraiki Party (T)
85	Pakistan Sunni Tehreek
86	Pakistan Supreme Democratic Party
87	Pakistan Tehreek-e-Ijtihad
88	Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf
89	Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (Nazriati)
90	Jamaat-e-Suffah

	91	Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaniat
	92	Pakistan Welfare Party.
	93	Pakistan Yaqeen Party
	94	Pasban Democratic Party
1200000	95	Pashtoonkhwa Milli Awami Party
	96	Peoples Movement of Pakistan (PMP)
**********	97	Peoples Muslim League (Pakistan)
	98	Qaumi Awami Tehreek Pakistan
aannees	99	Qaumi Watan Party
	100	Roshan Pakistan League
	101	Saraikistan Democratic Party
	102	Sindh United Party
1234546	103	Sunni Ittehad Council
	104	Tabdeeli Pasand Party
	105	Tehreek Ahl-e-Sunnat Pakistan
	106	Tehreek Jawanan Pakistan
	107	Tehreek Labbaik Pakistan
	108	Tehreek Tabdili Nizam Pakistan
	109	Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Parliamentarian
	110	Tehreek-e-Darveshan Pakistan
	111	Tehreek-e-Difa-e-Pakistan
	112	Tehreek-e-Ehsas-e-Pakistan
	113	Tehreek-e-Labbaik Islam
	114	Tehreek-e-Suba Hazara Pakistan
	115	Tehreek-e-Tahafuz Pakistan
	116	Tehreek-e-Tameer-e-Pakistan
	117	Pakistan People's Alliance Party (A)
	118	First Democratic Front
	119	Pakistan Aam Admi Movement
	120	Kissan Ittehad
	121	Pakistan Tehreek-e-Eithad

	122	Pakistan Muslim League (Khan Qayyum Khan)
	123	Awami Falahi Party
	124	Labour Qaumi Movement Pakistan
	125	Pak League
	126	Pakistan Markazi Muslim League
	127	Pakistan Tehreek-e-Nizam
	128	National Democratic Movement
	129	Awami Jamhoori Party Pakistan
	130	Pakistan Peoples League
	131	Pakistan Nazriyati Party
	132	Tehreek-e-Inqilab Political Movement
	133	Pakistan Tehreek-e-Emaan
	134	Istehkam-e-Pakistan Tehreek
	135	Hazara Qaumi Mahaz Pakistan
	136	Pakistan Inqalabi Party
Manne	137	Pakistan Tehreek-e-Shariat Party
	138	Pakistan Reform Party
BERREIN	139	Pakistan Tehreek-e-Shadbad
	140	Hum Awam Pakistan Party
DOCUMENT	141	Pakistan Tehreek-e-Such
	142	Kissan Ittehad Awami Party
energe s	143	Haqooq khalq Party
	144	Rabita Jamiat Ulma-e-Islam
Dinesso	145	Awami Democratic Party Pakistan
	146	Sulaiman Khel Qabail Movement
**********	147	Tehreek-e-Azmat Pakistan
	148	Tehreek-e-Tarraqi-o-Kamal
ecepture.	149	Mazloom Olsi Tehreek Pakistan
	150	Pakistan National Reformist Party
77595014	151	Awami Tehreek-e-Ilam Party
	152	Tehreek-e-Awam Pakistan

153	Pakistan Muslim Party
154	Jadeed Awami Party
155	Apni Party Pakistan
156	Haq Do Tehreek Balochistan
157	Hassar-e-Muslim
158	Pakistan Kissan Labour Party
159	Khadmeen-e-Sindh
160	Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party
161	Green Democratic Party
162	Pak Defence Qoumi Movement
163	Pashtoonkhwa National Awami Party Pakistan
164	Technology Movement Pakistan
165	Pakistan Awami Quwat
166	Pakistan Qaumi Ittehad

Annexure-II

Sr. No.	Name of Political Party / Alliance	Name of Symbol	Symbol Code
1	Pak League	Apple	11
2	Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians	Arrow	12
3	Balochistan National Party	Axe	14
4	Pasban Democratic Party	Balloons	17
5	Tehreek-e-Azmat-e-Pakistan	Basket	18
6	Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (Nazriati)	Batsman	20
7	First Democratic Front	Bell	25
8	All Pakistan Muslim League (Jinnah)	Bicycle	27
9	Tehreek-e-Tarraqi-o-Kamal	Binoculars	28
10	Khadmeen-e-Sindh	Boat	30
11	Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam Pakistan	Book	31
12	Tehreek-e-Difa-e-Pakistan	Bow	33
13	Pakistan National Reformist Party	Bridge	36
14	Kissan Ittehad	Bucket	39
15	Awami Workers Party	Bulb	40
16	All Pakistan Kissan Ittehad	Bullock Cart	41
17	Pashtoonkhwa National Awami Party Pakistan	Bunch of Grapes	42
18	Pakistan Muslim League (J)	Bus	43
19	Hazara Qaumi Mahaz Pakistan	Butterfly	44
20	Balochistan National Party (Awami)	Camel	49
21	Mohajir Qaumi Movement Pakistan	Candle	50
22	Tehreek-e-Labbaik Islam	Cannon	51
23	Mohib-e-Wattan Nowjawan Inqilabion Ki Anjuman (MNAKA)	Сар	52
24	Sindh United Party	Car	53
25	Pakistan Markazi Muslim League	Chair	55

26	Qaumi Watan Party	Chiragh (Lamp)	58
27	Jamiat ulam-e- Pakistan (Imam Noorani)	Chitrali Cap	59
28	Hamdardan-e-Watan Pakistan	Coat	61
29	Istehkam-e-Pakistan Tehreek	Coins	63
30	Mustaqbil Pakistan	Comb	64
31	Muttahida Ulema Mashaikh Council of Pakistan	Combat Aircraft	65
32	Nazria Pakistan Council	Combat Tank	66
33	Kissan Ittehad Awami Party	Corn	69
34	Balochistan Awami Party	Cow	70
35	Tehreek Labbaik Pakistan	Crane	71
36	Hazara Democratic Party	Crescent	72
37	Pakistan Tehreek-e-Such	Crocodile	74
38	Tabdeeli Pasand Party	Crown	75
39	Peoples Muslim League (Pakistan)	Cup and Saucer	76
40	Pakistan Freedom Movement	Date Tree	78
41	Saraikistan Democratic Party	Deer	80
42	Pakistan Supreme Democratic Party	Diamond	82
43	Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party	Eagle	93
44	Jamote Qaumi Movement	Electric Pole	95
45	Tehreek Tabdili Nizam-e- Pakistan	Elephant	97
46	Ittehad-e-Ummat Pakistan	Energy Saver	99
47	Pakistan Muhafiz Party (National)	Fan	101
48	Pakistan Muslim Alliance	Fish	104
49	Pakistan Peoples Party (Shaheed Bhutto)	Fist	105
50	Pakistan Aam Admi Movement	Flower Pot	107
51	Islami Jamhoori Ittehad Pakistan	Foot Ball	108
52	Pakistan Tehreek-e-Shariat Party	Fort	110
53	Jannat Pakistan Party	Fountain	111

54	Sulaiman Khel Qabail Movement	Gate	117
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