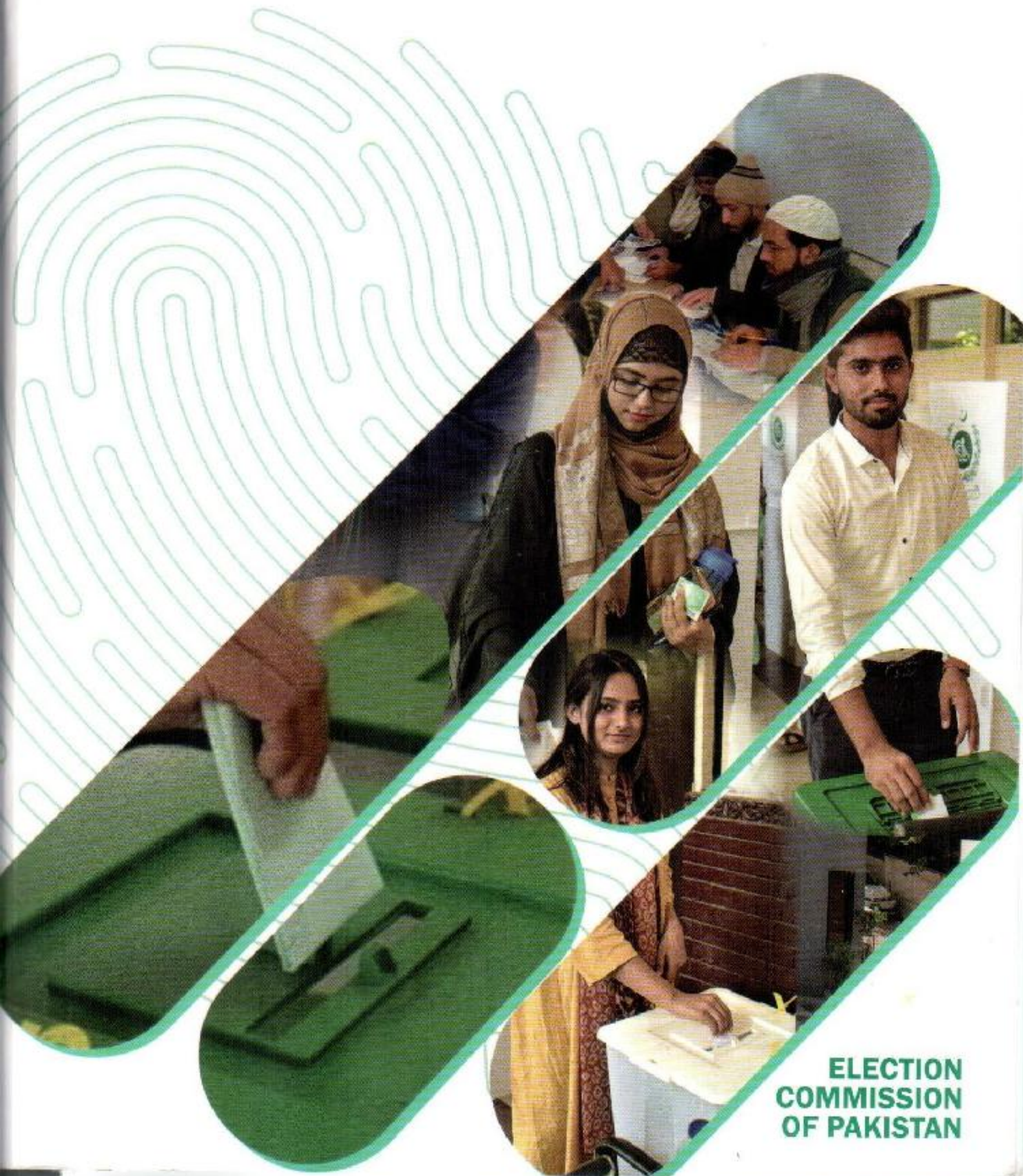


ANNUAL REPORT 2023



**ELECTION
COMMISSION
OF PAKISTAN**



Election Commission of Pakistan
ANNUAL REPORT 2023

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MESSAGE FROM CHIEF ELECTION COMMISSIONER



The Annual Report 2023 delves into the tireless efforts undertaken by the Election Commission, its dedicated staff, and stakeholders to strengthen the democratic fabric of our nation. From pioneering technological advancements to implement innovative voter education initiatives, we have strived to make the electoral process more accessible, secure, and inclusive. The year 2023 has been significant in more ways than one; it marked the close of the third Strategic Plan (2019-2023), carrying out delimitation, preparations for the general elections, conduct of local government elections and bye elections, all among a myriad of challenges that presented themselves in the middle of the Commission's tightly packed year.

Navigating through the early dissolution of the provincial assemblies, publication of the census, and the mass resignations of members of National Assembly, the Commission had to carry out delimitation of all constituencies afresh, halfway through the year. As preparations for General Elections were already underway, resources had been exhausted, which led to the need to redo these from scratch. A state-of-the-art Election Monitoring Control Centre (EMCC) was established at the Secretariat for improved monitoring of the electoral process.

The Commission continued its efforts to enhance the quality and accuracy of Electoral Rolls in collaboration with NADRA. Upon publication of the Census 2023, Electoral Rolls were rearranged in accordance with the new Census Blocks scheme. With the revision exercise complete, the revised count of registered voters during the year 2023 was recorded at 128.5 million. Electoral reforms remained a high priority of the Commission. The Parliament made substantive amendments in the Elections Act, 2017 as proposed by ECP.

The Commission is dedicated in its commitment to ensure inclusive electoral processes, and continued its efforts during the year for voter education campaigns, women's participation in elections, public access to information, financial and budget management, human resource management and integration of technologies. Trainings were held countrywide to equip officers with the skills to ensure efficient conduct of elections. The commitment and hard work of ECP officers and staff is paramount to the success of the Commission, without which the year's challenges could not have been conquered and milestones not achieved.

As we navigate the complexities of modern democracy, we all look forward to exploring the diverse initiatives, reforms and achievements outlined in this report. Together, let us acknowledge the progress made, the challenges faced, and reaffirm our collective commitment to uphold the democratic ideals that are the bedrock of our great nation.

SIKANDAR SULTAN RAJA
CHIEF ELECTION COMMISSIONER
OF PAKISTAN

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

As custodian of Pakistan's democratic process, the Election Commission is honoured to present the Annual Report for the year 2023. This report encapsulates our relentless pursuit of electoral integrity, transparency and inclusivity in service to the people of Pakistan.

Amidst the complexities of modern governance, the Annual Report serves as a testament to the achievements and dedication of the Commission and the unwavering trust of the nation in our mandate.

Throughout the year, the Election Commission has embarked on a transformative path, navigating challenges, embracing opportunities, and pioneering innovative solutions to fortify the electoral landscape of Pakistan. From the bustling streets of urban centres to the remote corners of rural communities, our mission remains singular: to ensure free, fair and transparent elections that embody the spirit of democracy.

As we embark on the journey ahead, let us reflect on the milestones achieved, the lessons learnt from our past and the challenges overcome. Let us continue to dedicate ourselves to the noble cause of fostering a more vibrant, inclusive and participatory democratic society, shunning factionalism, divisiveness in politics, violence and elitism.

We extend our deepest gratitude to all the Federal, Provincial and Caretaker Governments for providing financial, human and logistical support for carrying out delimitation of constituencies, revision of Electoral Rolls and conduct of elections.

ECP also appreciates and acknowledges the assistance of all stakeholders, development partners and citizens who have contributed to the success of the Election Commission's endeavours. Support from all stakeholders fuels our determination to strive for excellence and to uphold the democratic principles that define our nation. The Commission also acknowledges the dedication and commitment of the Committee in the preparation of the Annual Report 2023. It applauds the contributions made by all concerned specially the Research Wing.



OMAR HAMID KHAN
Secretary, ECP

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

During the year 2023, preparations for the country's next General Election cycle remained underway in full zeal, originally scheduled for October, 2023. Delimitation of national and provincial constituencies was smoothly conducted and completed as per schedule in the year 2022. Electoral Rolls were updated, while procurement and printing of election materials and trainings of election officials were also completed within the stipulated timelines.

However, the early dissolution of the Provincial Assemblies of Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in January 2023 set in motion a series of events that led to the rescheduling of the General Elections, and rendered the work and preparations underway for it, redundant, taking the Commission back to the drawing board to chart out fresh timelines for the rest of the year, in the midst of court cases and vacant assemblies.

The publication of the final results of the seventh National Housing Census rendered delimitation and Electoral Rolls ineffective. The Commission, with due consultation with major political parties decided to carry out fresh boundary delimitation of constituencies due to an increase of 49 million individuals and change of population in different districts of the provinces. Thus began the process of revision of Electoral Rolls and boundary delimitation again.

After the publication of the official results of the Digital Census and updated Electoral Rolls, the total number of registered voters across the country increased from 122,196,122 as on October 7, 2022 to 128,585,760 as on December 1, 2023, with a total increase of 6,389,638 voters. The total number of female voters increased from 55,789,954 to 59,322,056, with an increase of 3,532,102 voters, while the total number of male voters increased from 66,406,168 to 69,263,704 with an increase of 2,857,536 voters during this period.

Substantive amendments were made in the Elections Act, 2017. The Commission proposed electoral reforms related to the Constitution and the Elections Act 2017, to the Parliamentary Committee on Electoral Reforms. Accordingly, 58 Sections of the Elections Act, 2017 and 18 Rules of the Election Rules, 2017 were amended.

Simultaneously, the Commission worked to ensure the smooth preparations and conduct of Local Government Elections in provinces. Elections to the local governments and bye elections were successfully held in three provinces namely Sindh, Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, however the process could not be completed in the Federal Capital and Punjab due to frequent change in local government laws, pending litigations in the courts and reluctance shown by the respective Governments.

Bye elections to the National Assembly, Provincial Assemblies and Senate were also due in the calendar year, and schedules were duly published for 70 constituencies. However, the election was conducted in only one constituency as the remaining bye elections were suspended by the respective High Courts.

With a new schedule published for the General Elections 2024, the Commission continued its tireless efforts to meet the revised timelines. The daily operations of the Commission did not cease and continued in the form of in-house trainings for ECP and election officials, upgrade of information technology and its integration into human resource management practices, voter education campaigns, etc.

Extensive in-house trainings were regularly conducted at ECP through the year. More than 1.4 million election officials were trained for the General Elections, including trainings of security personnel, while ECP employees were also trained for improved service delivery.

In an effort to improve coordination and ensure effective complaint resolution, a state-of-the-art Election Monitoring Control Centre (EMCC) was established at the ECP Secretariat, equipped with modern digital technologies, which enabled field officials to monitor and digitally report election activities from the field on a real-time basis.

In compliance with Section 13 of the Elections Act, 2017, an Election Management System (EMS) was developed for the processing, counting and tabulation of election results with an aim to speed up the turnover of result compilation and transmission and to ensure the accuracy and transparency of election results.

Through the year, ECP coordinated with various stakeholders including public and private organisations and media groups for election observation missions. ECP officials participated in international election observations in Sri Lanka, New Zealand, Nepal, Zimbabwe, Uzbekistan and Maldives.

In a nation where democracy thrives as the cornerstone of governance, the Election Commission of Pakistan stands as a beacon of hope, ensuring that the voices of the people resonate loud and clear through the ballot. For this purpose, it is of equal importance that all voices be included, especially marginalised groups like women, religious minorities and differently abled persons. Special efforts were made to integrate these vulnerable groups in the country's electoral process.

While the commission operates countrywide through 160 offices, special efforts were made during the year 2023, to acquire state owned land for the construction of its own field offices. 29 plots were purchased by the Commission in the provinces of Punjab and Balochistan from their respective governments for the construction of its own office buildings. The construction of these projects is currently underway and due to be completed by the year 2025.

A special day care facility was revamped at the ECP Secretariat in 2023, equipped with air conditioners, bunk beds, TV, toys and changing areas for children. Female employees of ECP are provided a dedicated bus transport service, and designated resting areas, prayer rooms, and wash rooms also exist in the premises.

The Commission scrutinised financial submissions of all political parties participating in the General Elections. Particularly, a dedicated “Accounts Cadre” was established at ECP in 2023, responsible for budget coordination, budget execution monitoring, expenditure reconciliation, internal controls concurrent review, internal audit and external audit coordination.

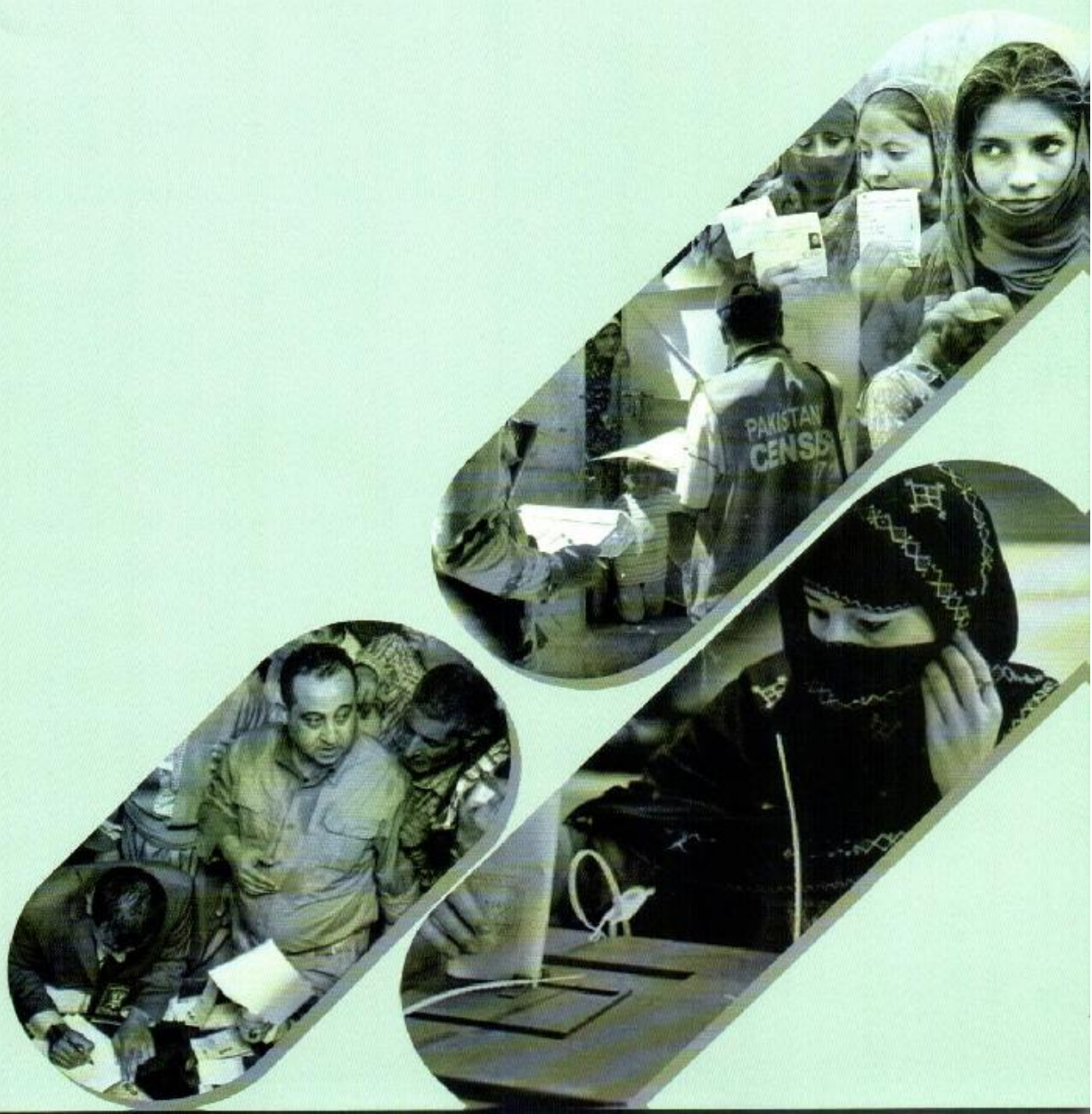
ACRONYMS

ADG	Additional Director General
ARO	Assistant Returning Officer
CBC	Census Block Code
CCTV	Closed-Circuit Television
CEC	Chief Election Commissioner
CM	Chief Minister
CMA	Civil Miscellaneous Application
CMS	Complaint Management System
CSO	Civil Society Organizations
DD	Deputy Director
DDWP	Departmental Development Working Party
DEC	District Election Commissioner
DG	Director General
DMO	District Monitoring Officer
DPC	Departmental Promotion Committee
DRO	District Returning Officer
DVEC	District Voter Education Committee
ECO	Economic Cooperation Organization
ECP	Election Commission of Pakistan
EMB	Election Management Body
EOI	Expression of Interest
EVM	Electronic Voting Machine
FABS	Financial Accounting & Budgeting System
FAQ	Frequently Asked Questions
FATA	Federally Administered Tribal Areas
FBR	Federal Board of Revenue
GMSIF	Gender Mainstreaming and Social Inclusion Framework
GSI	Gender and Social Inclusion
HR	Human Resource

HRMS	Human Resource Management System
ICT	Islamabad Capital Territory
IEC	Information Education and Communication
KP	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
LCMS	Legal Case Management System
LG	Local Government
LGE	Local Government Elections
MCMC	Mid-Career Management Course
MCQ	Multiple Choice Question
MEC	Maldives Election Commission
MEC	Maldives Election Commission
MIS	Management Information System
MNA	Member National Assembly
MO	Monitoring Officer
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MPA	Member Provincial Assembly
NA	National Assembly
NADRA	National Database and Registration Authority
NIC	National Identity Card
NMC	National Management Course
OMR	Optical Mark Recognition
ORS	Online Recruitment System
OTP	One-Time Password
PA	Provincial Assembly
Pak-PWD	Pakistan Public Works Department
PDMA	Provincial Disaster Management Authority
PEC	Provincial Election Commissioner
PEMRA	Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority
PER	Preliminary Electoral Rolls
PF	Political Finance
PILDAT	Pakistan Institute of Legislative Development and Transparency
PLGA	Punjab Local Government Act

PMC	Provincial Monitoring Coordinators
PMU	Project Management Unit
PNCA	Pakistan National Council of Arts
PrO	Presiding Officer
PO	Polling Officer
PSDP	Public Sector Development Program
PTV	Pakistan Television Corporation
REC	Regional Election Commissioner
RMS	Result Management System
RO	Registration Officer
RO	Returning Officer
RTRS	Real Time Reporting System
SBP	State Bank of Pakistan
SECP	Securities & Exchange Commission of Pakistan
SLGA	Sindh Local Government Act
SMC	Senior Management Course
SMS	Short Message Service
TIMS	Training Information Management System
TOR	Terms of Reference
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme

I. INTRODUCTION





Vision

Deliver inclusive
and credible
elections that
people trust.



Mission

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

I - INTRODUCTION

The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) is an independent constitutional institution that serves to guard the democratic principles of country. As in any democratic society, free and fair elections play a crucial role in sustaining and strengthening democratic governance of a nation, by providing legitimacy to a government and its leaders. ECP is mandated to play a pivotal role in ensuring the integrity of the electoral process, performing its duties impartially, without bias or undue interference, and to implement measures to prevent electoral fraud, irregularities and malpractices, thereby safeguarding the credibility and legitimacy of election outcomes.

By organising and conducting elections for various tiers of government, 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. Its commitment to transparency, accountability, and fairness enhances public confidence in the electoral process and citizens trust that their votes will genuinely reflect in the electorate. ECP adheres to international standards of electoral integrity, and serves to uphold democratic processes and governance in Pakistan by strengthening institutions, fostering political accountability and ensuring the peaceful transfer of power.

This Annual Report covers the Election Commission of Pakistan's achievements against objectives set out in the Constitution and the law, as well as performance measures outlined in its third Strategic Plan 2019-2023. The report explores the Commission's milestones and triumphs amidst the challenges that have defined the electoral landscape of Pakistan over the year 2023. Against the backdrop of evolving political dynamics, and a rapidly changing socio-economic landscape, ECP remains steadfast in its commitment to uphold the principles of free and fair elections.

A) Duties of the Commission

The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) is an independent, autonomous, permanent and constitutionally established body, responsible for organising and conducting elections to the office of the President of Pakistan, the Parliament, Provincial Assemblies, Local Governments, as well as the 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 complete support to ECP in the discharge of its functions.

The Election Commission was formed on March 23, 1956, and since then it has been re-structured and reformed 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 covering the electoral process in the country. The 1990s once again saw a series of reforms for the Commission aimed at enhancing the transparency and fairness of electoral processes. In 2010, in another round of reforms under the 18th Constitutional Amendment, the Commission was turned into a permanent entity, and the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition in the National Assembly were designated powers to appoint the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and members of the Election Commission through consultation. Prior to this particular set of reforms, ECP was a temporary institution that was only constituted for the conduct of elections, and the President had the discretion to appoint the CEC and the Members.

ECP consists of the CEC who serves a five-year term, and four Members (one from each province) who are appointed based on the recommendations of a bi-partisan Parliamentary Committee, and serve a five-year term. To be considered for appointment, the CEC and Members must have served previously as judges of the Supreme Court (in case of CEC), or High Court Judges (in case of Members), senior civil servants or technocrats, as per the Constitution.

B) Organisational Structure

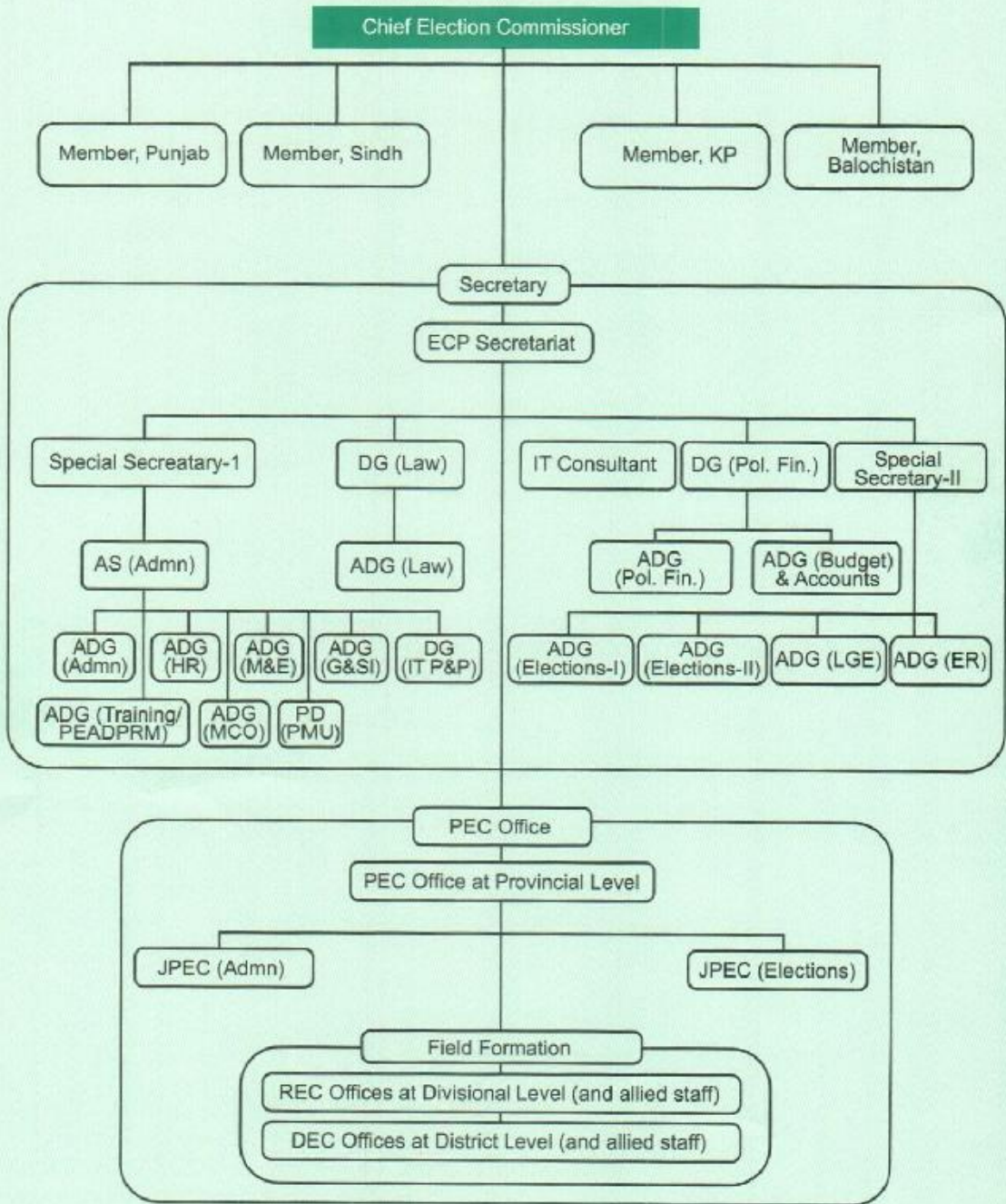
The Commission is supported by a Secretariat in Islamabad and field offices spread across Pakistan. The administrative hierarchy is headed by the Secretary, responsible for policy implementation and the overall management of organisational resources. Article 221 of the Constitution states that the Commission holds the authority to employ officers and staff to fulfil its functions as designated by the Constitution and the law. The Secretary is supported by Special Secretaries (SSs), Director Generals (DGs) / Additional Director Generals (ADGs) and Provincial Election Commissioners (PECs). The organisational hierarchy at the national, provincial, divisional and district levels is described below:

- The Secretariat is located in Islamabad and comprises of twelve (12) wings including the Elections Wing, Electoral Rolls Wing, Local Government Wing, Administration Wing, Human Resource Wing, Monitoring & Evaluation Wing, Political Finance Wing, Training, Research and Evaluation Wing, Gender & Social Inclusion Wing, Law Wing, Information Technology Wing and Media Coordination & Outreach Wing,
- The Provincial Election Commissioners (PECs) head the provincial

hierarchy with offices located in each provincial capital. They are supported by Joint Provincial Election Commissioners (JPECs) and allied staff,

- At the Divisional level, Regional Election Commissioners (RECs) bridge the provincial and district-level setup and liaise with the civil administration and other public stakeholders within their respective jurisdiction. The District Election Commissioners, Assistant Directors IT & Law assist the RECs in each division,
- The District Election Commissioners (DECs) are in charge of the district-level offices. They liaise with the District administration, District Returning Officers and Returning Officers. They also act as Registration Officers mandated to update the Electoral Rolls. The Election Officers (EOs) assist the DECs in each district.

Hierarchy



ELECTION COMMISSION OF PAKISTAN



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

C) Core Functions of the Commission

The Election Commission of Pakistan is a constitutional body responsible for organizing, conducting and overseeing elections in Pakistan. The core functions of the Election Commission of Pakistan are discussed below.

i. Presidential Elections

Article 50 of the Constitution states that the Parliament consists of the President and two houses to be known as the Senate and the National Assembly. The President is the Head of the State and represents the unity of the Republic, and serves a five-year term. The electoral college for the Presidential election comprises of the Parliament and the four Provincial Assemblies. ECP is mandated to issue the election schedule, appoint presiding officers and conduct the Presidential elections, while the CEC performs duty as Returning Officer for this election.

ii. Election to the Senate

ECP is mandated to conduct the Senate election under Article 224 (3) of the Constitution. The Senate is a permanent institution of the Parliament, and holds equal representation from all Provinces of 23 members each, and four from the Federal Capital. There are 100 Senate members at present that serve a six-year term each, to be reduced to 96 members in the next elections due in 2024 due to the merger of Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa which resulted in the dilution (abolishment) of the remaining 4 seats. The election to Senate is conducted in accordance with the system of proportional representation

by means of the single transferrable vote (STV). In case of disqualification or death, the remaining term is completed by the next elected representative.

iii. General Elections to the National and Provincial Assemblies

Article 51 of the Constitution details the allocation of seats of the National Assembly under general, reserved seats for women and non-Muslims. It provides that general seats shall cover single member territorial constituencies, and members to fill such seats shall be elected by direct and free votes in accordance with the law. Similarly, the general seats for the Provincial Assemblies are provided under Article 106, and elections are held with the same analogy as mentioned above. Reserved seats for women in the National Assembly have been assigned to represent each province. 10 reserved seats for non-Muslims have been allocated for the National Assembly, and comprises the whole country as a constituency. Similarly, reserved seats for women and non-Muslims in the Provincial Assemblies are also allocated. Reserved seats are filled in accordance with the law through a proportional representation system of political parties' lists of candidates on the basis of the total number of general seats secured by each political party from the province concerned in the National Assembly or Provincial Assembly as the case may be. ECP is mandated to conduct the General Elections for National and Provincial Assemblies within 60 days in case of completion of term of an Assembly, or within 90 days as provided by Article 224 (2) if the National or Provincial Assemblies are dissolved before the expiry of its term.

iv. Local Government Elections

Under Article 140(A) of the Constitution, each province is required by law to establish a local government system and devolve political, administrative, and financial responsibility and authority to the elected representatives of the Local Governments. Sub-Article 140-A (2) of the Constitution mandates ECP to conduct Local Government Elections in the country. This responsibility was entrusted to ECP in 2010 through the 18th Constitutional Amendment.

v. Bye Elections to the National, Provincial Assembly and Senate

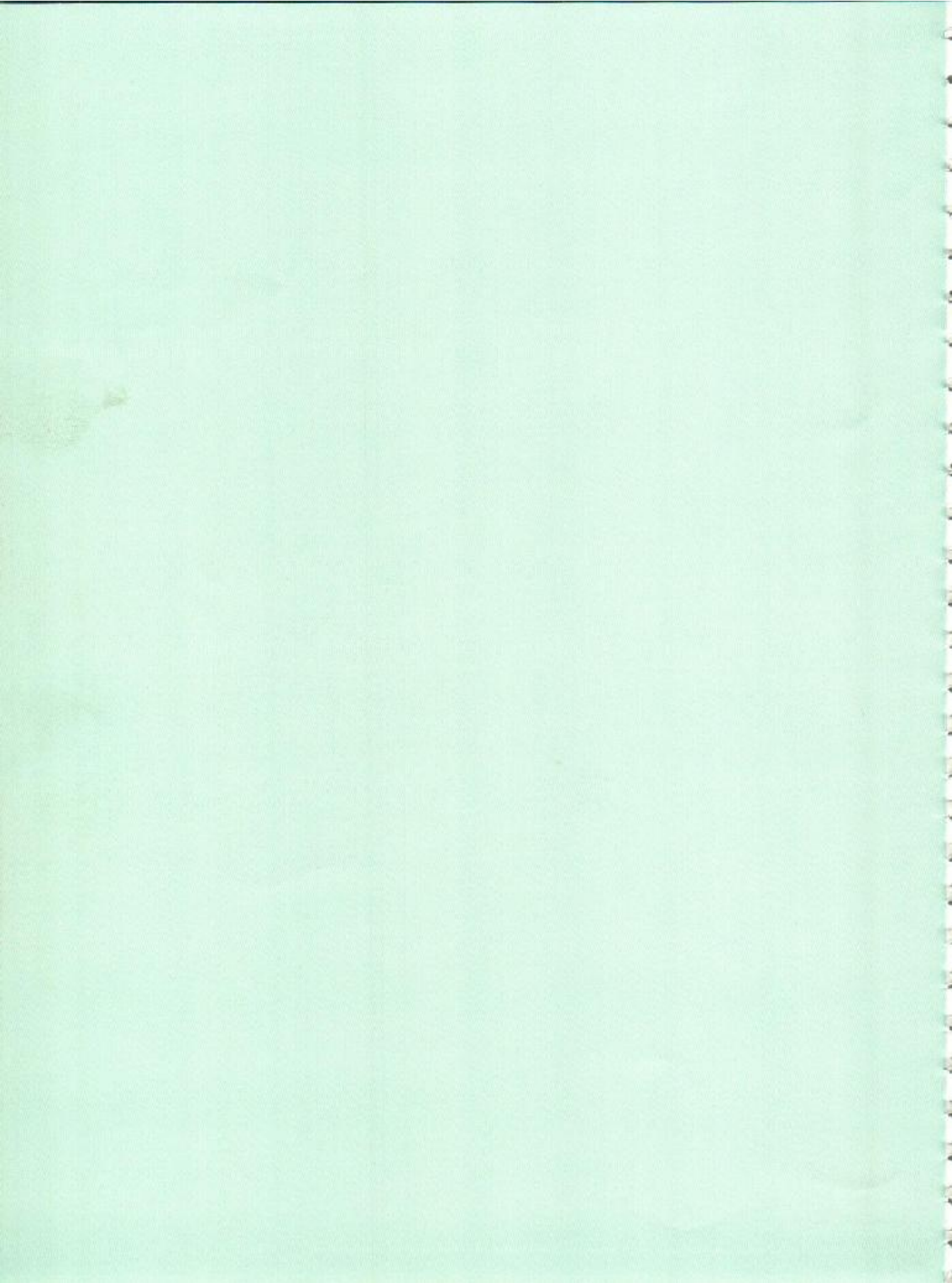
Article 224 of the Constitution provides timelines for bye elections of the National Assembly, Provincial Assembly and Senate. In case a seat is vacated due to death of the incumbent member, disqualification, resignation, or any other reason, a bye election is required to be held within 60 days of the occurrence of the vacancy. Similarly, in case a seat becomes vacant due to any of the aforementioned reasons in the Senate, the vacant seat is required to be filled through an election for completion of the remaining term of the member within 30 days of occurrence of the said vacancy.

vi. Delimitation of National, Provincial and Local Government Constituencies

ECP is responsible for delimiting constituencies for National and Provincial Assemblies and Local Governments. This involves determining boundaries and demarcating the geographical areas that each constituency represents. Delimitation is conducted in accordance with the last preceding census officially published to reflect demographic and geographic changes.

vii. Electoral Rolls

ECP is constitutionally mandated under Article 219 to maintain accurate and up-to-date Electoral Rolls. The Commission conducts periodical revisions, updation and verification processes to ensure the inclusion of eligible voters and the removal of any discrepancies. Electoral Rolls are a crucial part to an election necessitating thereupon to take all such steps to ensure availability of accurate and error free ER for GE.



II - YEAR IN REVIEW



2023

AT A GLANCE

February

- Acceptance of mass resignations of members of NA
- Bye elections on NA 193 Rajanpur-I
- Upgradation of IT Equipment

April

- Issuance of Action Plan for General Election 2023
- Survey of buildings for establishment of polling stations completed
- Databank of officers/ officials of Federal and Provincial Governments for appointment as election officials completed

June

- Conduct of LGEs in Sindh
- Meeting of Gender Disability Electoral Working Group
- Launch of new ECP website
- Approval of PSDP funding for construction of 13 ECP offices
- Procurement of Election Material completed by PECs
- Media campaign for cut-off date

January

- Early dissolution of Punjab and KP Assemblies
- Women NIC & Voter Registration Campaign
- Issuance of election program for Punjab Assembly
- Establishment of Record Room
- Completion of procurement of 800 tons of Special Watermarked Paper

March

- Establishment of Online Facilitation Cell for ROs for Punjab and KP Assemblies
- Preparation of Framework for monitoring of General Elections

May

- Training of Election Officials for LGE
- Electoral workshop for Transgender persons

August

- Publication of result of 7th Population and Housing Census
- Amendments in the Elections Act 2017
- Delimitation of Constituencies
- Consultative meetings with political parties on Electoral Roadmap for General Elections
- Finalisation of arrangements for printing of Ballot papers
- MOU with HEC for procurement of 2000 laptops
- Procurement of data and maps from PBS after Digital Census 2023
- Delivery of maps to field offices for update of ER

October

- Launch of EMCC
- First Inter-Ministerial meeting for facilitation of foreign observers and media
- Meeting with political parties on Code of Conduct
- Invitation to international observers and media for GE 2024
- Freezing of Electoral Rolls

December

- Appointment of DROs, ROs, AROs
- Issuance of GE program 2024
- Printing of election material
- Establishment of Online Facilitation Cell for General Elections 2024
- Third Inter-Ministerial meeting for facilitation of foreign observers and media
- Meeting of Commonwealth observer mission with CEC and Secretary
- Printing and dispatch of non-pictorial final Electoral Rolls to field offices for the conduct of GE-2024

July

- Training of election officials
- Procurement of election material
- Printing of non-sensitive material
- Freezing of Electoral Rolls

September

- Publication of preliminary list of Constituencies published
- Procurement of 300 ton special watermark papers
- Updating of Electoral Rolls which included:
 - Appointment and training of AROs, Supervisors and VOs for door-to-door verification in affected CBCs
 - Printing and dispatch of CBC-wise list of Electoral Rolls in affective CBCs
 - Unfreezing of Electoral Rolls

November

- Training of EMS operators for ROs
- Consultation with stakeholders on Codes of Conduct
- Publication of final list of Constituencies
- Second Inter-Ministerial meeting for facilitation of foreign observers and media

A) 2023 – A Challenging Year

The year 2023 was marked with a myriad of challenges; from the early dissolution of the Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assemblies, acceptance of mass resignations of members of the National and Provincial Assemblies, to the publication of the final results of the census after delimitation of constituencies and revision of Electoral Rolls for the upcoming General Elections. It was a year that saw significant political structural changes that culminated into a lot of scheduled work and major activities that had been duly completed, redundant. This led to the need for fresh preparations from scratch. Election activities in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, including the procurement of election materials and training of election officers had already been completed, also resulting in the need for the processes to be repeated from the beginning. The focus of ECP thus shifted from the General Election preparation to the two Provincial Assembly elections. The political parties approached the Courts and started litigation, resultantly overstretching the workload of the Commission in what remained of the year. Concurrent with these unscheduled events, mass resignations tendered by members of a political party in April 2022 in the National Assembly led to the announcement of a simultaneous major bye election by the Commission. The matter further went into litigation in the courts, and eventually, these elections were halted and ultimately cancelled due to the expiry of terms of the Assemblies. This offset the Commission's scheduled calendar activities for the year.

i. Early Dissolution of Assemblies

After continuous political upheaval amongst the ruling and opposition parties in the year 2022, two Provincial Assemblies (Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa) were dissolved, setting in motion a series of events. Subsequently, caretaker governments were appointed in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa under Article 224 of the Constitution.

Dissolution of the Punjab Assembly

The Provincial Assembly of Punjab was dissolved on January 14, 2023 under Article 112 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. This offset the Commission's scheduled programme of preparation for the General Election that was planned for the end of the year.

Soon thereafter on January 24 and 29, 2023, ECP approached the Governor of Punjab to appoint a poll date between April 9 - 13, 2023. However, the Governor of Punjab did not appoint a date, and in a letter conveyed that the Election Commission should consult its stakeholders regarding the existing security and economic situation across the country. The Governor of Punjab stated that the dissolution of the Punjab Assembly was not on his directive, but invoked through Clause (3) of Article 105 of the Constitution. Therefore, the election process was to take place in accordance with Article 224 read with clause (3) of Article 218 of the Constitution. At this time, through a writ petition, the constitutional jurisdiction of the Lahore High Court (LHC) was invoked. The LHC thus pronounced a consolidated judgement

dated February 10, 2023, directing ECP to immediately announce an election date after consulting with the Governor of Punjab.

In compliance with the direction of the LHC, ECP approached the Governor of

Punjab for an election date. A consultative meeting was held on February 14, 2023,

during which the Governor reiterated his stance, that he could not appoint a poll date as the Assembly was not dissolved under his directive. Thereafter, ECP approached the Lahore High Court through the Civil Miscellaneous Application (CMA) seeking guidance for the next steps to implement the LHC judgement. On February 20 2023, the LHC disposed of the CMA and referred the case to the Supreme Court of Pakistan.

The President of Pakistan in a letter dated February 8, 2023, advised the Election Commission to announce a poll date by issuing the election schedule. Through another letter dated February 17, 2023, the President asked the Commission for a consultative meeting under Section 57(1) of the Elections Act, 2017. Under the same law, on February 20, 2023, the President vide letter announced a poll date of April 9, 2023 for the General Election to the Provincial Assemblies of Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The Supreme Court of Pakistan through suo moto jurisdiction took up the matter and an Order was issued dated March 1, 2023. In compliance with the Order of the Court, the Commission wrote a letter to the President, proposing a poll date between April 30 and May 7 2023. The President later announced that poll for the election would be held on April 30, 2023. Accordingly, ECP announced the Election Programme on March 8, 2023.

In an effort to fulfil its constitutional and legal duties and conduct of elections, several meetings were held between ECP, the Ministry of Interior, Chief Secretary of Punjab, Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) and Inspector General of the Punjab Police. However, the Federal and Provincial Governments as well as LEAs expressed their inability to ensure availability of adequate security. ECP also approached the Ministry of Finance for the release of requisite funds for the Punjab Assembly Elections, but the funds were not provided to the Commission, citing the country's dire economic circumstances. The Federal Cabinet also endorsed the decision of the Finance Division in its meeting held on March 22, 2023. Consequently, upon review of reports and briefings, and the consequential inability of the Executive in provision of requisite assistance for the conduct of elections, ECP was compelled to withdraw the election programme on March 22, 2023.

On April 4, 2023, the Supreme Court of Pakistan passed another Order directing ECP to hold election to the Provincial Assembly of Punjab on May 14, 2023. Accordingly, ECP through a notification on April 5, 2023, issued an election programme. However, due to the aforementioned circumstances, the elections could not be conducted, and subsequently a review petition was filed in the Supreme Court.

Dissolution of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly

The Provincial Assembly of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) was also dissolved on

January 18, 2023 by the Governor of KP under Article 112 of the Constitution.

Thereafter, on January 24 and 29 2023, ECP approached the Governor of KP to announce a poll date. However, in response, the Governor advised ECP to consult with relevant LEAs owing to the volatile law and order situation and incidences of terrorist attacks. Upon ECP's reiteration and insistence to the Governor of KP to announce a poll date and state their readiness and ability to conduct elections, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Government stated clearly to the Commission its inability to conduct General Elections to the Provincial Assembly citing security threats.

In an Order dated March 1, 2023, the Supreme Court of Pakistan directed the Governor of KP to announce a poll date. According to the Order, ECP held two consultative meetings with the Governor of KP in Peshawar and at the ECP Secretariat in Islamabad on March 8 and 14 respectively. Thereafter, in a letter dated March 24, 2023, the Governor of KP announced October 8, 2023 as the poll date for the General Election to the Provincial Assembly.

ii. Acceptance of Mass Resignations of Members of National Assembly

In a rapidly evolving political dynamic over the course of the year 2022, a no confidence motion passed earlier in April 2022 led to a change of the Federal Government. Consequently, 127 members of the opposition party tendered mass resignations to the National Assembly, however the Speaker of the National Assembly did not accept these immediately. Due to the pending fulfilment of technical requirements, these resignations were accepted piece-meal, from January to March 2023.

According to the Constitution, Article 224 posits a bye election for such vacated seats; this presented a challenge to ECP in the middle of election preparations; extra resources had to be redirected towards this bye election, and re-engagement was required in several election activities all over again. The Courts eventually halted these elections, while the assembly term expired and the bye election could not be held.

iii. Publication of Census

On August 5, 2023, the Council of Common Interests (CCI) "unanimously" approved the results of the 2023 Digital Census, leading to a delay in the General Elections originally scheduled to be held in November 2023. Due to an increase of 49 million individuals, the Commission issued an order on August 17, 2023, deciding fresh delimitation to be conducted for all constituencies on the basis of the last preceding census published in 2023, to protect the fundamental rights of political parties and contesting candidates as guaranteed under Article 17 (2) of the Constitution, and to ensure that elections are conducted "honestly, justly and fairly". Subsequently, the major political parties in the country were engaged for consultation on the possible

timelines of General Elections as a result of initiation of delimitation exercise and revision of Electoral Rolls. The majority of the political parties were of the view that General Elections may be conducted at the earliest possible date after completion of the delimitation exercise and revision of Electoral Rolls.

B) Preparing for the General Election

Preparing for a country's General Election is a mammoth task that involves the procurement of election material, the deployment of physical and human resources and training of election officials. In Pakistan, an electoral cycle is a cumulative process of several stages spread over five years; from a pre-election period, through the election and post-election period. The pre-election period comprises planning, training, information dissemination and enlistment of political parties, etc. The election period of the cycle includes processes such as nominations of candidates, scrutiny of nomination papers, allocation of symbols, campaigning, polling, consolidation and transmission of results. Finally, the post-election period involves the submission of return of election expenses, dispute resolution, review of the election, followed by relevant reforms and strategy planning for the next elections.

The Commission is under obligation under Section 14 of Elections Act, 2017, to prepare and issue an Action Plan four months prior to conducting a General Election. Since the General Elections were anticipated in October 2023, ECP began preparations for the election activities to prepare for nationwide polls. To begin with, an elaborate Action Plan was issued in April 2023.

The National Assembly and Provincial Assemblies of Sindh and Balochistan were dissolved under Article 58(1) and Article 112(1) of the Constitution on 9, 11, and 12 August, 2023 respectively, and Caretaker Federal and Provincial Governments of Sindh and Balochistan were formed accordingly.

Prior to dissolution of Assemblies, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) published the official results of the 7th National Population and Housing Census 2023 on August 7, 2023. Accordingly, ECP announced a schedule for the conduct of fresh delimitation of constituencies in accordance with the official results of the latest Census. Earlier, as part of preparations for the General Elections, 2023, Electoral Rolls were frozen on July 20, 2023, under Section 39 of the Elections Act, 2017. After the publication of the Census results in August, the Commission decided to unfreeze Electoral Rolls to ensure all eligible voters the right of enfranchisement by providing them ample time and the opportunity to register or correct their voting details, and to enroll new voters in the Electoral Rolls. All data and forms approved by the Registration Officers were updated in the CERS by November 3, 2023. Upon processing and printing, the final Electoral Rolls were published on December 1, 2023, for the General Elections, 2024. The Action Plan also had to be revised to complete the electoral activities efficiently and in accordance with revised timelines of the General Elections.

i. Delimitation of Constituencies

The process of delimitation of constituencies is meant to impartially divide all geographical areas of the country into territorial constituencies on the basis of equally distributed population for a free and fair election. According to Section 17 of the Elections Act 2017, the constituencies for election to the National and Provincial Assemblies of Pakistan are to be delimited after every census officially published. As per the Action Plan 2023, the Commission successfully completed the delimitation process after adopting all legal measures as provided in the Elections Act and Rules 2017, and published a final delimitation of constituencies on August 5, 2022.

The delimitation and publication of updated Electoral Rolls was completed for the General Elections anticipated in 2023 in the stipulated time successfully. However, the publication of the results of the Digital Census 2023 in August 2023 off-set the Commission's planning for elections. In line with the Constitutional obligation, the delimitation exercise had to be reconducted according to the revised demographic statistics published. Accordingly, training of delimitation committees was conducted in the Election Academy at the ECP Secretariat Islamabad.



A timeline to conduct fresh boundary delimitation was issued on August 17, 2023. According to Section 21 of the Elections Act, 2017 read with Rule 11 of the Election Rules, 2017, a preliminary report and a list of constituencies relevant to the National Assembly and the Provincial Assemblies of the provinces of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab, Sindh, Balochistan and Islamabad Federal Capital Territory was published and uploaded on the ECP website for the general information of the public on September 27, 2023, inviting representations/objections by the voters of the constituencies. During the prescribed period (September 28, 2023 to October 27, 2023), 1,327 representations were filed by voters of their respective constituencies, as detailed below:

Sr.	Province/Area	Total No. of Representations (Filed)
1	Punjab	675
2	Sindh	228
3	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	293
4	Balochistan	124
5	ICT	07
	Total	1,327

In the interest of transparency, all representations filed by voters were uploaded on the ECP website along with their proposed maps. Two benches of the Commission were constituted by the CEC for hearing and deciding the representations. The objectors and other relevant parties were provided ample opportunity for pleading their cases during the hearing. A final list of constituencies was published for information of the general public in accordance with the provisions of Section 21 of the Elections Act, 2017 read with Rule 14 of the Elections Rules, 2017.

For the facilitation of the general public and objectors, the provision of the following facilities was ensured by the Election Commission:

- Printed coloured unmarked/marked maps,
- Preliminary marked maps digitised and uploaded on the ECP website,
- Availability of marked maps of preliminary delimitation and proposed delimitation on multi-media during the hearing of objections before the Commission,
- Final delimitation of maps and Orders of the Commission published on the ECP website.

ii. Revision of Electoral Rolls

Article 219(A) of the Constitution charges the Election Commission with the duty of preparing Electoral Rolls for elections to the National Assembly, Provincial Assemblies and Local Governments and also mandating it to undertake a periodical revision to keep these rolls up-to-date. To fulfil this responsibility of updating the Electoral Rolls for use during the General Elections, the Commission made the decision to embark on an extensive exercise of Periodical Revision of Electoral Rolls in 2021. This revision process commenced on October 8, 2021, with a door-to-door verification of voters and completed successfully on October 7, 2022. More than 100,000 officials from other departments were engaged as Assistant Registration Officers, Supervisors, Verifying Officials, Display Center Incharges (DCIs) and Data Entry Operators (DEOs) to complete the exercise. The final Electoral Rolls were then published on October 7, 2022, wherein the total number of registered voters were more than 122 million.

After the publication of the Final Electoral Rolls, the Registration Officers across the country started receiving forms under section 37 of the Elections Act 2017, transfer of vote (Form-21), deletion of vote (Form-22), and correction of voting particulars (Form-23) from October 7, 2022 till the cut-off date of July 20, 2023, as announced by the Commission according to Section 39 of the Elections Act 2017. This Section provides that there will be a cut-off date beginning thirty (30) days before the expiry of term of an assembly for revision / change in Electoral Rolls. Data of new/modified NIC holders till July 20, 2023, was also obtained from NADRA and the same was entered and processed in the CERS database alongwith data under Section 37 and 43 of the Elections Act 2017 so that the Electoral Rolls are updated and ready for elections.

Voter education and awareness campaigns were duly organised before the cut-off date to motivate and facilitate the public for the registration, transfer, deletion or correction of particulars of vote in the Electoral Rolls. Key stakeholders were encouraged to sensitise the general public about the importance of the cut-off date, to ensure an accurate and updated Electoral Rolls for the General Elections.



Door to door verification process

As a consequence of the publication of the 7th National Housing Census, the number of Census Blocks increased from 163,686 to 180,051, with a total increase of 16,365 census blocks. Overall 30,332 census blocks were either split, deleted, split and merged, or newly created during the Census 2023.

As a result, the Commission approved timelines for the process to update Electoral Rolls once again in the affected census blocks to adjust voters in the relevant blocks disturbed as a result of changes in the limits of CBCs. During the process, maps and population data were obtained from the PBS and provided to field offices to carry out reconciliation of the new Census data with the previous Census scheme of 2017. Subsequently, existing Electoral Rolls were printed and provided to field offices for verification of voters in all the affected census blocks. Assistant Registration Officers, Supervisors and Verifying Officials were appointed for door-to-door verification, which was completed on November 3, 2023.

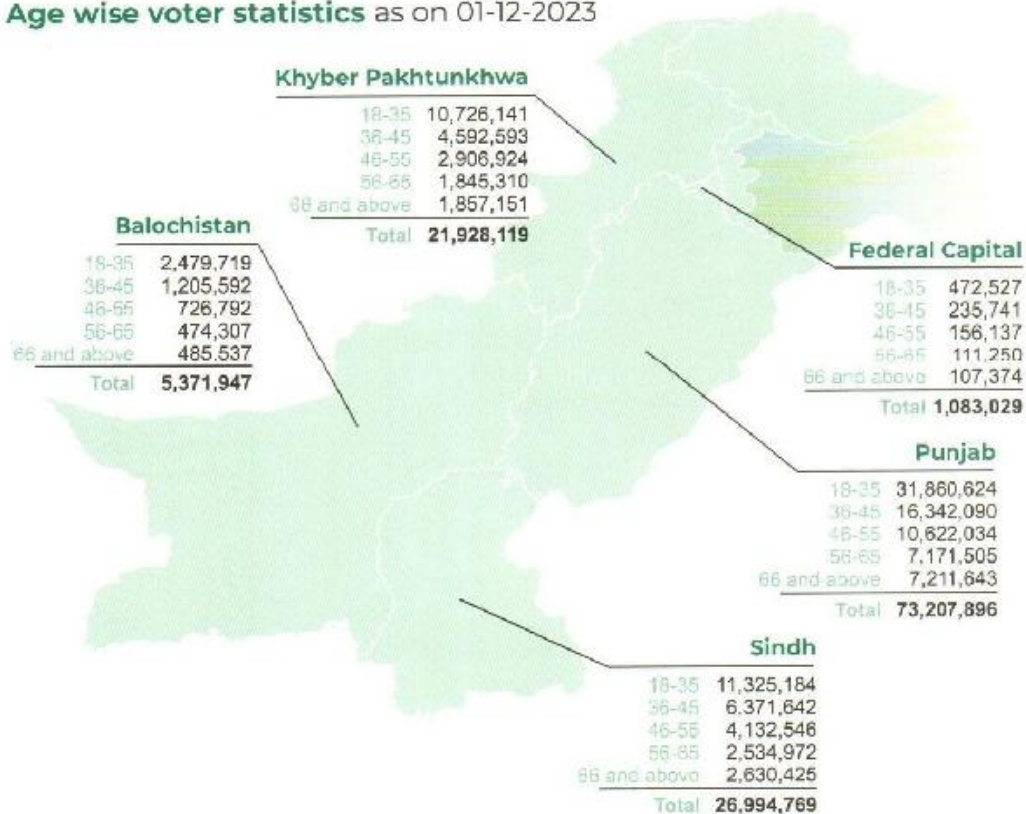
As a result of media campaign for cut-off date and field verification in the affective CBCs, the total number of voters across the country increased from 122,196,122 as on October 7, 2022 to 128,585,760 as on December 1, 2023, with a total increase of 6,389,638. The total number of female voters increased by more than 3.53 million from 55,789,954 to 59,322,056, while the total number of male voters increased by more than 2.85 million from 66,406,168 to 69,263,704 during this period.

Detail of Province-wise voters between October 7, 2022 and December 1, 2023.

Province	As on 07/10/2022			As on 01/12/2023			Increase in Male voters	Increase in Female voters
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total		
Balochistan	2,878,032	2,212,825	5,090,857	3,016,184	2,355,783	5,371,947	138,132	142,958
KPK	11,436,241	9,385,060	20,821,301	11,944,397	9,983,722	21,928,119	508,156	598,662
Punjab	37,585,437	32,070,111	69,635,548	39,122,082	34,085,814	73,207,896	1,556,645	2,015,703
Sindh	14,008,265	11,655,674	25,663,939	14,612,655	12,382,114	26,994,769	604,390	728,440
ICT	518,193	466,284	984,477	588,406	514,623	1,083,029	50,213	48,339
Total	66,406,168	55,789,954	122,196,122	69,263,704	59,322,056	128,585,760	2,857,536	3,532,102

Age wise number of voters as on December 1, 2023, reflects that the youth aged between 18-35 years comprise the majority of the total number of registered voters i.e., 45 % of the total, while those aged between 36-45 years comprise 22% of the total count. Overall, 67% of the total voters fall in the bracket between 18-45 year of age.

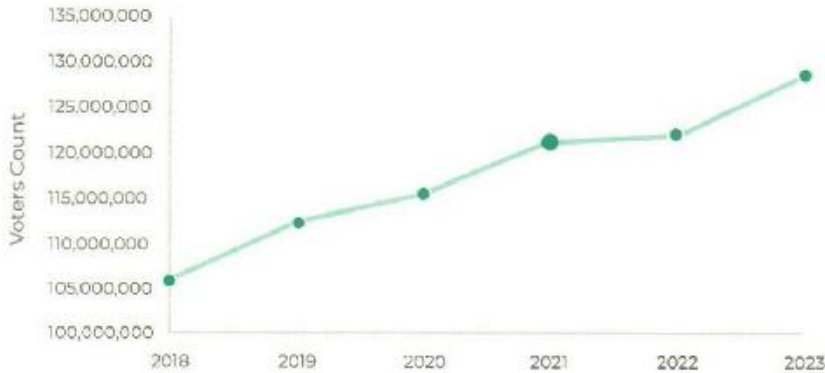
Age wise voter statistics as on 01-12-2023



18-35	36-45	46-55	56-65	66 and above	Total
56,864,195	28,747,658	18,544,433	12,137,344	12,292,130	128,585,760

Year 2018 Vs Year 2023: A Comparison

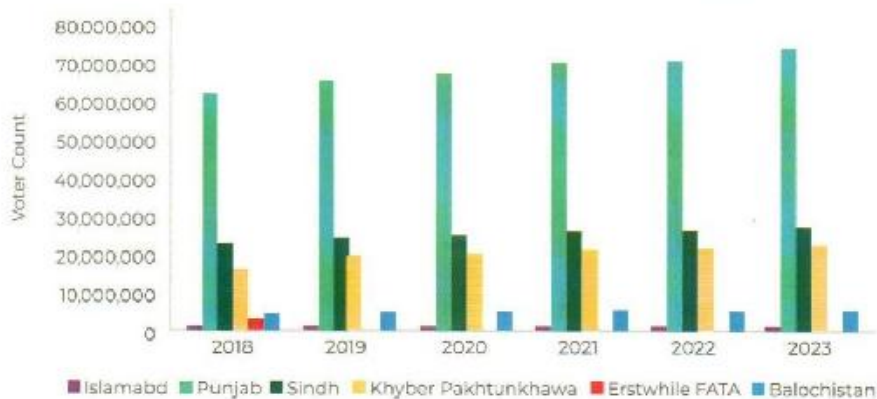
Total Increase of **22,630,351** Voters



The total number of voters increased across the country from 105,955,409 in the year 2018 to 128,585,760 voters in December, 2023, with an increase of 22,630,351 voters (More than 22 Million).

Year	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023 (1-12-2023)
Total No. of Voters	105,955,409	112,390,938	115,748,753	121,195,062	122,196,122	128,585,760

Province wise number of Voters between 2018 and 2023



Province wise Voter Statistics from 2018 to 2023 (01-12-2023)

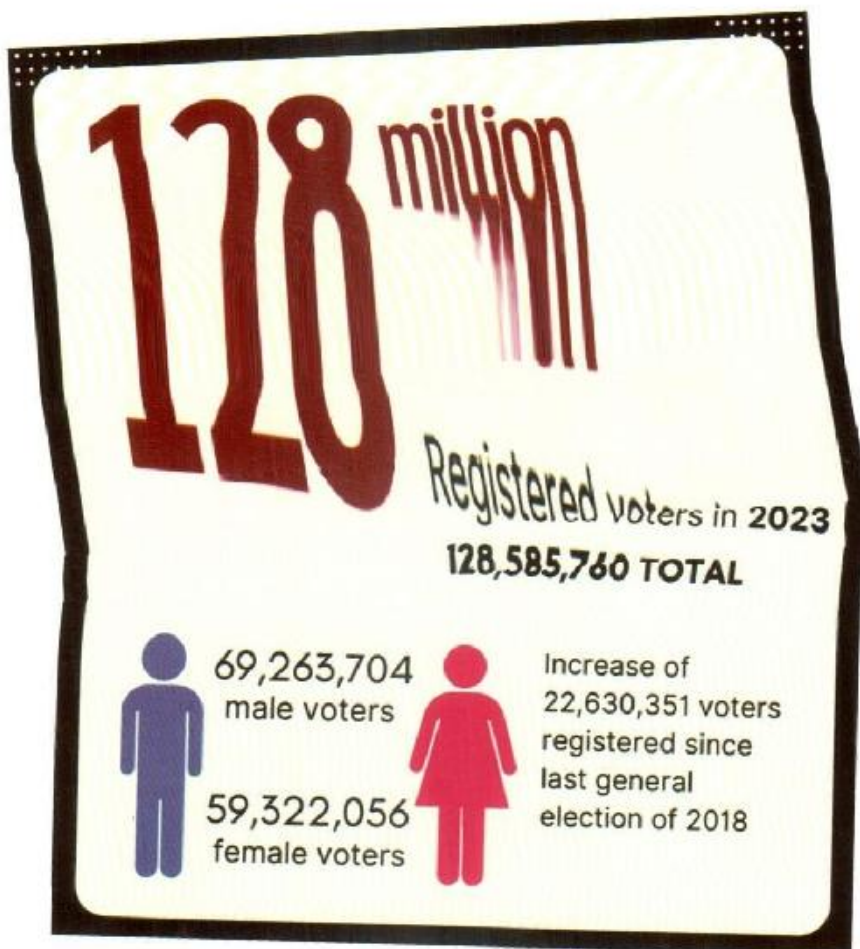
Province	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023 (01-12-2023)
Islamabad	765,447	803,538	825,833	909,370	984,477	1,083,029
Punjab	20,072,771	21,352,953	22,236,144	23,044,394	23,635,548	24,207,896
Sindh	22,384,244	23,648,001	24,351,681	25,582,624	25,663,939	26,301,769
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	15,314,169	18,950,900	19,533,964	20,611,248	20,821,301	21,928,119
Erstwhile FATA	2,512,284					
Balochistan	4,299,494	4,635,546	4,801,131	5,047,426	5,090,857	5,371,947
Grand Total	105,955,409	112,390,938	115,748,753	121,195,062	122,196,122	128,585,760

Gender wise increase in registered voters between the year 2018 to 2023

A significant increase in registered female voters can be seen between the years 2018 and 2023. Statistics show that number of voters jumped from 46,730,570 to 59,322,056 with an increase of more than 12.5 million voters. Similarly, registered male voters increased from 59,224,839 to 69,263,704 with an increase of more than 10 million voters between this period which was a significant difference, made possible due to concerted efforts of ECP.

Province wise Voter Statistics from 2018 to 2023 (01-12-2023)

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



Computerised Electoral Rolls System (CERS)

The CERS data network installed at the ECP Secretariat connects the central system with all the Provincial Headquarters, all offices of Regional Election Commissioners and District Election Commissioners across the country. In order to make this system more reliable and progressive, the following features were added to the CERS database in the year 2023. This allowed the voters data to synchronize with the civil registry of NADRA, alongwith the digital census data of the PBS for ensuring the accuracy and authenticity of data.

- Synchronization of Electoral Rolls data with Civil Registry information,
- Availability of progressive NA, PA mapping Reports in the CERS,
- Reconciliation of Census blocks data of 2017 & 2023,
- Development of various module in CERS in coordination with NADRA including printing and dispatch of ER module.

iii. Enlistment of Political Parties and Allocation of Symbols

Sections 200-213 of the Elections Act, 2017, describe the procedure for the enlistment of political parties with ECP. A political party that fulfils the criteria for enlistment given therein can apply for its enlistment.

Under the provisions of the Elections Act, 2017, ECP is responsible for enlisting political parties, allocating election symbols to the eligible parties, scrutiny of their financial statements and statements of assets as submitted by Senators and members of the National and Provincial Assemblies. The Commission also deals

with the scrutiny of Election Expenses returns furnished by contesting candidates and campaign finance accounts submitted by enlisted political parties. Other tasks include receiving, maintaining and scrutinising the following:

- Consolidated statements of accounts submitted by political parties on an annual basis and publication of the same in the official gazette,
- Statements of assets and liabilities submitted by Senators and members of the Assemblies, and publication of the same in the official gazette,

Return of election expenses submitted by each contesting candidate after

an election,

- Campaign Finance Account i.e., election expenses of political parties during an election.

During the year 2023, 16 political parties were enlisted with ECP.

Sr.	Province/Area
1	Tehreek-e-Azmat Pakistan
2	Tehreek-e-Tarraqi-o-Kamal
3	Pakistan National Reformist Party
4	Mazloom Olsi Tehreek Pakistan
5	Awami Tehreek-e-Ilam Party
6	Tehreek-e-Awam Pakistan
7	Pakistan Muslim party
8	Jadeed Awami Party
9	Haq Do Tehreek Balochistan
10	Apni Party Pakistan
11	Hassar-e-Muslim
12	Khadmeen-e-Sindh
13	Pakistan Kissan Labour Party
14	Pak Defence Qoumi Movement
15	Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party
16	Green Democratic Party

Note: The total number of enlisted Political Parties stood at 175 as on December 31, 2023.

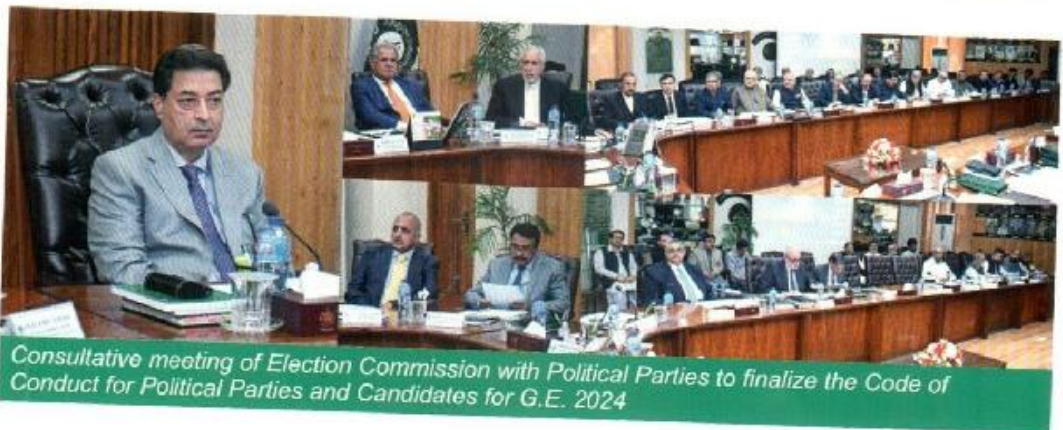
Assigning Symbols to Political Parties

The process of allocating symbols to political parties for the General Elections 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 on December 26, 2023, according to which the

Commission allocated relevant symbols to 149 enlisted political parties and one (1) alliance after fulfilment of legal criteria by these parties/ alliance. These are detailed in Annex A.

iv. Code of Conduct for Political Parties, Contesting Candidates and Elections Agents

The Election Commission of Pakistan issues Code of Conduct in order to ensure a conducive environment and level playing field for political parties and contesting candidates during elections. As a statutory requirement, Code of Conduct is finalized after consultation with political parties under Section 233 of the Elections Act, 2017, and their feedback is incorporated accordingly. For this purpose consultative meeting with major political parties was held on October 11, 2023 at the ECP Secretariat, Islamabad, which was presided by the Chief Election Commissioner. Members of Election Commission were also in attendance. Representatives of the political parties provided their input on different clauses of the Code of Conduct and proposed various amendments therein. The proposals of the parties were considered, and accordingly incorporated in the draft Code of Conduct. The final Code of Conduct for political parties, contesting candidates and election agents for the General Elections 2024 was issued on December 20, 2023.



v. Training of Election Officials

Under Section 12(a) read with Rule 6(1) of the Election Rules-2017 extensive trainings are conducted by ECP for election officials before each election. These election officials are appointed from within ECP and other government institutions. They are trained as District Returning Officers (DROs), Returning Officers (ROs), District Monitoring Officers (DMOs), Monitoring Officers (MOs), Presiding Officers (PrOs), Assistant Presiding Officers (APOs) and Polling Officers (POs) to be deputed at polling station across the country. The training is designed with the purpose to enhance their capacity and expertise for better public service delivery and smooth conduct of elections in a free, fair and impartial manner.

General Elections 2023 to the Provincial Assemblies of Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Detail of trainings conducted for election officials for General Elections 2023, for the Provincial Assemblies of Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is given below:

Sr.	Trainings Description	Number of Persons Trained	Number of Trainings Conducted	Duration of Each Training
01	TOLT for the Trainings of DROs & ROs	40	1	03-Day
02	Training of District Returning Officers	40	1	01-Day
03	Training of Returning Officers	297	12	01-Day
04	Training of Regional Monitoring Coordinators (RMCs)	9	1	02-Day
05	TOLT for the Trainings of Master Trainers	24	1	03-Day
06	Training of Master Trainers for the training of polling personnel	1,501	69	02-Day
07	Training of RMS Operators	1,648	72	02-Day
08	Training of Presiding Officers & Sr. APOs	106,346	4,255	02-Day
09	Orientation Sessions for APOs & POs	270,109	6,746	Half Day
10	Training of DMOs & MOs	634	24	01-Day
11	Orientation of DMOs & MOs	9	1	Half Day
Total		380,657	11,183	



One day Training of Regional Monitoring Coordinators for roll out training of District Monitoring Teams



Two-Day training of Regional Monitoring Coordinators for general elections of Provincial Assembly of Punjab 2023

Timeline of trainings conducted according to the Action Plan:

TRAININGS FOR GENERAL ELECTIONS

Sr.	Trainings Description	Total Election Officials	Total Trainings	Timelines
01	Training of Lead Trainers for DROs / ROs (ECP Officers)	37	01	04 th -06 th July, 2023
02	Training of Lead Trainers for ToMT (ECP Officers)	40	02	18 th -23 rd July, 2023
03	Training of RMCs	31	01	19 th August, 2023
04	Training of DEOs of ECP & EMS Operators for ROs	3,664	147	31 st Aug to 17 th Sep, 2023
05	Training of Master Trainers for Polling Personnel	2,431	102	05 th -26 th September, 2023
06	Training of NADRA Officers on EMS	35	01	14 th -18 th November, 2023

Sr.	Trainings Description	Total Election Officials	Total Trainings	Timelines
07	Refresher of Lead Trainers for DROs & ROs	38	01	19 th November, 2023
08	Online Orientation Session for RECs as RMCs	31	01	23 rd November, 2023
09	Three-Day Training of Returning Officers (ROs) & DECs	1,007	36	13, 17 & 18 December, 2023
10	One Day Trainings of District Returning Officers (DROs)	144	04	19 th December, 2023
11	Training of Lead Trainers for ToMT (Security Personnel)	35	01	22 nd December, 2023
12	Training of District Monitoring Officers & Monitoring Officers	1,334	51	26 th to 29 th December, 2023
13	Half-Day Orientation Sessions of APOs and POs	768,536	19,220	25 th Dec, 2023 to 11 th Jan, 2024
14	Two-Day Training of Presiding Officers and Sr. APOs	191,274	7,663	13 th Jan to 01 st Feb, 2024
15	Training of Master Trainers for Security Personnel (Police)	1,509	40	19 th Jan to 01 st Feb, 2024
16	Trainings of Security Personnel (Police)	503,495	10,070	21 st Jan to 07 th Feb, 2024
Total		1,473,641	37,341	



Three-Day Training of Trainers for training the District Returning Officers and Returning Officers



Online Orientation session of RECs as Regional Monitoring Coordinators for Provincial Assembly Elections

Bye-Elections

During Bye Elections of National and Provincial Assembly Constituencies, 547 election officials were trained through 40 trainings.

Local Government Elections in Punjab

Trainings of Authorized Officers of Electoral Groups were conducted for the purpose of Local Government Election in Punjab, detailed below:

Sr.	Type of Training	Number of Persons Trained	Number of Trainings Conducted	Duration of Each Training
01	Training of Trainers for Trainings of Authorized Officers of Electoral Groups	9	1	01-Day
02	Trainings of Authorized Officers of Electoral Groups	199	9	01-Day
Total		208	10	

vi. Physical Verification of Buildings to be Established as Polling Stations

Polling Stations are established at government buildings and private educational institutions registered with the concerned education authority. It is important to assess the number of available polling stations to meet the requirement of increased voters in a constituency through field surveys. Improvised polling stations are set up on public property in case of unavailability of either government or private buildings. The DEC concerned is required to prepare and provide a draft list of polling stations to the respective RO. For the purpose of the General Elections, guidelines were issued accordingly to conduct the survey for the following:

- Locate new buildings in each electoral area or areas for setting up of polling stations due to increase in number of voters,
- Geo tag and photograph each building proposed as a polling station,

- Provide detail of accommodation of buildings and availability of number of rooms, boundary walls of basic amenities such as water, electricity, washrooms and ramps,
- Comparison of buildings previously used as polling stations with newly proposed buildings to be considered as polling stations.

This exercise was completed throughout the country well before the General Elections. For monitoring purposes, the Provincial Election Commissioners and Regional Election Commissioners also conducted monitoring and verification of the survey to ensure the efficacy of the process and its implementation.

As a result of this survey, the number of polling stations increased considerably. A comparative chart of polling stations established in the General Elections 2018 and General Elections 2024 is given below:

Sr.	Province	Polling Stations for GE 2018	Polling Stations for GE 2024	Increase of polling stations
1	Balochistan	4,546	5,067	521
2	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	14,527	15,737	1,210
3	Punjab/ICT	48,259	52,453	4,194
4	Sindh	17,758	19,096	1,338
Total		85,090	92,353	7,263

Databank of Election Officials

The number of election officials to be appointed for a general election is determined on the basis of the number of polling stations and polling booths being established for each constituency. For the General Elections, the services of more than one million election officials were required. To ensure accuracy and availability of staff, a data bank was prepared and maintained with credentials of all public servants at the district level for their appointment.

vii. Announcement of Election Date

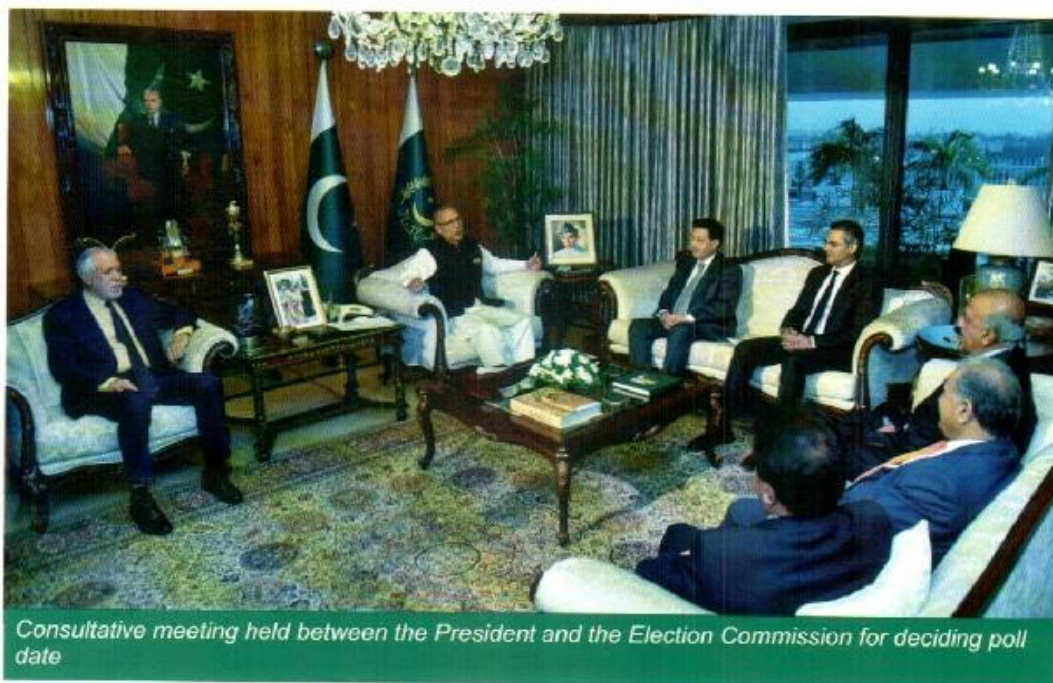
During the delimitation of constituencies, speculations of an indefinite delay in elections were rife. To dispel this impression, the Commission announced on October 26, 2023, that the election programme would be issued upon completion of delimitation on November 30, 2023.

At the same time, petitions were filed with the Supreme Court of Pakistan, challenging the amendments made in Section 57 of the Elections Act, 2017, whereby the Election Commission was empowered to announce the poll date. The decision of the Council of Common Interest regarding approval of census results was also challenged, and it was requested that the Commission may be directed to

announce a date of election to the National Assembly and the Provincial Assemblies.

ECP reiterated that once delimitation was concluded on November 30, 2023, the final result of delimitation would be published by December 5, 2023, and the election programme would be announced thereafter. The Court was further apprised that in order to ensure maximum public participation, the poll may be considered to be held on a Sunday, specifically proposing February 11, 2024 as the poll date.

The Court advised ECP to appoint an election date after consultation with the President, and the Attorney General of Pakistan was advised to arrange the meeting of the Commission and the President accordingly. The Chief Election Commissioner along with Members of the Election Commission met the President on November 3, 2023, wherein it was decided that the General Elections would be held on February 8, 2024. Accordingly, a notification of the date of poll was issued.



Consultative meeting held between the President and the Election Commission for deciding poll date

viii. 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 prior to the issuance of election programme according to the following criteria:

- From amongst its own officers subject to availability,
- By selection from a list of officers provided by the Federal Government or a Provincial Governments, 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.

For this purpose, the PECs prepared a list of officers/officials working under Federal, Provincial Governments or corporations, autonomous or semi-autonomous bodies and maintained a database alongwith career performance history of the officers. The detail of appointment of election officials is given below.

Total Number of DROs, ROs & AROs appointed for General Elections 2024

The DROs, ROs for National and Provincial Assemblies' General Seats were appointed as per the detail below:

Province	DROs	National Assembly		Provincial Assemblies		Total
		ROs	AROs	ROs	AROs	
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	36	45	92	115	230	518
ICT	1	3	6	--	--	10
Punjab	41	141	282	297	594	1,355
Sindh	30	61	122	130	260	603
Balochistan	36	16	101	51	102	306
Total	144	266	603	593	1,186	2,792

Returning Officers for Reserved Seats

The Election Commission appointed ROs from amongst its own officers for the election to the reserved seats according to the following detail:

Designation of Returning Officers	Category of Reserved Seats
Additional Director General (Elections-I) Election Commission of Pakistan, Islamabad	Reserved Seats for Non-Muslims in the National Assembly
Provincial Election Commissioner, Punjab, Lahore	Reserved Seats for Women in the National Assembly from Punjab Province.
Joint Provincial Election Commissioner (Elections), Punjab, Lahore	Reserved Seats for Women in the Provincial Assembly of Punjab
Joint Provincial Election Commissioner (Admin), Punjab, Lahore	Reserved Seats for Non-Muslims in the Provincial Assembly of Punjab
Provincial Election Commissioner, Sindh, Karachi	Reserved Seats for Women in the National Assembly from Sindh Province
	Reserved Seats for Women in the Provincial Assembly of Sindh
	Reserved Seats for Non-Muslims in the Provincial Assembly of Sindh
Provincial Election Commissioner, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Peshawar.	Reserved Seats for Women in the Provincial Assembly of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.
Joint Provincial Election Commissioner (Elections), Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Peshawar.	Reserved Seats for Women in the National Assembly from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province.
	Reserved Seats for Non-Muslims in the Provincial Assembly of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
Provincial Election Commissioner, Balochistan, Quetta.	Reserved Seats for Women in the National Assembly from Balochistan Province.
	Reserved Seats for Women in the Provincial Assembly of Balochistan
	Reserved Seats for Non-Muslims in the Provincial Assembly of Balochistan

ix. Election Programme

The Election Programme for the General Elections 2024 was issued on December 15, 2023, and poll date was set for February 8, 2024. To facilitate the political parties and prospective candidates, ECP extended the date of filing of nomination papers from December 22, 2023 to December 24, 2023. The Election Programme is given below:

Sr.	EVENTS	Date
1	Public Notice to be issued by the Returning Officer on	19.12.2023
2	Dates for filing of nomination papers with the Returning Officer by the candidates	20.12.2023 to 24.12.2023
3	Publication of names of the nominated candidates	24.12.2023
4	Last date for Scrutiny of nomination papers by the Returning Officer	25.12.2023 to 30.12.2023
5	Last date for filing of appeals against decisions of the Returning Officer rejecting/accepting the nomination papers	03.01.2024
6	Last date for deciding of appeals by the Appellate Tribunal	10.01.2024
7	Publication of revised list of candidates	11.01.2024
8	Last date for withdrawal of candidature and Publication of revised list of candidates	12.01.2024
9	Allotment of Election Symbol to contesting candidates	13.01.2024
10	Poll day	08.02.2024

Total No. of District Monitoring Officers (DMOs) and Monitoring Officers (MOs) Appointed During General Election 2024

For the effective monitoring of electoral activities and to ensure implementation of Code of Conduct, the following DMOs and monitoring teams were notified:

District Monitoring Officers (DMOs)	Monitoring Officers (MOs)
One DMO per District	Two Monitoring Officers per Provincial Constituency
144	1192

x. Appointment of Appellate Tribunals

As per Section 63 of the Elections Act, 2017, a candidate or the objector may, within the time specified by the Commission, file an appeal against the decision of the Returning Officer regarding acceptance or rejection of a nomination paper before the Appellate Tribunal constituted for the constituency, consisting of a person who is a sitting Judge of a High Court appointed by the Commission in consultation with the Chief Justice of the High Court concerned. For this purpose, the following Appellate Tribunals were appointed during the General Elections 2024 for General Seats of National Assembly and Provincial Assemblies including Reserved Seats for women and non-Muslims in the National and Provincial Assemblies:

Province/Area	No. of Appellate Tribunals
Federal Capital	2
Punjab	12
Sindh	6
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	7
Balochistan	2

xi. Data of Nomination Papers Filed

The below mentioned table details the total number of nomination papers filed for the general seats of the National and Provincial Assemblies for the General Elections, 2024.

Number of Nomination Papers Filed with the Returning Officers					
Sr.	Province / Area	General Seats			
		National Assembly		Provincial Assemblies	
		Male	Female	Male	Female
1	Islamabad	182	27	-	-
2	Punjab	3,368	254	8,496	439
3	Sindh	1,574	107	4,083	210
4	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	1,293	38	3,344	117
5	Balochistan	612	19	1,742	46
Total		7,029	445	17,665	812
Grand Total		7,474		18,477	

Validly Nominated Candidates for General Seats					
Sr.	Province / Area	General Seats			
		National Assembly		Provincial Assemblies	
		Male	Female	Male	Female
1	Islamabad	98	18	-	-
2	Punjab	2,913	188	7,630	362
3	Sindh	1,420	95	3,742	174
4	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	1,144	35	2,992	103
5	Balochistan	521	18	1,363	39
Total		6,096	354	15,727	678
Grand Total		6,450		16,405	

Number of Nomination papers filed with the Returning Officers on Reserved Seats					
Sr.	Province / Area	Seats Reserved for Women		Seats Reserved Non-Muslims	
		National Assembly	Provincial Assembly	Provincial Assembly	National Assembly
1	Punjab	195	600	127	150
2	Sindh	118	309	125	
3	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	96	318	74	
4	Balochistan	49	133	67	
Total		460	1,360	393	

Number of Validly Nominated Candidates on Reserved Seats					
Sr.	Province / Area	Seats Reserved for Women		Seats Reserved Non-Muslims	
		National Assembly	Provincial Assembly	Provincial Assembly	National Assembly
1	Punjab	50	139	23	37
2	Sindh	37	83	38	
3	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	27	70	24	
4	Balochistan	28	64	32	
Total		142	356	117	

Comparative statement showing number of nominated and validly nominated candidates against general seats in General Elections 2018 and 2024.

Province / Area	General Seats in National/ Provincial Assemblies		General Seats in National/ Provincial Assemblies	
	General Elections-2018		General Elections-2024	
	Nominated Candidates	Validly Nominated Candidates	Nominated Candidates	Validly Nominated Candidates
ICT	129	84	209	116
Balochistan	1,882	1,561	2,419	1,941
KP	3,191	3,030	4,792	4,274
Punjab	9,162	8,340	12,557	11,093
Sindh	5,069	4,304	5,974	5,431
Total	19,433	17,319	25,951	22,855

Comparative statement showing number of nominated and validly nominated candidates against reserved seats for Women in General Elections 2018 and 2024.

Province / Area	Seats reserved for Women in the National/Provincial Assemblies							
	National Assembly				Provincial Assemblies			
	Nominated Candidates 2018	Nominated Candidates 2024	Validly Nominated Candidates 2018	Validly Nominated Candidates 2024	Nominated Candidates 2018	Nominated Candidates 2024	Validly Nominated Candidates 2018	Validly Nominated Candidates 2024
Balochistan	35	49	16	28	117	133	55	64
KP	88	98	35	27	262	318	79	70
Punjab	236	195	73	50	663	600	174	139
Sindh	76	118	45	37	213	309	91	83
Total	435	460	169	142	1,255	1,360	399	356

Comparative statement showing number of nominated and validly nominated candidates against reserved seats for Non-Muslim in General Elections 2018 and 2024.

Province / Area	Seats reserved for Non-Muslim in the National/Provincial Assemblies							
	Provincial Assemblies				National Assembly			
	Nominated Candidates 2018	Nominated Candidates 2024	Validly Nominated Candidates 2018	Validly Nominated Candidates 2024	Nominated Candidates 2018	Nominated Candidates 2024	Validly Nominated Candidates 2018	Validly Nominated Candidates 2024
Balochistan	56	67	22	32	154	150	44	37
KP	73	74	20	24				
Punjab	232	127	35	23				
Sindh	110	125	39	38				
Total	471	393	116	117	154	150	44	37

xii. Procurement of Election Material

The procurement process of all election material is a multi-stage, country wide process that requires sound and elaborate planning. This begins with a careful assessment of the requirements of sensitive and non-sensitive material, keeping in view the already available stock. As a large variety of sensitive and non-sensitive election material is required for use during pre-poll and poll-day at the polling stations. Special watermarked paper with Level-II security features along with UV fluorescent fibres is procured for the purpose of ballot paper printing for both general and bye elections. Other non-sensitive materials are also procured, such as ballot boxes, plastic seals, bags of multiple sizes and colours, screened-off compartments, indelible ink, stamps and stamp pads. Ballot papers are printed on special paper at the designated printing presses i.e. the Printing Corporation of Pakistan, Pakistan Post Foundation, Islamabad, and National Security Printing Company, Karachi.

The annual procurement plan for the General Elections was formulated by the Commission after considering demand related to various items received from the field offices. The procured items primarily comprised 2000 Laptops, 407 Biometric Devices, 487 CCTV Cameras, 223 Computer Tables, 254 Computer Chairs, 439 Desktop Computers, 217 Printers, 437 Scanners, 650 UPS and 114 Photostat Machines besides other essential equipment/ items for the smooth conduct of elections.

The procurement of these items enhanced the capacity of field offices of the Election Commission of Pakistan across the country and aided in ensuring a smooth completion of the election process.

xiii. Printing of Ballot Papers and Designation of Printing Presses

Section 71(4) of the Elections Act 2017, envisages that “The Commission shall use special watermarked paper for printing of ballot papers”.

For the timely completion of procurement of water marked paper for the General Elections 2023, the Commission constituted a committee in 2022 for ascertaining the availability of the paper in the presses, and estimated additional requirement of paper for the General Elections. The task of manufacturing 800 tons of special water marked paper was assigned to the Security Paper Limited (SPL) Karachi and was received well before the General Elections 2024.

The Commission assigned the printing of ballot papers to the following printing presses according to their printing capacities detailed below:

Sr.	Name of Press	Tentative Allocation of Printing 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 More, Islamabad	100 Million
		260 Million

Since the notification of the Election Programme for the General Elections 2024, the following activities were also undertaken to ensure a smooth completion of electoral processes including printing of ballot papers and necessary logistic arrangements:

- Coordination with printing presses to check their preparatory arrangements for printing of ballot papers and Form-45 (Result of the Count) for General Elections, 2024,
- Deployment of security at printing presses during the printing of ballot papers to avoid any unforeseen circumstances,
- Installation of casual STD telephones in the offices of DROs/ROs during elections for coordination and close liaison with relevant authorities,

- Issuance of Action Plan for printing of ballot papers for the conduct of General Elections, 2024,
- Issuance of security plan for transportation of ballot papers with proper escort,
- Arrangement for transportation of ballot papers from printing presses to DROs' offices,
- Airlifting of ballot papers due to security reasons and inaccessibility in snow bound areas.

xiv. Observation Missions

The Commission adopted an "Open Door Policy" to invite international observers and media groups. To facilitate the observers, ECP took the following policy measures:

- Open invitation was extended to international observers through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA). The deadline for visa applications was extended to January 31, 2024 to facilitate the international observers,
- A Code of Conduct for international observers/media for the General Elections, 2024, was uploaded on the ECP website,
- Accreditation cards were prepared with security features in four categories for observers,
- Four Inter-Ministerial meetings with stakeholders were held for necessary arrangements to facilitate international observers,
- An Action Plan Committee was constituted under the Chairmanship of Secretary ECP, consisting of members from ECP and relevant stakeholders in order to streamline arrangements for international observers/media i.e., speedy visa issuance, security, movement and custom duty exemption,
- Duration of stay of international observers was extended from December 10, 2023, to February 20, 2024, to enable them to observe the pre-election, election and post-election stages,
- Joint Provincial Election Commissioners were designated as focal persons for ensuring proper arrangements for election observation by international observers at the provincial level,
- Timely security clearance of international observers, visa issuance, free movement, safety, access via accreditation cards for international observers and media groups to polling stations provided as per law,
- Information kit provided to observers/media upon their arrival in Pakistan,

- A facilitation desk was set up at the ECP Secretariat for international observers/media, with a dedicated focal person assigned for coordination,
- Briefings were arranged for international observers at the ECP Secretariat to apprise them about the constitutional obligations of ECP, preparation of the General Elections 2024, key strategies of ECP i.e., electoral reforms, *social inclusion, institutional reforms, digital eco system, Election*

Monitoring Control Centre, voter education initiatives and gender mainstreaming.



Commonwealth Pre-Election Assessment Mission (PEAM) meeting the CEC



Briefing to Commonwealth Observer Mission on General Elections 2024

xv. Election Management System (EMS)

In compliance with Section 13 of the Elections Act, 2017, an Election Management System (EMS) was developed for the processing, counting and tabulation of election results. It aims to speed up the turnover of result compilation, result transmission and ensures the accuracy and transparency of election results.



Training Session on EMS

The Election Management System is a project covering end-to-end automation of election result compilation processes. The system contains modules like constituency, candidate, polling station and polling staff management, mobile applications, dashboards and reporting, result management, result transmission and complaint management.

Over 3600 data entry operators were trained countrywide on the EMS Application for the data entry of results during the General Elections. Additionally, about 1000 District Returning Officers/ Returning Officers of National and Provincial Assemblies were also trained on the EMS. Training for approximately 190,000 Presiding Officers was planned to be conducted in January, 2024. Offices of Returning Officers were equipped with 2,850 latest Laptops in order to prepare, compile and disseminate election results promptly.

xvi. Election Monitoring and Control Centre (EMCC)

In an effort to improve coordination and ensure effective complaint resolution, a state-of-the-art Election Monitoring Control Centre (EMCC) was established at the ECP Secretariat, equipped with modern digital technologies, which enabled field officials to monitor and digitally report election activities from the field on a real-time basis. An in-house team was trained and deployed to operate and perform their respective duties in the EMCC. For the General Elections 2024, an additional 180 subordinate control rooms were also established at the provincial, regional and

district level to coordinate with the EMCC at the Secretariat. Simultaneously, a complaint management system was also established for complaint redressal for the general public, equipped with all digital apparatus including 26 dedicated telephone lines, fax numbers, WhatsApp channels and email facilities, which became operational from the day the election programme was issued.



Chief Election Commissioner meeting with PILDAT at Election Monitoring Control Centre (EMCC)

xvii. Establishment of Online Facilitation Cell

The Online Facilitation Cell is a digital mechanism for sharing of candidates' data on a real-time basis by using specialized MIS software that connects the ECP Secretariat with prime government organizations like NADRA, FBR, SBP, NAB and FIA through an ad-hoc secure Virtual Private Network (VPN). The said system electronically checks and verifies the credentials of each contesting candidate from the data of aforementioned government organizations.

For the establishment of the Scrutiny Facilitation Cell, ECP designated focal persons from NADRA, FBR, SBP, NAB and FIA for assisting the Returning Officers (ROs) in the scrutiny process. To this end, a complete software solution was developed and deployed in the premises of the Election Commission of Pakistan.

During the exercise in March 2023, the Online Facilitation Cell obtained about 8,595 records from 297 ROs of Punjab and the same were sent to NADRA, FIA, NAB, SBP and FBR for further scrutiny and verification as per their databases and records. About 235 records of the candidates were declared suspicious, specifically, 92 records by FIA for dual nationality, 4 by NAB for conviction and 139 by the State Bank for default. These records were shared with ROs for further action under Section 62 of the Elections Act, 2017.

Upon the announcement of the schedule for General Elections on December 15, 2023, the Online Facilitation Cell was again established to assist 859 Returning Officers nationwide, who began their work from December 20, 2023 from the date of filing of nomination papers by candidates, till the final date of scrutiny of nomination papers by the ROs i.e. December 30, 2023.

Summary (Marked Records)							
Sr.	Province	Candidates	SBP	FBR	FIA	NAB	Total
1	Punjab	12,981	114	806	60	4	984
2	Sindh	6,657	49	342	10	6	407
3	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	5,347	21	176	9	3	209
4	Balochistan	2,664	5	143	2	11	161
5	Federal Capital	404	0	26	3	0	29
Total		28,053	189	1,493	84	24	1,790

xviii. Monitoring of Electoral Activities

A comprehensive monitoring framework was prepared by ECP for the General Elections, 2024, as provided under Section 234 of the Elections Act, 2017, enabling the Commission to monitor the election campaigns of all candidates and political parties to guard against violations of the Act, Rules, Code of Conduct and Directives of ECP. The duties of the election monitoring teams are listed below.

Provincial Monitoring Coordinators (PMCs)

Four Joint Provincial Election Commissioners (JPEC-Admin), were designated as Provincial Monitors of their respective Province.

Regional Monitoring Coordinators (RMCs)

All Regional Election Commissioners (RECs) were appointed as Regional Monitoring Coordinators (RMC) to monitor election campaigns in their respective administrative divisions. The RMCs were trained as master trainers, who further rolled out the same to the District Monitoring Teams.

District Monitoring Officers (DMOs)

For each district, a District Monitoring Officer was exclusively appointed to monitor the election campaign. There were 144 District Monitoring Officers (DMOs) for the monitoring of election campaign of contesting candidates and political parties. Under Section 234 of the Elections Act 2017, any violation of the Elections Act 2017, and Code of Conduct were reported to the DMO by his reporting teams, wherein complaints and offences were dealt by the DMOs in accordance with the law.

Monitoring Officers (MOs)

Monitoring teams comprising 1,192 Monitoring Officers were appointed for the assistance of the DMOs. For each provincial assembly constituency, two Monitoring Officers were appointed who were also assigned to cover the corresponding National Assembly. The teams sent reports of any violation of Code of Conduct to the respective DMOs.

In the same vein, a monitoring mechanism was prepared for the General Elections, 2024, with a two-pronged strategy. It entailed the appointment of monitoring teams

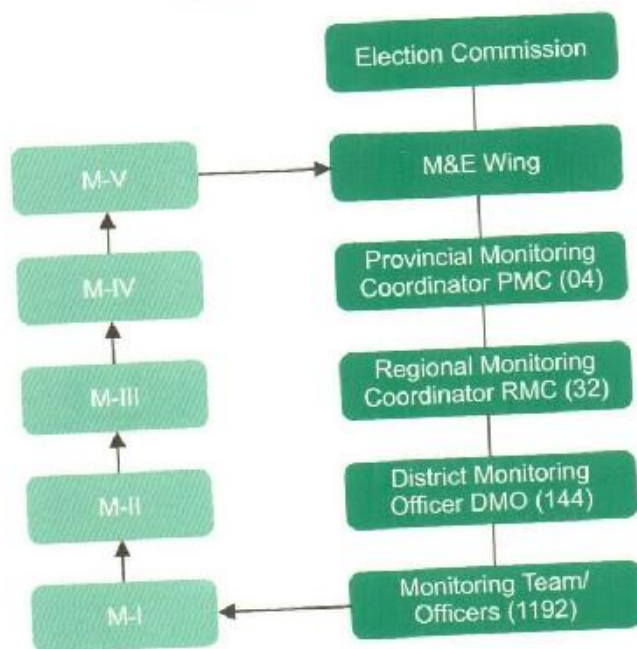
directed to share field reports with the Commission, while another team was responsible for the operations of control rooms to oversee the monitoring activities and convey the directions of the Commission to the field Monitoring Teams. The framework broadly provided:

- Appointment of District Monitoring Officer at each district to decide the complaints reported by Monitoring Teams and Stakeholders,
- Appointment of two Monitoring Officers to monitor each Provincial Assembly Constituency and its corresponding National Assembly

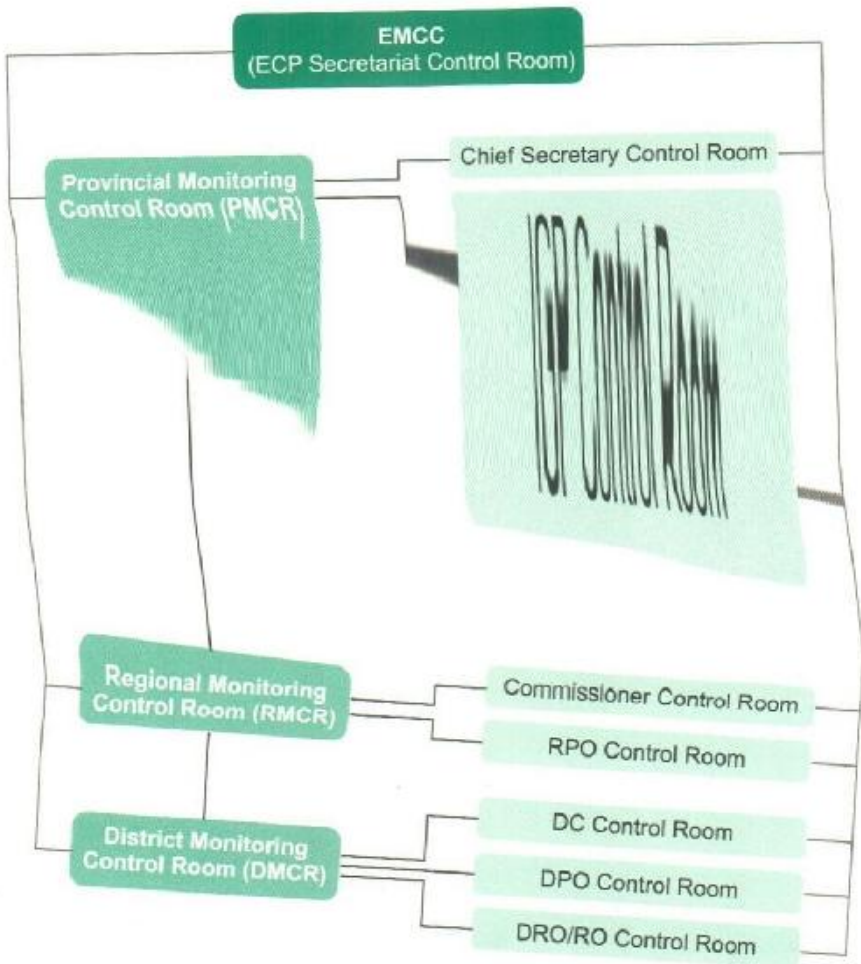
Constituency

- Regional Election Commissioners as Regional Monitoring Coordinator (RMC) to supervise/coordinate with District Monitoring teams in their respective divisions,
- The JPEC (Admn) in each province to perform duty as Provincial Monitoring Coordinator (PMC) and supervise monitoring activities in their respective provinces,
- Establishment of a network of control rooms at provincial, divisional and district levels connected with the Election Monitoring Control Centre (EMCC) at the ECP Secretariat, to receive and direct complaints for redressal and for supervision of monitoring activities.

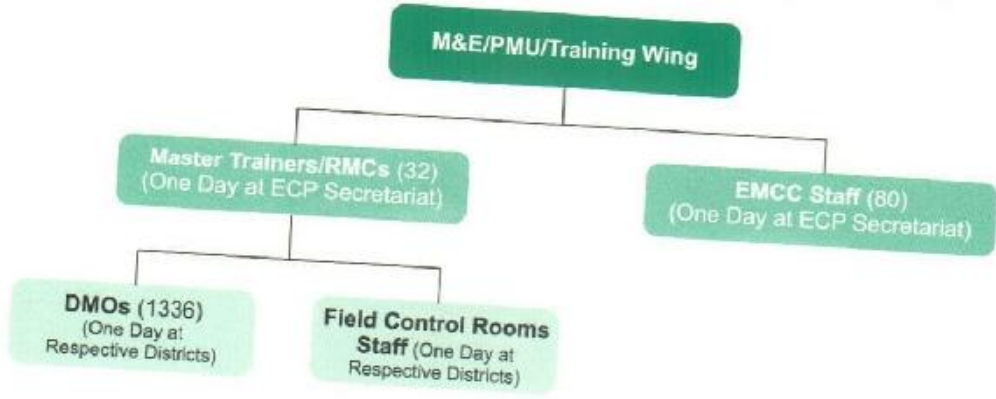
M&E Flow Chart



The Control Rooms structure and coordination mechanism is given below:



Training of all officials before deputing for assigned tasks as given below:



xix. Electoral Reforms

Electoral reforms are essential to enhance the robustness of electoral processes. No law is static, and is a living document which evolves with the passage of time to meet new challenges. In this backdrop, the Parliament while enacting the Elections Act, 2017, inserted Section 12(d) in the Act of 2017 which provides that the Commission shall examine laws, rules and regulations in force which are relevant to the conduct of elections. It also recommended to the Federal Government

amendments in such laws, rules or regulations, as the case may be, in order to increase transparency and fairness, and to eliminate corrupt practices.

The parliament has enacted the Elections Act, 2017, and the Election Commission has framed Rules in exercise of powers conferred upon it under Section 239 for carrying out the purpose of the Act *ibid*.

In order to increase transparency and fairness in the electoral process and to eliminate corrupt practices, the Commission constituted a Legal Reforms Committee comprising senior officers of ECP. The Committee is mandated to examine the relevant provisions of the Constitution in respect of the Commission and Election Laws and submit its recommendations to the Commission for consideration, approval and onward communication to the Parliament. The Committee also recommends amendments in the Election Rules, 2017, to align it with the Constitution and Election Laws.

During the year 2023, the Legal Reforms Committee of the Commission held multiple meetings and examined the constitutional provisions, Elections Act and Election Rules, 2017, and recommended amendments for consideration of the Commission, sending the same to the Parliament for necessary legislation.

The Commission has over time proposed to the Parliament several amendments related to the Constitution and the Elections Act, 2017. To this end, a Parliamentary Committee was formed to provide its recommendations on the proposed electoral reforms. The Commission in multiple meetings of the Committee, readily provided its input and recommendations on the reforms.

During the year 2023, the Parliament amended the Elections Act, 2017, initially on June 26, 2023, by making amendments in Sections 57, 58 and 232. The Parliament further amended 55 Sections of the Elections Act, 2017, by making changes in the following Sections and Forms on August 5, 2023, as recommended by the Electoral Reforms Committee.

Sections 2, 12, 13, 15, 18, 19, 20, 55, 57, 59, 60, 61, 68, 76, 79, 83, 86, 90, 93, 95, 96, 99, 105, 107, 108, 109, 110, 118, 122, 127, 130, 132, 133, 140, 144, 148, 155, 158, 167, 170, 171, 172, 184, 190A, 203, 208, 211, 219, 230, 231 & 233 and Form-A & Form-C.

These new amendments aim to reform the existing provisions of the Elections Act, 2017, increasing the scope and powers of the Commission, encompassing the representation of non-Muslims, disabled persons and transgenders. The amendments facilitate the candidates to use their existing bank accounts for election expenses instead of opening new accounts. In addition to disciplinary proceedings, these amendments increase the powers of the Commission to initiate criminal proceedings against the Election Officials, public servants or other persons in the service of Pakistan. The amendments also enhance the powers of the Election Tribunals to impose cost on the defaulting party causing delay in the disposal of the

Election Petitions. The Commission has been empowered in Section 208 of the Act to impose a fine of Rupees 200,000/- in case of failure of a political party to conduct Intra-Party Elections. The amount of campaign finance has been increased from Rupees 100,000/- to one Million.

The Committee also examined the Elections Rules, 2017, and proposed amendments to the following Rules and Forms under Section 239 of the Elections Act, 2017.

Rules 48, 51, 52, 56, 66, 71, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 134A, 138, 140, 143, 161, 171 & 173 and Form-41 & Form-68.

The Election Commission considered the proposals and made appropriate amendments in the Election Rules after adopting the due procedure of the law.

Cases/Complaints/Appeals Taken Up and Decided by the Commission

The Commission regularly receives complaints and petitions from different political stakeholders and has a robust mechanism in place for their processing and redressal. ECP also issues notices to the parties for hearing of cases.

The Elections Act, 2017, mandates the Election Commission to entertain and decide complaints and appeals. During the period from January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023, a total of 126 cases were decided by the Election Commission including cases of allocation of election symbols and Assets & Liabilities, enlistment of political parties and conduct of elections. For this purpose, more than 5,000 notices were issued to the petitioners, respondents and other concerned parties for hearing.

Hearing of Representations Against the Preliminary Delimitation

The Election Commission carried out fresh delimitation of constituencies provided under Article 51(3) and 106 of the Constitution, on the basis of the officially published results of the 7th Population and Housing Census, 2023. A number of representations were filed before the Election Commission against the preliminary delimitation, published on September 27, 2023. As many as 675 representations were received in Punjab, 228 in Sindh, 293 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 124 in Balochistan and 7 in the Federal Capital of Islamabad. The Commission after hearing the objectors, the voters that were present and delimitation committees concerned, decided the representations within the stipulated time of 30 days.

Cases/Petitions Taken up and Decided by the High Court of Lahore, Sindh, Peshawar, Balochistan and Islamabad & their Respective Benches during the year 2023

The orders of the Commission in delimitation matters, Local Government Elections, Intra-Party Elections, allocation of symbols to political parties, transfer of votes, rejection and acceptance of nomination papers, cases relating to conduct of elections in the provinces of Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and other matters

during the year 2023 were filed and decided by the Supreme Court of Pakistan, High Court of Lahore, Sindh, Peshawar, Balochistan and Islamabad and their respective benches. The details of cases decided are given below:

Sr.	High Court	No. of presentation filed
1	Supreme Court of Pakistan	
2	Lahore High Court & its benches	1,357
3	High Court of Sindh & its benches	162
4	Peshawar High Court & its benches	118
5	Balochistan High Court & its benches	120
6	Islamabad High Court at Islamabad	527
Total		2,284

C) Local Government Elections, 2023

Local government institutions are considered pivotal for the democratic growth of a country, and serve as a basic pillar of democracy in empowering the masses. These institutions are designed to devolve power & authority, promote good governance and contribute towards socio-economic development at the grass root level. As provided under Article 140A (1) of the Constitution, each Province is required to establish a Local Government System and devolve political, administrative and financial responsibility and authority to the elected representative of the Local Governments. Articles 140A(2) and 219(d) mandate ECP to hold Local Government Elections in all Provinces.

i. Sindh

Legal Framework

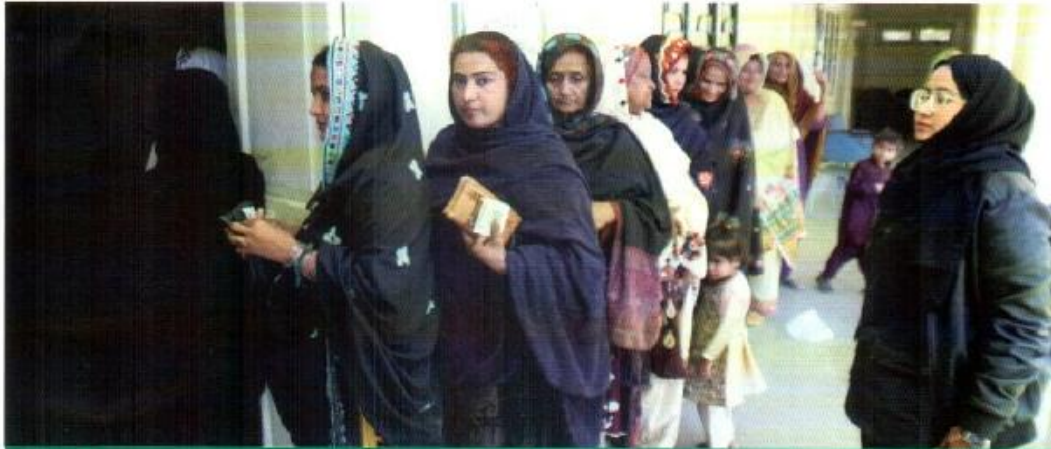
- Sindh Local Government Act, 2013 (SLGA13)
- Sindh Local Councils (Election) Rules, 2015

Tiers of Local Government

- I. Metropolitan Corporations
- II. Municipal Corporations
- III. Town Municipal Corporations
- IV. Municipal Committees
- V. Union Committees
- VI. Town Committees
- VII. District Councils
- VIII. Union Councils

Second phase of Sindh Local Government Elections (January, 2023)

The Local Government Elections in Sindh were split into two phases due to heavy rains and subsequent flooding, as well as inadequate security arrangements for poll day during the year 2022. The Commission issued the schedule of elections for all 16 districts of Karachi and Hyderabad/ Thatta Divisions, and assigned July 24, 2022 as poll day. However, the poll was postponed several times, and the second phase of Sindh Local Government Elections was successfully conducted in Karachi and Hyderabad/Thatta divisions on January 15, 2023.



Women Voters waiting in a queue to cast their vote at a polling station

For this purpose, all administrative arrangements for elections in over 4,400 councils were duly completed, with more than 9,000 polling stations and over 31,000 polling booths established for 13.7 million registered voters in Sindh. Over 9,000 Presiding Officers, 60,175 Assistant Presiding Officers, and 31,466 polling officers were appointed and trained. Over 20,000 contesting candidates were in the run.



An elderly woman voter being assisted to cast her vote

First and Second Phase of LGE (Sindh) at a Glance

	1 st Phase	2 nd Phase
Districts	14	16
DROs	14	16
ROs	224	171
AROs	448	344
Polling Stations	9,526	8,854
Total Registered Voters	11,600,005	13,440,784

Elections to Reserved Seats

The types of seats in the Sindh local councils can be differentiated as those for general members, members elected to reserved seats and heads of councils. The law specifies that elections to reserved seats of Union Committees and Union Councils are to be held in-house through show of hands by the directly elected members of the concerned UCs, whereas elections to reserved seats of councils other than UCs are to be held on the basis of a proportional representation system requiring party priority lists submitted by the concerned political parties. With the completion of re-polls and bye elections for the directly elected members, the stage was set for the conduct of elections to reserved seats, and relevant instructions were shared with the ROs. Separate schedules were announced accordingly by the Election Commission and elections to reserved seats of other councils were held on

June 3-4, 2023, whereas elections to reserved seats of UCs were held on June 6, 2023.

Elections to Heads of Councils (June 15, 2023)

After the aforementioned elections to reserved seats, the electoral college for the elections to heads of local councils was completed. Section 18 of the Sindh Local Government Act, 2013 (SLGA13) specifies that the heads of councils other than UCs must be elected from amongst the members of the respective councils. However, on May 12, 2023, the Government of Sindh introduced Section 18-B in the *SLGA13*, which stated that any person could now be elected as head of a council. In light of this key change in the legislation, the Government of Sindh was asked to specify the qualification of “any person” since the term was too broad and a lack of a specific definition would cause problems. After a clarification from the Government of Sindh, the elections to heads of councils, including the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation, were held on June 15, 2023. All elected members took oath of office and the local councils of Sindh became functional.

Bye Elections and Re-Poll

Sindh

Bye Elections of 1st and 2nd Phase

During the first and second phase of bye elections in Sindh, several seats remained vacant due to incidents of electoral violence and which led to a re-poll on 59 seats in 15 districts on March 26, 2023. Similarly, several seats became vacant due to death, resignation, and disqualification of candidates. In order to fill all such vacancies, ECP conducted bye elections of the first and second phase on 93 seats of 26 districts on May 7, 2023.

Re-poll on the seat of Chairman/Vice Chairman Union Council-119, TMC Shah Latifabad, District Hyderabad

After an incident of electoral violence in Union Council-119, TMC Shah Latifabad, re-poll to the seat of Chairman and Vice Chairman in the Union Council was successfully held on September 14, 2023.

Vacant seats in Local Government Councils in Sindh after the bye election

After bye elections of the first and second phase on May 7, 2023, 74 direct seats, 812 indirect seats, and 3 seats of head of local councils became vacant due to death or resignation of the candidates. In order to fill all these vacancies, ECP again conducted bye elections in the months of October and November, 2023. These are detailed below:

Vacant Direct Seats		
Sr.	Category of seat	No. of Seats
1	Chairman	09
2	Vice Chairman	16
3	Member District Council	08
4	General Members	41
Total		74

Vacant Indirect Seats		
Sr.	Category of seat	No. of Seats
1	Youth	119
2	Women	176
3	PWD	16
4	Labour	30
5	Transgender	161
6	Non-Muslim	310
Total		812

Head of Councils			
Sr.	Category of seat	Category of seats	No. of Seats
1	Thatta	Chairman/Vice Chairman	03
2	Sanghar		
3	Tando Muhammad Khan		

ii. Balochistan

Legal Framework

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

Tiers of Local Government

- I. Metropolitan Corporation
- II. Municipal Corporations
- III. Town Municipal Corporations
- IV. Municipal Committees
- V. District Councils

VI. Urban Union Councils

VII. Union Councils

The process of local government elections in lower tiers i.e., Union Councils, Municipal Committees and Municipal Corporations was completed in February 2023. Thereafter, a schedule for election on reserved seats of 35 district councils was issued on April 28, 2023, and elections to the seats of Chairmen and Vice Chairmen of District Councils were conducted on July 6, 2023. As a result, the process of Local Government Elections in 35 districts of Balochistan except for district Quetta was completed in July, 2023. The detail of Local Government Elections conducted since January, 2023 in Balochistan is given below:

Sr.	Districts involved in elections	Tiers of Local Councils	Categories of Seats	Total Seats	Poll Date
1	33 (Districts)	Municipal Corporations	Chairman Vice Chairman	1676	09.02.2023
		Municipal Committees			
		Union Councils			
2	Lasbela Hub	Municipal Corporations	Women Peasants Workers Non-Muslims	216	05.03.2023
		Municipal Committee			
	Pishin	Municipal Committee Huramazai	Women Peasants Workers Non-Muslims	8	
3	22 (Districts)	Municipal Corporations	Women	119	05.03.2023
		Municipal Committees			
		Union Councils			
4	23 (Districts)	Municipal Corporations	Chairmen Vice Chairmen	176	05.04.2023
		Municipal Committees			
		Union Councils			
5	Nushki	UC No. 7	Chairmen Vice Chairmen	6	03.05.2023
	Kharan	Municipal Committee Kharan			
	Kohlu	UC No. 20			
6	Lasbela	UC No. 1	Women	8	16.05.2023
		UC No. 2			
		UC No. 5			
	Hub	Municipal Committee Winder			
7	35 (Districts)	District Councils	Women Peasants Workers Non-Muslims	430	22.06.2023

Sr.	Districts Involved in elections	Tiers of Local Councils	Categories of Seats	Total Seats	Poll Date
8	35 (Districts)	District Councils	Chairman Vice Chairman	70	06.07.2023
9	6 (Districts)	District Councils	Women	18	23.08.2023
10	Hub	UC No. 31	Women Peasants Workers Non-Muslims	4	19.09.2023
11	Hub	UC No. 31	Chairman Vice Chairman	2	12.10.2023

Local Government Elections in District Quetta

Local Government Elections in Quetta district were scheduled for August 28, 2022 through a notification dated June 22, 2022. However, the High Court of Balochistan through an Order dated June 27, 2022 suspended the election programme. The High Court passed a judgement, directing the Provincial Government to notify the Metropolitan City, Urban Union Councils, Towns etc. in Quetta district as per the amended Act and after issuance of the notification, ECP had to conduct a fresh delimitation exercise on such newly created local councils.

The Provincial Government of Balochistan issued notifications of Metropolitan City, Urban Union Councils & Towns of Quetta district in June, 2023. The process of delimitation of Quetta district was completed on September 11, 2023 and as a result, a total of 172 Urban Union Councils and 641 Wards of Quetta district were delimited.

After delimitation, the schedule for Local Government Elections in Quetta district was issued on October 19, 2023, by fixing November 30, 2023 as poll date. However, the High Court of Balochistan suspended the said schedule through an Order dated October 30, 2023. The matter remains subjudiced.

Local Government Bye Elections in Balochistan

Local Government bye elections were conducted on seven (07) vacant seats (General/ Chairman), in various local councils of six (06) districts (Chaman, Mastung, Killa Saifullah, Harnai, Barkhan & Zhob) of Balochistan, between September to December, 2023.

Re-Poll

Re-poll was conducted on seven seats of different categories in various Union Councils of 4 Districts Killa Abdullah, Mastung, Kohlu & Hub of Balochistan Province in January and March, 2023.

iii. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

The Local Government elections in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are governed under Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Local Government Act, 2013 and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Local

Councils (Conduct of Election) Rules, 2021. The term of local government was completed in the year 2020 and the subsequent elections were held in two phases in the year 2021 and 2022.

Tiers of Local Government in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

- I. Village/Neighbourhood Council
- II. Tehsil Council / City Council

Bye Elections to the Vacant Seats of Chairmen Village Councils in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Out of 12 Village Councils that became vacant due to death/ resignation of the elected Chairmen, elections were conducted in 11 village councils on May 30, 2023. The election process in one (01) Village Council of Saggo Janobi District, Dera Ismail Khan (D.I. Khan) was suspended by ECP under Order No. 02 passed by the Additional District & Sessions Judge-I D.I. Khan. An alternate schedule was issued for this seat and poll was conducted on July 10, 2023.

Bye Elections to the seats of Chairmen Tehsil Council Havelian Abbottabad and Tehsil Council Mathra Peshawar

The elections to the seats of Chairmen Tehsil Council Havelian, Abbottabad and Tehsil Council Mathra, Peshawar was smoothly conducted on August 6, 2023, and the returned candidates were notified on August 21, 2023.

Bye Elections to the vacant seats of Chairman Village Councils

Elections to the vacant seats of Chairman in various Village Councils in five districts were conducted in the month of November, 2023.

1st Bye Elections for the Local Government in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

The first bye elections for Local Government elections in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa were to be conducted in the calendar year 2023. A total of 4,519 seats of various categories were vacant in 3,607 village councils of 35 districts of KP. The schedule for bye election to these vacant seats was issued on July 7, 2023, with poll date as August 27, 2023.

The number of seats, for VCs/NCs and districts involved in the election continued to decrease, because candidates were returned as uncontested in many districts, thus elections were not conducted in those districts. Finally, bye elections were held on 72 seats in 65 VC/NCs of 21 districts.

iv. Punjab

The term of Local Government in Punjab Province was completed on December 31, 2021. The Government of Punjab enacted a new law i.e. the Punjab Local Government Act, 2022 on November 16, 2022 under which, the Punjab Local Government (Election) Rules, 2022 were framed on December 19, 2022.

The newly enacted law provides the following three tiers of the Local Government in the Province:

- I. Metropolitan Corporations*
- II. District Councils*
- III. Union Councils (Urban/Rural)*

Delimitation Schedule Under Punjab Local Government Act, 2022

Delimitation of Union Councils in Punjab was conducted under the Punjab Local Government Act, 2022 (PLGA22), the schedule for which was issued on December 8, 2022, with final publication of the list of constituencies on February 12, 2023.

Statement of Final Number of Urban & Rural Union Councils:

FINAL URBAN & RURAL UNION COUNCILS PUBLISHED ON 12.02.2023					
Districts	Metropolitan Corporation=11	District Councils=39			Total No. of Union Councils
	Urban Union Councils	Urban Union Councils	Rural Union Councils		
40	949	858	2,468		4,275

Notification of Electoral Units

Under Section 49 of the Punjab Local Government Act, 2022, it is mandatory to have in place Electoral Units. These were notified accordingly by ECP on June 9, 2023.

Enlistment of Electoral Groups

Local Government Elections are conducted on party basis. However, to provide an opportunity to the independent candidates for contesting local government elections, a panel system was introduced titled "Electoral Group" under Section 50 of the Punjab Local Government Act, 2022. Accordingly, the process for enlistment of electoral groups was completed on July 17, 2023.

Required Amendments in Section 47(1) of PLG Act, 2022

Section 47(1) of the Punjab Local Government Act, 2022, provides that the Local Government elections shall be held through EVM and I-Voting, whereas, Rule 35(4) of the Punjab Local Government Elections Rules, 2022, prescribes manual voting (through ballot box). This presented a clash and incompatibility in both the Punjab Local Government Act & Rules. To address this, ECP corresponded with the Government of Punjab several times. In response, ECP was intimated that a summary had been initiated seeking approval of the Chief Minister, before the Caretaker Provincial Government. At the same time, a letter dated October 5, 2023 was received from Government of Punjab, stating that due to official publication of the 7th Digital Population Census and considerable increase in the population of the province, the Provincial Government had to carry out the process of demarcation of local areas afresh and revise the number of seats of Councillors in Metropolitan Corporations and District Councils. Consequently, the Government of Punjab was

required to amend the Local Government Act, due to change in the criteria for constituting a local government or threshold of population for delimitation. After these amendments, ECP would also need to carry out the process of delimitation again. In October 2023, the Government of Punjab requested ECP to allow them to place the matter regarding amendments in the Punjab Local Government Act before the elected government after the General Elections.

v. Cantonment Boards

Local Government elections to Cantonment Boards are governed by the Cantonments Ordinance, 2002, (as amended from time to time) and the Cantonment Local Government (Election) Rules, 2015. The representatives on general seats are elected through direct election at the ward level, whereas indirect elections are held for reserved/ special interest seats. The Election Commission conducted the following Bye Elections in Cantonment Board in the year 2023.

Bye Election on Direct Vacant General Seats of Cantonment Boards

Bye Election on four (04) General seats of Cantonment boards was conducted on November 23, 2023.

Bye Election on Indirect Vacant Reserved Seats of Cantonment Boards

Bye Election on one (01) Reserved/ Special Interest seat (Indirect Election) of Cantonment boards was conducted on November 30, 2023.

vi. Islamabad Capital Territory

Legal Framework

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

Tiers of Local Government

- I. Metropolitan Corporation
- II. Union Councils

Local Government Election in Islamabad Capital Territory

Local Government Elections on 101 Union Councils in Islamabad Capital Territory were scheduled on December 31, 2022. The Federal Government however, through a Notification on December 19, 2022, increased the number of Union Councils from 101 to 125, and the matter was challenged in the Islamabad High Court. The High Court through an Order dated March 2, 2023 in I.C.A No. 459/2022 directed the Election Commission of Pakistan as under:

“The instant appeals are disposed of in light of the above observations and directions by reiterating that elections would be held on 125 union councils within a period of 120 days approximately. The impugned judgment shall stand modified accordingly and the appeals, in hand, are disposed of on the basis thereof”.

In compliance with the above stated Order, a schedule for delimitation according to 125 Union Councils of ICT was issued on March 15, 2023, revised on April 11, 2023, and the process was completed on June 9, 2023. After completion of the delimitation exercise, the Commission convened a meeting on June 22, 2023, with representatives of the Federal Government (Ministry of Interior), and declared the readiness of the Commission and completion of all necessary arrangements. However, a list of documents, which were required from the Federal Government were shared as under:

- Notification regarding number of reserved seats of Metropolitan Corporation, Islamabad (as earlier asked vide letters dated May 18, 2023 and June 16, 2023),
- Amendment in Section-17 of the ICT LG. Act, 2015, i.e., words “the Representation of the People Act, 1976” to be replaced with “the Elections Act, 2017”,
- Schedule-VI regarding limit of election expenses of contesting candidates, which was missing in ICT LG (Elections) Rules, 2015.

Upon request by the Federal Government, a period of 15 days was granted by the Commission for provision of the required documents and in this regard, reminders were sent to the Ministry concerned on June 27, July 11 and July 18, 2023. Out of the abovementioned requisite documents, a notification regarding Schedule-VI (Election expenses) was received on July 24, 2023.

Another meeting was convened by ECP on August 7, 2023, with the representatives of Federal Government (Ministry of Interior) for provision of these documents and consultation on the election date. The Secretary, Ministry of Interior, in the meeting and also vide letter dated August 8, 2023, stated that summaries of the document (Notification of reserved seats of Metropolitan Corporation & amendments in Section 17 of the ICT LG. Act, 2015) had been duly submitted for approval of the Cabinet.

Through a letter dated August 28, 2023, the Ministry stated that due to dissolution of the Federal Cabinet (Government), the Cabinet Division returned the summary of reserved seats and that of amendments is likely to be returned without approval.

As per directions of the Commission, the Secretary, Ministry of Interior, was once again asked vide letter dated September 19, 2023, for the provision of these documents. In response, the Section Officer, Ministry of Interior, Islamabad, vide letter dated October 20, 2023 informed that;

- As per directions of ECP, the Ministry concerned is in process of getting approval of the Federal Government for the notification of reserved seats and amendments in the ICT Local Government Act, 2015, through Presidential Ordinance. However, the matter is of great public interest and ECP may like to consider the possibility of placing the aforementioned amendments before the elected Government after General Elections,
- The 7th Digital Census has been published on August 25, 2023. As a result of changes in population, criteria for constituting a local government or threshold of population will be changed. Accordingly, the number of general and reserved seats in MCI will also be changed and will have to be notified. Further delimitation of the constituencies will be required,
- The entire process will take time.

In this context, the Ministry of Interior solicited the opinion of ECP regarding the conduct of local government elections in the ICT. Thus, the matter was placed before the Commission and as per its directions, a reminder was issued on November 17, 2023, to the Secretary, MOI for provision of the requisite documents.

Through, a letter dated November 29, 2023, the Section Officer, MOI, responded that General Elections for the National Assembly will be held in February, 2024 and necessary amendments in the ICT Local Government Act, 2015, will be made after these are passed in both the houses of the Parliament. The Ministry of Interior also requested that the local government elections in ICT may be held after the General Elections in the country.

The matter was submitted on December 6, 2023, to the Commission for orders. The local government elections in ICT were kept pending till culmination of the General Elections and after amendments legislation by the Federal Government.

Monitoring during Bye Elections for local government in the year 2023

The Election Commission conducted rigorous monitoring of all bye elections held for the Local government during the year 2023. For this activity, 31 district monitoring officers and 152 monitoring officers were appointed.

D) Elections Against Vacant Seats of the Senate, National and Provincial Assemblies

In addition to the General Elections, the conduct of bye elections to the Senate, National and Provincial Assemblies is also one of the constitutional obligations of ECP. Article 224 (4) and (5) deal with the conduct of bye elections to fill casual vacancies as and when occurred due to death, disqualification or any other reason of the incumbents. An election to fill a casual vacancy in the Senate is required to be conducted within 30 days of occurrence of vacancy, whereas, to fill NA and PA seats, a bye election is also required to be conducted within 60 days of occurrence of vacancy.

During the calendar year, election schedules for 70 bye elections were issued, but due to different reasons, elections to only one constituency could be conducted and the remaining bye elections were suspended by the High Courts. Those petitions where the stays were granted, could not be disposed of till the dissolution of Assemblies. The detail of bye elections conducted in the year 2023 is given below:

Sr.	No. and Name of Constituency	Cause of Vacancy	Date of Poll	Name of Returned Candidate	Party Affiliation
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF PAKISTAN					
1	NA-193 Rajanpur-I	Death of Sardar Muhammad Jaffar Khan Laghari	26-02-23	Muhammad Mohsin Leghari	PTI

Election to fill casual vacancy in the Senate

As per Article 224(5) of the Constitution, ECP conducted election to fill one (01) vacant seat in the Senate of Pakistan as per the following:

Vacant Seats from Sindh

Sr.	Reason of Vacancy	Name of the Returned Candidate	Category	Party Affiliation
1	Resignation of Muhammad Faisal Vawda	Nisar Ahmed Khuhr	General	PPPP

Due to non-availability of Electoral College, elections to the following vacant seats of the Senate of Pakistan could not be held:

Name of Ex-Senator	Category of Seat	Date of Vacancy	Reason of Vacancy
Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar	General Seat from Balochistan	August 14, 2023	Resignation
Rana Maqbool Ahmad	General Seat from Punjab	September 12, 2023	Death
Shaukat Fayaz Ahmed Tarin	General Seat from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	December 12, 2023	Resignation

E) Use of Media and Technology for Inclusive Electoral Processes

ECP maintains a dedicated team of officials responsible for creating, presenting, and portraying a positive image of the Commission through various modes of media and communication. ECP maintains media relations, devising strategies for content creation, media monitoring, corporate communications, editorial services, spotting trends, voter education, youth initiatives and bridging the gap for marginalised groups. ECP ensures inclusive processes across the board, from day-to-day practices at the Commission to polling processes, men and women of all eligible ages, religious backgrounds, ethnicities, and physical capabilities must be presented with equal opportunity. To this end, ECP works diligently to enhance the organisation's performance as per its legal and procedural framework.



Study visit of delegation of Women Media Center (WMC) at ECP Secretariat

i. Advocacy through Print and Digital Media

Officers of ECP regularly contribute articles and features to newspapers, highlighting the Commission's initiatives and ongoing efforts for public information. This advocacy through print media highlights projects like transparent polling technology and voter education, aiming to raise public awareness about the electoral process.

ii. Representation of ECP Officers in Mainstream Media

During the year 2023, several officers of ECP represented the Commission in various media programs to highlight the Commission's initiatives for the public. The Commission's vision was shared through different news programs on multiple TV channels, furthering its objectives and creating an improved public understanding of the electoral process in Pakistan.

iii. ECP Newsletter

The Election Commission consistently releases a quarterly newsletter highlighting

its activities and initiatives. In the year 2023, four newsletters were published, with a view to serve as a valuable channel for sharing the Commission's achievements and initiatives with the public for enhancing transparency and engagement with its stakeholders.

iv. Participation in Print and Electronic Media

Gender and media officers from provinces and ICT participated in numerous print and electronic media programs to educate the general public about efforts made by ECP for an inclusive electoral process. The Commission's initiatives for mainstreaming women and other marginalised groups in the electoral process were shared, with special video messages and short documentaries to encourage women, youth, transgender and minorities to take part in the General Elections, 2024.

v. Voter Registration Campaign "Red Circle"

The "Red Circle Campaign" was successfully planned and launched by ECP, highlighting important deadlines for voter registration, deletion and correction of voters' registration details. To ensure extensive outreach, ECP followed a comprehensive promotional strategy using print, electronic and social media platforms. The campaign's advertisements were strategically placed across traditional media platforms and also on prominent government organization websites. This inclusion significantly amplified the campaign's outreach, leveraging the wide user base of platforms such as NADRA, FPSC, NITB, Pakistan Film Censor Board, PTA and ATM screens at banks. The Commission's collaborative efforts with various public entities enabled the campaign's message to reach a diverse population demographic, promoting a more inclusive and informed electoral process. The "Red Circle Campaign" marked a pioneering step towards fostering greater civic participation through effective communication and digital engagement.



Digital media channels used for the promotion and widespread distribution of the Red Circle Campaign for voter registration and correction.

vi. Voter Registration Messages in Regional Languages

To ensure a more inclusive approach to the campaign, the Election Commission of Pakistan introduced a series of voter registration video messages delivered not only in English and Urdu, but also in multiple regional languages. This strategic move served to bridge language barriers and engage a wider spectrum of the population, providing information and instructions about the campaign's objectives and crucial registration dates for elections. This effort also underscored the Commission's commitment to inclusivity and effective communication, fostering a sense of ownership and participation among citizens.



vii. Outdoor Media Campaign for Voter Registration

ECP's Voter Registration Campaign adopted impactful outdoor modes of media including billboards and posters, strategically positioned in high-traffic areas highlighting the deadline for voter registration. These visuals carried clear, language-neutral messages, urging citizens to register, emphasising their civic duty. This strategy was designed to maximise public awareness and participation in the electoral process across diverse demographics.

viii. Digital Media Awareness Campaign

ECP effectively utilised digital media platforms for public awareness campaigns. It developed 21 short videos on Chapter X (Illegal & Corrupt Practices) of the Elections Act, 2017, including two (02) short videos on all Codes of Conduct. These videos were disseminated through PEMRA, major TV channels and ECP social media platforms.

Restructuring of District Voter Education Committees (DVEC) & Establishment of Provincial Voter Education Committees (PVEC)

The Commission has taken initiatives to enhance voter education and participation for increased voter turnout under Section 12 of the Elections Act, 2017, aligning it with the 3rd Strategic Plan for 2019-2023. To this end, District Voter Education Committees (DVEC) were restructured and dedicated funds for DVECs were allocated to organise and conduct workshops at the district level to engage and sensitise voters towards electoral processes.

Additionally, PVECs were notified to spearhead voter education initiatives engaging relevant stakeholders in their respective provinces and collaborate to promote voter awareness, education and participation. Relevant stakeholders included government departments such as social welfare, health, education and also civil society organisations.

Provincial, Regional and District level Awareness Programs for Students

Provincial, Regional and District Election Commissioners conducted student orientation sessions at schools, colleges and universities in their respective jurisdictions. Students were educated about the mandate and duties of the Commission, legal framework and election processes. These sessions were designed to encourage the youth to actively participate in Local Government Elections and General Elections. During the sessions, simulation and mock poll activities were arranged for practical experience of voting at polling stations. Information, Education and Communication (IEC) material (pamphlets, brochures and booklets) were also distributed among participants. Electronic, print and social media coverage of these sessions was also arranged. More than 950 seminars and awareness sessions were held for students across the country during year 2023.

ix. Code of Conduct and Responsible Reporting

The Election Commission of Pakistan organised a series of media workshops in various cities, including Islamabad, Lahore, Peshawar, Multan, Swat, Quetta, Turbat, Karachi, and Sukkur, for journalists, on the theme of "Responsible Reporting for Peaceful and Inclusive Elections" and "Code of Conduct for Media & Observers". These workshops served to educate media personnel on the importance of responsible reporting in the context of general elections, enhancing their understanding of various Codes of Conduct issued by the Commission, fostering an environment of unbiased and accurate reporting. During the workshops the media representatives were also sensitized about mis-information and disinformation, and fact checking while reporting during the General Elections, 2024. Through these workshops, media professionals were equipped with the necessary tools and knowledge to effectively disseminate information, promote inclusivity and contribute to the overall peaceful conduct of the General Elections. Awareness workshops on Code of Conduct for domestic observers were also conducted for NGOs, CSOs and domestic observers in Karachi, Quetta, Peshawar, Lahore and Islamabad.



Training of media personnel for GE 2024

Capacity-Building Workshop for ECP Staff with META team

A capacity-building workshop with the Meta team was organised on February 27, 2023, in Islamabad, titled "Connecting with our Communities". The workshop was aimed at educating and engaging ECP and NADRA about available products, policies and guidelines at META. ECP officers were apprised of the responsible use of social media, addressing misinformation and ensuring use of security features. The META team also discussed the possible collaboration for use of their platforms for mass voter education outreach.

The META team also met the Chief Election Commissioner proposing to provide their social media platform for voter education and information for the public for the General Elections, 2024.



META team meeting with Chief Election Commissioner for voter awareness campaign for GE 2024

x. Frequently Asked Questions

A set of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) were prepared for voter convenience, covering all stages of the electoral process. This initiative was aimed at enhancing the understanding and engagement of voters about the electoral process.

ECP's Nationwide Inclusive Civic Education

How the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) is shaping the future of nation through Education and Engagement?

1650+ SESSIONS

Promoting Electoral Integrity

Towards a Vibrant Democracy

ECP's outreach spans across All Pakistan

309	366
<small>sessions in Punjab</small>	<small>sessions in Sindh</small>
590	375
<small>sessions in Punjab</small>	<small>sessions in Islamabad Capital Territory</small>
	10
	<small>sessions in Islamabad Capital Territory</small>

Screenshot of Animated 'FAQ' for Voter Education

xi. Code of Conduct for National and International Observers

The Commission prepared a comprehensive Code of Conduct for international and national observers/media to be used during observation of General Elections 2024, while fulfilling the statutory requirement under Section 233 (2) of the Elections Act, 2017. Awareness workshops on Code of Conduct for domestic/national observers were conducted for NGOs, CSOs and domestic observers in Karachi, Quetta, Peshawar, Lahore and Islamabad.

F) Inclusive Voter Education

Article 25 of the Constitution ensures equality for all citizens and explicitly prohibits discrimination based on gender. ECP is committed to ensure inclusivity in the electoral process by providing equal opportunities and a conducive environment for all sections of the society. Throughout the year 2023, the Commission has implemented various targeted initiatives to integrate women, persons with

disabilities, minorities and the transgender community in the electoral process.

To this end, multiple awareness sessions were conducted for vulnerable and marginalised groups during the year. Awareness campaigns for transgender, minority communities and persons with disabilities were also arranged. These sessions were aimed at educating vulnerable groups about their right to register as voters and to cast their vote, encouraging them to actively participate in the electoral process. Due to these efforts, the Commission successfully added 11.7 million women to the voter list in 2023.

ECP's efforts have been guided by extensive research and studies aimed at understanding the underlying reasons for the gender gap and identifying effective strategies to improve engagement of women and marginalised communities in electoral activities. Through strategic planning and collaboration with stakeholders, ECP has implemented special initiatives and tailored strategies at the grass root level to encourage and facilitate participation of women and marginalised groups, both as voters and candidates. These initiatives signify a positive step forward in promoting a more inclusive and representative democratic system in Pakistan.

i. Women NIC/Voter Registration Campaign

The Commission is mandated under Section 47 of the Elections Act to take special measures to enrol women voters in the constituencies where variations in the gender disaggregated data of registered voters is more than ten percent. Accordingly, ECP initiated NIC/ Voter Registration Campaign in collaboration with NADRA and CSOs in the targeted areas, resulting in increased voter registration and a reduced gender gap to 7.74% as of December, 2023, from 11% in 2021.

For effective collaboration, Provincial Project Coordination Committees (PPCC) in Balochistan and Sindh were established under the chairpersonship of their respective Provincial Election Commissioners (PECs) to coordinate between the PEC Offices and the regional offices of NADRA, line departments and implementing partners. Members of the Committee include representatives from NADRA, Department of Education, Health, Social Welfare and Local Government. The role of the Committee is to identify challenges faced during the NIC/ Voter Registration Campaign, plan and design strategies in collaboration with stakeholders.

ii. Issuance of NICs for Displaced Population

Due to the recent floods in the country, one million people were displaced, and

consequently lost or damaged their NICs. This loss of NICs led to the direct disenfranchisement of the population from exercising their right to vote. For this purpose, a meeting with the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) was held on February 23, 2023, to identify and verify the number of NICs of the displaced population that were damaged or lost during the floods, and to devise a mechanism for their replacement. Accordingly, NADRA was directed to ensure a one-time free registration in the flood-affected areas of the country and to replace lost or damaged NICs before the General Elections, 2024.

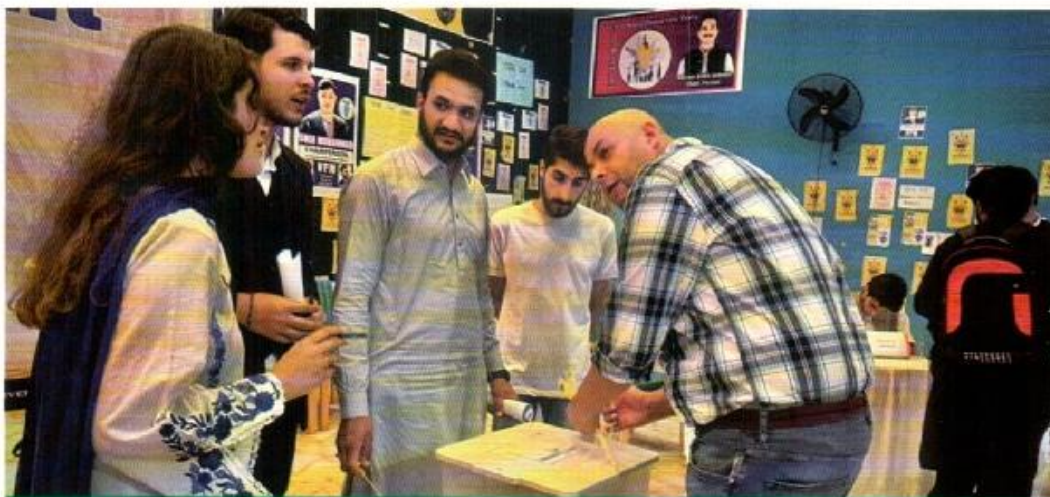
iii. Young Female Students under Voters' Engagement Program 2023

A Voters Engagement Program was initiated to encourage participation of young voters including male and female students in electoral processes and to increase their voter turnout in the General Elections, 2024. Mock poll exercises were conducted for practical demonstration of the polling process. During the year 2023, following sessions were conducted at universities and colleges across the country, detailed below:

Punjab

Date	Place	Attendance
January 17, 2023	Punjab College for Girls and Boys, Bhera	200 girls, 150 boys
September 15, 2023	Government College University, Lahore	200 male and female students
September 20, 2023	University of Central Punjab, Lahore	100 male and female students
October 5, 2023	Punjab University, Lahore	150 male and female students
October 11, 2023	Kinnaird College Lahore	100 girls
October 30, 2023	University of Management and Technology, Lahore	200 male and female students and faculty





Mock poll exercise and student awareness sessions in various colleges in Punjab.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Awareness sessions with 3500 female students from different backgrounds and disciplines of various colleges and universities of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) were held from June to December 2023 to encourage young female and male students to take active part in the electoral process of Pakistan. Awareness sessions were held in leading colleges and universities of KP, including University of Peshawar, Abdul Wali Khan University and Women University in Mardan, Hazara University, Mansehra, Preston University Campus Kohat, Islamia College and Frontier College Peshawar.

Sindh

Voter awareness activities and female youth engagement programs were also conducted in different colleges and universities in Sindh during the year 2023. A large number of young female students attended the sessions which were held in leading colleges and universities of Sindh, including University of Sindh, Hamdard University, Quaid-e-Awam University Nawabshah, University of Karachi, IBA Sukkur, Govt. Girls Degree College Khairpur, Govt, Islamia College Sukkur and Government College of Commerce, South Karachi.



Khairpur-Voter Education & Awareness Activity

Balochistan

Awareness sessions with 350 female students from universities of Turbat and BUIEMS in Balochistan were held to encourage young female and male students to take active part in the country's electoral process.

iv. Gender and Disability Electoral Working Group's Efforts for Inclusive Voter Education

The Commission established a Gender and Disability Electoral Working Group (GDEW) as a platform to collaborate with Civil Society Organizations. ECP extends its outreach to grass root level communities through members of the Group for civic and voter education. These members work with vulnerable communities for inclusive electoral participation and representation, through special sessions that are arranged specifically for women, persons with disabilities, transgender persons and minorities.



GDEWG meeting held on October 16, 2023, Lahore.

Consultative Workshop on Political Inclusion of Transgender Community in KP and Punjab

Consultative workshops were held on the registration of transgender communities with the concerned social welfare departments of both the Provinces and NADRA, in Peshawar and Lahore in May 2023. The aim of these consultations was to develop a coordination mechanism between Social Welfare Departments, NADRA and ECP to facilitate the transgender community for NIC registration and voter education.

v. Reconstitution of Harassment Committee at Provincial Headquarters

The Commission is dedicated to fostering a safe and conducive workplace environment for all employees. To ensure this, Inquiry Committees for Protection against Harassment of Women at the Workplace Act, 2010, were established at the Secretariat and Provincial Headquarters. To ensure implementation of the Act, comprehensive trainings were conducted throughout the year to facilitate and educate inquiry committees on their mandate provided under the law. ECP also held orientation sessions for its officers and officials, emphasising adherence to the Code of Conduct stipulated in the Harassment Act, 2010.

G) Youth Engagement Program

i. Interaction with National and International Stakeholders at the ECP Secretariat

Knowledge Sharing Activities

ECP interacts with national and international stakeholders to further the exchange of knowledge and peer learning. During the year 2023, ECP hosted in its premises many briefing sessions for students and professionals from various institutions.

Study Tour of the Virtual Institute of Professionals, study centre of Virtual University of Pakistan

In line with its policy to interact with national stakeholders for voter awareness and civic education, the briefing session for 24 BS level students and faculty members from Study Center of the Virtual Institute of Professionals (Virtual University of Pakistan) Wah Cantt was arranged at the ECP Secretariat on February 16, 2023.



Study tour of students and faculty of Virtual University of Pakistan, Wah Cantt.

Study Tour of the Trainee Officers of Pakistan Provincial Services Academy (PPSA), Peshawar

Over 40 trainee officers of the 8th Junior Command Course, including the Deputy Superintendents of Police, Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa & Gilgit Baltistan, and the faculty of Pakistan Provincial Services Academy (PPSA), Peshawar attended a briefing at the ECP Secretariat on March 10, 2023. The objective of the session was to apprise the participants about the role and functions of the Commission, and to highlight the role of the Police during election activities.



Trainee officers of 8th Junior Command Course of Pakistan Provincial Service Academy (PPSA), Peshawar with ECP officers.

Study Tour of the Women Media Center Pakistan (WMC)

A briefing was arranged at the ECP Secretariat on June 6, 2023, for 40 students and faculty members from departments of Mass Communication and Media Studies of different universities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi. The study group was led by Ms. Fauzia Shaheen CEO of Women Media Center (WMC). During the interactive session, the WMC delegation gained valuable knowledge of the electoral processes including integration of technology, voter education initiatives to enhance women's political representation. WMC and ECP agreed on the importance of collaboration between media organisations and ECP in promoting accurate and timely

dissemination of information for elections. The participants were also offered internship programs.

Study Tour of Students and Faculty of Cadet College, Hassan Abdal

A delegation of students of Cadet College Hassan Abdal, led by faculty members, visited the ECP Secretariat on July 7, 2023. The delegation was briefed about the Commission's initiatives for inclusive electoral processes.



Briefing to Delegation of students from Hassan Abdal Cadet College

Visit of a Delegation of the Association of World Election Bodies (A-WEB), Korea

A delegation of the Association of World Election Bodies (A-WEB), Korea, visited the Election Commission of Pakistan on August 2, 2023. The Assistant Secretary General AWEB, Mr. Seung Ryeol, and Senior Researcher, Ms. Ina Kim Lee, met with ECP officers. The guests were briefed about the role and functions of ECP, the conduct of national, provincial, and local government elections, IT innovations, strengthening of monitoring of elections, gender mainstreaming initiatives and overall preparedness for the General Elections.



International organization A-WEB briefed about ECP's preparation for GE

ii. Representation at National and International Conferences

A Consultative Meeting with the Chairperson of National Commission on the Status of Women

A consultative meeting of the Chairperson of National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW) was held on August 3, 2023, chaired by the Chief Election Commissioner. Members of NCSW and officers from its secretariat also attended the meeting. During the consultation, the Commission's initiatives for inclusive elections were presented. The Chairperson (NCSW) emphasised the importance of electoral reforms and showed keen interest in working closely with ECP for mainstreaming gender in the electoral processes.

International Democracy Day, 2023, "Safeguarding Democracy and Empowering the Next Generation"

A seminar on "Safeguarding Democracy and Empowering the Next Generation" was held to commemorate International Democracy Day on September 15, 2023, by ECP in collaboration with its GDEWG member organisation. The Joint Provincial Election Commissioner addressed the participants at the event and encouraged youth participation in the electoral process of the country.

H) International Election Observations

ECP officers participated in International electoral forums and international election observations in various countries through the year 2023.

SCO Election Observer Mission to Kazakhstan

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Observer Mission invited the Election Commission of Pakistan to monitor elections of Senators of the Majlis of Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan as international observers on March 19, 2023. Officials of the Embassy of Pakistan in Kazakhstan participated in the SCO Observer Mission on behalf of ECP in Kazakhstan.

4th Cambridge Conference on Electoral Democracy, Virtual Program

The Cambridge Malaysian Education and Development Trust (CMEDT) and Malaysian Commonwealth Studies Centre (MCSC), jointly organised the Fourth Virtual Program titled "Cambridge Conference on Electoral Democracy" on March 6, 2023. The theme of this seminar was "Commissions in Time of Crisis". The session was designed to help understand the factors that can assist an electoral commission in a time of crisis and discussed processes to adopt, to preserve and to maintain integrity and impartiality in the eyes of voters, building positive relationships between commissions and stakeholders. Five officers of ECP actively participated in the virtual program.

Harmonized General Elections of Zimbabwe

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade of the Republic of Zimbabwe extended an invitation to the Government of Pakistan to send a team of observers to

witness the General Elections in Zimbabwe on August 23, 2023. Officers were invited to observe how the people of Zimbabwe exercise their sovereign right to freely elect a President, Members of the Lower and Upper Houses of Parliament, and Local Government Representatives of their choice. Two delegates of ECP observed the pre-election activities, the poll day and the post-election activities in Zimbabwe. The elections held under different electoral systems included absolute majority, first-past-the-post and proportional representation. Requirements for voting day included possession of a plastic or metal ID, a waiting pass with the owner's photograph, or a valid Zimbabwean Passport. Polling time was from 7 am to 7 pm. In a pre-election briefing, a booklet containing a brief on the electoral system and voting procedure was shared with observers.



ECP delegates observing elections in Zimbabwe

First Round of Presidential Elections in Maldives

The Maldives Election Commission (MEC) invited the Election Commission of Pakistan to observe the Presidential Elections 2023 in Maldives on September 9, 2023. Member Sindh accompanied by an ECP Officer attended the pre-poll election briefing session and observed the elections process on poll day in Maldives. MEC also established polling stations in other countries like India (Trivandrum), Malaysia (Kuala Lumpur), Sri Lanka (Colombo), UK (London) and UAE (Abu Dhabi) for the enfranchisement of the diaspora. The minimum number of voters registered in overseas voting were 150. In the elections, no candidate secured a majority of the vote (46% and 39%), the top two finishers, phased out in a second round on September 30, 2023. Turnout for polls was 79.85%. As international observers, two delegates of ECP actively participated in the election observation program in Maldives.

Second Round of Presidential Elections in Maldives

The second round of Presidential Elections was held in Maldives on September 30, 2023. The Election Commission of Maldives invited the Election Commission of Pakistan to also observe the second round of Presidential Elections. Member

Punjab and Member KP along with DD Protocol observed the pre-poll election briefing sessions, poll-day and post-poll de-briefing. These sessions were attended by 76 International Observers and 22 Monitors from countries including Pakistan, Australia, Japan, China, Sri Lanka, Georgia, the Commonwealth and the European Union. On poll day, the election process was well organised and transparent. The polling staff was notably well trained and professionally performed their duty. The delegates observed the polling process throughout the day and were also present during the count of votes and announcement of results at the polling stations. Results of the polls were also uploaded on the website of the Maldives Election Commission.



Observers at Pre-Poll Briefing with Hon'ble Chairman of Maldives Election Commission and High Commissioner of Pakistan in Maldives



Observers at a polling station in Male



Observers during vote counting in Male

Cambridge: Online Seminar on “Framing the Challenge of Social Media in Elections”

The Cambridge Malaysian Education and Development Trust and Malaysian Commonwealth Studies Centre, jointly organised an online seminar titled “Framing the Challenge of Social Media in Elections” on October 25, 2023. Speakers from Mauritius, South Africa, Malaysia, and six representatives from ECP actively participated in the seminar. During the discussion it was highlighted that 70-80% of web traffic is shared information across the platforms. The participants also discussed that WhatsApp is the largest social media platform with a 93% penetration, followed by Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, Twitter(X) and Messenger. Globally there are about 4.8 billion social media users, and between April 2022 and April 2023, 150 million new users came online. A significant concern is the growth of hate speech and greater polarisation of the community. The use of social media has shown extraordinary and exponential growth. It was shared that social media platforms have become the new battlegrounds for political contestants to influence voter behaviour. Participants were apprised that about four billion people would go to elections in 2024 across multiple jurisdictions including the India, Indonesia, South Africa, UK and US.

The seminar provided an opportunity to explore solutions to misleading and incorrect information. Three broad categories of responses were identified:

- Educate the electorate to “check the source”,
- Regulate through reform and modernisation of “truth in political advertising” laws, and
- Partner with social media platforms, media monitors, civil society organisations and others.

I) Assessing Progress on the Third Strategic Plan 2019-2023

Driven by the need to address the gaps and challenges in the electoral process, the Election Commission of Pakistan devised and implemented its first multi-year strategic plan in 2010. These challenges were identified during the Post-Election Review of the general elections of 2008, in a political context that was fraught with internal and external challenges such as an inadequate legal framework, limited institutional capacity, stakeholder concerns about the Commission's independence, low public trust in government institutions and a polarized political environment. Thus emerged the first multi-year strategic plan of 2010-2014, developed through a participatory approach to inculcate ownership and instil confidence in the electoral process.

In 2014, at the close of the first strategic planning cycle, ECP prepared its second five-year Strategic Plan for the period 2014-2018. In doing so, strategic planning became a regular institutional practice for ECP, which increased the legitimacy and credibility of the initiative and the Commission's commitment to its mission.

The second Strategic Plan of 2014-2018 was developed in the context of an ongoing national debate around electoral reforms. A crucial enabling factor was the appointment of full-time, permanent members to the Election Commission, a reform, which contributed towards a stronger institutional base. A Parliamentary Committee on Electoral Reforms (PCER) was constituted, which received full support from ECP. Emerging from this process, the Elections Act, 2017 became the first major reform of the electoral framework in Pakistan since 1976. It sought to simplify and rationalise a legal framework that was dispersed over eight different laws into one consolidated law, representing a major leap forward in terms of:

- Empowering ECP by increasing its autonomy over financial and human resource management,
- Authorising ECP to nullify results of constituencies where turnout of women voters was less than ten percent, which was an important step toward gender parity in electoral participation,
- Obligating political parties to ensure five percent women candidates from general seats in the Parliament and Provincial Assemblies,
- Making the registration of women, minorities, transgenders and persons with disabilities a special priority for ECP,
- Clarifying the scope of powers for caretaker government, and
- Stipulating a deadline for holding local government elections.

In this spirit of progressive reform, ECP upon completing its second strategic planning cycle, moved to formulate its 3rd Strategic Plan for 2019-2023. The Plan intended to:



Participants at Cambridge-Online Seminar on Framing the Challenge of social media in Elections

Specialized Election Management Course for Youth in Russia

The Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation invited young election organisers to attend the international specialised course on “Election Management: Traditions and Innovations” that took place in Moscow, Russia from October 1 to 6, 2023. Three officers from the Election Commission of Pakistan actively participated in the week-long course in Russia, during which they attended a series of lectures and discussions on the Russian electoral system, its history, and its regulatory and technological frameworks.



Participants of Specialized Election Management Course for Youth in Russia on October 1-6, 2023

- Enable compliance, in letter and spirit, of the Elections Act, 2017,
- Facilitate the participation of stakeholders in electoral processes, to deliver inclusive elections that people trust,
- Help staff and offices across the organisation to develop a common understanding of ECP's current standing, a shared vision for ECP's progress over the next five years and the strategies to be employed to attain its strategic goals within the given timelines,
- Assist ECP leadership to monitor progress against set targets and adopt timely measures to address any hurdles that may be impeding or delaying progress,
- Facilitate ECP in assessing resource needs, rationalize and prioritize resource allocation for greater efficiency and strengthen the case for mobilizing additional resources (human, financial and infrastructure) from government and other sources,
- Identify and prioritize entry-points for assistance and support from international development partners, and
- Position ECP as a modern, professional and reputable Electoral Management Body (EMB) that is abreast of global trends, innovations and best practices in electoral management.

After the elections of 2018, a Post-Election Review (PER), the first legally binding of its kind, identified the gaps and challenges that remained in the electoral process, and the third strategic plan was devised accordingly. The recommendations from the PER were converted into strategic pillars and goals for the third plan, and targets were set accordingly. It was during this time that international observation missions, specifically the EU published an election review report, and provided recommendations that were incorporated into the Commission's strategies set out to achieve its goals outlined in the third strategic plan. These are detailed below, and reflect the Commission's dedicated commitment to achieving these through the work it has done, despite the many challenges, through the year.

Over the years, ECP has transformed into a modern, progressive and forward-looking organisation, with a key focus on institutional development.

Third Strategic Plan 2019-2023

Total Strategic Pillars = 11

Strategic Pillar	Strategic Goals
1. Legal Framework	1.1 To contribute towards improved electoral laws for National and Local elections
	1.2 To improve the Election Rules, 2017
2. Electoral Integrity and Public Perception	2.1 To enhance stakeholders' engagement in the electoral process
	2.2 To institutionalize transparency and enhance public access to information in electoral management
	2.3 To ensure compliance with electoral laws by all stakeholders
	2.4 To improve public perception through social media
3. Institutional Development	3.1 To strengthen ECP's offices infrastructure for a more conducive working environment
	3.2 To rationalize human resource strength, improve recruitment processes and promote performance-based human resource management
	3.3 To improve record management procedures and systems
	3.4 To enhance internal communication and coordination
	3.5 To promote experience and knowledge sharing at national and international levels
4. Training and Capacity Development	4.1 To strengthen the capacity of ECP employees by providing quality trainings and learning opportunities at the national and international level
	4.2 To provide efficient and quality training to election officials and improve awareness of other relevant stakeholders
5. Election Operations	5.1 To improve political parties' enlistment process and scrutiny of campaign expenditures, election expenses and statements of assets and liabilities
	5.2 To improve electoral procedures and access to polling stations
	5.3 To improve planning and ensure efficient management of election logistics and election officials
6. Budget Finance and Procurement	6.1 To improve planning, implementation, transparency and quality assurance in the management of procurements, budget and finance
	6.2 To ensure financial autonomy and improve ECP's financial management system
	6.3 To optimise resource mobilisation for improving ECP's infrastructure, institutional capacity and operations
7. Voter Registration and Participation	7.1 To ensure that eligible citizens, especially women and socially excluded groups, get NICs and are registered as voters
	7.2 To further improve quality of electoral rolls
	7.3 To facilitate and improve voters' participation and turnout in electoral processes
8. Information Communication and Electoral Technologies	8.1 To improve electoral technologies used during past elections to enhance transparency, awareness and efficiency in electoral processes
	8.2 To identify, develop and pilot new electoral technologies to facilitate and increase voters' participation and awareness, and improve public trust in the process
	8.3 To improve the use of technology for efficient performance of ECP offices
9. Electoral Complaints and Dispute Resolution	9.1 To ensure timely disposal of electoral complaints and adjudication of electoral disputes

Strategic Pillar	Strategic Goals
10. Gender Mainstreaming and Social Inclusion	10.1 To ensure that the office environment is secure and conducive for women and socially excluded groups
	10.2 To ensure gender mainstreaming and social inclusion in election administration and electoral processes
11. Monitoring, Evaluation and Research	11.1 To expand ECP's monitoring & evaluation scope and strengthen the monitoring system
	11.2 To Strengthen research and development capacity to inform ECP's policies, procedures and decision making

The Strategic Pillars and their goals are discussed against their measurable indicators below.

i. Legal Framework

The Commission's stated goals under the first pillar are identified to improve the laws that govern national and local elections and improve the Election Rules of 2017. During its internal review process, the Commission reported that amendments were proposed to the Local Government laws to the federal as well as all four provincial governments to align their local laws to the Elections Act of 2017. Additionally, ECP proposed 67 amendments to the Elections Act 2017, while 90 amendments were made to the Election Rules, 2017.

ii. Electoral Integrity and Public Perception

The stated goals for the second pillar included increased stakeholder engagement and improved transparency in electoral processes, to ensure compliance with electoral laws and to establish a reliable social media presence.

During review, the Commission reported over 90 percent increased stakeholder engagement as well as public access to information. Significant progress was reported on enhanced awareness of elections among stakeholders and the public, marked by an active presence on social media handles including Facebook, YouTube, and Twitter.



iii. Institutional Development

The focus of this strategic pillar included enhancement of the Commission's office infrastructure, human resource capabilities, record management practices, and internal communications.

ECP presently owns 29 plots that include 18 plots that were purchased during the years 2020 to 2022 for construction of its own field offices. Currently, ECP owns only five out of 160 of its offices, while the rest are housed in rented properties.

An internal review and rationalisation of the Commission's human resource was carried out in 2020 at the national level and in 2021 at the provincial level. A state-of-the-art record room was established in January 2023.

Officers from ECP attended conferences organised by the Association of World Election Bodies (AWEB) and the Commonwealth UK during 2020 and 2021, for enhanced exposure to the international best practices and capacity building.

iv. Training and Capacity Development

ECP employed a two-pronged approach towards capacity building of human resource under this pillar; quality trainings were held internally for the Commission's employees, while external trainings were held for election officials as temporary employees.

Significant progress was reported under both trainings, as polling staff was trained extensively in 2020 and 2021 for the Senate and LG elections. New training modules were developed for ECP staff, and the training wing was restructured. The Federal Election Academy was renamed as the Pakistan Electoral Academy for Democratic Practices, Research and Management (PADRM) in April 2022.

The Commission continued to actively train polling personnel in 2023, with ECP officers trained as lead trainers, to further train over 2400 master trainers across the country.

v. Election Operations

For this strategic pillar, the focus of ECP was on the entire election process, from the nomination of candidates to the transmission of results. The stated goals included improved scrutiny of campaign finances, improved accessibility of polling stations, and the overall improvement of logistical management.

An internal review suggests significant progress made on these goals. The Commission conducted countrywide surveys of polling stations in 2021 to assess the public review for accessibility and a Management Information System (MIS) was established to monitor and scrutinise the political finance of political parties.

vi. Budget, Finance and Procurement

The stated goals under this pillar included the improved management of budgets, financial autonomy and optimization of resource mobilisation. According to an internal review, significant progress was made against these indicators that included an automated Budget Management System, and SOPs devised and implemented for the various procurement processes at the Commission.

vii. Voter Registration and Participation

The Commission's stated goals under pillar seven are increased voter registration and turnout, particularly for women, youth, and marginalised groups, in addition to an improved quality of electoral rolls.

An internal review revealed significant progress against these indicators with over 12,591,486 women registered as new voters, reducing the gender gap to 7.74 percent as of December 2023, as well as 3,262,435 youth registered as first time voters from 2021 to 2023.

A periodical revision and update of electoral rolls was conducted by ECP and as of December 1, 2023, there are over 128 million registered voters in Pakistan

viii. Information, Communication and Technologies

The stated goals under this pillar included up-gradation of technologies being used in elections and piloting of new technological reforms in electoral process.

In 2021, the Commission reported significant improvements to its Election Results Management System, an upgraded online recruitment system as well as complaint management system, which were launched in 2020. A Mobile App called the "Click ECP" was also launched for the quick dissemination of news and updates for voters. Committees including academia, technical, financial and legal experts were formed to review the technical, financial and legal implication for introduction of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) in electoral process at a large scale. Different feasibility reports were presented to the Commission and Standing Committees of the Parliament. The EVMs are yet to be introduced due to challenges such as high cost of procurement, operation, maintenance and storage of the machines.

ix. Electoral Complaints and Dispute Resolution

The goals under this strategic pillar included the timely resolution of complaints and disputes.

In an internal review, the Commission reported notable progress against its measurable indicators citing the launch of a complaint management system in 2020, as well as a legal case management portal.

x. Gender Mainstreaming, Youth and Social Inclusion

The Commission's stated goals under this pillar included ensuring a safe environment for women and other marginalised groups within ECP offices as well as during election processes.

ECP has ensured a secure and conducive environment for women and socially excluded groups at the ECP Secretariat, Provincial Headquarters and field offices. All the trainings conducted at ECP are gender sensitive ensuring inclusion of female trainers and trainees in all of them. A component of gender and elections is included in all the trainings conducted at ECP for election officials. To ensure gender mainstreaming and social inclusion in election administration and electoral processes, ECP conducted researches on identifying and addressing the gender gap in voter registration. A fourth phase of the Women's NIC and Voter Registration Campaign was launched to decrease the Gender gap in the electoral roll. Training manuals were compiled for the capacity building of female employees on the Harassment Act, 2010 and a Gender Mainstreaming and Social Inclusion framework is being developed after a consultative process with stakeholders.

xi. Monitoring, Evaluation and Research

The focus under this pillar remained to strengthen the Commission's monitoring capabilities and to make the monitoring wing independent. ECP also aimed to establish an independent research wing that would publish at least four studies each year.

An internal progress evaluation suggests exceptional progress made against these indicators. The monitoring wing was restructured as the Monitoring and Evaluation Wing, tasked with reporting pre and post-election activities as well as monitoring the complete electoral process. A state-of-the-art Election Monitoring Control Centre (EMCC) was also established at the ECP Secretariat.

J) Management, Governance and Accountability

i. Infrastructure Development

The Election Commission of Pakistan operates countrywide through its 160 offices. Due to shortage of space for dedicated strong rooms and storage facilities for the maintenance and up keeping of sensitive data and other materials, special measures have been undertaken by the Commission to acquire state owned land for the construction of its own dedicated field offices.

As of December, 2022, 18 plots were purchased from the Government of Punjab, and 11 plots were purchased from the Government of Balochistan. PC-Is were prepared by the Pakistan Public Works Department (PWD) for undertaking the construction of office buildings at different locations for approval by the respective Departmental Development Working Party (DDWP) forum for funding through the Federal Public Sector Development Program (PSDP).

Construction work of 5 RECs/DECs offices, funded through PSDP began in the year 2022, with a target completion date of June 30, 2024. Funding details of such development projects are summarised below:

Sr.	PC-I Title	Cost of PC-I (Millions)	Actual Expenditure Till June,23	PSDP Allocation for FY 2023-24	Funds Released (FY 2023-2024) Till 31-12-23	Revised Approved Cost of PC-I (Million)
1	REC / DEC, Sargodha	414.373	250.000	114.373	114.373	689.193
2	DEC, Okara	143.434	128.247	15.268	15.268	232.453
3	DEC, Layyah	143.437	98.251	15.186	15.186	245.28
4	DEC, Jhelum	152.104	62.674	101.902	101.902	239.944
5	DEC, Attock	152.104	83.322	101.254	101.254	236.502
Total: - 06-Offices		1005.452	602.494	347.983	347.983	1643.372



Construction of REC/DEC office Sargodha



Construction of DEC office Jhelum



Construction of DEC office Okara



Construction of DEC office Layyah



Construction of DEC office Attock

In addition to the above, six (06) PC-Is (8 Projects) were also reflected in the PSDP 2023-24. The construction of these projects has been undertaken and is targeted to be completed in two years' time, i.e., by June 30, 2025, as per the details given below:

Sr.	Office Name	DDWP Meeting Date	Cost of PC-I	PSDP Allocation for FY 2023-2024	Funds Released till 31-12-23	
1	Construction of REC/DECs, Faisalabad Complex.	28.02.2023	999.641	300.000	150.000	
2	Construction of DEC Office, Narowal		286.574	100.301	50.151	
3	Construction of REC/DEC Office, Sahiwal	06.06.2022	494.836	250.000	125.000	
4	Construction of DEC Office, Rajanpur		200.600	100.000	50.000	
5	Construction of DEC Office, Jaffarabad	05.05.2023	259.090	100.000	50.000	
	Construction of DEC Office, Mastung		279.776	100.000	50.000	
6	Construction of DEC Office, Gwadar		249.855	100.000	50.000	
	Construction of DEC Office, Lasbella		267.995	100.000	50.000	
Total: 10 Offices			3038.367	1150.301	575.151	

Additionally, 10 PC-Is for construction of 14 field offices of ECP in Punjab and Balochistan were also approved in three (03) different DDWP meetings held on June 6, 2022, February 28, 2023 and May 5, 2023. These projects will be funded in phases through next year's PSDP.

The PC-I for the construction of the Election Academy and other offices in H-11/4, Islamabad is awaiting approval from the Ministry of Planning Development and Special Initiatives at its Central Development Working Party (CDWP) and is expected to be included in the CDWP meeting in the 4th Quarter of CFY, 2023-24.

In order to secure the plots acquired by ECP from encroachment, 10 boundary walls were erected in various districts of Punjab in the year 2022. Further to it, one boundary wall in Punjab and four boundary walls in Balochistan were also completed before June, 2023. Additionally, 12 boundary walls, six each in Punjab and Balochistan are presently under construction with an expected completion date of June 2024, as per the details mentioned below:

Sr.	Plot sites for REC/DEC offices (Punjab)	Plot sites for REC/DEC offices (Balochistan)
1	REC/DECs, Faisalabad Complex.	DEC, Loralai
2	DEC, Jhang	DEC, Mastung
3	DEC, M.B Din	DEC, Noshki
4	DEC T.T. Singh	DEC, Lasbella
5	DEC Pakpattan	DEC, Jaffarabad
6	DEC, Khanewal	DEC, Lehri (Sibi)

The ultimate purpose of construction of these offices is to add value for improved public service delivery and to provide a better and secure working environment to employees.

Record Room

A State-of-the-Art Record Room was set up and inaugurated on January 5, 2023, equipped with a biometric device, security cameras, fire extinguishers and dehumidifiers. So far, 16,000 files have been stored in corrugated boxes and labelled, sorted yearly according to each wing/branch. SOPs have also been issued for maintenance of records in the Record Room.

A set of Record Management Instructions 2023 were listed and approved by the Chief Election Commissioner on October 12, 2023, that govern the categorisation and re-categorisation of all records as well as a weeding out process for redundant files. These instructions will serve as guidelines for the efficient management of records at the ECP Secretariat, offices of the PECs and also the field offices.



Newly Established Record Room at the ECP Secretariat

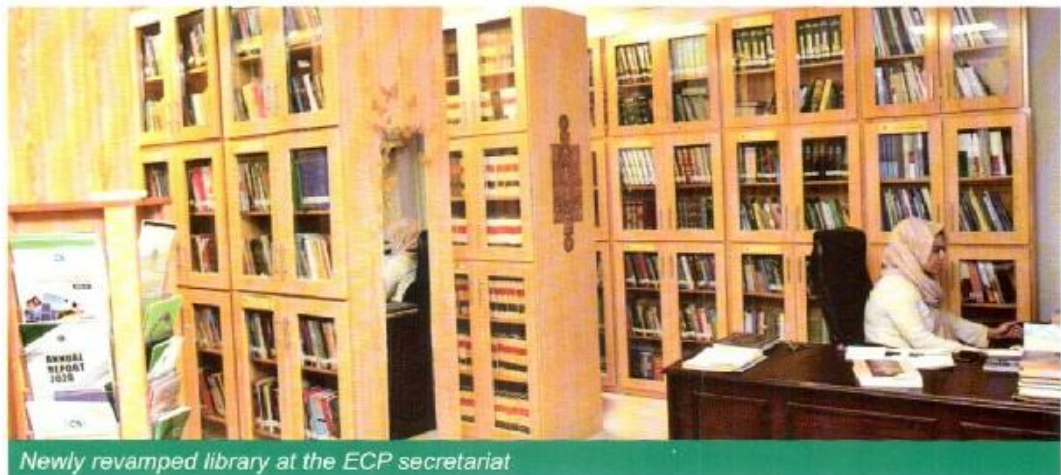
Scanning of Records

The scanning of all records was completed within a period of five months at the ECP Secretariat, Islamabad, between May 20, 2023 and September 26, 2023, as per the Strategic Plan 2023. The scope of the project included the scanning of 1.6 million pages and the deployment of IORMS within six months. Data entry of the scanned records' digitisation process began on October 5, 2023, and was completed within 6 weeks. Besides this, an additional 1.12 million pages were scanned by the respective wings on their own. The IORMS categorises data by file number, subject, category and date of creation. It contains a quality check for data verification and is easily accessible to all wings of the Commission. The archived record will also serve as the foundation for initiation of an e-file system at ECP in future.

Library

The library at the ECP Secretariat was revamped during the year 2023. It houses around 8000 books, including Judgments (PLD, MLD, SCMR, PLJ and CLC), Major/Minor Acts (Civil and Criminal), Statues, Information Technology, Gender Studies, Conduct of Elections Laws, Service Laws, Dictionaries, Election Reports, History, Literature, Islamic Studies, Social Studies and Autobiographies both in English & Urdu. About 305 new books on different subjects have also been added during the year for the benefit of readers. The library also provides training material for new appointees in ECP, in the form of manuals required to fulfil official assignments. A new set of TORs have been introduced for the library management.

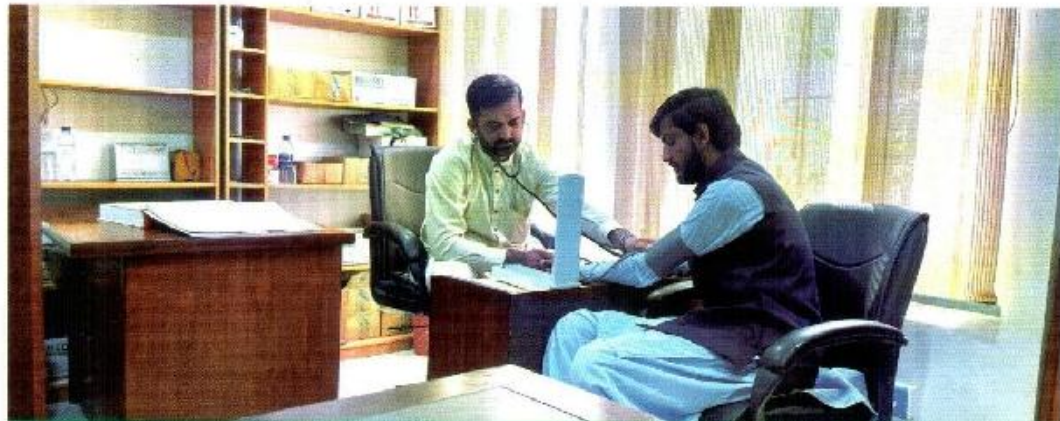
Field offices have more autonomy in their operations as they can directly purchase reference books for official use. The subscription of electronic resources of legal decisions has also been extended to Provincial Headquarters. Consequently, they can benefit from online resources that encompass 11 Major Law Digests with complete case laws, statutes, legal maxims and articles.



Newly revamped library at the ECP secretariat

Refurbished Dispensary

A well-equipped dispensary was set up for the well-being of employees of the ECP Secretariat and is run under the supervision of a qualified Medical Officer. The Dispensary is well equipped with all basic medical facilities including first aid medical treatment.



Refurbished Dispensary

Upgraded CCTV surveillance system at the ECP Secretariat

The CCTV surveillance infrastructure was upgraded at the ECP, Secretariat with the addition of 76 new CCTV cameras at various points inside and outside the building.



Control room of CCTV surveillance system

ii. Performance Reporting/ Internal Audit

Establishment of Internal Audit Wing at ECP Secretariat

As part of its efforts to enforce effective control for greater transparency of processes, efficient use of resources and assets, improved management, prevention and timely detection of errors and irregularities in financial proceedings, improved monitoring of possible wastage and misappropriation of resources and

other processes, an internal audit wing was established at the Secretariat, PECs and RECs offices.

To this end, two Assistant Directors and 36 Deputy Assistant Directors of Accounts have been appointed and tasked with audit specific duties to assist the organisation's management in the effective discharge of responsibilities by conducting analysis and appraisals, close monitoring for irregularities, ultimately providing sustainable support and assistance towards the improvement of the organisation's operations.



A group photo of Deputy Assistant Directors Accounts with Secretary and other senior officers after successful completion of training

iii. Human Resource Management

Employee Recruitment, Training, Development and Retention

Human Resource Management, often abbreviated as HRM or HR entails adopting a systematic and strategic approach to efficiently manage individuals 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. HRM is deeply involved in the oversight of personnel, delving into the formulation and implementation of policies and systems. The purview of the HR department extends across diverse areas, which include among others, recruitment, training and capacity development, employee benefits design, performance appraisal and reward management. Essentially, HR encompasses the entirety of employee-related matters, spanning from the initial recruitment phase to their eventual retirement.

The Commission remains 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 was transformed into a dynamic HR Wing in the year 2023 and specialized officers were 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.

Creation of New Posts

With the passage of time and increase in the country's population as well as the responsibilities entrusted upon the Commission, the workload of the Election Commission has substantially increased. The current administration of ECP undertook a comprehensive review, conducted a rationalization exercise and adjusted the organizational structure during the year 2021-22 and to meet the emerging needs new posts were created. These are listed below:

Creation of Posts		
Sr.	Basic Scale	No. of Posts
1	22	1
2	21	1
3	MP-III	2
4	18	1
5	17	03
6	15	02
7	14	04
8	13	02
9	11	03
10	05	07
11	02	05
12	No scale	01
Total		32

Promotions

Career advancement mutually benefits an organisation and its employees. Recognition of hard work and performance of employees in addition to financial remuneration is a key aspect in employee retention. Adhering to this approach, a 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 criteria. The details of promotions made during the year 2023 are given below:

PROMOTIONS							
Sr.	Basic Scale	No. of officers/officials promoted					Total
		ECP Secretariat, Islamabad	Punjab	Sindh	KP	Balochistan	
1	BS-19	13	-	-	-	-	13
2	BS-18	27	-	-	-	-	27
3	BS-17	48	-	-	-	-	48

Sr.	Basic Scale	No. of officers/officials promoted					Total
		ECP Secretariat, Islamabad	Punjab	Sindh	KP	Balochistan	
4	BS-16	-	01	-	02	-	03
5	BS-15	04	12	04	08	02	30
6	BS-11	04	13	-	04	02	23
7	BS-09	-	-	-	10	-	10
Total		96	26	04	24	04	154

Recruitment

Recruitment is a continuous feature of Human Resource Management. Through this process, fresh, capable and efficient human resource is inducted for the evolution of an organization. In order to ensure merit and transparency in the recruitment process, ECP introduced the Optical Mark Recognition (OMR) for the conduct of screening tests which substantially reduces human intervention in the marking of papers. The recruitment process at ECP includes a screening test and a descriptive test (if required) after which qualified candidates are shortlisted for interviews. Recruitments made in the year 2023 are listed below:

RECRUITMENT							
Sr.	Basic Scale	ECP Secretariat	Punjab	Sindh	KP	Balochistan	Total
1	BS-20	01	-	-	-	-	01
2	BS-18	-	01	-	-	-	01
3	BS-17	34	-	-	-	-	34
4	BS-16	37	-	-	-	-	37
5	BS-15	04	01	-	-	04	09
6	BS-14	18	87	23	-	12	140
7	BS-11	08	03	01	-	05	17
8	BS-09	18	10	17	-	04	49
9	BS-05	11	-	01	-	05	17
10	BS-03	01	-	-	-	-	01
11	BS-02	22	06	19	42	64	153
12	Contract Posts	03	-	-	-	-	03
Total		157	108	61	42	94	462

Service Rules

Service Rules, 1989 framed for employees of the Commission to regulate their services were reviewed and reframed by a Committee in 2023 to meet current and potential requirements and challenges of the organization and the same shall come into force after due approval of the Commission.

Disciplinary Proceedings

The newly established Discipline, Litigation and Career Planning (DL&CP) Branch at the ECP Secretariat plays a pivotal role under clear guidelines to ensure a framework of accountability, fostering professionalism and fairness. Disciplinary proceedings serve as a preventive measure, providing a conducive work environment. The branch has been created to deal with disciplinary proceedings, allowing for timely resolution and preventive measures where needed. This proactive approach not only deters inappropriate behaviour but also reinforces a culture of respect and responsibility amongst employees of the Commission.

Details of Disciplinary Proceedings against ECP Employees and Penalties Awarded in 2023

Sr.	Actions Taken	No. of Cases
1	Exonerated	10
2	Major Penalties	15
3	Minor Penalties	24
Total		49

Details of Disciplinary Proceedings Initiated and Decided Against Employees of Other Departments in 2023

Sr.	Names of the Departments	No. of Cases
1	Service & General Administration Department	01
2	Punjab Police Department	02
3	Levies Department, KPK	01
4	Health Department, Government of Sindh	01
Total		05

Court Cases Pertaining to Service Matters Decided/ Closed in 2023

Sr.	Names of the Courts	No. of Cases Decided/Closed
1	Hon'ble Supreme Court of Pakistan	01
2	Hon'ble Islamabad High Court	02
3	Hon'ble Peshawar High Court	03
4	Hon'ble Lahore High Court	02
5	Hon'ble Balochistan High Court	01
6	FST, Islamabad	06
7	FST, Lahore	06
8	FST, Karachi	03
Total		24

Ongoing Court Cases Pertaining To Service Matters As On December 31, 2023

Sr.	Names of Hon'ble Courts	Total Ongoing Cases
1	Hon'ble Supreme Court of Pakistan	05
2	Hon'ble Islamabad High Court	03
3	Hon'ble Lahore High Court	03
4	Hon'ble Peshawar High Court	01
5	Hon'ble Sindh High Court	01
6	Hon'ble Balochistan High Court	01
7	FST, Islamabad	11
8	FST, Lahore	08
9	FST, Karachi	11
10	FST, Peshawar	01
Total		45

Emerging Electoral Technologies

Cognizant of the rapid advancements in technology and the need for ECP to remain relevant within this context, a number of Information Technology related initiatives have been introduced at the organisation to bridge the gaps.

To provide information to the general public, media and stakeholders and to counter misinformation and disinformation, ECP upgraded its website that hosts the organisation's key press releases, judgements and Orders of the Commission. It also publishes election results, election laws, Electoral Rolls statistics, important notifications, cause lists, online complaint system, online recruitment system, delimitation maps and reports.

Digitization of Delimitation Process

During the delimitation process, a total number of 514 Districts and Revenue (Marked, Unmarked and Preliminary) Marks were printed on 42" plotter size sheets, while 557 signed District & Revenue maps were scanned on 42" plotter size sheets. 466 preliminary maps were uploaded on the ECP website for the public and stakeholders. Final delimitation on Form-VII with revised maps were also published on the website.

Upgradation of Server Room

To support all IT system upgrades, a new state-of-the-art server room was built at the ECP Secretariat, and is planned to be operational by 2024, to support the following:

- Computerised Electoral Rolls System (CERS) Connectivity Nationwide,
- CERS Database Backup,

- Result Management System (Backup Hosting Infrastructure),
- Election Management Control Centre (EMCC) MIS [Live Multimedia Database],
- Human Resource Management System (HRMS),
- Integrated Office Record Management System (IORMS),

Video Conferencing Services

- Various Internal MIS,
- Internet / Intranet Services,
- Complaint Management System (CMS),
- Online Recruitment System (ORS),
- Online Attendance System,
- Network Operations Centre (NOC) and Security Operations Centre (SOC).

It will also enhance the capacity of the following digital infrastructure:

- Compute Power,
- Storage Power,
- UPS Backup Power,
- Electric Power,
- Cooling Power,
- Firewall/ Fibre-connectivity,
- Anti-virus Servers,
- NOC/ SOC (Monitoring Dashboard for all PECs/ RECs/ DEC's Offices).

Memorandum of Understanding between HEC and ECP

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed on August 22, 2023 between ECP and the Higher Education Commission (HEC), whereby ECP acquired 2,000 laptops from the HEC for the operationalisation of the Result Management System (RMS) for the General Elections on September 18, 2023. All 2,000 laptops were equipped with the requisite software, hardened for the secure compilation of election results and were handed over to the offices of Returning Officers.





Online Recruiting System (ORS)

An Online Recruiting System (ORS) was set up to facilitate and manage human resource for all recruitments in an efficient and accurate manner. More than 37,000 candidates successfully submitted their personal data into the system through the ORS in 2023. Potential employees were shortlisted and call letters for test and interviews were generated through the automated system. Since its inception in 2021, over 285,000 applications have been registered and processed in the ORS.

Optical Mark Recognition (OMR) for Recruitment

An Optical Mark Recognition (OMR) system was set up in an effort to substantially reduce any human intervention in the grading of test papers in the recruitment process. At present, the recruitment process includes a screening test and descriptive test, after which short-listed candidates are interviewed in person. Over 7000 answer sheets against different posts were digitally and automatically evaluated through the OMR in 2023. Since its adoption, more than 75,000 answer sheets have been marked through the system. This has helped speed up the hiring and induction process, besides reinforcing the transparency of the recruitment process.

Complaint Management System (CMS)

The Complaint Management System (CMS) was developed and deployed at the ECP Secretariat, Provincial Election Commissioner's offices, and offices of RECs/DECs in 2020, with the objective of addressing complaints received from the general public to increase transparency and accountability in line with stakeholders' expectations. Through the CMS, the general public and all stakeholders can register online complaints and track progress on their resolution. In 2023, a total of 4,148 complaints were registered and resolved. Since its launch in 2020, the system has processed 16,364 complaints.

Human Resource Management System (HRMS)

The Human Resource Management System (HRMS) provides for acquiring, storing and analysing the personal information of the employees of an organisation. It creates a smooth end-to-end process for employers to engage in conventional decision making for managing organisational hierarchies, tracking development

and progress of tasks, managing employees' attendance and other personal data. ECP has implemented the HRMS to facilitate human resource management for conducting these operations at the Secretariat level as well as in offices of all Provincial Election Commissioners. Through the HRMS, records of 3,319 employees have been digitised to date. The HRMS has the following features:

- Data entry modules of Personal Information Management which includes (Qualification, Transfer/ Postings, Promotion, PER record, Additional charge, Disciplinary Proceedings, Advances, Dependent Information, Appreciations Information and Leave record management etc.),
- Secure and encrypted data communication,
- Provision of secure user verification via email, biometrics and OTP (One Time Password),
- Machine based user login/ Registration module,
- Address library management of sections, branches and designations,
- Proper secure logging of information (activity log generation),
- Efficient, reliable and compatible with Windows operating system,
- Secure password-based Performance Evaluation Report (PER) document viewer for competent authorities,
- Generation of reports including family certificate, experience letter and employee service card,
- Biometric attendance system integration with HRMS,
- Appointment letter generation,
- System generated seniority list against place of posting.

Integrated Office Record Management System (IORMS)

An Integrated Office Record Management System (IORMS) was set up for the purpose of automation and digitisation of all archived files at the ECP Secretariat and all offices of Provincial Election Commissioners. Under this project, 2.6 million physical documents have been digitised. The second component of the IORMS project is a centralised MIS system that all branches can access to search and update data. All branches of the ECP Secretariat have access to their respective data. In the next stage of the project, all digitised records will be integrated with the "e-office" and records of the provincial and district offices will also be digitised.

Short Message Service (SMS) Solution

The SMS Solution is the Commission's in-house broadcast messaging service currently available to the office of the Chief Election Commissioner and offices of MCO, Law and Establishment Wings. This allows the transmission of messages to different groups of ECP staff as needed, in English and Urdu. The same SMS service is also used for information sharing with candidates. About one million SMS have been pushed using this system.

Helpline (051-8848888)

A telephone helpline system was launched with the purpose to disseminate information to the general public through an automated, pre-recorded set of FAQs, in both English and Urdu. A provision to engage with an operator or senior official is also included for seeking information. During the year 2023, approximately 20,000 calls were received and 200,000 plus calls have been processed since its launch in 2020.

SM Service (SMS) (8300) for voter details

The SM service of ECP facilitates the general public to check their voting status in the Electoral Rolls. Voters can access their voting details by sending their NIC numbers to a short code of "8300" from any mobile network. In the year 2023 alone, about 20 million voters checked their voting details through this service, increasing the tally to 300 million since its inception in February, 2012.



Dissemination of 8300 SMS Campaign

Social Media Accounts

To ensure transparency and to enhance public trust in the electoral process, the Commission remained active in spreading general awareness to the public through its various social media platforms for the dissemination of the following:

- Announcement of Election Schedules,
- Revision of Electoral Rolls,
- Delimitation Process,
- Provisions of Election Acts, 2017,

- Registration of vote,
- Legal matters,
- Monitoring and debunking disinformation,
- Press Releases,
- Training awareness videos,
- Public awareness messages and FAQs regarding electoral activities.

Trainings

Training is an essential component for capacity building of human resource and for providing the requisite technical skills for efficient completion of an electoral cycle. Capacity building of ECP's permanent and election official is therefore a core obligatory component of the HR structure, as provided specifically under Section 12 (a) of the Elections Act, 2017.

Mandatory Trainings

National Management Course (NMC), Senior Management Course (SMC) and Mid-Career Management Course (MCMC) are mandatory trainings for officers of Federal and Provincial Government who are at the threshold of promotion to the next scale. These are specially designed for bureaucracy to add leadership prowess to its officers. During the year 2023 eight officers from ECP attended the 37th MCMC at NIM, Islamabad, Lahore, Karachi, Peshawar and Quetta.

Internal Trainings of Officers and Officials

For the capacity building of ECP officers and officials, the following trainings were held at the Training Academy of the Commission.

BRIDGE Train the Facilitators (TtF)

The Building Resources in Democracy, Governance and Elections (BRIDGE) training is a modular professional development programme with a particular focus on electoral processes. BRIDGE represents a unique initiative where five organizations in the democracy and governance field, namely Australian Electoral Commission, International IDEA, the International Foundation for Electoral Systems, (IFES), the United Nations development programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Electoral Assistance Division (UNEAD), have jointly committed to develop, implement and maintain a comprehensive curriculum for training workshops. ECP in collaboration with BRIDGE facilitators arranged a ten days workshop, titled "Train the Facilitators (TtF)" for 18 ECP Officers between May 30, 2023 to June 8, 2023. The purpose of the workshop was to enhance skills, strengthen capacity, and increase awareness of the available set of tools and resources.



Group of ECP officers as participants of BRIDGE TIF workshop

In-Service Training

First phase of an In-Service Training (IST) was conducted for 27 newly appointed BS-17 officers between August 1, 2023, to August 11, 2023, at the Civil Service Academy (CSA) in Lahore. A second phase of the trainings was conducted for these officers at the Pakistan Electoral Academy for Democratic Practices, Research and Management (PADRM) at the ECP Secretariat in Islamabad. The IST course is designed to enhance the capacity of ECP Officers on various topics related to the electoral cycle including sessions on Legal Framework, the Elections Act and the Election Rules of 2017, besides developing the required skill set for the purpose of conducting elections and managing offices within the Commission.

Type of Training	Number of Persons Trained	Number of Trainings Conducted	Duration	Venue
In Service Training (IST) for ECP Officers (BS-17)	27	01	02 Weeks	CSA, Lahore
	29	01	02 Weeks	PADRM

Pre-Service Trainings of New Recruits

Pre-service training sessions for newly recruited employees were conducted at PADRM, Islamabad between August 4, 2023 and August 18, 2023, and Pakistan Audit and Accounts Academy (PAAA), Lahore between October 2, 2023 and October 20, 2023 respectively. These trainings aimed at enhancing the capacity of its human resources and include a detailed study of the electoral process, office procedures, management, public accounts and audit processes.

Type of Training	Number of Persons Trained	Number of Trainings Conducted	Duration	Venue
Pre-Service Training (PST) for ECP Officers	32	01	02 Weeks	PADRM
Pre-Service Training (PST) for ECP Officers (DADs)	37	01	03 Weeks	PAAA

Workplace Harassment Training for ECP Staff

One-day training was conducted for 12 ECP Officers with the objective of capacity building of the workplace harassment inquiry committees throughout the Commission. This included gender sensitisation and awareness sessions in an effort to create a more inclusive and safer environment at the workplace.

Training on Service Ethics and Harassment Act 2010

A half-day orientation session was organised for 80 ECP Officials on service ethics and on Protection against Harassment of Women at the Workplace Act, 2010.



Group of ECP officials as participants of training of Harassment Act 2010

Training of Data Entry Operators and Sub-Assistants

A one-day training was organised for 30 Data Entry Operators and sub-assistants on the EMS, Monitoring and Reporting System (MRS), Networking System and Conference Calling system. These officials were engaged at the EMCC, ECP Secretariat during the General Elections, 2024.

Training to PAS Officers by ECP Officers

Two training sessions were conducted for 45 PAS officers on the functions of the Election Commission of Pakistan at the Civil Services Academy (CSA) in Lahore. These sessions were conducted by ECP officers.



PAS officers engaged in a quiz exercise

1st Annual Conference of ECP Accounts Cadre Officers at PADRM, ECP Secretariat, Islamabad

Annual Conference of the ECP Accounts cadre was held at the PADRM, ECP Secretariat in Islamabad on October 23 and 24, 2023. This served as an opportunity for the newly recruited officers of ECP to resolve official queries with their respective DDs from all PECs.

iv. Workplace Health and Safety

The wellbeing of all staff and employees is of paramount importance to ECP. Several factors contribute to enabling a safe and conducive work environment for all employees, particularly men, women, minority groups and senior citizens. Committees are formed at the Secretariat and provincial offices of the Commission that help enforce the code of conduct. Gender sensitive trainings are also arranged for the workforce, emphasising its zero tolerance to harassment at the workplace policy.

ECP promotes a safe and healthy atmosphere in all its offices and ensures strict security measures at all entry points to its office premises, where no individual can enter without proper security checks and identity verification. This extends to the staff's personal health, which is supported by a clean work environment, a refurbished dispensary and clinic with doctors and paramedics, a gym facility and a canteen that offers clean and fresh food provided at subsidised rates. ECP followed an extended set of SOPs for COVID and dengue and logistic safety measures since the occurrence of Covid-19 in the year 2020 and continues the same practice to further ensure the safety of all personnel.

A special day care facility was established at the ECP Secretariat in 2023, equipped with air conditioners, bunk beds, TV, toys and changing areas for children. Female employees of ECP are provided a dedicated bus transport service, designated resting areas, prayer rooms, and wash rooms at the premises.

K) 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. 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 procedure to ensure a transparent system of political processes 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:

- Receive, maintain and scrutinise consolidated statements of accounts submitted by political parties on an annual basis and publication in the official gazette,
- Receive, maintain and scrutinise statements of assets and liabilities submitted by Senators and members of the Assemblies and publication in the official gazette,
- Receive, maintain and scrutinise the return of election expenses submitted by each contesting candidate after an election,
- Maintain all data of campaign finance i.e., election expenses of political parties during an election.

i. Intra Party Elections

The Political Finance Wing took all necessary steps during the year 2023 to ensure that Intra Party Elections were conducted by all Political Parties in all jurisdictions where these elections were due. Accordingly, 25 parties held their elections and forwarded results of the same to the Commission. Show-cause notices were issued in case of non-compliance and their cases were duly processed in regular hearings before the Commission.

ii. 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, on or before December 31st 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". To this end, a total of 1,190 Parliamentarians from the National and Provincial Assemblies duly submitted their Form B for the financial year ending on June 30, 2022. All data submitted on Form B was digitised for an item-wise comparison with the data of previous years and item-wise scrutiny was duly

performed on the respective assets and liabilities of Parliamentarians within the prescribed period of 120 days, thereafter it was published in the official gazette as per section 138 of the Elections Act, 2017.

iii. Consolidated Statement of Accounts (Form-D)

Under Section 210 of the Elections Act, 2017, all enlisted Political Parties are under obligation to submit their consolidated statement of accounts on "Form-D" within 60 days from the close of the financial year. Out of the 175 political parties enlisted with ECP, Form-D of 168 Political Parties were due for the financial year 2022-2023. However, 107 political parties submitted their financial statements for the financial year on the due date. Show-cause Notices were issued to 59 political parties for non-compliance, thereafter forty (40) Political Parties submitted their respective Form-D.

iv. 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, must submit their respective returns of election expenses on "Form-C" within 30 days of the publication of their name of returned candidates in the official gazette, whereas the returned candidates have to do so within 10 days from the date of polls. This is to ensure that the contesting candidates fulfil the requirements of Sections 132-134 of the Elections Act, 2017.

The scrutiny of return of election expenses submitted by the candidates in the Bye Elections was completed in due time this year, while those who failed to comply were referred to the concerned courts of the Additional District and Session Judges. Meanwhile, 14 candidates applied for condonation of delay in filing of Form-C, of which 12 condonation requests were approved by the Commission and two were denied. The Political Finance Wing conducted the scrutiny of returns of election expenses of the Senate, National and Provincial Assemblies and Bye Elections within the stipulated time as determined under section 136(1) of Election Act 2017, successfully.

The Commission approved an Action Plan for the receipt and scrutiny of Election Expenses from Returned and Contesting Candidates for the General Elections, 2024, with an objective to ensure completion of the task within the time limit authorized by Section 136 of the Elections Act, 2017.

v. Campaign Finance

Under Section 211 of the Elections Act, 2017, all enlisted political parties which have been allocated symbols under Section 216 have to submit their campaign finance accounts to the Commission after every election for scrutiny purposes. These accounts also disclose 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 underwent an amendment whereby the political parties have to submit these accounts for bye elections as well. Moreover, the limit for disclosure of contributors was increased from Rs.100,000/- to Rs.1,000,000/- in case of each contributor.

vi. Legal Reforms

The Regulation section of the Political Finance Wing has concurrently submitted multiple amendments in the election rules and regulations and forms that directly relate to the matters dealt by the Wing. During the year 2023, several proposals for amendments in different rules were prepared and forwarded to the legal reform committee through the Law Wing of ECP out of which a number of draft amendments in the Elections Act/ Rules were approved by the Commission for consideration of the Legal Reforms Committee. These are listed below:

- i. Amendment in Election Rule 2 regarding definitions.
- ii. Amendment in Election Rule 51 regarding nomination paper.
- iii. Amendments in Election Rule 134 regarding account of election expenses.
- iv. Insertion of new Election Rule 134A regarding bank account for election expenses and record thereof.
- v. Insertion of new Election Rule 134B regarding election expenses by any person on behalf of candidate.
- vi. Amendments in Election Rule 137 regarding submission of statement of assets and liabilities.
- vii. Amendments in Election Rule 158 regarding submission of certificate to the Commission relating to Intra-party election.
- viii. Amendments in Election Rule 159 regarding submission of consolidated statement of accounts to the Commission.
- ix. Amendments in Election Rule 161 regarding Submission of details of campaign finance to the Commission.
- x. Proposed Rules on Political Finance Manual 2022.
- xi. Standard format for an auditor's report on the annual accounts of a political party in Pakistan.
- xii. Guidelines for Chartered Accountants.
- xiii. Uniform accounting frame work for guidance of political parties in Pakistan for preparation and submission of consolidated statement of accounts of political party (Form D).
- xiv. Tool Kit/Training Manual for guidance of political parties.

During the year 2023, proposed amendments to the Elections Act, 2017, relating to

Political Finance were approved by the Parliament, listed below:

- i. Amendment in Section 132 relating to restriction on election expenses.
- ii. Amendment in Section 133 relating to bank account for election expenses.
- iii. Amendment in Section 203 relating to membership of political parties.
- iv. Amendment in Section 208 relating to elections within a political party.
- v. Amendment in Section 211 relating to campaign finance.

During the year 2023, the following amendments in Election Rules relating to Political finance were approved by the Election Commission:

- i. Amendment in Election Rule 51 regarding nomination papers.
- ii. Insertion of new Election Rule 134A regarding bank account for election expenses and record thereof.
- iii. Amendments in Election Rule 161 regarding submission of details of campaign finance to the Commission.

vii. Budget & Accounts

The expenditure of ECP is a charged expenditure on the Federal Consolidated Fund under Article-81(a)(ii) & 81(b) of the Constitution. The country's General Elections are a colossal activity held after five (05) years, demanding a separate budgetary line that is made to the Finance Division for the purpose of conducting the General Elections. The related expenditure is incurred through 193 Cost Centres across the country and funds are re-appropriated to the spending units by the Secretary, ECP in his authorized capacity as Principal Accounting Officer. During the financial year (F.Y.) 2023-24, Rs. 7.785 billion were allocated by the Finance Division for the regular budget of the Commission, while Rs. 47.417 billion were allocated by the Finance Division for the conduct of the General Elections, 2024. Of this amount, Rs. 5.00 billion were released by the Finance Division during F.Y. 2022-23, while the remaining amount was supposed to be released during the current financial year 2023-24. These funds will be re-appropriated to all Provincial Elections Commissioners (PECs), Regional Election Commissioners (RECs) and District Elections Commissioners (DECs), out of which, a large amount will be disbursed to the relevant District Returning Officers (DROs)/ Returning Officers (ROs) for making payments to election staff hired for the General Elections on poll day, transportation of goods and other allied activities.

ECP also conducts Local Government Elections (LGEs), the budget for which is provided by the concerned Provincial Governments and is released to ECP through the Finance Division.



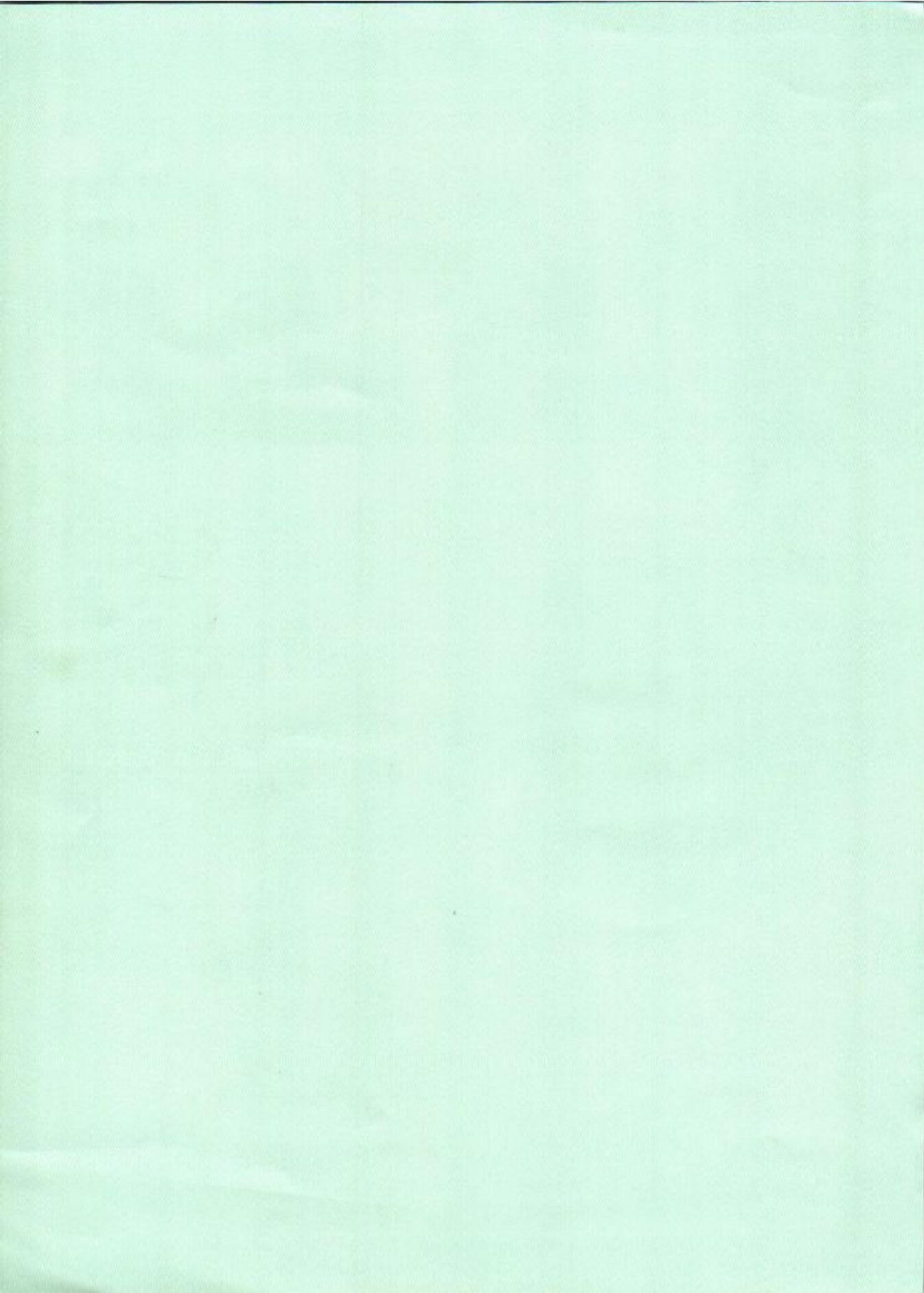
viii. Accounts

During the year 2023, a dedicated “Accounts cadre” was established in ECP with the explicit approval of the Chief Election Commissioner. Previously, there was no dedicated and specialized accounts related staff at the Commission. Accordingly, during the year 2023, recruitments were made for the positions of 36 Deputy Assistant Director (Accounts) in BPS-16 and two (02) Assistant Director (Accounts) in BPS-17. These newly recruited officers were extensively trained for two weeks at the Pakistan Electoral Academy for Democratic Practices, Research and Management (PADRM), ECP Secretariat, Islamabad, which was followed by three weeks of training at the Pakistan Audit & Accounts Academy, Lahore, under the aegis of the Auditor General of Pakistan. These Accounts cadre officers were subsequently posted in the Accounts wing at the ECP Secretariat and REC offices across the country. An Internal Audit function was also introduced at the Commission, which is also conducted through the newly established Accounts cadre.

The responsibility of the Accounts Cadre officers includes budget coordination, budget execution monitoring, expenditure reconciliation, internal controls concurrent review, internal audit and external audit coordination.

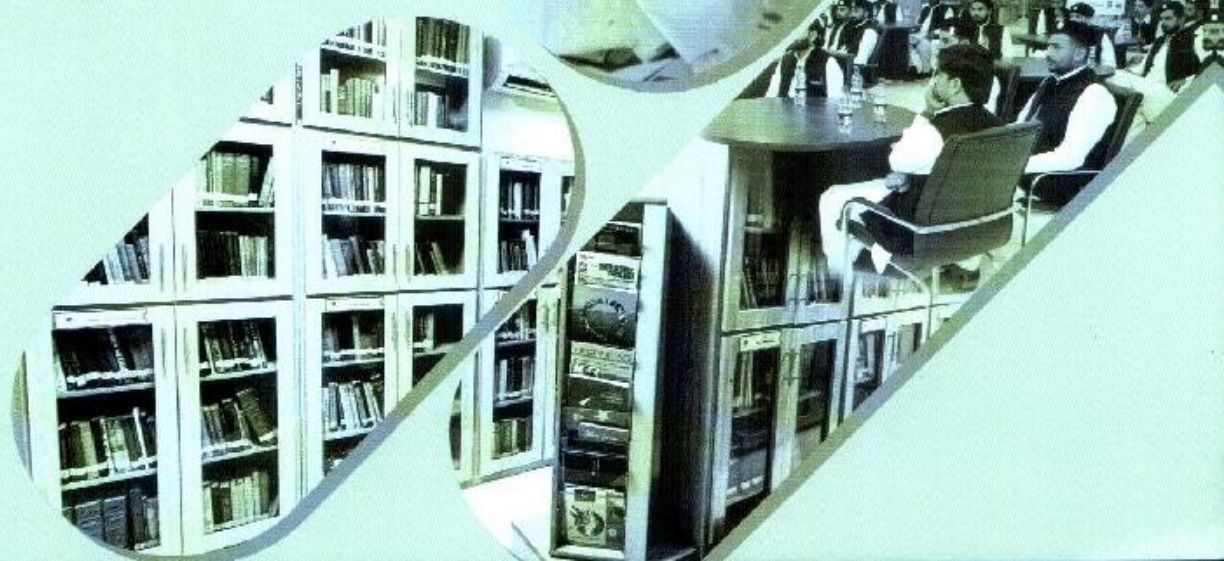
ix. Risk Management through Internal Audit and External Audit

Besides internal audit, external audit of the accounts of ECP is regularly conducted by the Auditor General of Pakistan reports are discussed at relevant forums and corrective actions are taken to improve financial management at ECP. During the year 2023, the Auditor General conducted an audit of the Election Commission for the year 2021-22 and issued an audit report, which has since then been discussed in the Departmental Accounts Committee meetings.



ANNEX-A

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Assigning Symbols to Political Parties

The Commission allocated the following symbols to 149 enlisted political parties and One (1) alliance after fulfilment of the legal criteria by these parties/ alliance:

Sr.	Name of the 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	Ballcons	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	Pashtoonkwa 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	Cardle	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)	Chitrell Cap	59

Sr.	Name of the Political Party / Alliance	Name of Symbol	Symbol Code
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	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 & Saucer	76
40	Pakistan Freedom Movement	Date Tree	78
41	Sarakistan 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 Tabdill 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
55	Pakistan Justice & Democratic Party	Gavel	118
56	Tehreek-e-Ahi-e-Sunnat Pakistan	Generator	119
57	Awami Tehreek	Ghulail	121
58	All Pakistan Minority Movement	Giraffe	122

Sr.	Name of the Political Party / Alliance	Name of Symbol	Symbol Code
59	Pakistan Muslim League (KQK)	Gun	128
60	Pakistan People's Alliance Party (A)	Hammer	129
61	Pakistan Awami Quwat	Hanger	132
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 Muthahida 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

Sr.	Name of the Political Party / Alliance	Name of Symbol	Symbol Code
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	Barabari 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-UI-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

Sr.	Name of the Political Party / Alliance	Name of Symbol	Symbol Code
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 Qouni Movement Pakistan	Television	281
128	Majlis Wahdat-e-Muslimoon Pakistan	Tent	282
129	Pakistan Falehi 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 Millil 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-Insaat Parliamentarian (PTIP)	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	Jamhoon Watan 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



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