



THE IMPACTFUL VOTER

#VOTEFORPAKISTAN

ECP's NewsLetter

January – March 2025 (Issue No 12)





Election Commission of Pakistan
Secretariat, Election House, Constitution Avenue, G-5/2, Islamabad
Celebration of Independence Day.

ELECTION COMMISSION OF PAKISTAN



کمپین کستان Empowering

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البيكشن أفصا

The Destitute

Message

Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) is untiring in its determination to enhance inclusiveness and innovation in Pakistan's electoral process. This issue of our newsletter is marking important milestones such as review meetings with the ECP's wings, introduction of revolutionary digital services, and initiatives to boost voters registration.

Our efforts extend globally, by deputing delegations inspecting secure ballot paper production in the Czech Republic and France, and observing elections in Belarus to exchange best practices in electoral process. Locally, we have prioritized voter education through targeted sessions for marginalized communities, youth, and persons with disabilities, ensuring no voice is left unheard.

From Punjab's green initiatives to Balochistan's gender-inclusive workshops, each step reflects our dedication to a participatory electoral process. This newsletter is more than an information portal but an interactive platform to connect with ECP's hard work. With engaging stories, images, and statistics, we seek to keep you posted and motivated by the progress of the commission towards free, fair, and inclusive elections.

Long live Pakistan

Mr. Sikandar Sultan Raja
Hon'ble Chief
Election Commissioner of Pakistan





From Left to Right
Member Election Commission from Punjab Mr. Babar Hassan Bharwana,
Member Election Commission from Sindh Mr. Nisar Ahmed Durrani,
Chief Election Commissioner Mr. Sikandar Sultan Raja,
Member Election Commission from Balochistan Mr. Shah Muhammad Jatui and
Member Election Commission from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Justice (R) Ikram Ullah Khan

Inaugural Ceremony Of Service Training for Newly Appointed (BS 17) Officers

The Election Commission has launched a 13-week training program for 23 newly appointed Election Officers (BPS-17) at its academy. The training, which started on April 9, 2025, will run until July 4, 2025.

Chief Election Commissioner, Mr. Sikandar Sultan Raja, inaugurated the training and congratulated the officers, emphasizing that their appointments were based on merit. He highlighted the importance of

understanding election laws, constitutional duties, and modern technology to manage elections effectively.

The training will cover electoral laws, voter registration, polling procedures, and office operations, with practical demonstrations included. Hon'ble CEC urged officers to focus on the training and serve with integrity and professionalism.



Weekly Meeting with Heads of ECP's wings to review ongoing activities

The Hon'ble Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) convened a meeting with the heads of all the ECP's constituent wings to review ongoing activities, assess their progress and deliberate on critical electoral matters. These meetings are held regularly as part of the ECP's institutional framework.

By fostering open dialogue among senior officials, the sessions aim to streamline coordination, address operational challenges and ensure timely follow-ups on election-related tasks.



ECP Urges Punjab Government to Expedite Local Government Elections Process

The Election Commission, under the chairmanship of Mr. Sikandar Sultan Raja, convened a meeting with the Chief Secretary (CS) and Secretary of Local Government and Rural Development (LG&RD), Punjab, regarding the conduct of Local Government (LG) Elections in Punjab and the devolution of powers to the grassroots level. On the plea of the Chief Secretary, the legislation process is in progress, the ECP directed the Punjab government to expedite the process to ensure timely local government elections. Hon'ble Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja emphasized that the ECP is constitutionally obligated to conduct these elections. However, delays often occur when provincial governments


amend laws, forcing the Commission to restart preparations. While the ECP has successfully conducted local government elections in three provinces and cantonments, it continues to face challenges in Punjab due to frequent changes in electoral laws by successive governments. The Punjab government has assured the ECP that it is working on the Local Government Act, which is being laid soon before the Punjab Assembly for legislation. The provincial government has also expressed its full commitment to support the Commission in conduct of LG elections in the province without further delay.



Inauguration Of Biometric Integration In CERS

The Chief Election Commissioner, Mr. Sikandar Sultan Raja, inaugurated the biometric integration in Computerized Electoral Rolls System (CERS) on 04-03-2025. Through this system, the Commission introduced an additional security feature of user authentication in CERS. This feature

includes user verification through fingerprint authentication to log in to the CERS. The Hon'ble CEC successfully logged into the CERS through his thumb impression, which was successfully verified through the NADRA's civil registry.



الیکشن کمیشن آف پاکستان

Computerized Electoral Rolls System

Voter Statistics					
	Male	Female	Total		
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	12,331,455	54,39	10,345,657	45.62	22,677,313
Punjab	47,079,688	33.33	36,985,450	46.77	73,164,121
Balochistan	3,718,096	56.01	2,448,581	43.99	5,566,677
Sindh	13,113,467	34.03	12,838,595	49.97	27,952,062
Grand Total	71,636,687	55.71	61,743,483	48.29	133,380,172

Section 25 - Pending Data Entry (Percentage)					
	Fresh/Modified CRC Assigned	Left Over CRC Not Assigned	Cross District	Death	Canceled
Balochistan	3%	100%	2%	100%	0%
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	3%	100%	2%	0%	0%
Punjab	8%	88%	6%	34%	100%
Sindh	78%	79%	36%	88%	0%

Section 37 Progress		
DEO Done	BO Done	BO Remaining

Hon'ble Chief Election Commissioner Launches Digital Services for ECP

On 27th January 2025, the Hon'ble Chief Election Commissioner inaugurated the Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) Digital Services, marking a major step forward in modernizing electoral management. This initiative aims to improve public engagement and streamline operations, making services more accessible for both officials and the public.

The launch of these digital services is part of the ECP's commitment to greater transparency, efficiency, and public service. By integrating advanced technology, the ECP is not only enhancing its operational capabilities but also empowering citizens with direct access to key services.

These services are designed to improve the electoral process by reducing administrative burdens, ensuring data accuracy, and enhancing communication between the ECP and the public. They also optimize

internal workflows, speed up processes, and allow for real-time data management.

For the public, these digital platforms offer unprecedented access to services, such as filing complaints and tracking them in real time. This initiative empowers citizens to actively participate in the electoral process, making their voices heard and their concerns addressed. The ECP is dedicated to continuously expanding and improving its digital services to better serve the nation.

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Presidential Election in Belarus Glimpses from Pakistan's Representatives

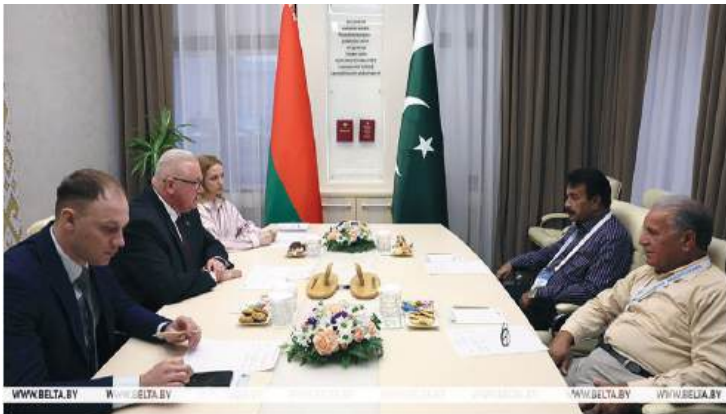
On an invitation from the Central Election Commission (CEC) of the Republic of Belarus, the Hon'ble Members Election Commission of Pakistan Mr. Nisar Ahmed Durrani (MEC-I) and Mr. Shah Muhammad Jatoi (MEC-II) as international observer, observed the Presidential elections of the Republic of Belarus from 24-28 January, 2025.

The Chairman of the Central Election Commission of Belarus Mr. Igor Karpenko before the elections, in a bilateral meeting with Hon'ble MECs of Pakistan highlighted that in five days of early voting in Belarus' presidential election, 41.81% of registered voters have casted their votes, voter turnout was quite high. Early voting took place on 21-25 January, 2025 for the people who will not be able to go to polling stations on 26th January, 2025 and during early voting the precinct commissions worked from 12:00 to 19:00 without break. On the main election day the voters will be able to cast their ballots from 08:00hrs to 20:00hrs. CEC of Belarus further informed that CEC information center has accredited more than 800 journalists, including more than 300 foreign ones. Plus 486 international observers are accredited who came from 52 countries for observing election process. During the meeting, CEC of Belarus assured cooperation throughout international observation and expressed interest in exchanging information and electoral practices. Before elections, in a ceremony the CEC of Belarus opened the Information Center of the Central Election Commission in Minsk, Belarus. The information center hosted a meeting of the Advisory Council of Heads of Electoral Bodies of the CIS member states and the Youth Tournament on 24 January, 2025. An exhibition dedicated to the 35th

Anniversary of the establishment of the CEC of Belarus was also arranged at the center.

Hon'ble MECs visited number of polling stations, and at each of them seen entire voting process. Polling stations across the country opened at 08:00hrs. The first time voters (who have just turned 18) were given gifts – a book about the country's symbols, as well as sweatshirts with the inscription "This is my first vote". Special measures were taken to facilitate voting for persons with disabilities, voting premises were arranged on the first floors of buildings; there were ramps, proper lighting, magnifying glasses and stencils for visually impaired and blind voters. Information materials about the candidates were available in Braille. 5,325 polling stations were set up all over the country during the presidential election. Polling stations in hospitals, healthcare institutions, some military units did not work on the days of early voting, they worked only on 26th January, 2025 on poll day. The Culture Ministry provided free visits to museums of Minsk for international observers, while councils of deputies offered free travel in municipal public transport on election day.

Voter turnout in **Belarus' presidential election** was **56.64%** as of 12:00 noon on poll day, in line with the law of the Republic of Belarus, the election is deemed valid if more than half of eligible registered voters take part in the voting. The population of Belarus is 9,228,070 where registered voters were 6,903,994. **Voter turnout** during the **presidential election** was **85.70%**



Hon'ble Members Election Commission of Pakistan Mr. Nisar Ahmed Durrani (MEC-I) and Mr. Shah Muhammad Jatoi (MEC-II) in bilateral meeting with the Chairman of the Central Election Commission of Belarus Mr. Igor Karpenko in Belarus on 25th January, 2025.



Hon'ble Members Election Commission of Pakistan Mr. Nisar Ahmed Durrani (MEC-I) and Mr. Shah Muhammad Jatoi (MEC-II) along with the Chairman of the Central Election Commission of Belarus Mr. Igr Karpenko visited the newly opened Information Center of the Central Election Commission in Minsk, Belarus

ECP Inspects Special Watermarked Paper Production in Czech Republic

The ECP's delegation has successfully completed its inspection visits to M/s SPM in the Czech Republic. The visit focused on overseeing the production and quality control of Special Watermarked Paper, being procured by the Commission for future elections. Mr. Khurram Shehzad, Additional Director General (Law), and Syed Abid Hussain Shah, Deputy

Director (GS) carried inspection. During the visits, the teams held discussions with the management of the paper mills and inspected their facilities and quality of paper. The use of Special Watermarked Paper is mandatory under Section 71(4) of The Election Act, 2017, to protect the credibility of the electoral process.



ECP delegation meets with officials from M/s SPM, Czech Republic.

A group photo of the ECP's representatives with the representatives of M/S SPM

ECP Delegation Visits France for Special Watermarked Paper Inspection

The ECP has sent a delegation to inspect the production of Special Watermarked Paper by M/s Vicat in France. Mr. Mahmood Ahmad Khan, Additional Director General (Budget and Accounts), and Ms. Mahnoor Khan, Assistant Director (GS), thoroughly assessed the paper's quality,

security features, and durability to prevent counterfeiting. The use of Special Watermarked Paper is crucial for maintaining the authenticity of ballot papers and ensuring transparent election in the country



ECP delegation visits M/s Vicat in France to inspect the production of Special Watermarked Paper

ECP's Secretary Chairs Virtual Meeting on Budgetary Affairs for Upcoming Elections

On Thursday, 23 January 2025, Mr. Omar Hamid Khan, Secretary of the Election Commission, chaired a virtual meeting with Regional and District Election Commissioners to discuss crucial budgetary matters. The meeting focused on the allocation and rationalization of funds to ensure financial transparency and efficiency in the utilization of budget. The Secretary emphasized the need for fiscal discipline while addressing the operational requirements of election activities. The session also

reviewed progress on previous budgetary goals and discussed strategies for resource allocation in the upcoming electoral cycle. Election Commissioners from across the country shared insights on local challenges, such as updating voter's registration systems and securing polling stations in remote areas, highlighting the ECP's ongoing commitment to improving voter's facilitation and ensuring smooth election operations.



ECP Hosts Successful Dialogue on Gender Mainstreaming and Social Inclusion Framework

The ECP, in collaboration with the IFES, organized a two-days consultative dialogue on the "Gender Mainstreaming and Social Inclusion Framework (GIMSIF)". The event aimed to refine strategies for integrating gender equality and social inclusion into Pakistan's electoral processes. It brought together ECP officials, IFES representatives, civil society organizations, 21 female parliamentarians from the Sindh Assembly and political party representatives. Through interactive discussions,

participants identified challenges, shared best practices, and proposed actionable steps to be implemented through GIMSIF framework effectively. Mr. Omar Hamid Khan, Secretary Election Commission, Provincial Election Commissioner Sindh Mr. Sharifullah and Additional Director for Gender & Social Inclusion Ms. Nighat Siddique outlined the framework's objectives. The event concluded with recommendations to advance gender equality and social inclusion within Pakistan's electoral



Secretary ECP Visits Office of Provincial Election Commission Sindh to Review Progress

On January 2, 2025, Mr. Omar Hamid Khan, Secretary Election Commission, visited the office of the Provincial Election Commission (PEC) Sindh to assess the progress of ongoing initiatives and address official matters. During his visit, he reviewed various programs, including voter registration campaign, capacity-building efforts, and the implementation of electoral reforms. Mr. Khan held detailed discussions with PEC Sindh officials, emphasizing the importance of aligning tasks

with the ECP's strategic goals and ensuring timely execution. He also addressed operational challenges, offering guidance on resolving issues efficiently. Commending the efforts of the Sindh team, he encouraged continued dedication to transparency and excellence in the electoral process. The visit reaffirmed the ECP's commitment to strengthening field operations and ensuring preparedness for future elections.



Provincial Voter Education Committee (PVEC) Meeting Punjab

To improve voter education across the provinces, the MCO Wing of the Commission has updated the Terms of Reference (ToRs) for the Provincial Voter Education Committees (PVECs). These TORs will pave the way for better assistance to the District Voter Education Committees (DVECs) in addressing any issue relating to public awareness in the province

In February, a meeting of the Provincial Voter Education Committee

(PVEC) Punjab was held, bringing together representatives from educational institutions and civil society organizations (CSOs). The participants shared valuable feedback and suggestions aimed at improving education and fostering better collaboration. The discussion centered on collaboration of educational initiatives regarding electoral process and working together to strengthen voter awareness and engagement across the region



Provincial Voter Education Committee (PVEC) Meeting Balochistan

A meeting of Provincial Voter Education Committee (PVEC) was held on 26th February 2025 in the O/o Provincial Election Commissioner (PEC) Balochistan. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Shabbar Abbas Bukhari, Joint Provincial Election Commissioner (Admin), Balochistan. The chair welcomed the participants and outlined the objectives of the PVEC as

mandated by the Election Commission of Pakistan. The discussions focused on addressing voter and civic education challenges and issues that cannot be resolved at the district level. The session floated various suggestions in resolving the issues and provided guidelines for improvement in voters education at district level.



PEC Sindh, Mr. Sharifullah chaired fortnightly meeting with REC's of Sindh Province at the Office of PEC, Sindh

Provincial Election Commissioner Sindh, Mr. Sharifullah, chaired a fortnightly meeting with Regional Election Commissioners at the PEC Sindh office on 13-01-2025. Joint Provincial Election Commissioner (Elections), Mr. Sain Bakhsh Channar was also in attendance. The meeting focused on key administrative issues, emphasizing to enhance coordination between regional and district offices, and to address the challenges having faced by the field offices. The session concluded with a review of progress reports from each regional office and the establishment of actionable points for the next two weeks to ensure continued readiness and efficiency.



INSPECTION OF STORES/GODOWNS BY PEC PUNJAB

The Provincial Election Commissioner Punjab, Mr. Aijaz Anwer Chohan, along with the Regional Election Commissioner (REC) D.G. Khan, Mr. Muhammad Shakeel, visited the offices of the District Election Commissioners in Muzaffargarh and D.G. Khan to monitor various official

activities. The PEC Punjab inspected the condition, location, and management of stores/godowns, ensuring compliance with the standard operating procedures and guidelines issued by the Election Commission of Pakistan.



Visit to DEC D. G. Khan



Visit to DEC Muzaffargarh

JPEC Punjab Mr. Abdul Qayyum Shinwari Leads GDEWG Meeting

JPEC Punjab, Mr. Abdul Qayyum Shinwari, recently chaired a meeting of the Gender and Disability Electoral Working Group (GDEWG). The meeting was attended by the members of GDEWG i.e. representatives from Aurat Foundation, Voice Society for disabled persons, Sangat, Bedari, AGAHE etc. The meeting focused on enhancing electoral inclusivity and discussed

strategies to improve accessibility and representation for women and persons with disabilities in the electoral process. It was an important step towards ensuring that elections are more inclusive and fair for all citizens.



Meeting with the members of GDEWG on Civic & Voter Education held at PEC office Sindh

The first quarterly meeting of the Gender and Disability Electoral Working Group (GDEWG) on "Civic and Voter Education for Marginalized Communities" was held at the office of the Provincial Election Commissioner Sindh, Karachi, on 25th February 2025. The meeting was chaired by Joint Provincial Election Commissioner (Admn) Mr. Tahir Mansoor Khan and Joint Provincial Election Commissioner (Elections) Mr. Sain Bakhsh Channar.

The meeting focused on strengthening voter education initiatives for vulnerable groups, including women, persons with disabilities, minorities, and the transgender community. Participants discussed

accessibility issues, voter registration challenges, and the implementation of inclusive electoral policies in Sindh to create a more inclusive voter society where everyone can contribute to a better democratic environment.

ECP officers and civil society representatives attended the meeting, where they discussed improving outreach strategies to ensure greater electoral participation. The meeting concluded with a set of valuable recommendations aimed at promoting awareness campaigns and strengthening efforts for a free, fair, accessible and inclusive electoral process for people from all walks of life.



The 1st quarterly meeting with the members of GDEWG on "Civic & Voter Education for Marginalized Communities" Sindh was held at the office of PEC Sindh, Karachi under the chairmanship of JPEC (Admn) Mr. Tahir Mansoor Khan & JPEC (Elections) Mr. Sain Bakhsh Channar

PEC Punjab Organizes Educational Visit for FC College

The PEC Punjab, Mr. Aijaz Anwer Chohan, hosted students from Forman Christian College University, Lahore, on an exposure and study visit at the premises of PEC Punjab Hqs. The Joint Provincial Election Commissioner (Elections), Mr. Abdul Qayyum Shinwari and Joint Provincial Election Commissioner (Admn) Mr. Abdul Hafeez and Regional Election Commissioner Lahore Mr. Majid Sharif Dogar also joined the briefing. An introductory briefing on the event was delivered by Deputy Director MCO,

Ms. Huda Ali Gohar. Ms. Ayra Indrias patras, Assistant Professor F.C. College University and member of the National Commission on Status of Women expressed her gratitude to the PEC Punjab. The PEC Punjab briefed the students on the importance of registration and casting of votes. He emphasized the students to take part in Electoral Processes for the prosperity of the country



Planting Hope: PEC Punjab Green Initiative

In a powerful gesture of environmental stewardship, Provincial Election Commissioner Mr. Aijaz Anwer Chohan, joined by Joint Provincial Election Commissioners Mr. Abdul Qayyum Shinwari and Mr. Abdul Hafeez, planted a tree in the premises of office of PEC Punjab office, Lahore. The simple act of landscaping symbolized the Election Commission's commitment to nurturing institutional integrity and national growth. As the sapling

took root, Mr. Chohan's heartfelt prayers transcended the ecological moment, blessing the dedicated election officials and expressing a profound wish for Pakistan's prosperity. This significant gesture demonstrated that public servants are not merely administrators, but active caretakers of the nation's future, planting seeds of hope both literally and metaphorically.



Inauguration of INVR5 on International Women's Day

On International Women's Day, the Hon'ble CEC, Mr. Sikandar Sultan Raja inaugurated the INVR5 initiative, focusing on women's inclusion in the voters registration process. This initiative aims to enhance women's participation in electoral process by addressing the barriers they face in registration of votes. The event highlighted the importance of ensuring equal access to voter registration for all, especially women in rural and remote areas. It also emphasized the need for community outreach and collaboration to overcome challenges and increase women's involvement in the electoral process. This launch marks a significant step towards strengthening gender equality and social inclusion within Pakistan's electoral system, ensuring that women are represented and their voices are heard in the democratic process.



ECP Holds Workshop to Review Strategic Plan 2019-2023

The ECP recently held a workshop to review the progress and outcomes of its Strategic Plan for 2019-2023. The session brought together key officials to assess the implementation of various initiatives outlined in the plan, identify challenges, and discuss areas for improvement. Through collaborative discussions, the workshop aimed to refine

strategies and ensure that future plans align with the evolving needs of the electoral process. This review reflects the ECP's commitment to continuous improvement and achieving its long-term objectives for free, fair, and transparent elections in Pakistan.



ECP Conducts Successful Training on PPRA Rules and e-PADS

A three-day training session was held at the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) Secretariat, Islamabad, from February 11 to 13, February 2025. A special team from the central office of PPRA (Public Procurement Regulatory Authority) was invited to conduct this training. Over the course of three days, the team provided detailed awareness on **"PPRA Rules and Regulations and the e-Pak Acquisition & Disposal System (e-PADS)."**

A total of 22 officers from the Election Commission participated in this training, including officers from the Secretariat and provincial offices. The primary objective of this training was to facilitate the transition of ECP officers and teams from the traditional tendering system to the e-tendering system, i.e., e-PADS.



A group photo of the Participants of the training on e-PADS.

Training Session for ECP Officers on Uploading of Election Forms on ECP'S Website

On the direction of the Commission, a training session was organized at the office of the Provincial Election Commissioner in Quetta to sensitize the ECP's officers on uploading Forms 48 ,47 ,46 ,45, and 49 on ECP website. The session aimed to provide ECP's officers with the necessary skills and knowledge for the efficient and accurate uploading of these

forms.

This initiative is part of the ECP's ongoing efforts to streamline electoral processes and ensure compliance with regulatory standards. The session emphasized the importance of maintaining accuracy in different official assignments.



ECP Arranges Specialized digital training in Sindh

From March 20-21, 2025, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) conducted a specialized digital training program for election officials across Sindh province. Led by Col. Muhammad Saad Ali, Project Director of ECP's Project Management Unit (PMU), the two-day session equipped Provincial Headquarters staff and District Election Commissioners (DECs) with essential skills to effectively utilize ECP's digital platforms. The comprehensive training focused on practical applications of ECP's digital tools, including online attendance systems, advanced data management solutions, and transparent election management applications. Col. Saad Ali emphasized how these technological solutions would enhance operational efficiency and accountability in electoral

processes. Notably, the sessions were attended by senior officials including Provincial Election Commissioner Mr. Sharifullah and Joint Provincial Election Commissioner (Elections) Mr. Sain Bakhsh Channar, demonstrating organizational commitment to digital transformation.

This initiative represents a significant milestone in ECP's efforts to modernize election management systems in Sindh. By building digital capacity among election officials, the Commission aims to streamline operations, improve service delivery, and strengthen public trust in electoral processes. The training program aligns with ECP's broader vision of leveraging technology to conduct more transparent and efficient elections across Pakistan.



Digital Services Training in Balochistan

A two-day training session was organized by the Project Management Unit of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to explore the ECP's Digital Services and use of mobile application developed for Complaint Management System (CMS). The session was held on February 24-25, 2025, at the Office of the Provincial Election Commissioner in Balochistan. Provincial Election Commissioner Mr. Muhammad Farid Afridi delivered the opening remarks, setting the tone for the compre-

hensive training. Mr. Sajjad Hussain, Database Specialist, and Syed Sana-ul-Haq Fazli, Developer, conducted the training session. The primary objective was to educate participants on the Project Management Unit's plans for implementing a robust digital platform that would enhance the effectiveness and operational efficiency of ECP's processes through advanced technological solutions.



Training for Polling Officials for Bye-Election in NA-213 Umerkot

The ECP took proactive steps and organizing a comprehensive training session for Presiding Officers and Assistant Presiding Officers to ensure smooth conduct of poll during bye-elections in NA -213 Umerkot. Regional Election Commissioner Mirpurkhas, Mr. Imtiaz Ali Kalhoro, and District Election Commissioner Umerkot, Mr. Tayyab Bukhari, led the training in Umerkot District, ensuring full and active participation from

all election officials. The ECP emphasized the importance of a free, fair, transparent, and inclusive election, ensuring that all polling officials were well-prepared for their roles in the upcoming Bye-Election. This effort reflects the ECP's commitment to maintaining the integrity of the electoral process.



Training On Workplace Harassment And Ethics

The Office of the Provincial Election Commissioner (PEC) Sindh recently organized intensive training sessions on "Workplace Harassment & Ethics" to educate staff on the key provisions of the Harassment Act 2010 and raise awareness of gender sensitivity. The training, designed by the Gender & Social Inclusion (GSI) Branch, aimed to foster a respectful and ethical work environment within the institution. Led by experienced

ECP officers, including Deputy Director Law Abdullah Hanjrah, Deputy Director Gender & Social Inclusion Sayed Abdullah Shah, and others, highlighted the covered crucial aspects of workplace conduct. Seven sessions were held at the PEC Sindh Headquarters, with a focus on staff members in BS-16 and below. The office also plans to extend this initiative by training staff across the province



In-Service Training Of Newly Appointed EOs at Pakistan's Electoral Academy For Democratic Practices, Research And Management (PADRM) Convened A Meeting To Review Training Material For The Training Newly Recruited Officers To Ensure Covering All Aspects Of Training

The Training Wing at the Pakistan Electoral Academy for Democratic Practices, Research and Management (PADRM) held a meeting to review and refine the training material for newly appointed Election Officers.

The goal was to ensure that the content covers all key aspects of their in-service training.



Training session on fire safety and fire control Measures in District Hafizabad



The Civil Defense Department conducted a comprehensive training session on fire safety, fire control measures, and the proper use of fire extinguishers. This training was organized by the District Election Commissioner (DEC) Hafizabad for all officers and officials working in DEC office. The session aimed to enhance preparedness and response capabilities in case of fire emergencies, ensuring that staff members are well-equipped with practical knowledge and hands-on experience to handle such situations effectively."

Establishment of Election Monitoring and Control Centre for Monitoring of Elections of PB-45, and Local Council, Quetta, Balochistan

The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has established a 24/7 Election Monitoring and Control Centre to ensure transparent and fair elections for PB-45 and Local Council in Quetta, Balochistan. Operating from both, a central secretariat and field offices, to monitor polling activities, enforce electoral laws, and address complaints in real time.

The Centre manages grievances via helpline (015-111327000), fax (051-9204404), and email complaints@ecp.gov.pk, while coordinating with authorities and deploying rapid-response teams to tackle issues like voter intimidation and violations of Code of Conduct issued by the ECP.



Monitoring of Local Council Elections in Quetta



PB-45 Bye-Election Monitoring- Election Commission of Pakistan Provincial Office, Quetta, Balochistan



PB-45 Bye Election, A female polling station



PB-45 Bye Election, A male polling station

Youth voting awareness session at Agriculture University Umerkot campus

Regional Election Commissioner (REC) Mirpurkhas, Mr. Imtiaz Ali Kalhoro, participated in a Youth Voting Awareness Session at Agriculture University, Umerkot Campus, aimed at educating students on the importance of voting and encouraging youth participation in elections. During his address, Mr. Kalhoro emphasized the power of the youth vote in shaping a democratic society and urged students to register as voters

and exercise their right to vote during elections. The session included an interactive discussion where students raised questions about voter registration, election procedures, and the role of youth in governance. The event concluded with a commitment from the participants to spread voter awareness among their peers, highlighting the crucial role of informed and active citizenship in strengthening democracy.



عمرکوٹ: ریجنل الیکشن کمشنر میرپورخاص امتیاز علی کلہوڑو، ڈسٹرکٹ الیکشن کمشنر عمرکوٹ سید طیب زوار اور اسسٹنٹ کمشنر عمرکوٹ رجب علی سٹھیو سیمینار سے خطاب کر رہے ہیں۔



Voter Awareness Session at Guru Nanak University, Nankana Sahib

The District Election Commissioner of Nankana Sahib, Roy Sultan Bhatti, conducted a Voter Awareness Session at Guru Nanak University, Nankana Sahib, emphasizing the crucial role of youth in the electoral process. Addressing students and faculty, Mr. Bhatti encouraged young voters to actively participate in elections, highlighting how their votes are key to shaping the nation's future. He stressed the importance of civic

responsibility, urging students to register as voters, stay informed about the electoral process, and vote thoughtfully. The session also covered topics such as voter rights, election transparency, and the impact of youth involvement in strengthening democracy. The event concluded with an interactive Q&A session, where participants had the opportunity to clarify their doubts about voter registration and election procedures.



Voices of Democracy: Bridging the Gender Gap in Electoral Participation

In a groundbreaking initiative to amplify women's voices in the democratic process, the District Election Commissioner Toba Tek Singh, Mr. Tauseef Qadir, spearheaded a collaborative effort with and brought mobile CNIC registration directly to Government Women Degree College. By deploying a specialized Mobile Registration Van, the ECP created a transformative opportunity for female students and faculty members to seamlessly obtain national identity cards and voter registration. Mr.

Qadir's accompanying Voter Awareness Session went beyond mere registration, inspiring young women to recognize their pivotal role in shaping Pakistan's electoral landscape. Through comprehensive guidance on voter registration procedures and passionate discourse on electoral participation, the program aimed to dismantle barriers, empower women, and illuminate the profound impact of their democratic rights.



Voter Awareness Session for Transgender Community in Layyah

An orientation session on voter awareness was organized by the District Election Commissioner (DEC) Layyah, Mr. Aber Farooque, to engage the transgender community in the electoral process. The session focused on educating participants about their voting rights, registration procedures, and the importance of inclusive democratic participation. By addressing

barriers to participation and encouraging open dialogue, the initiative reinforced the Election Commission of Pakistan's commitment to ensuring equal representation for marginalized groups, promoting a more inclusive and democratic society.



DVEC Meeting, Battagram

The District Election Commissioner (DEC), Battagram held a meeting on 18-2-2025. In the meeting he stressed the importance of inclusive voter education, aiming to engage diverse communities, particularly the transgender community, youth, persons with disabilities, women and

students. He noted, contributes to building a just and inclusive society where the rights and voices of all are valued. Participants in the session pledged their commitment for organizing awareness sessions at the local level and offered their full support for this important initiative.



District Voter Education Committee Meetup Hafizabad

On 21st March 2025, the District Voter Education Committee convened a meeting under the chairmanship of District Election Commissioner, Mr. Khalid Rasheed, in Hafizabad. The session was organized as part of a coordinated outreach campaign aimed at engaging youth and encouraging their active participation in the electoral process. Key discussions focused on strategies to enhance voter awareness, educate

young voters on their rights, and improve overall voter turnout in upcoming elections. The committee emphasized the importance of youth involvement in elections and explored innovative methods such as social media campaigns, interactive workshops, and campus drives to mobilize young voters.



Empowering the Transgender Community and the Inclusion in Electoral Process

A session aimed at ensuring the active participation of the transgender community in the electoral process was held, focusing on promoting inclusive voter registration. The District Election Commissioner (DEC) Mardan briefed the participants on the voter enrollment procedure, and participants checked their voter status using the ECP's 8300 SMS service. While many transgender individuals were already registered,

others filled Form 21 for fresh enrollment. The DEC emphasized that voting is a fundamental right, empowering the transgender community to influence policies and decisions that affect their lives. Participants expressed gratitude for the ECP's efforts in promoting their electoral inclusion, and community leaders pledged full coordination with the ECP throughout the process.



Awareness Session, Social Welfare, Special Education and Women Empowerment Department, Abbottabad

A voter education and awareness session was held at the Social Welfare, Special Education, and Women Empowerment Department in Abbottabad, on 20-02-2025. It was attended by DVEC members, 22 transgender individuals, key officials and other stakeholders. The session emphasized the importance of voting in the country's development and clarified the provisions of Section 48 of the Elections Act, 2017, which aims to

expedite the issuance of National Identity Cards for marginalized groups, ensuring their participation in the electoral process. To further facilitate voter registration, a NADRA representative assured provision of Mobile Registration Van (MRV) in areas where transgender communities reside, making the registration process more accessible and inclusive.



Promoting Voter Participation and Inclusivity in Peshawar

The District Election Commissioner (DEC) of Peshawar held a DVEC meeting on 06-02-2025. He highlighted significant advancements in voter registration. Emphasizing the Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) dedication to inclusivity, the DEC stressed the need to empower marginalized communities—particularly women, transgender individuals,

and persons with disabilities—to exercise their voting rights without barriers. He highlighted that NADRA and the Social Welfare Department will collaborate closely to resolve CNIC-related challenges faced by transgender citizens, ensuring their seamless enrollment in the electoral process.



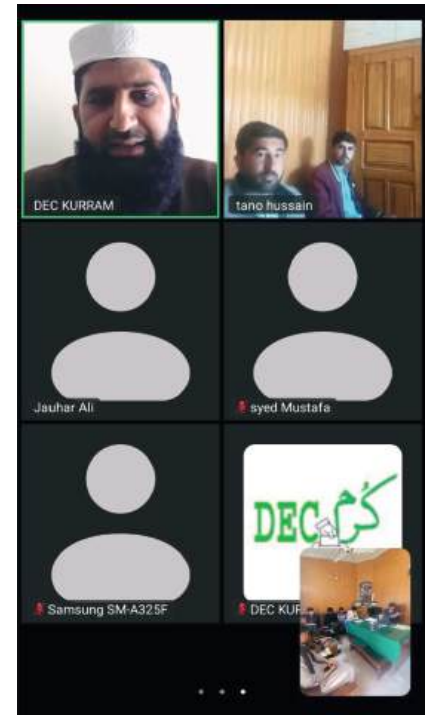
A speech competition at Swabi

An awareness session was successfully conducted at Government High School Zarabi on 19-03-2025 drawing enthusiastic participation from students and staff. The event was led by the District Election Commissioner, school Principal and Election Officer Swabi. They focused on educating students about electoral processes and the significance of voter engagement. Speakers urged youth to obtain their CNICs,

emphasizing their pivotal role in boosting voter turnout. The program also featured a speech competition on themes "Importance of Youth Participation in Elections" and "Vote is Not Only a Right but Also Power," encouraging thoughtful discourse. The session concluded with certificate distribution to competition winners, inspiring active civic responsibility among participants.



Digital Democracy: Mobilizing Young Voices in Kurram



In a dynamic online initiative, the District Election Commissioner's Office in Kurram, Parachinar, connected young voices from diverse villages, transforming digital platforms into a catalyst for democratic participation on 19-03-2025. The Zoom meeting illuminated the critical importance of voting, offering participants a comprehensive roadmap to voter registration that demystified the electoral process. Beyond procedural guidance, the session passionately explored youth's potential

in strengthening Pakistan's democratic framework, encouraging participants to become ambassadors of voter awareness through the Student Awareness and Education Program. By leveraging technology to bridge geographical barriers, the ECP demonstrated its commitment to nurturing informed citizens prepared to shape the nation's electoral future and enhance voter turnout in upcoming elections.

Youth Takes the Voting Helm, Lakki Marwat

The District Election Commissioner's office, Laki Marwat conducted an engaging session designed to inspire political participation among young Pakistanis on 20-3-2025. By showcasing innovative voter registration systems and targeted initiatives for youth inclusion, officials brought electoral processes closer to emerging generations. The interactive dialogue transcended mere information sharing,

highlighting the transformative power of voting and civic engagement. Demystifying registration procedures, the session emphasized how each ballot represents a critical step in shaping Pakistan's democratic landscape, empowering young citizens to become active architects of their nation's future.



An Innovative Electoral Literacy Session With Young Cricket Players, Buner

The District Election Commissioner (DEC) organized an innovative electoral literacy session with young cricket players, blending sports enthusiasm with civic education 19.03.2025. This interactive meetup engaged diverse participants including DVEC members and local youth, emphasizing inclusive electoral participation. Attendees praised the initiative's focus on reaching underrepresented groups through

accessible voter education. The DEC reinforced every citizen's right to equal participation in electoral processes, while participants noted how such creative approaches effectively highlight marginalized voices. By leveraging cricket's popularity, the event successfully promoted electoral awareness among youth, demonstrating the ECP's commitment to innovative voter outreach and inclusive democracy strengthening.



Voter Education Event, Lower Dir

The District Election Commissioner (DEC) organized a voter education event to promote inclusive electoral participation, emphasizing equal voting rights for all eligible citizens on 05-03-2025. Targeting diverse groups including women, persons with disabilities (PWDs), and

marginalized communities, the initiative successfully engaged local representatives, religious scholars, and community leaders. The DEC reinforced the principle of equal electoral access, while attendees noted the initiative's success in amplifying voices of often-excluded groups.



A Youth Awareness Session at Mohmand

A voter awareness session was organized on 20-03-2025 at Govt College of Management & Science, District Mohmand, engaging youth and students to emphasize their pivotal role in elections. The session highlighted voting as both a constitutional right and civic duty that empowers young citizens to shape national development. By exercising

their voting rights, young people can directly play their role in policy-making and elect leaders aligned with their aspirations. Such awareness initiatives cultivate responsible citizenship, motivating the youth to actively engage in democratic processes for a more progressive Pakistan



A Youth Awareness Session at Mardan

In accordance with the directions of the ECP, DEC Mardan organized a voter awareness session for youth and students at Government Post Graduate College, Mardan, on 18-3-2025. The session commenced with a recitation from the Holy Quran, setting a solemn and respectful tone. The District Election Commissioner, Mardan, provided a comprehensive briefing on the voter enrollment procedure and emphasized the significance of the ECP's 8300 SMS service. Participants actively engaged

in the session by checking their voter status through the 8300 SMS service. While many students were already registered as voters. Form 21 was distributed to facilitate fresh enrollments for those not yet registered. The session concluded with a heartfelt vote of thanks, acknowledging the enthusiastic participation of students and their commitment to the electoral process.



A Youth Awareness at Abbottabad

The DEC Abbottabad, Mr. Naveed Ur Rehman, conducted a Youth Awareness Session at Government Higher Secondary School No. 3, Abbottabad on 18-03-2025, to engage and educate students about the electoral process. He encouraged students to exercise their right to vote and contribute positively to shaping the country's future. During the

session, a Question-and-Answer segment was held, where students inquired about various aspects of electoral procedures and relevant laws. Mr. Naveed Ur Rehman provided clear and satisfactory responses, which were well received by both students and faculty members.



DVEC Meeting Review: Strengthening Electoral Inclusion for Marginalized Groups

A DVEC meeting was convened by DEC Swat to review the ECP awareness campaign and address electoral challenges faced by the transgender community. The meeting was attended by all DVEC members and two transgender representatives.

During the discussion, it was emphasized that the ECP is taking special

measures to ensure the participation of marginalized groups, including the transgender community, in the electoral process. All DVEC members appreciated the ECP's efforts and reaffirmed their commitment to supporting future DVEC initiatives.



Promoting Voter Education for an Inclusive Democracy by DEC Lower Dir

An event was organized on 19-2-2025 to emphasize the significance of voter education in fostering a democratic environment where every eligible citizen can exercise their right to vote without barriers. The event saw the participation of local representatives, religious scholars, persons with disabilities (PWDs), women, and other community leaders.

Attendees expressed their deep appreciation for the emphasis on inclusivity in voter education. The District Election Commissioner highlighted the importance of ensuring equal participation for all citizens, including women, persons with disabilities, and transgender individuals.



Voter Education Summit to Promotes Inclusive Democratic Participation in Nowshera

An event was arranged on 28-02-2025 to highlight the importance of voter education in fostering a democratic environment where every eligible citizen can exercise their right to vote without barriers. The gathering brought together a diverse group of community stakeholders, including local representatives, religious scholars, persons with

disabilities (PWDs), women, and other community leaders. Participants expressed great appreciation for the focus on inclusivity in voter education. The District Election Commissioner emphasized the critical importance of ensuring equal participation for all citizens, including women, persons with disabilities, and transgender individuals.



Transgender Community's Awareness Session Swat

An awareness session was held in Swat on 12-02-2025. The session was attended by DVEC members and participants from the transgender community, including their district head, Miss Sidra Gill. The DVEC members emphasized the importance of voter registration and the active participation of the transgender community in elections, highlighting their fundamental right to be part of the democratic

process. The meeting underscored the significance of voting as a powerful tool for representation and inclusion. Participants agreed that ensuring the transgender community's electoral participation would strengthen their voice in policymaking, promote equal rights, and contribute to a more inclusive democracy.



Empowering Citizens: Hafizabad's Voter Education Session

A significant meeting of the District Voters Education Committee was held in February in Hafizabad, bringing together participants from various walks of life to discuss strategies for enhancing voter awareness and engagement. Chaired by District Election Commissioner Mr. Khalid Rasheed and Election Officer Mrs. Arfa Rasheed, the gathering emphasized the critical importance of public participation in the electoral process. Representatives from civil society, educational

institutions, media, and local governments actively participated in the discussions, sharing valuable insights on maximizing outreach and ensuring comprehensive voter education. The meeting concluded with a resolute commitment to utilize both traditional and digital platforms to reach a wider audience, urging all stakeholders to work collectively towards creating a well-informed society on electoral matters and civic responsibilities.



Balochistan Working Group Focuses on Gender & Disability Rights

A meeting of the Gender and Disability Electoral Working Group (GDEWG) was held on February 27, 2025, at the Regional Election Commissioner's office in Quetta. Chaired by Mr. Shabbar Abbas Bukhari, Joint Provincial Election Commissioner (Admin), Balochistan, the session included key participants like Mr. Abdullah (Director of Elections) and Mr. Tahir Hasan (Regional Election Commissioner, Quetta). The group discussed practical

ways to ensure gender equality and social inclusion in electoral processes while addressing current challenges faced by these communities. An important outcome was the decision to hold quarterly GDEWG meetings, reinforcing the Election Commission's commitment to regular progress on these critical issues.



Advancing Rights and Inclusion: Disabilities Conference in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

A significant conference was held on January 21, 2025, to address the rights and challenges of persons with disabilities in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Director (Election) Asif Ali Yasin attended the event, which brought together key stakeholders to discuss critical issues affecting this community. The conference featured three comprehensive panel discussions exploring social, legal, and legislative dimensions of disability rights.

The first session delved into the social and legal aspects of physical harassment, emphasizing its detrimental impacts and the critical need for robust legal protections. The second panel examined the existing social protection system, proposing innovative, incentive-based

measures to empower persons with disabilities. The final session explored legislative barriers, analyzing potential strategies for comprehensive disability rights legislation by drawing insights from other provinces and international best practices.

Speakers consistently highlighted the multifaceted challenges faced by persons with disabilities and presented practical, forward-looking solutions to address systemic inequities. The conference underscored the urgent need for comprehensive approaches to protect, support, and integrate persons with disabilities into all aspects of social and political life.



Advancing Transgender Rights: A Landmark Conference in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

The Manzil Foundation successfully organized a Provincial Conference on the Rights and Entitlements of Transgender Persons in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Asif Ali Yaseen, Director (Election) from the Provincial Election Commission office, was among the distinguished representative of the commission. The conference brought together a diverse group of key stakeholders, including transgender representatives from across Pakistan, local transgender community leaders, Provincial Ombudsperson Rukhshanda Naz, SSP of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police and

high-level representatives from critical organizations such as the Social Welfare Department, Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), NADRA, Health Sector, Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) and other prominent civil sector organizations. The participants' comprehensive representation demonstrated a strong, unified commitment to advancing and protecting the rights and entitlements of the transgender community in the province.



Empowering Transgender Voices: Jacobabad's Inclusive Voter Education Initiative

The District Voter Education Committee (DVEC) convened a specialized meeting on February 27, 2025, at the District Election Commissioner Office in Jacobabad, focusing specifically on members of the transgender community. Mr. Azizullah Abbasi, District Election Commissioner and Mr. Sohail Hussain Memon, Election Officer, chaired the session, underscoring the commitment to inclusive electoral participation.

The initiative highlighted the ECP's ongoing efforts to ensure equal access to voter education and civic engagement across all segments of

society. During the meeting, participants received comprehensive sensitization about their voting rights, the critical importance of electoral participation, and detailed procedural information to facilitate their involvement in upcoming elections.

By directly addressing the unique challenges and opportunities for transgender individuals in the electoral process, the meeting represented a significant step towards building a more representative and inclusive democratic framework.



Empowering Young Voters: Bajaur's Collaborative Awareness Campaign

In an innovative effort to boost youth participation in elections, District Election Commissioner Muhammad Zahir Khan joined forces with Bajaur's District Youth Officer and District Sports Officer to organize a special voter awareness program on March 25, 2025. The event, held at the bustling District Youth Office Sports Complex, attracted a large gathering of enthusiastic young participants and local athletes. During the engaging session, DEC Khan delivered an inspiring address,

emphasizing the transformative power of every single vote in shaping the nation's future. He explained the voting process in simple terms and highlighted how youth engagement strengthens democratic values. The unique collaboration between election authorities and sports/youth departments successfully created a comfortable, familiar environment for young voters to learn about their electoral rights and responsibilities.



Province Wise Statistics of Voters (as on 06 March 2025)

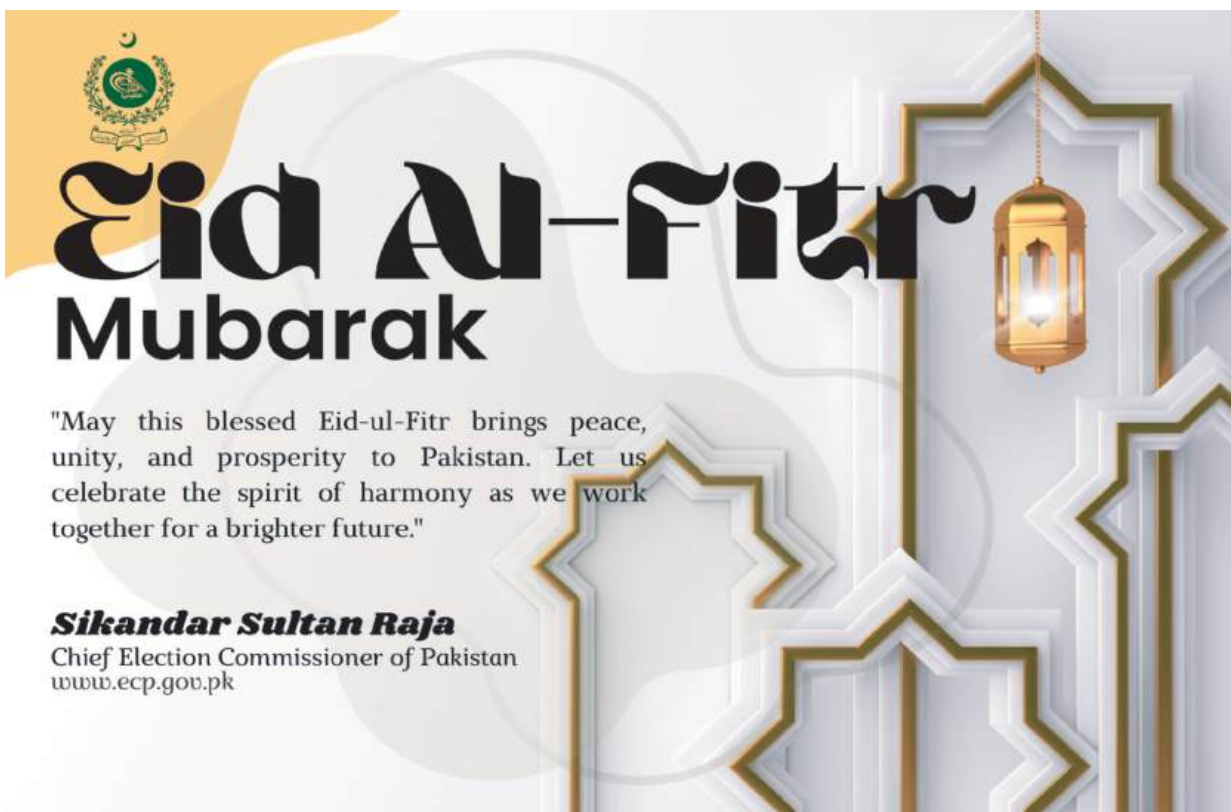
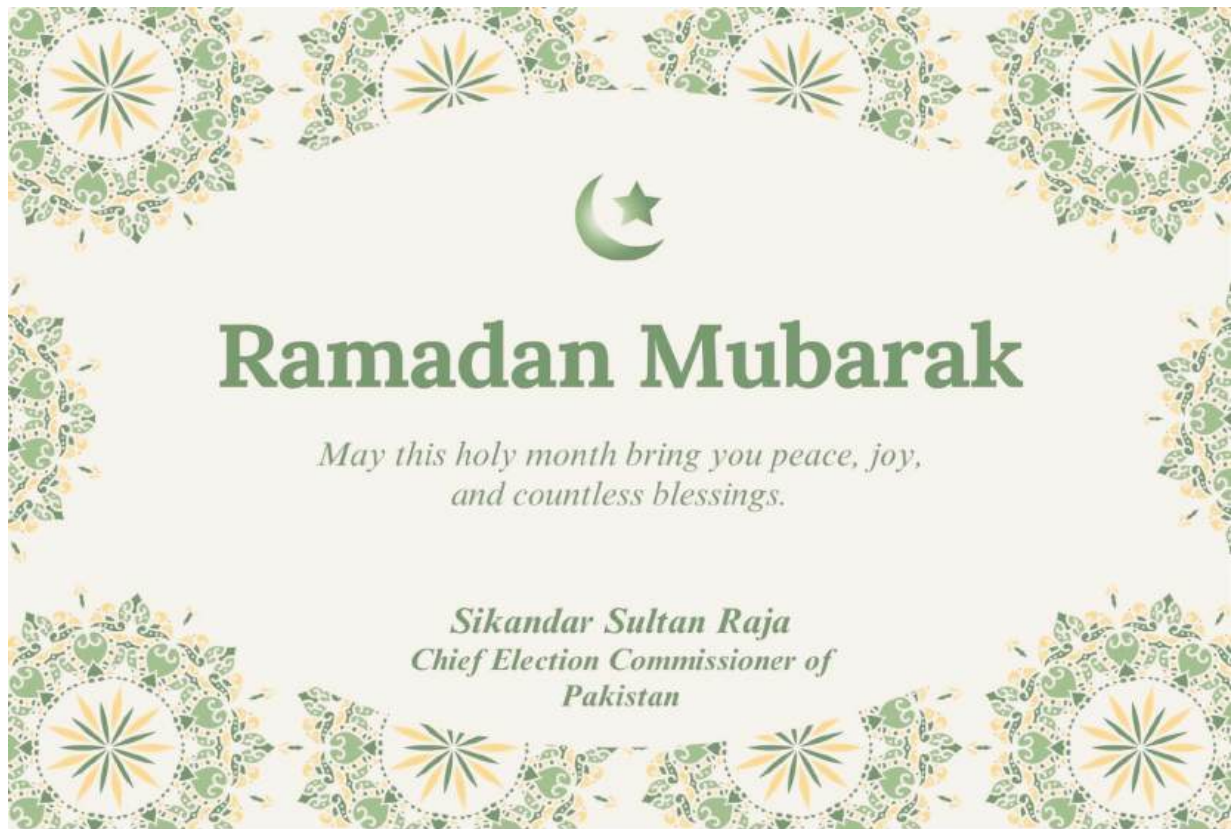
	Male		Female		
ICT	619,573	52.34%	564,088	47.66%	1,183,661
Balochistan	3,117,944	56.01%	2,448,497	43.99%	5,566,441
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	12,330,460	54.38%	10,345,093	45.62%	22,675,553
Punjab	40,467,887	53.24%	35,542,462	46.76%	76,010,349
Sindh	15,118,228	54.03%	12,863,273	45.97%	27,981,501
Grand Total	71,654,092	53.71%	61,763,413	46.29%	133,417,505

Special Initiatives 2020- 2025

The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has unveiled its Special Initiatives 2020-2025 book—a dynamic and inspiring compilation highlighting the remarkable performance, groundbreaking milestones, and tireless efforts of all its constituent wings. This comprehensive document not only highlights the ECP's unwavering commitment to transparency, innovation, and electoral excellence but also serves as a testament to the incredible progress made in strengthening electoral system. Packed with successful transformative reforms, and visionary initiatives, this book is a must-read for anyone passionate about governance, accountability, and nation-building. Dive in and be inspired by the ECP's journey toward a stronger, more inclusive electoral future!"



ECP's Inclusivity for Community world over



PEN & PAGES

**A COLLECTION OF ENGAGING STORIES
AND EXPERIENCES**

Fiction Favorites By the Editor



PECKING ORDER

A politician was giving a stump speech in a rural area, trying to win over the local farmers. He promised them better crop prices, more efficient irrigation systems, and even a new farm-to-table restaurant in the town square.

Just as he was about to finish, a chicken wandered onto the stage and started pecking at his shoes. The politician, thinking on his feet, exclaimed, "And I promise you, folks, that under my leadership, even the chickens will be prosperous and well-fed!"

The crowd went wild, cheering and clapping for more. But little did they know, the chicken was actually a plant – a rival politician had sneaked it onto the stage to disrupt the speech.

As the politician was basking in the applause, the chicken suddenly let out a loud "Bock! Bock!" and flew off the stage, leaving behind a trail of feathers and laughter.

I hope that made you chuckle! Elections can be serious business, but sometimes you just have to laugh at the absurdity of it all.



CANCELLING OUT THE COMPETITION

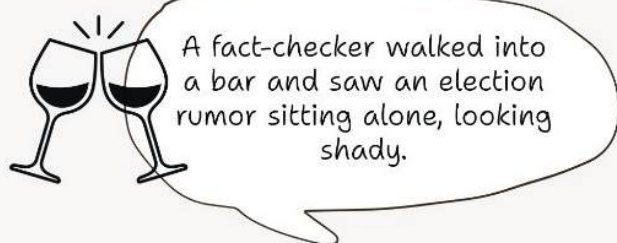
Two friends with radically different political views were on their way to the polls on election day. One guy turns to the other and says, "You know, we've argued about this for months, and we're obviously going to vote for different candidates. Our votes will cancel each other out anyways, so why don't we just call it a draw and go home instead?"

The other guy agrees, they shake hands, and part ways. Another guy who overheard the conversation approaches the dealmaker and says with admiration, "That's a real sportsmanlike offer you just made!"

The dealmaker replies, "Not really. Just this afternoon, I've already done this three times." It turns out, he's been making the same deal with other voters all day!

This story highlights the humor in the democratic process and the creative ways people try to navigate their differences.

Misinformation vs Disinformation



1

Are you misinformation or disinformation?"

Does it matter? Either way, I'm spreading fast!"



2

Oh, it matters! Misinformation is like someone who's just lost and giving wrong directions. But disinformation? That's someone intentionally sending you into a ditch!

What if I'm both? Lost and trying to ruin your day?

HA
HA
HA



3

That's why I don't see rumors. You're either clueless or malicious, and either way, you're bad for any system



Interesting Fact

Did You Know

The Media Coordination & Outreach Wing has launched District Voter Education Committees (DVECs) with six-month calendar prioritizing transgender individuals, women, youth, educational institutions, and persons with disabilities.

Interesting Fact

Did You Know

The Election Commission of Pakistan has conducted 280 plus voters' awareness, youth and minorities engagement sessions through out the country from January to March 2025



FACT

OPINION

EVIDENCE

BIAS

FACT

Statements of fact are **verifiable** and **objective** truths about the nature of the **physical world** that can be **proven** to be true or false using evidence, observations or records.

OPINION

Expressions of opinion are statements based on **personal beliefs, feelings,** or **interpretations** rather than objective facts. They involve **value judgements**.

EVIDENCE

Evidence is the **information, facts** or **data** provided to **support** a statement, claim, argument or expression of opinion. It helps **prove** whether something is true or false.

BIAS

Bias is a **preference** or **inclination** toward a particular perspective, idea, or outcome, often in a way that is **one-sided** (without it necessarily being a bad thing).

The Evolution of Democracy: New Electoral Technologies

In the 21st century, the intersection of technology and democracy has become increasingly prominent, reshaping the way elections are conducted and experienced. New electoral technologies are revolutionizing the democratic process, offering opportunities to enhance transparency, accessibility, and efficiency. However, these advancements also bring challenges, including concerns about security, equity, and the potential for manipulation. This essay explores the transformative impact of new electoral technologies, their benefits, and the risks they pose to democratic systems.

Electoral technologies encompass a wide range of tools and systems designed to modernize the voting process. These include electronic voting machines (EVMs), online voting platforms, blockchain-based voting systems, and biometric identification tools. The adoption of these technologies has been driven by the need to address longstanding issues in traditional voting methods, such as long wait times, human error in vote counting, and limited accessibility for certain populations.

One of the most significant advancements is the use of electronic voting machines, which have been widely adopted in countries like India, Brazil, and the United States. EVMs streamline the voting process by allowing voters to cast their ballots electronically, reducing the likelihood of errors and speeding up the counting process. Similarly, online voting platforms have gained traction in countries like Estonia, where citizens can vote securely from their computers or smartphones, increasing voter turnout and convenience.

Blockchain technology has also emerged as a promising tool for ensuring the integrity of elections. By creating an immutable and transparent ledger of votes, blockchain can prevent tampering and provide a verifiable record of the election results. This technology has the potential to restore trust in electoral systems, particularly in regions where allegations of fraud have undermined public confidence.

The adoption of new electoral technologies offers several advantages. First and foremost, these tools can enhance the accessibility of voting. For individuals with disabilities, elderly voters, or those living in remote areas, technologies like online voting and EVMs can make it easier to participate in the democratic process. This inclusivity strengthens democracy by ensuring that a broader segment of the population can exercise their right to vote.

Second, electoral technologies can improve the accuracy and efficiency of vote counting. Traditional paper-based systems are prone to human error, whether in marking ballots or tallying results. Electronic systems minimize these errors, providing faster and more reliable outcomes. This efficiency is particularly valuable in large-scale elections, where delays in announcing results can lead to uncertainty and unrest.

Third, technologies like blockchain can enhance the transparency and security of elections. By creating a decentralized and tamper-proof record of votes, blockchain ensures that election results are verifiable and resistant to manipulation. This transparency can help build trust in the electoral process, particularly in countries where skepticism about the

fairness of elections is widespread.

Despite their potential benefits, new electoral technologies are not without challenges. One of the most pressing concerns is cybersecurity. As voting systems become increasingly digitized, they become vulnerable to hacking, data breaches, and other forms of cyberattacks. Malicious actors could potentially alter vote counts, disrupt election processes, or steal sensitive voter information. Ensuring the security of these systems requires significant investment in cybersecurity measures and ongoing vigilance.

Another challenge is the digital divide. While online voting and other technologies can increase accessibility for some, they may exclude others who lack access to the necessary technology or digital literacy. This disparity could exacerbate existing inequalities in political participation, particularly among marginalized communities.

Additionally, the use of electoral technologies raises questions about transparency and accountability. While blockchain can enhance transparency, other technologies, such as proprietary voting software, may operate as "black boxes," making it difficult for the public to understand how votes are recorded and counted. This lack of transparency can undermine trust in the electoral process, even if the systems are functioning correctly.

As electoral technologies continue to evolve, it is essential to strike a balance between innovation and security. Policymakers, technologists, and civil society must work together to develop robust frameworks for the implementation and oversight of these technologies. This includes establishing international standards for cybersecurity, ensuring equitable access to voting technologies, and promoting transparency in the design and operation of electoral systems.

Moreover, public education and engagement are critical to the successful adoption of new electoral technologies. Voters need to understand how these systems work and feel confident that their votes will be counted accurately and securely. Building this trust requires ongoing dialogue between governments, technology providers, and the public.

New electoral technologies have the potential to transform democracy, making elections more accessible, efficient, and transparent. However, their adoption must be approached with caution, as they also introduce significant risks, particularly in the areas of cybersecurity and equity. By addressing these challenges and fostering collaboration among stakeholders, societies can harness the power of technology to strengthen democratic processes. As we move forward, the careful integration of electoral technologies will be key to building a more inclusive and resilient democracy for the future.

Nazar Abbas

Additional Director General

Media Coordination & Outreach Wing



Understanding the Section 9 of the Elections Act 2017

The Election Commission of Pakistan remains committed to ensuring free, fair, transparent and inclusive elections, with a strong focus on closing the gender gap in voter participation. Recognizing the barriers that many women face in exercising their right to vote, the Commission has undertaken various initiatives to promote and protect women's electoral participation. A key legal provision supporting this commitment is Section 9 of the Elections Act 2017, which empowers the Commission to declare an election null and void if there is evidence of grave irregularities, including instances where women are systematically restrained from voting.

Section 9 specifically states that if the turnout of women voters in the constituency is found to be less than %10 of the total votes polled in a constituency, the Commission may presume that women were deliberately prevented from voting through an agreement or other forms of restriction. In such cases, the Election Commission has the authority to declare polling at one or more polling stations, or in the entire constituency, void and call for a repoll.

Section 9 is all about fairness and inclusivity. By addressing gender disparities and supporting vulnerable groups, the ECP is building trust in the electoral process.

This provision was invoked for the first time in the 2018 General Elections in the constituency of Provincial Assembly Khyber Pakhtunkhwa PK-23 Shangla (at that time). Despite, 86,698 registered women voters in the constituency, only 3,505 women voters had exercised their democratic right. Thus, 53 female voter turnout was recorded at only 5%, significantly below the required threshold. Then, the Election Commission exercised its powers under Section 9 and declared the poll null and void. A re-election was subsequently held, ensuring that all eligible voters, particularly women, had the opportunity to participate in the democratic process. The decision was widely recognized as a landmark step in strengthening electoral transparency and reinforcing the Commission's commitment to gender inclusive elections.

ECP is enforcing legal provisions that safeguard women's right to vote, Election Commission has launched multiple initiatives to encourage female voter participation. One of the key challenges identified is the gap in voter registration, particularly due to the lack of Computerized National Identity Cards among women. To address this, the Election Commission has worked in collaboration with NADRA to facilitate the registration of women voters. Special registration drives have been conducted nationwide, focusing on areas with historically low female voter turnout. These efforts have contributed to a significant increase in the number of registered female voters over the years. These efforts have reduced the gender gap in voter registration from 11.8% in 2018 to 7.74% by December 2023.

The ECP has also set up a Gender and Social Inclusion Wing at its Secretariat and provincial Election Commissioners offices. This wing works to remove barriers faced by women, transgender individuals, and other vulnerable groups. It ensures everyone can participate fully in elections.

Public awareness campaigns have also been a priority for the Election Commission in its efforts to ensure women's inclusion in the electoral process. Through television, radio, print media, and social media platforms, the Commission has actively disseminated information regarding the importance of women's participation in elections. These campaigns have aimed to educate both women and their families about their constitutional right to vote and the necessity of their role in shaping the country's democratic future.

On poll day, the Commission takes all necessary measures to ensure a secure and accessible voting environment for women. Women only polling stations have been established in various constituencies where cultural norms may discourage mixed gender voting. ECP also ensures the deployment of female polling staff has been prioritized to facilitate a comfortable and secure voting experience for women voters. Election Commission also maintains close coordination with law enforcement agencies to prevent any form of voter suppression and to ensure that women can cast their votes freely without intimidation or obstruction.

The implementation of Section 9 and the broader initiatives undertaken by the Election Commission reflect the institution's firm resolve to uphold electoral integrity and promote gender equality in Pakistan's democratic process. Ensuring women's full participation in elections is essential for a truly representative democracy, and the Commission remains dedicated to creating an electoral system where every eligible voter, regardless of gender, has equal access to their constitutional right to vote.

Nabeel Ahmed Abro

AD MCO
PEC Sindh

ان کہی کو میری داستان سمجھو
 تمہیں اگر خدا نہیں ملتا
 بس صرف آج مجھے کہنے دو
 بات سے بات ہی نکلتی ہے
 تیری تلوار اور میرا سینہ ہے
 ہم نے بہت دکھ اٹھائے ہیں
 میں سچ کہنے پہ بھی ہکلاتا ہوں
 اب کھلونوں سے دل نہیں بہلتا
 بنی آدم ہوں میں فرشتہ نہیں
 ہم بھی بلا کا حسن رکھتے ہیں
 یہ جو آگہی سی لگتی ہے
 اب مجھے نیند کہاں آتی ہے
 خود کی تلاش میں جو نکل پڑا
 بات سے بات ہی نکلتی ہے
 شکر ہے پلٹ کر نہیں دیکھا
 چہار سو پھیلی جو بے چینی ہے
 طلب میں اٹھ گئے جو بھی قدم
 یہ جو بیگانگی سی لگتی ہے
 خود کی تلاش میں جو نکل پڑا
 بس ایک کن فیہ کون کہنا ہے
 اپنے دل کو تو پہلے قابو کرو
 اس بھری پری دنیا میں

کچھ اشاروں کی بھی زبان سمجھو
 اپنے دل میں اسے بسا سمجھو
 کل سے بیشک بے زباں سمجھو
 بات کو بات سے جدا سمجھو
 زخم کو زخم سے جدا سمجھو
 ہم کو اوروں سے جدا سمجھو
 اسے تم جھوٹ پر ڈٹا سمجھو
 مجھے کھلونوں سے جدا سمجھو
 میری خطا اپنی عطا سمجھو
 ہمیں بازار میں بکا سمجھو
 لاعلمی کی ابتداء سمجھو
 خواب کو آنکھ سے جدا سمجھو
 اسے خدا سے ملا سمجھو
 بات کو بات سے جدا سمجھو
 اب قیامت کو ٹلا سمجھو
 اعمالوں کا کیا دھرا سمجھو
 خاک پا کو باد صبا سمجھو
 اسے محبوب کی ادا سمجھو
 اسے خدا سے ملا سمجھو
 پھر اپنے کام کو ہوا سمجھو
 پھر پروردگار کو رضا سمجھو
 بس ایک ہارون کو تنہا سمجھو

(ہارون شنواری)

Plight of Woman

Every day is a battle, a fight I must face,
A war with no respite, in this relentless race.
I try to make sense of this unyielding grind,
But peace eludes me, no comfort to find.
It's not just the men, but a system in place,
Each step a curse, each turn a disgrace.
Yet, through it all, I walk with grace,
Demanding my right, not charity's trace.
The world turns against me when I seek what's mine,
Ridiculed, laughed at, as if it's a crime.
Jeers echo loud, before they even care,
This is my plight, a burden I bear.
Please, understand, it takes courage, you see,
To face your gaze, belittling me.
Low IQ, loaded words, and remarks that sting,
My ego bruised, as you tighten the string.
Before granting even the smallest share,
I'm put on trial, as if unaware.
Why must I prove that I can succeed?
Why go further for what I'm owed in need?
Why is it a favor when you choose to give?
When my rights are the same, for which I live?
Why is it always them versus me?
Do they have to ask? Is it not freely given, you see?
When will I walk with my head held high?
When will the world see me, not pass me by?
No pity in their eyes, no favor shown,
I want what's mine, for I have grown.
I need not prove that I can stand tall,
Please believe me, I'm human, after all.
A strong woman, capable, fierce and true,
I'll do it better, though they never knew.
I have my feelings, my pride, my soul,
I hurt, I bleed, but I remain whole.
Not punched down, yet I rise and stand,
For I carry my species, in this world so grand.
If I give up, the fight starts anew,
Every victory lost, and the pain will ensue.
But I march forward, with head held high,
For I am a woman, and I will not shy.

Ms.Nighat Siddique

DG Training and GSI

شکریہ الیکشن کمیشن آف پاکستان

میرا تحریری امتحان پاس ہو چکا تھا، اور میں انٹرویو دینے کے لیے کراچی سے اسلام آباد کا سفر کر رہا تھا۔ میں نے ریل گاڑی میں اپنا سامان رکھا اور ریل روانہ ہوئی۔۔۔
ریل گاڑی کے روانہ ہوتے ہی اک خاموشی سی چھا گئی، میں نے دیکھا میرے ساتھ بیٹھے لوگ دعا مانگ رہے تھے، ممکن ہے وہ اپنے سفر کے آسان ہونے کی دعا مانگتے ہوں۔ میں نے اپنی آنکھیں بند کیں اور انٹرویو میں کامیاب ہونے کی دعا مانگی۔ اس دوران مجھے نہ جانے کیا کچھ یاد آیا، کتنے جملے۔۔۔ کتنے لوگ۔۔۔

پورے پاکستان میں ایک ہی آسامی ہے، تمہیں نہیں جانا چاہیے۔

تم اپنا وقت برباد کر رہے ہو۔

ٹرین کے کئی دنوں کا سفر تمہیں تھکا نہیں دیتا وغیرہ وغیرہ

یہ سب سوچتے ہوئے، لمحے بھر کو میں بہت پیچھے چلا گیا، ریل گاڑی میں سفر کرتے ہوئے آپ کو احساس ہوتا ہے کہ آپ آنکھیں بند کر کے کئی اک یادوں کو دوبارہ جی سکتے ہیں۔
وہ ایک چھوٹا سا شہر کندہ کوٹ، اور اس کی تپتی ہوئی گرمی، ریلوے اسٹیشن سے گذرتے ہوئے، انجان مسافروں کے چہرے دیکھتے ہوئے، میں لکھاری بننے کے خواب دیکھا کرتا تھا۔
میری نانی جب مجھے لوری سناتیں تو میں تخیل میں ان سارے کرداروں کو جی لیتا، ان کہانیوں میں سے اس مسافر کا قصہ آج بھی میرا پیچھا کرتا ہے جو اک پرندے کی خوبصورت آواز کا تعاقب کرتے ہوئے اپنے شہر سے بہت دور نکل آتا ہے اور جب اس کا سامنا پرندے سے ہوتا ہے تو بیچ میں دریا کی روانی آجاتی ہے اور اسے احساس ہوتا ہے کہ پرندہ تو دریا کے اس پار سے صدا دے رہا ہے۔

مجھے لگتا ہے شاید اسی پرندے کی صدا پر میں بھی اپنے چھوٹے سے شہر سے نکلا، کراچی جا پہنچا۔ بی۔ ایس میڈیا سائنسز کرنے کے بعد، اردو میں ماسٹر کیا، لکھتا رہا، ٹی وی چینلز پر کام کیا۔
کراچی یونیورسٹی اور مختلف کالجز میں ادب پڑھاتا رہا لیکن میں نے اپنے اندر پرندے کی صدا کو مرنے نہیں دیا۔

فرید الدین عطار کی منطق الطیر "پرندوں کی کانفرنس" اپنے سرہانے رکھتا اور سو جاتا۔

ریل گاڑی نے اسلام آباد چھوڑا، اور جس دن میرا انٹرویو تھا، اس دن شدید بارش ہوئی۔ اپنے کاغذات کوٹ کے اندر چھپائے کہ بھیگنے سے بچ سکیں، لیکن میرے کپڑے مکمل بھیگ چکے تھے اور جب میرے انٹرویو کی باری آئی تو الیکشن کمیشن آف پاکستان کے انٹرویو پینل نے، جس میں معزز افسران اور سیکریٹری صاحب تھے۔ انہوں نے کمال مہارت سے سوالات کیے جن کا تعلق میڈیا، ادب، شاعری، تاریخ، فنون، جمالیات اور تخلیق سے تھا۔

اس سارے عمل نے مجھے اپنے اندر جھانکنے کا موقع دیا۔ میں ایک تسلسل کے ساتھ ان کے جوابات دیتا رہا۔۔۔

اب پیچھے مڑ کر دیکھتا ہوں تو احساس ہوتا ہے کہ اگر تحریری امتحان اور انٹرویو دینے نہ آتا تو آج الیکشن کمیشن آف پاکستان میں کریٹورائٹر نہ ہوتا۔۔۔

لوگ ہر موڑ پر رک رک کے سنبھلتے کیوں ہیں اتنا ڈرتے ہیں تو پھر گھر سے نکلتے کیوں ہیں

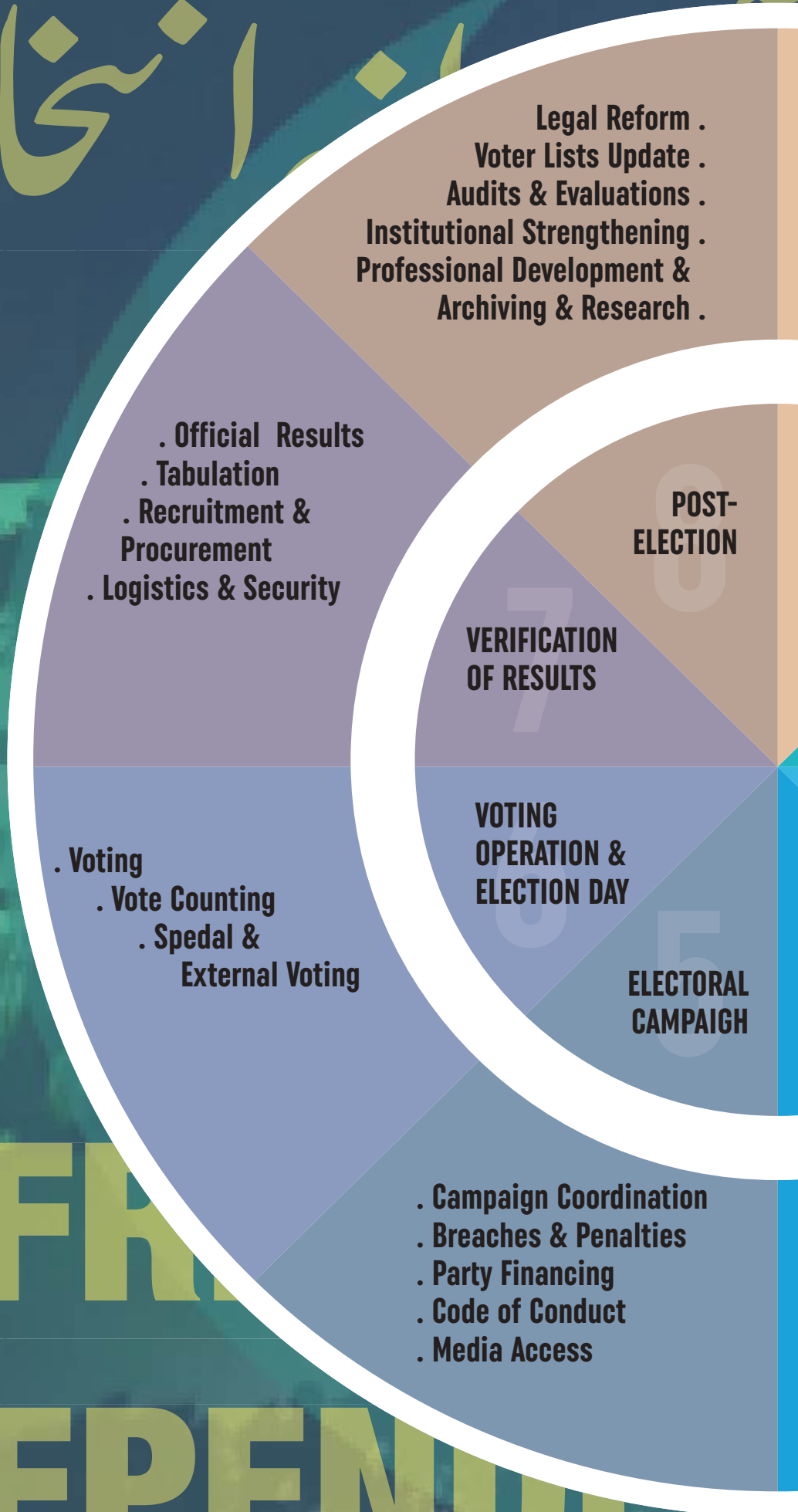
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