

The Impactful Voter

April to June 2025
(Issue No. 13)



ECP'S NEWSLETTER





CHIEF ELECTION COMMISSIONER MR. SIKANDAR SULTAN RAJA



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT MEMBER SINDH MR. NISAR AHMED DURRANI, MEMBER BALOCHISTAN MR. SHAH MUHAMMAD JATUI, MEMBER PUNJAB MR. BABAR HASSAN BHARWANA AND MEMBER KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA MR. JUSTICE (R) IKRAMMULAH KHAN.



MR. OMAR HAMID KHAN
SECRETARY ECP

Message

from The Chief



Sikandar Sultan Raja
Chief Election Commissioner, ECP

With the grace of Almighty Allah and cooperation of the stakeholders, the Election Commission of Pakistan remains steadfast in its mission to strengthen democratic foundations through fair, transparent, and inclusive electoral process in the country. Over recent years, we have undertaken significant reformative steps, including modernizing our electoral infrastructure. Our partnerships with educational institutions and legal communities underscore our focus on civic education, voter awareness, and fostering a culture of accountability in electoral matters.

I take this opportunity to reaffirm the Election Commission's unwavering dedication to serving the Nation with integrity, impartiality, and professionalism. The Five-Year Strategic Plan of the Commission enhances coordination with the Stakeholders also aims to improve accessibility for marginalized groups, build institutional capacity, and promote robust inter-departmental coordination to deliver meaningful results on the ground. I encourage all stakeholders—including civil society, political parties, the legal fraternity, and our dedicated election officials—to join us in this collective endeavor to uphold the values of our Constitution, ensure timely and credible elections at all levels, and strengthen the democratic fabric of our nation.

Long Live Pakistan

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The ECP has demonstrated remarkable progress this quarter in strengthening electoral transparency and inclusivity.

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Editorial

The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has demonstrated remarkable progress this quarter in strengthening electoral transparency and inclusivity. Key milestones include the Islamabad High Court Bar Association's constructive dialogue on voter awareness, the signing of MoU with Fatima Jinnah Women University to promote civic education, and launching of Legal Case Management System (LCMS) to ensure easy access to the status of legal matters and electoral disputes being heard by the Election Commission of Pakistan.

The ECP's firm stance on conduct of local government Elections in Punjab and Islamabad capital Territory underscore its commitment to upholding its constitutional mandates. Meanwhile, training programs for Assistant Election Commissioners and regional collaborations on AI and electoral integrity reflect a forward-looking approach to capacity building.

Despite challenges like low voter turnout and rejected ballots, the ECP's targeted initiatives—such as voter education workshops and gender-inclusive campaigns—are yielding positive results, as seen in the rising female participation in the 2024 elections. Moving forward, sustained efforts in technology adoption, stakeholder engagement, and public awareness will be crucial to ensuring free, fair, and participatory elections. The ECP's work plays a crucial role in protecting Pakistan's democratic future. By reaching out to the public and encouraging greater participation, it helps build trust and shared support for a stronger, more inclusive electoral system

Nazar Abbas
ADG (MCO)

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Delegation of Islamabad High Court Bar Association visited the Election Commissioner of Pakistan



A delegation of the Islamabad High Court Bar Association visited the Election Commission of Pakistan on 23 April, 2025. The delegation was led by Syed Wajid Ali Shah, President of the Bar Association, and included other office-bearers of the Bar Association.

Chief Election Commissioner Mr. Sikandar Sultan Raja and the honorable members of the Election Commission welcomed the delegation on their arrival at the Election Commission. On this occasion, the delegation was given a comprehensive briefing about the Election Commission's electoral structure, responsibilities, overall performance, and special measures undertaken during the past five years.

The delegation was informed that the Election Commission has taken several practical and reformative steps to improve its office performance. The Bar Association delegation appreciated the efforts of the Election Commission and thanked for providing the opportunity of meeting. They said that this meeting mitigated different misperceptions and increased the

knowledge of this delegation and no doubt strengthened the relationship between the important legal community and the Election Commission.

They also stated that, like other provinces, Islamabad should have representation in the Election Commission and that a quota for Islamabad should be allocated in employment to address the sense of deprivation among the people of Islamabad. They further suggested that Bar Associations should be included in voter awareness programs so that public consciousness can be further improved through legal experts.

Representatives of the Election Commission also briefed the delegation on the use of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs). The delegation was informed that in countries where electronic voting machines are used, such as Brazil and a few others, electronic voting has been adopted gradually after years of experimental processes. the Chief Election Commissioner assured the Islamabad Bar delegation of the Election Commission's fullest possible cooperation.

Election Commission of Pakistan and Fatima Jinnah Women University Signed MoU to Promote Electoral Awareness and Inclusion



On July 1, 2025, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) and Fatima Jinnah Women University (FJWU) in a ceremony held at the Election Commission Secretariat in Islamabad. The MoU was signed by Secretary Election Commission, Mr. Omar Hamid Khan, and Vice Chancellor of Fatima Jinnah Women University, Professor Dr. Bushra Mirza. The Chief Election Commissioner and members of the Election Commission were also present at the ceremony.

The purpose of this partnership was to promote civic awareness and encourage an inclusive electoral

process through various educational, awareness, and research initiatives. Addressing the ceremony, Chief Election Commissioner Mr. Sikandar Sultan Raja stated that this MoU represented a strategic alliance focused on Civic Education. He highlighted the pivotal role of Fatima Jinnah Women University, a national institution dedicated to training women students and fostering voter awareness among youth.

This collaboration highlighted the Election Commission's broader efforts to promote electoral literacy and strengthen inclusive electoral processes through partnerships with educational institutions.



Inauguration of the Interactive Display of “Legal Case Management System” (LCMS) at the Election Commission Secretariat, Islamabad



The Honorable Chief Election Commissioner on Tuesday June 24, 2025 inaugurated the “Legal Case Management System” (LCMS). The event was attended by the Secretary, Special Secretary, Special Secretary (Law), Project Director (PMU), Director General (IT), and Deputy Director (Law). The Project Director briefed the Chief Election Commissioner in detail about the operations of LCMS. The Law Wing also provided an overview of the cases uploaded in system so far and introduced the newly installed interactive display system, designed for public convenience.

This interactive display system is a modern and efficient digital tool that provides lawyers and litigants with instant access to essential information regarding their elections’ related legal cases. The system is installed at the reception of the Secretariat for the convenient access to the facility.



Inauguration of the newly constructed office of District Election Commissioner Layyah by the Hon'ble Member Election Commission of Pakistan from Punjab, Mr. Babar Hassan Bharwana

The Hon'ble Member Election Commission of Pakistan from Punjab, Mr. Babar Hassan Bharwana inaugurated the newly constructed office of District Election Commissioner Layyah. The Provincial Election Commissioner Punjab, Mr. Sharifullah, Regional

Election Commissioner D.G. Khan, Mr. Shakeel Ahmed, District Election Commissioner Layyah, Mr. Khalil Ahmed, XEN Pak-PWD, Dr. Tariq Kareem and other relevant officers also participated in the inaugural ceremony.



ECP's meeting regarding the conduct of Local Government Elections in Islamabad with Ministry of Interior



The Secretary, Election Commission of Pakistan presided over a meeting to review the updated position of amendments required in ICT Local Government Act, 2015 and Rules framed thereunder that are awaited on the part of Federal Government. The meeting held in the Election Commission Secretariat on 2nd May, 2025, was attended by Senior Officers of the Commission and representatives of Federal Government.

The Secretary Election Commission highlighted the importance of Local Government and emphasized on timely conduct of Local Government Elections. He said that the term of Local Government in ICT was expired on 14th February, 2021. The Election Commission made sincere efforts to ensure the conduct of Local Government Election in ICT and carried out delimitation five times and issued Election Programme thrice however, the Commission faced different challenges including frequent changes in Local Government Laws by the successive Governments. The Parliament on 30th August, 2024 passed amendments in the ICT, Local Government Act, 2015. Resultantly the schedule of Local Government Elections in ICT issued on 8th August, 2024

was held in abeyance on 4th September, 2024.

The Secretary further emphasized that after the enactment of said ICT LG. (amendment) Act, 2024 by Parliament, necessary legislation / amendments as proposed by the Commission in ICT LG. Act / Rules, 2015 are pre-requisite for issuance of Election Programme and conduct of Local Government Election in ICT. As new chapters in the rules is required to be added regarding procedure for conduct of elections to the reserved and Chairman / Vice Chairman seats in Union Councils.

The Additional Secretary, Ministry of Interior apprised regarding the steps taken with regard to necessary legislation. He said that the requisite amendments are in process and after finalization, the same will be provided to the Election Commission. The Chief Commissioner, ICT assured that as soon as the legislation is completed by the Government, the district administration is ready to assist the Commission to ensure conduct of Local Government Election in ICT.

Secretary ECP, Mr. Omar Hamid Khan met with the Election Commissioner Gilgit-Baltistan Raja Shah Baz Khan on 05-05-2025



ECP and HEC Collaborate to Strengthen Civic Education and Youth Engagement

A significant meeting was convened on April 29, 2025 between Mr. Omar Hamid Khan, Secretary Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), and Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, Chairman Higher Education Commission (HEC), along with officials from the Media Coordination and Outreach Wing, to discuss strategic initiatives aimed at enhancing civic awareness and youth participation in the democratic process. The deliberations focused on three key proposals: integration of voter education in academic curricula, establishment of a Youth Ambassador Program, and nationwide Voter Awareness Campaigns across universities.

The first agenda item emphasized the importance of

incorporating civic education and electoral processes into university syllabi to cultivate informed and responsible citizens. The proposed Youth Ambassador Program seeks to identify and train young leaders to promote democratic values, electoral participation, and community engagement within their academic institutions. Additionally, the planned Voter Awareness Campaigns will involve interactive workshops, seminars, and digital outreach to encourage student voter registration and participation in elections. This collaboration between the ECP and HEC underscores a shared commitment to empowering Pakistan's youth as active stakeholders in the nation's democratic future.



Secretary ECP, Mr. Omar Hamid Khan meeting with Political Parties



Meeting with the representatives of the Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan



Meeting with the representatives of the Jamaat-e-Islami



Secretary ECP, Mr. Omar Hamid Khan meeting with the students of Law at ECP Secretariat, Islamabad on 26-05-2025



Mr. Haroon Khan Shinwari, ADG (MW) and Mr. Khurram Shahzad, ADG (Law) with the students of Law at ECP Secretariat, Islamabad on 26-05-2025



Secretary ECP, Mr. Omar Hamid Khan and officers of ECP with the Delegates of SPM - Security Paper Mill, Inc., Czech Republic during their visit at ECP Secretariat on 28-4-2025

Opening ceremony of Training of Newly Appointed Assistant Election Commissioners at Election Commission of Pakistan



The Election Commission started a 13-week service-training program for 23 newly appointed Assistant Election Commissioners (BS-17) at its academy from 9 April 2025. This training program will conclude on 4 July 2025. Chief Election Commissioner Mr. Sikandar Sultan Raja formally inaugurated the training program. Honorable members of the Election Commission also attended the inaugural ceremony.

In his opening remarks, the Chief Election Commissioner congratulated the new officers on their appointment to the Election Commission and welcomed them. He made it clear to the officers that their selection was purely based on merit and they should be proud of this.

He said that conducting elections is a multi-layered process. For its effective conduct, knowledge of the Constitution, laws, rules, and code of conduct, as well as practical experience, is essential.

In this training program, trainers will receive training related to electoral laws, delimitation, voter

registration, polling procedures, and other official tasks with practical exercises and demonstrations. Furthermore, during this period, officers will also be provided awareness about the use of modern technology so that they can use technology in service and practical life.

In his concluding words, the Chief Election Commissioner urged the new officers to serve the nation, perform official duties in accordance with the Constitution and the law, and to deal courteously with the public. He also stressed the importance of focusing on the training.



Glimpses of the In Service Training of the Newly Appointed Officers





Commonwealth Election Professionals (CEP) Initiative: Asia Region Training Event, Colombo, Sri Lanka

The Commonwealth Secretariat and the Election Commission of Sri Lanka (ECSL) jointly organized the Commonwealth Election Professionals (CEP) Initiatives: Asia Region Training Event on the theme "Artificial Intelligence: Opportunities and Risks for Electoral Integrity in Commonwealth Asia" from 5-9 May, 2025 in Colombo, Sri Lanka. Three officers from the Election Commission of Pakistan actively participated in the event, alongside representatives from the Electoral Management Bodies (EMBs) of Malaysia, Bangladesh, Maldives and India.

The training was organized with the objective to provide a platform for electoral professionals from the Commonwealth Asia region to engage in open constructive dialogue on the opportunities and risks

presented by Artificial Intelligence (AI) in relation to electoral integrity. The training was structured into five thematic days, focusing on understanding AI fundamentals and electoral integrity outlook in Asia, AI in electoral management and safeguarding information integrity, risk of AI-powered electoral processes and readiness assessment, and regulatory frameworks, as well as the development of EMB AI guidelines. EMBs presented their draft guidelines for the use of AI in electoral processes.

The event marked an important milestone in regional electoral cooperation and provided meaningful insights into integrating AI while safeguarding electoral integrity.



Group photo of participants at the Commonwealth Election Professionals (CEP) Initiatives: Asia Region Training Event



ECP officer presenting ECP shield and publications to Secretary Election Commission of Sri Lanka and Commonwealth



Election Management Capacity Building Program from 10-18 June, 2025 in South Korea



Group photo of all participants of Election Management Capacity Building Program in South Korea

Korean Civic Education Institute for Democracy (KOCEI) an education, training and research institute of the National Election Commission of the Republic of Korea (NEC) invited participants from Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to participate in the Election Management Capacity Building Program on the theme: Strengthening Transparency and Fairness in Election Management. The program courses were offered in the online and offline hybrid training mode, the basic course was conducted online from May 1-31, 2025 followed by an advance course held from June 10-18, 2025 in Seoul and Gyeonggi, South Korea. Four officers from ECP actively participated in the training program, alongside representatives from the Election Management Bodies (EMBs) of Moldova, Jordan, Ukraine and Zambia.

The training program examined South Korean's laws, system and election management practices to enhance transparency and fairness of electoral management while improving the understanding and capacity of participating EMBs through the preparation of country

reports and action plans related to these aspects.

The participants also visited the National Assembly of South Korea, where they experienced an interactive simulation exercise debating a mock bill to understand the legislative process. They got familiar with advanced technological infrastructure, including electronic voting systems, and visited the Constitutional Court of South Korea and a museum that preserves the history of elections in Korea.



Mr. Saeed Ahmad Khan, Regional Election Commissioner, D.I.Khan presenting shield of ECP to Mr. Dae-il Kim, President of KOCEI in South Korea

Orientation Sessions on Record-Keeping for Punjab and Sindh Offices

An Orientation Session for Record Keeping was conducted at the Conference Room of the Punjab Engineering Council (PEC) Punjab office, attended by Regional Engineering Consultants (RECs) and officers of PEC Punjab. The session aimed to enhance understanding and efficiency in maintaining accurate and systematic records, emphasizing the importance of compliance with organizational protocols. Participants were briefed on best practices for documentation, digital archiving, and data security to ensure transparency and accountability in official proceedings. The interactive discussion also addressed common challenges in record-keeping and provided practical solutions to streamline workflows.

Another Orientation Session for Record Keeping was held at the PEC Sindh office, graced by the presence of JPEC (Admin) Mr. Tahir Mansoor Khan and JPEC (Elections) Mr. Sain Bakhsh Channar, along with other key officers. The session underscored the significance of maintaining organized records. Attendees engaged in detailed discussions on modern record-keeping techniques, including electronic documentation and audit readiness. The leadership emphasized the role of meticulous record management while participants shared insights on improving existing systems for greater operational efficiency. Both sessions reinforced ECP's commitment to professional excellence and standardized administrative practices across its offices.



An Orientation Session for Record Keeping at Conference Room of PEC Punjab office with RECs and officers of PEC Punjab office



An Orientation Session for Record Keeping at the office of PEC Sindh along with JPEC (Admn) Mr. Tahir Mansoor Khan , JPEC (Elections) Mr. Sain Bakhsh Channar and the other officers at the PEC office



The Provincial Election Commissioner, Punjab, chaired a progress review meeting for the Bye-election of PP-52 IX Sialkot with the District Returning Officer, District Police Officer and District Election Commissioner Sialkot



The Provincial Election Commissioner, Balochistan at an online fortnightly meeting with the Regional Election Commissioners

ECP Assures Support for “She Leads Program” During Meeting with Blue Veins Delegation



A delegation from Blue Veins, a member organization of the Gender and Disability Electoral Working Group, led by Program Manager Qamar Naseem, met with Joint Provincial Election Commissioner Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Mr. Muhammad Fareed Afridi. The delegation included Liaison Officer Ayub Khan, Program Officer Yamna Aftab, and Project Coordinator Laiba Khan Yousafzai. Director Elections Mr. Nadeem Khan and Spokesperson Mr. Sohail Ahmed were also present. Qamar Naseem briefed the Commissioner on the “She Leads” Program, a leadership initiative for women

Leads” Program, a leadership initiative for women launched with the support of IFES. He explained that the program aims to enhance women's leadership skills and are being piloted in three districts: Charsadda, Mansehra, and Lower Dir. He sought ECP's support in this regard. Mr. Fareed Afridi appreciated the initiative and assured that the Election Commission will support efforts to boost women's registration and participation in the electoral process. An ECP Newsletter was also presented to the delegation on the occasion.

2nd Quarterly GDEWG Meeting held on Inclusive NIC/Voter Registration Campaign

The second quarterly meeting with the members of the Gender, Disability and Electoral Working Group (GDEWG) was held at the office of the Provincial Election Commissioner Sindh in Karachi on 19th June 2025. The meeting was chaired by Provincial Election Commissioner Sindh, Mr. Aijaz Anwer Chohan, and focused on "Inclusive NIC/Voter Registration Campaign Phase-V." Representatives from various civil society organizations attended the meeting and shared their on-ground experiences and suggestions to ensure that

women, persons with disabilities, and other marginalized communities are not left out of the voter registration process. Provincial Election Commissioner Sindh Mr. Aijaz Anwer Chohan said that the Election Commission of Pakistan is committed to ensuring that every eligible citizen gets their CNIC and is registered as a voter. He emphasized that inclusive registration is the first step towards meaningful participation in elections and appreciated the role of civil society in reaching underserved areas and communities.



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Electronics

Election Commission Holds Senate Bye-Election in Sindh

The Election Commission of Pakistan conducted a Senate bye-election on May 6, 2025, to fill a general seat from Sindh Province, which fell vacant due to the unfortunate demise of Senator Taj Haider, a respected

political figure. In this election, Syed Waqar Mehdi secured victory and was elected as the new Senator, ensuring continued representation for Sindh in the upper house of Parliament.



Provincial Election Commissioner (PEC) Sindh Mr. Aijaz Anwer Chohan as Returning Officer along with Joint Provincial Election Commissioner (JPEC) (Elections) Mr. Sain Bakshah Channar receiving Nomination papers for Senate Bye-Elections from candidates of political parties on 19-04-2025



PEC Sindh Mr. Aijaz Anwer Chohan along with JPEC (Elections) Mr. Sain Bakshah Channar as Returning Officer for the Senate Bye Elections 2025 conducted scrutiny of the nomination papers on 21-04-2025

Senate Bye-Election, Poll Day



ECP Holds Bye-Election in NA-213 Umerkot



The Election Commission has conducted Bye-Election in National Assembly Constituency No. NA-213, Umerkot due to death of Nawab Muhammad Yousuf Talpur, which was held on 28th April, 2025. A central control room at Election Monitoring Control Center (EMCC), ECP Secretariat and a Provincial Monitoring Control Center (PMCR) at Karachi, Sindh was established to supervise the NA-213 Umerkot By-Election. Equipped with modern technology and designed to meet international standards, the center operated without interruption from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM daily. Its main objective was to

monitor the election process, ensure compliance with the Code of Conduct, and take swift action against any violations. The public was able to report complaints directly to the control room via phone at 051-111-327-000, 021-99205338 or email at complaints@ecp.gov.pk, pmcrsindh@gmail.com and fax 051-9204404. Monitoring teams were instructed to act immediately upon receiving complaints to ensure timely and effective resolution, making the entire process more transparent, responsive, and efficient.



Local Government Bye-Elections To The Reserved Seats Of Local Councils, Balochistan Province.

The Election Commission has conducted Bye-Election in National Assembly Constituency No. NA-213, Umerkot due to death of Nawab Muhammad Yousuf Talpur, which was held on 28th April, 2025. A central control room at Election Monitoring Control Center (EMCC), ECP Secretariat and a Provincial Monitoring Control Center (PMCR) at Karachi, Sindh was established to supervise the NA-213 Umerkot By-Election. Equipped with modern technology and designed to meet international standards, the center operated without interruption from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM daily. Its main objective was to monitor the election process, ensure compliance with the Code of Conduct, and take swift action against any violations. The public was able to report complaints directly to the control room via phone at 051-111-327-000, 021-99205338 or email at

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Total Districts	Total Councils		Total	Category wise total seats				Total Seats
	Municipal Committees	Union Councils		Women	Peasants	Workers	Non-Muslims	
35	19	730	749	32	15	15	737	799



PEC Sindh Mr. Aijaz Anwer Chohan along with JPEC (Elections) Mr. Sain Bakhsh Channar as Returning Officer for the Senate Bye Elections 2025 conducted scrutiny of the nomination papers on 21-04-2025

Monitoring of Bye-Election in NA-213 Umerkot



Bye-Election in Provincial Assembly of Punjab Constituency No. PP-52, Sialkot-IX was held on June 1, 2025 due to death of Choudhry Arshad Javaid Warraich. A central control room at Election Monitoring Control Center (EMCC), ECP Secretariat and a Provincial Monitoring Control Center (PMCR) at Lahore, Punjab was established to supervise the PP-52 Sialkot-IX By-Election. Equipped with modern technology and designed to meet international standards, the center operated without interruption from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

daily. Its main objective was to monitor the election process, ensure compliance with the Code of Conduct, and take swift action against any violations. The public was able to report complaints directly to the control room via phone at 051-111-327-000, or email at complaints@ecp.gov.pk and fax 051-9204404. Monitoring teams were instructed to act immediately upon receiving complaints to ensure timely and effective resolution, making the entire process more transparent, responsive, and efficient.



Dedicated Monitoring Control Room was operational at the office of the Provincial Election Commissioner Punjab, Lahore, to oversee the PP-52 Sialkot-IX bye-election

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**APRIL - JUNE
2025**

Meetups / Trainings / Workshops / Outreach initiatives

Meeting on ECP's Five-Year Strategic Plan at Sindh and Balochistan

At provincial-level meetings on the Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) upcoming Five-Year Strategic Plan were convened, bringing together Regional, District, and Assistant Election Commissioners. The meeting served as a platform for inclusive dialogue and collaborative planning, with participants engaging in discussions on key strategic priorities, including the use of technology in elections, transparency in electoral processes, comprehensive

voter education, improved accessibility for marginalized groups, and capacity-building for election staff. Emphasis was also placed on inter-departmental coordination and localized planning to ensure that the strategic vision translates into actionable results on the ground. The outcomes of the sitting will directly contribute to shaping a responsive and robust strategic framework for the next five years



Meeting at the office of PEC, Sindh May 8, 2025



Meeting at the office of PEC, Balochistan on May 6, 2025

Provincial Voter Education Committee (PVEC) Meeting, Balochistan

On 20th May 2025, the Provincial Voter Education Committee (PVEC) met at the Balochistan Election Commission HQ, chaired by Provincial Election Commissioner Mr. Ali Asghar Sial. The meeting reviewed DVEC activities, challenges, and proposals, including simplifying Mobile Registration Van deployment for women's IDs, organizing youth

seminars at educational institutions, and collecting data on marginalized groups. Mr. Sial appreciated the contributions and confirmed a detailed report would be sent to the Election Commission of Pakistan. Participants included representatives from NADRA, educational institutions, and social welfare departments.



European Union Delegation Meets with PEC Sindh at PEC Sindh Office, Karachi on 21-05-2025

The European Union delegation met with PEC Sindh Mr. Aijaz Anwer Chohan at the PEC office in Karachi to discuss collaboration on voter education, particularly for marginalized communities. Both sides emphasized inclusive participation, capacity building, and outreach.

Mr. Chohan appreciated the EU's support and reaffirmed ECP's commitment to free and fair elections, with a shared commitment to future joint efforts in civic engagement.



Awareness Seminar on Workplace Harassment Held in Collaboration with FOSPAH at PEC office, Quetta Balochistan

An awareness seminar was organized by the Provincial Election Commission Headquarters Balochistan in collaboration with the Federal Ombudsperson Secretariat for Protection against Harassment (FOSPAH), presided over by Provincial Election Commissioner Mr. Ali Asghar Sial. The seminar was attended by Registrar Mr. Rehman Shehzad, Deputy Director FOSPAH Mr. Imran Hassan, Joint Provincial Election Commissioner Mr. Syed Waseem Ahmad Jafri, Chairperson of the Harassment Committee, and Member Ms. Alia Nazar. The event began with the

recitation of the Holy Quran, followed by a detailed presentation by Assistant Registrar

Mr. Muhammad Usman Nasir, who explained the role and functioning of FOSPAH, its significance, and how harassment cases in government institutions can be resolved efficiently. Participants also engaged in a Q&A session. The seminar concluded with an exchange of shields between the Provincial Election Commissioner and the Registrar.



Quarterly Meetings with Gender and Disability Electoral Working Group (GDEWG)



Quarterly meetings with the members of Gender and Disability Electoral Working Group were held in Islamabad, Sindh and Balochistan on "Civic and Voter Education for Marginalized Communities". These meetings brought together key stakeholders and CSOs representing marginalized communities to discuss strategies for enhancing electoral participation of

marginalized segments of the society, with a particular emphasis on gender inclusivity and accessibility for persons with disabilities. Different initiatives, policy recommendations and collaborative approaches were strategized to ensure inclusive and equitable participation in the electoral process

Media Coordination and Outreach Wing Conducts Workshop on “Strengthening Stakeholders’ Engagement in the Electoral Process” with Journalists and CSOs Across Pakistan

The Media Coordination and Outreach Wing successfully organized a nationwide workshop titled “Strengthening Stakeholders’ Engagement in the Electoral Process”, engaging journalists and civil society organizations (CSOs) from across Pakistan. The session aimed to enhance collaboration between media professionals, civic groups, and electoral authorities to promote transparent and inclusive

elections. Key discussions focused on ethical reporting, combating misinformation, and fostering voter education initiatives. By facilitating dialogue between stakeholders, the workshop reinforced the importance of a well-informed electorate and responsible media coverage in upholding democratic values. This initiative underscores the Wing’s commitment to ensuring credible and participatory elections in Pakistan.



Workshop with Media and Civil Society Organizations at Islamabad on 23-05-2025



Workshop with Media and Civil Society Organizations at Quetta on 20-06-2025



Workshop with Media and Civil Society Organizations at Karachi on 25-04-2025



Training of the Master Trainers on Computerized Electoral Rolls System at ECP Secretariat, Islamabad on 9-4-2025

Orientation Session on Inclusive Voter Registration Campaign (Invr-5) Strategy and Implementation Across All Provinces

Prior to training ECP and NADRA staff on Inclusive NIC/Voter Registration Campaign Phase-V (INVR-V) implementation in the field, a one-day orientation for Master Trainers was conducted on 21st April 2025 at ECP Secretariat, Islamabad. Two Master Trainers from each province and the Secretariat were trained on the

INVR-5 methodology. These trainers will subsequently conduct capacity-building sessions for Regional Election Commissioners (RECs), District Election Commissioners (DECs), Assistant Election Commissioners (AECs) and relevant NADRA officials in their respective provinces.



One-Day Workshop of GSI Focal Persons for Annual Work Plan (FY 2025-2026)

On 22nd April 2025, a one-day workshop was held for GSI focal persons to formulate the Annual Work Plan for the fiscal year 2025-2026. The session focused on planning and aligning activities to strengthen the

participation of marginalized groups in the electoral process. The proposed activities will be implemented both at the ECP Secretariat and across the provinces



Workplace Harassment and Ethics Training Conducted for ECP Staff in Hyderabad Division

From 9th to 11th May 2025, the Deputy Director Gender & Social Inclusion, in collaboration with District Election Commissioner (DEC) Thatta, Ms. Humaira Bint-e-Maaz, organized a comprehensive Workplace Harassment and Ethics Training for the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) staff of Hyderabad Division. The three-day session was attended by 86 participants, including election officials and administrative personnel.

The training focused on key topics such as professional ethics, workplace harassment prevention mechanisms, legal frameworks under the ECP's Code of Conduct, and strategies for fostering a safe and inclusive work environment. Interactive discussions, case studies, and

role-playing exercises were used to enhance understanding and practical application of the concepts.

Emphasizing the ECP's zero-tolerance policy towards harassment, the workshop also highlighted the importance of gender sensitivity, accountability, and institutional support systems to ensure a respectful workplace. The initiative aligns with the ECP's broader commitment to good governance, employee welfare, and ethical standards in electoral processes. Participants appreciated the session for its practical insights and relevance, reinforcing the ECP's dedication to a harassment-free and professionally ethical work culture.



Two-day training on the Computerized Electoral Rolls System (CERS), Balochistan

A two-day training on the Computerized Electoral Rolls System (CERS) was held on May 5, 2025, at PEC Balochistan, inaugurated by Provincial Election Commissioner Ali Asghar Sial. He stressed the importance of accurate electoral rolls and the key role of field officers, highlighting recent biometric

integration as a major advancement. Emphasizing the Chief Election Commissioner's vision of modernization through technology, he urged active participation to ensure smooth implementation and enhance election transparency.



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As per the six-month District Voters Education Committee (DVEC) Activity Calendar, a range of voter awareness activities—ranging from interactive sessions to educational seminars and outreach programs at community level, are being organized on a regular basis by the District Election Commissioners. The activities are especially aimed at empowering marginalized sections such as women, persons with disabilities, minority groups, and the transgender community. The main intent of these initiatives is to make their effective participation in the democratic and electoral process. With enhanced awareness of their voting rights, the registration process, and electoral involvement, the effort is to make the marginalized sections more capable of taking an active and positive role in determining the democratic destiny of the country.

DVEC Activities

DVEC Activities Punjab

SARGODHA



Mr. Imtiaz Ahmed, District Election Commissioner, Sargodha holding awareness session with students

HAFIZABAD



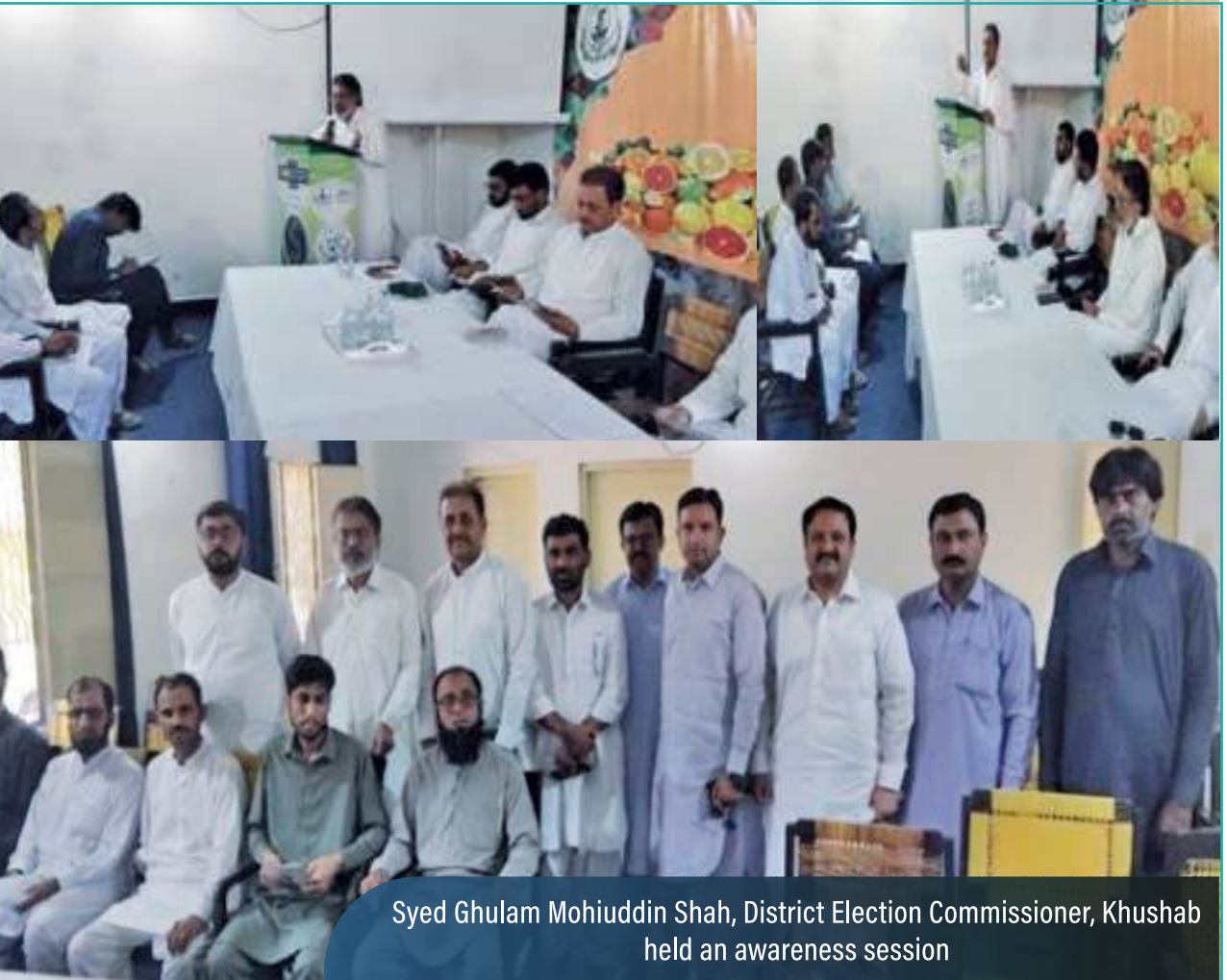
Mr. Khalid Rashid, District Election Commissioner Hafizabad holding DVEC meeting

MURREE



Ms. Rizwana Latif, District Election Commissioner, Murree holding DVEC meeting

KHUSHAB



Syed Ghulam Mohiuddin Shah, District Election Commissioner, Khushab held an awareness session

RAWALPINDI



Mr. Zeeshan Khan, District Election Commissioner-I Rawalpindi held awareness session with students

GUJRAT



Mr. Imran Zafar, District Election Commissioner, Gujrat, chaired a DVEC meeting

BAHAWALPUR



Mr. M. Qayyum, District Election Commissioner, Bahawalpur held an awareness session with students

NANKANA SAHIB



Mr. Sultan, District Election Commissioner, Nankana Sahib, held a seminar on awareness with Persons with Disabilities

BHAKKAR



Mr. Nouman, District Election Commissioner, Bhakkar held an awareness session with women

SHEIKHUPURA



Ms. Maham Qadir, District Election Commissioner, Sheikhpura chaired a DVEC meeting

TOBA TEK SINGH



Mr. Muhammad Tousif Qadir, DEC, Toba Tek Singh held a seminar on developing awareness towards women registration as voters

LODHHRAN



Mr. Gulzar Akhtar, District Election Commissioner, Lodhran, chaired a DVEC meeting

PAKPATTAN



Mr. Muhammad Tariq, District Election Commissioner, Pakpattan held an awareness session with students of Madrasa

LAYYAH



Mr. Muhammad Khalil, District Election Commissioner, Layyah held an awareness session with students

DVEC Activities Sindh

KARACHI CENTRAL



Mr. Kanwar Shujat Ali, District Election Commissioner, Karachi Central held an awareness session with People with Disabilities

KARACHI EAST



Mr. Shahnawaz Brohi, District Election Commissioner, Karachi East held an awareness session with Madrassa students

SHAHEED BENAZIR ABAD



Mr. Muhammad Yousuf, Majidano, District Election Commissioner,,
Shaheed Benazirabad held an awareness session with women

KEAMARI



Mr. Muhammad Imran Arain, District Election Commissioner, Keamari
held an awareness session with students

BADIN



Mr. Muhammad Hanif, District Election Commissioner, Badin held an awareness session with Women

THARPARKER



Mr. Muhammad Imran, District Election Commissioner, Tharparker, held an awareness session

DADU



Syed Shahid Ali Rizvi, District Election Commissioner, Dadu held an awareness session with women

KHAIRPUR



Mr. Naeem-ur-Rehman, District Election Commissioner, Khairpur held a Youth Awareness Session

DVEC Activities Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

BATTAGRAM



Mr. Hamid Nawaz, District Election Commissioner, Battagram held an awareness session with students

BUNER



Muhammad Asif, District Election , Commissioner, Buner held an awareness session with People with Disabilities

D.I. KHAN



Mr. Abdul Rauf Khan, District Election Commissioner, D.I.Khan held an awareness session

MARDAN



Mr. Muhammad Bilal, District Election Commissioner, Mardan held an awareness session with students

BAJUR



Mr. Umar Khan, District Election Commissioner, Bajaur held an awareness session with women

LOWER DIR



Mr. Jamshed Khan, District Election Commissioner, Lower Dir held an awareness session with students

HANGU



Mr. Asghar Khan, District Election Commissioner, Hangu held an awareness session with people with disabilities

KOHAT



Mr. Anwar Iqbal, District Election Commissioner, Kohat held an awareness session with students

NORTH WAZIRISTAN



Mr. Muhammad Iqbal, District Election Commissioner, North Waziristan held an awareness session with students

MOHMAND



Mr. Umar Khan, District Election Commissioner, Mohmand held an awareness session with people with disabilities

NOWSHERA



Mr. Muhammad Irfan, District Election Commissioner, Nowshera held an awareness session with people with disabilities

PESHAWAR



Mr. Zia-ur-Rahim, District Election Commissioner, Peshawar held an awareness session with people with disabilities

SWAT



Mr. Jehanzeb Khan, District Election Commissioner, Swat Held an awareness session with students

ABBOTTABAD



Mr. Naveed-ur-Rehman, District Election Commissioner, Abbottabad held an awareness session with women

MALAKAND



Mr. Muhammad Iqbal, District Election Commissioner, Malakand held an awareness session with women

SWABI



Mr. Muhammad Asif, District Election Commissioner, Swabi held an awareness session with students

ORAKZAI



Mr. Shaukat Hussain, District Election Commissioner, Orakzai held an awareness session with women

CHITRAL



Mr. Muhammad Zahir Khan, District Election Commissioner, Chitral Upper, conducted an awareness session

KHARAN



Mr. Muhammad Sadiq, District Election Commissioner, Kharan held an awareness session with students

DVEC Activities Balochistan

KHUZDAR



Mr. Asghar Khan, District Election Commissioner, Khuzdar chaired a DVEC meeting

KILLA ABDULLAH



Mr. Wadood Ahmed, District Election Commissioner, Killa Abdullah held an awareness session with students

DUKI



Mr. Ali Changezi, District Election Commissioner, Duki held an awareness session with women

CHAMAN



Mr. Wadood Ahmed, District Election Commissioner, Chaman held an awareness session with students

QUETTA



WASHUK



KALAT



Syed Ehsan Ullah Shah, District Election Commissioner, Kalam held an awareness session with women

LORALAI



Mr. Sajjad Ahmed, District Election Commissioner, Loralai held an awareness session with students

GAWADAR



Mr. Gazain Baloch, District Election Commissioner, Gawadar held an awareness session with students

SIBI



Mr. Naeem Shahzad, District Election Commissioner, Sibi chaired a DVEC meeting

LASBELA



Mr. Muhammad Anwar, District Election Commissioner, Lasbela held an awareness session with students

KILLA SAIFULLAH



Mr. Shams-ud-Din, District Election Commissioner, Killa Saifullah chaired a DVEC meeting

NUSHKI



Mr. Gohar Rehman, District Election Commissioner, Nushki held a voter awareness session

ZHOB



Mr. Safdar Naseer, District Election Commissioner, Zhob held an awareness session with women

MASTUNG



Mr. Sher Khan, District Election Commissioner, Mastung held an awareness session with women

CHAGAI



Mr. Abdul Muqtadir Ghazali, District Election Commissioner, Chagai held an awareness session with students

13TH EDITION

**APRIL - JUNE
2025**

Field visits

Provincial Election Commissioner (PEC) Visits Office of the District Election Commissioner (DEC) Muzaffargarh

The Provincial Election Commissioner Punjab, Mr. Sharifullah visited Office of the District Election Commissioner Muzaffargarh and inspected the progress of construction of boundary wall of the land acquired for the construction of ECP's own field office

building. The ECP has taken remarkable initiative in developing and improving infrastructure to facilitate stakeholders and revolutionizing disposal of official assignments.



Provincial Election Commissioner Visits Mastung: Reviews Office Affairs and Construction Progress

The Provincial Election Commissioner Balochistan, Mr. Ali Asghar Sial, paid a one-day visit to the office of the District Election Commissioner Mastung. During the visit, District Election Commissioner Sher Khan briefed him on various office matters. The Provincial Election Commissioner inspected different branches and office records and issued necessary instructions on the spot. He also visited the under-construction building of the

District Election Office and reviewed the progress of the work. He directed the C&W officials to ensure that there is no compromise on construction quality and that the building is completed within the stipulated timeframe. During the visit, Deputy Commissioner Mastung, Azhar Abbas Raja, also met with the Provincial Election Commissioner and discussed various matters of mutual interest.



Provincial Election Commissioner Balochistan, Ali Asghar Sial, Visited Various District Offices of Sibi Division

The Provincial Election Commissioner of Balochistan, Mr. Ali Asghar Sial, visited several district offices, including the offices of the District Election Commissioners in Kachhi and Sibi, as well as the Regional Election Commissioner Sibi. During his visit, he inspected various sections of the offices and reviewed official records. He issued several directives to improve office discipline and performance. The relevant officers briefed him on the arrangements for

the upcoming by-elections on local government reserved seats. Additionally, Deputy Commissioner Sibi, Jahangir Sheikh, met with the Provincial Election Commissioner at the ECP office in Sibi. As the District Returning Officer (DRO), the Deputy Commissioner provided a briefing on the arrangements for the local government elections and assured that all activities would be completed within the stipulated time.



The Regional Election Commissioner (REC) of Rawalpindi inspected the new Talagang office and election material store

The Regional Election Commissioner (REC) Gujranwala visited the Presiding and Assistant Presiding Officers' training in Sialkot on May 14, 2025. This session, held for PP-52 Sialkot-IX Bye-Elections, aimed to enhance

officers' capacity to manage polling duties smoothly and transparently. The REC reviewed the arrangements, interacted with trainees, and reaffirmed ECP's commitment to free and fair elections.





PEN & PAGES

**A COLLECTION OF ENGAGING STORIES
AND EXPERIENCES**



Fiction *Favorites* By the Editor

THE WORLD'S SMALLEST ELECTION

In the small village of Podington in England, a quirky election took place in 2019. The village had a population of just 1,300 residents, and the election was for the parish council. The twist? One of the candidates, a 90-year-old man, ran under the slogan "Free tea and biscuits for all." While his campaign promise might not have been the most serious, it certainly brought some humor to the election process.



THE CAT CANDIDATE

In the 2012 election for the mayor of Vail, Arizona, a cat named Bosco won the election. Yes, you read that right – a cat! Bosco, a stray cat that had been adopted by a local resident, had been a familiar face in the town for years. Despite being a cat, Bosco had a long history of "campaigning" in the town, and his popularity eventually led to him being elected as the mayor. Bosco's "mayoral term" was more symbolic than official, but it showed the playful side of democracy and the creativity of voters.





Election Day Cakes

In colonial America, specifically in New England, women baked special cakes called "election cakes" to encourage men to vote. These fruit-filled cakes were a tradition from the late 18th to the 19th century, and voters might even receive a slice after casting their ballots.

FUN

FACTS

ABOUT ELECTIONS



Voting with Balls

The word "ballot" originates from the Italian word "ballotta," meaning "small ball." In medieval Venice, people used colored or marked balls to vote, which is where the term "ballot" comes from. Today, ballots can take many forms, from paper to digital.

FACTS FROM THE WORLD

By: **Nafeesa Hashmi**
Director Protocol

Somalia's New Electoral Commission



Somalia established the National Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (NIEBC) in late 2024, replacing the former NIEC, to oversee all elections. The 18-member Commission quickly revived the electoral framework, built internal structures, adopted a code of conduct, and consulted with communities and political actors. It registered 43 political associations. On April 15, 2025, the NIEBC launched a biometric voter registration drive in Mogadishu—the first in nearly 60 years—which has expanded to all 16 districts via 60 centers and 20 mobile teams. A nationwide civic education campaign and toll-free hotline support voter participation. The next phase of Voter registration began on June 10, 2025. Somalia is now on track to hold its first universal local elections later this year, marking a historic democratic milestone with its first “one person, one vote” elections.

Kyrgyz Republic Amendments to Electoral Legislation



The Central Commission for Elections and Referenda of the Kyrgyz Republic (CEC KR) in June, 2025 shared information with their media about recent amendments to the Constitutional Law on Elections of the President and Deputies of the Jogorku Kenesh (Supreme Council). The new system restructures the Jogorku Kenesh to 90 members elected from 30 multi-member territorial constituencies (three deputies per constituency) using a majoritarian system. Both political parties and independent candidates can nominate candidates. Gender representation requirements mandate that no more than 70% of nominees be of the same gender.



Ecuador Compulsory Voting

In Ecuador, voting in elections is compulsory in general and voluntary for only some segments of the population:

Mandatory Voting	Voluntary Voting
<p>Any Ecuadorian citizen over 18 and under 65 years of age; non-convicted prisoners within the same age</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Citizens aged 16 and 17 years and those over 65 years of age • Ecuadorian living abroad. • Members of the Armed Forces and National Police on active duty • People with disabilities, illiterate individuals • Foreigners aged 16 who have legally resided in the country for at least five years and are registered in the voters' register

In Ecuador, voters receive a paper voting certificate after casting their ballot, required for transactions with public and private institutions (e.g., bank transfers, driver's license renewal). Starting with the 2025 General Elections, a digital certificate will also be available for download. Registered voters who fail to vote must pay a fine equal to 10% of the 2025 minimum living wage (USD 46), plus about USD 8 for a payment certificate, which acts as a pseudo voter card. Without it, voters cannot complete transactions with public entities. Fines can be checked and paid online or at the local Provincial Electoral Board (PEB). Voters can avoid the fine by submitting valid justification, such as no legal voting obligation, certified health issues, natural disasters, being abroad on election day, or falling into an optional voting group.



Philippines OVCS, ACM and Precinct Finder

On 12 May, 2025 with over 68 million registered voters in the Philippines and more than 1.2 million overseas, the 2025 Philippines Midterm National and Local Elections marked a significant milestone with the first-ever implementation of the Online Voting and Counting System (OVCS) for overseas voters. During the program, the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) presented its automated electoral systems, including the new Automated Counting Machine (ACM), and showcased innovations such as the Precinct Finder online tool. Key logistical efforts included clustering 93,287 precincts and establishing 37,527 voting centers nationwide.

Romania Labeling System for Political Advertising



On May 4, 2025, Romania conducted its electoral processes under the supervision of the Permanent Electoral Authority (PEA) of Romania and its partner institutions. The elections featured notable innovations aimed at enhancing electoral inclusiveness and transparency. Among these was the newly introduced labeling system for political advertising, aligned with EU Regulation 2024/900. This measure requires clear disclosures regarding the origin and funding of campaign content—both broadcast and digital—marking a significant step toward greater transparency in political communication.

والی قانون سازی کو غیر ضروری طوالت نہ دے سکیں اور
قانون سازی کے اختیار کو تاخیری حربے کے طور پر استعمال نہ کیا
جاسکے۔

آخر میں یہ امر نہایت قابل ذکر ہے کہ، الیکشن کمیشن کی
بلدیاتی انتخابات کے بروقت انعقاد کی کاوشوں پر ہمیشہ سے صوبائی
حکومتوں کے قانون سازی کے اختیارات اثر انداز ہوتے رہے
ہیں جو بعض اوقات مقررہ وقت پر بلدیاتی انتخابات کروانے کی
راہ میں سب سے بڑی رکاوٹ ثابت ہوتے ہیں۔ لہذا پاکستان
کی جمہوری بنیادوں کو مضبوط بنانے کے لئے ان مسائل کو حل
کرنا بہت ضروری ہے۔

نذر عباس

ایڈیشنل ڈائریکٹر جنرل

"نیا لبادہ پر الی نشانیاں نہ گئیں
فقیہ شہر کی ریشہ دوانیاں نہ گئیں"

جمہوری عمل کو مستحکم کرنے کے لیے یہ ضروری ہے کہ الیکشن
کمیشن آف پاکستان کو بااختیار بنایا جائے۔ آزادانہ اور منصفانہ
انتخابات کروانے کے لئے الیکشن کمیشن کی مالی اور انتظامی
خود مختاری کو یقینی بنایا جائے۔ ایسے واضح اور جامع قوانین بنائے
جائیں جو صوبائی اور مقامی حکومتوں کے کردار اور ذمہ داریوں کا
مکمل تعین اور انکی تفصیلی وضاحت کرتے ہوں تاکہ کوئی نکتہ مبہم
نہ رہے۔

احتساب اور نمائندگی کو یقینی بنانے کے لئے آئینی ٹائم لائن کے
اندر مقامی حکومت کے انتخابات کروانے کے لئے صوبائی حکومتوں
کو آئینی طور پر پابند کیا جائے تاکہ وہ اس ضمن میں کی جانے

بلدیاتی انتخابات کا انعقاد اور صوبائی حکومتوں کا کردار

خیبر پختونخوا میں ہر سال (DIRECT BYE-ELEC-TION) منعقد کیے جاتے ہیں جو کہ 2023 میں 27 اگست کو اور 20 اکتوبر 2024 کو منعقد ہوئے۔ اس کے ساتھ جب بھی VILLAGE COUNCIL/NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL کے چیرمین یا تحصیل کوئسل کے چیرمین کی نشست خالی ہوتی ہے تو ان نشستوں کے انتخابات ساتھ ساتھ منعقد کرائے جاتے ہیں۔

- بلوچستان میں، انتخابات میں تاخیر ہوئی، اور ان کے انعقاد کے بعد بھی، خواتین کی کم شرکت اور کوئٹہ جیسے اہم شہر کو بلدیاتی اداروں سے ابھی تک محروم رکھا گیا ہے۔ جس کی وجہ عدالتوں میں صوبائی حکومت کے ایما پر بے جا درخواست بازی ہے۔

- پنجاب کی مختلف صوبائی حکومتوں نے مقامی حکومت کے نظام کے ساتھ متعدد تجربات جاری رکھے، یہی سلوک مختلف وفاقی حکومتوں نے اسلام آباد کے لوکل انتخابات کے ساتھ کیا ہے اور یہ روش ابھی تک جاری ہے۔ انتہائی دلچسپ امر یہ ہے کہ الیکشن کمیشن کی جانب سے بارہا حلقہ بندیوں کا مکمل مکمل کرنے کے بعد متعدد صوبائی اور وفاقی حکومتیں قانون سازی میں ترامیم لیکر آ جاتی ہیں جس سے کی جانے والی حلقہ بندی کا عمل غیر موثر ہو جاتا ہے۔

الیکشن کمیشن کو بروقت مقامی حکومت کے انتخابات کو یقینی بنانے میں مشکلات کا سامنا ہے جیسا کہ مالی خود مختاری کے مسائل، الیکشن کمیشن آف پاکستان کے آئینی مینڈیٹ کے باوجود، کمیشن کی مالی خود مختاری محدود ہے، کیونکہ بجٹ وفاقی حکومت کی طرف سے فراہم کیا جاتا ہے۔ اور بعض اوقات وسائل کی یہ کمی رکاوٹوں اور مشکلات کا باعث بن سکتی ہے۔

پاکستان میں مقامی حکومت کے قوانین اکثر مبہم یا ناکافی ہوتے ہیں، جس سے صوبائی حکومتوں کو تشریح اور رد و بدل کی گنجائش ہمیشہ رہ جاتی ہے جسے وہ اپنی ضرورت کے مطابق استعمال کرتی رہتی ہیں۔ قطع نظر اس کے کہ کس صوبے میں کونسی جماعت برسر اقتدار ہو، ہر صوبائی حکومت کہ یہی کوشش نظر آتی ہے کہ پہلے تو بلدیاتی انتخابات ہونے نہ دیے جائیں اور اگر انتخابات ہو بھی جائیں تو مقامی حکومتوں کو اختیارات کی منتقلی میں رکاوٹیں پیدا کی جاتی ہیں۔ اس ضمن میں یہ کہنا بے جا نہ ہو گا کہ

آئین کے آرٹیکل 140-A میں کہا گیا ہے کہ "ہر صوبہ قانون کے مطابق، مقامی حکومت کا نظام قائم کرے گا اور مقامی حکومتوں کے منتخب نمائندوں کو سیاسی، انتظامی، مالی ذمہ داری اور اتھارٹی تفویض کرے گا۔ آئین پاکستان میں بلدیاتی انتخابات کے انعقاد کی ذمہ داری بھی الیکشن کمیشن آف پاکستان کو دی گئی ہے۔

الیکشن کمیشن آف پاکستان جمہوری عمل کو یقینی بنانے میں ایک اہم کردار ادا کرتا ہے۔

آئین پاکستان کے مطابق، وفاقی و صوبائی حکومت کے لیے یہ لازم ہے کہ مقامی حکومت کا نظام کرے اور منتخب نمائندوں کو اختیارات تفویض کئے جائیں۔ قانون الیکشن کمیشن کو بلدیاتی اداروں کی میعاد ختم ہونے کے 120 دن کے اندر ان انتخابات کا انعقاد کرنے کا پابند کرتا ہے۔ تاہم وفاقی و صوبائی حکومتیں اس ٹائم لائن کو کثرت سے نظر انداز کرتی ہیں، اس سلسلے میں مختلف مسائل کو وجوہات کے طور پر پیش کیا جاتا ہے، جیسے کہ سکیورٹی کے خدشات، انتظامی امور، یا محض مقامی حکومتوں کو بااختیار بنانے کی مرضی کا فقدان یا آخری مراحل پر بلدیاتی قوانین میں تبدیلی۔

الیکشن کمیشن آف پاکستان کو بلدیاتی انتخابات کرانے میں مندرجہ ذیل تاخیری حربوں کا سامنا رہا ہے۔

- سندھ میں، معمول سے زیادہ بارشیں، سیلاب، انتظامی اور پولیس اہلکاروں کی مطلوبہ تعداد میں عدم دستیابی کی وجہ سے مقامی حکومت کے انتخابات متعدد بار ملتوی کر دیئے گئے، جس پر نقادوں کا کہنا ہے کہ یہ تمام مقامی حکومتوں کے وسائل پر کنٹرول برقرار رکھنے کے لئے محض بہانے ہیں۔

- خیبر پختونخوا میں بلدیاتی کونسل (2015-2019) کی مدت 27.08.2019 کو پوری ہوئی۔ نئی بلدیاتی کونسلز کے انتخابات کے لیے حلقہ بندیوں کے کام میں صوبائی حکومت کی طرف سے تاخیر ہوئی جس کی وجہ سے انتخابات دو سال تک نہ ہو سکے۔ نئی کونسلز کے انتخابات کا مرحلہ پھر 2021 میں شروع ہوا اور انتخابات 2 مرحلوں میں ہوئے۔ پہلے مرحلے میں 17 ضلع تھے اور پولنگ 19.12.2021 کو ہوئی اور دوسرے مرحلے میں 18 ضلع تھے اور پولنگ 31.03.2022 کو ہوئی۔ ان کونسلز کی مدت 4 سال ہے 2022-2026 اور یہ کونسلر 20.06.2026 کو اپنی مدت پوری کریں گی۔ اس کے علاوہ

ECP's Visionary Leap: A New Era of Electoral Excellence

In a significant stride towards strengthening democracy, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has undergone a transformative journey over the past five years (2020-2025). This period has witnessed numerous milestones that have revolutionized the electoral landscape of the country.

At the heart of ECP's transformation is the creation of a state-of-the-art Election Monitoring Control Centre (EMCC) at its Secretariat in Islamabad. This cutting-edge facility enables real-time monitoring of electoral activities, ensuring swift response to emerging challenges. A high-tech data centre complements the EMCC, securely storing and managing critical election data.

ECP has taken significant steps and established highly secured Record Room and a modern Media Room. These facilities ensure the safekeeping of vital official records and providing a conducive environment for media personnel to perform their duties smoothly.

To facilitate its employees, ECP has acquired buses and coasters for providing safe and efficient transportation. The Commission has also upgraded its office infrastructure in the field by constructing five new spacious offices of REC / DEC in Sargodha, Okara, Layyah, Jhelum and Attock. Beside construction of these buildings, ECP has also been able to construct 33 boundary walls to secure the plots acquired for field offices across the country. Furthermore, for the first time ECP has been successful in acquiring state land from provincial governments for 38 plots for its field offices across the country.

Well ahead of GE-2024, the ECP looking at the large number of youth voters in the voter list initiated a mega project of sensitizing students in all four provinces by conducting students awareness workshops in Government Higher Secondary Schools, Colleges and Universities and was able to achieve a record number of 2276 Interactive Students Awareness Workshops across the country from November 2024.

Haroon Khan Shinwari
ADG Monitoring, ECP

A Decade of Electoral Evolution and Strengthening Democracy: Progressive Insights into Voter Participation and Electoral Reforms in Pakistan

Elections lie at the heart of democratic societies, serving as a fundamental means of public participation and political engagement. In Pakistan, voter participation has undergone significant progress in recent years, reflecting the evolving nature of the country's electoral landscape. As we move forward, it is essential to focus on the positive strides taken, the lessons learned, and the ongoing efforts to ensure a more inclusive and participatory democracy.

Despite challenges, there have been encouraging trends indicating that efforts to engage citizens are gradually yielding results. The General Elections (GE) of 2013, 2018, and 2024 reveal both ongoing efforts and innovative strategies aimed at improving voter participation. A closer look at these elections reveals a growing commitment to increase voters' participation, particularly among marginalized groups.

One of the most promising trends in GE-2024 was the significant rise in female voter turnout. A remarkable 2.9 million more women cast their ballots, underscoring the success of gender-focused outreach and awareness campaigns. In fact, for the first time, no constituency recorded female turnout less than 10% of the total polled votes, a noteworthy milestone in Pakistan's efforts toward gender inclusion in the political process. This shift reflects the tangible impact of targeted strategies, such as community-based voter education, the establishment of mobile registration units, and local-level advocacy. The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), alongside civil society organizations, has made great strides in fostering an environment where women's voices are heard, ensuring that women's participation in the electoral process is no longer a fringe concern, but a central feature of Pakistan's democracy.

GE-2024 saw significant upgrades in electoral infrastructure, with a focus on enhancing the voting experience for all citizens. Through improved polling stations and better training for election officials, the integrity of the voting process has been strengthened. The ECP's focus on refining voter education efforts has paid off in making the voting process more accessible and more reliable for voters across the country. Voter education campaigns have also played an instrumental role in informing the electorate about the importance of their vote. As a result, voter awareness has seen positive increases.

A key factor in the progress made since GE-2013 is the ongoing efforts to rebuild public trust in Pakistan's democratic institutions. These efforts are centered around transparency, accountability, and inclusivity. The ECP's approach to well organized elections, along with its commitment to digitalizing

records, has increased the trust of the voters in the electoral system. The growing engagement of urban and rural populations alike, despite challenges such as security concerns and harsh weather condition, demonstrates a resilient electorate committed to participating in shaping the future of the country. These efforts underscore the importance of continued investment in both infrastructure and outreach programs to ensure that every citizen feels empowered to vote, irrespective of their location or socio-economic background.

Looking ahead, the progress seen in GE-2024 is a testament to the transformative power of sustained electoral reforms. The commitment of the ECP to continuously evolve and adapt to the needs of the electorate lays the foundation for even greater successes in future elections. By prioritizing voter inclusion, improving voter education, and improving election infrastructure, Pakistan is on a path to creating a more participatory, transparent, and resilient democracy.

The future of Pakistan's democracy is indeed bright. The engagement of more women, youth, and marginalized groups signals a shift towards a more inclusive political system. Moreover, the focus on civic education and media awareness campaigns is paving the way for a society where every citizen understands the importance of their vote and feels motivated to actively participate. With ongoing reforms and the collective determination of the ECP, civil society, and the electorate, Pakistan's democracy is poised for further growth. The experience of GE-2024 proves that the ECP is committed to lead the transformative change towards Pakistan's electoral landscape where every citizen's voice is heard, valued, and reflected in the democratic process.

In conclusion, while challenges remain, the progress made over the past decade in voter participation and electoral reforms is undeniable. The positive developments in voter turnout, particularly among women, and the ongoing improvements in electoral infrastructure demonstrate that Pakistan is on the right track toward strengthening its democracy. With continued efforts, inclusive policies, and the determination to build on the lessons learned, Pakistan's electoral system is becoming more transparent, participatory, and resilient in a brighter democratic future for all citizens.

Zahra Nazish,
Senior Assistant, ECP

TOTAL REGISTERED VOTERS IN PAKISTAN

Province Wise Voter Statistics in Pakistan, as of July 1st, 2025

Total: **134,428,577**



62,304,368



72,124,209

KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA

Total: 22,874,402
Female: 10,440,875
Male: 12,433,527

ISLAMABAD

Total: 1,207,287
Female: 575,894
Male: 631,393

BALUCHISTAN

Total: 5,613,371
Female: 2,470,213
Male: 3,143,158

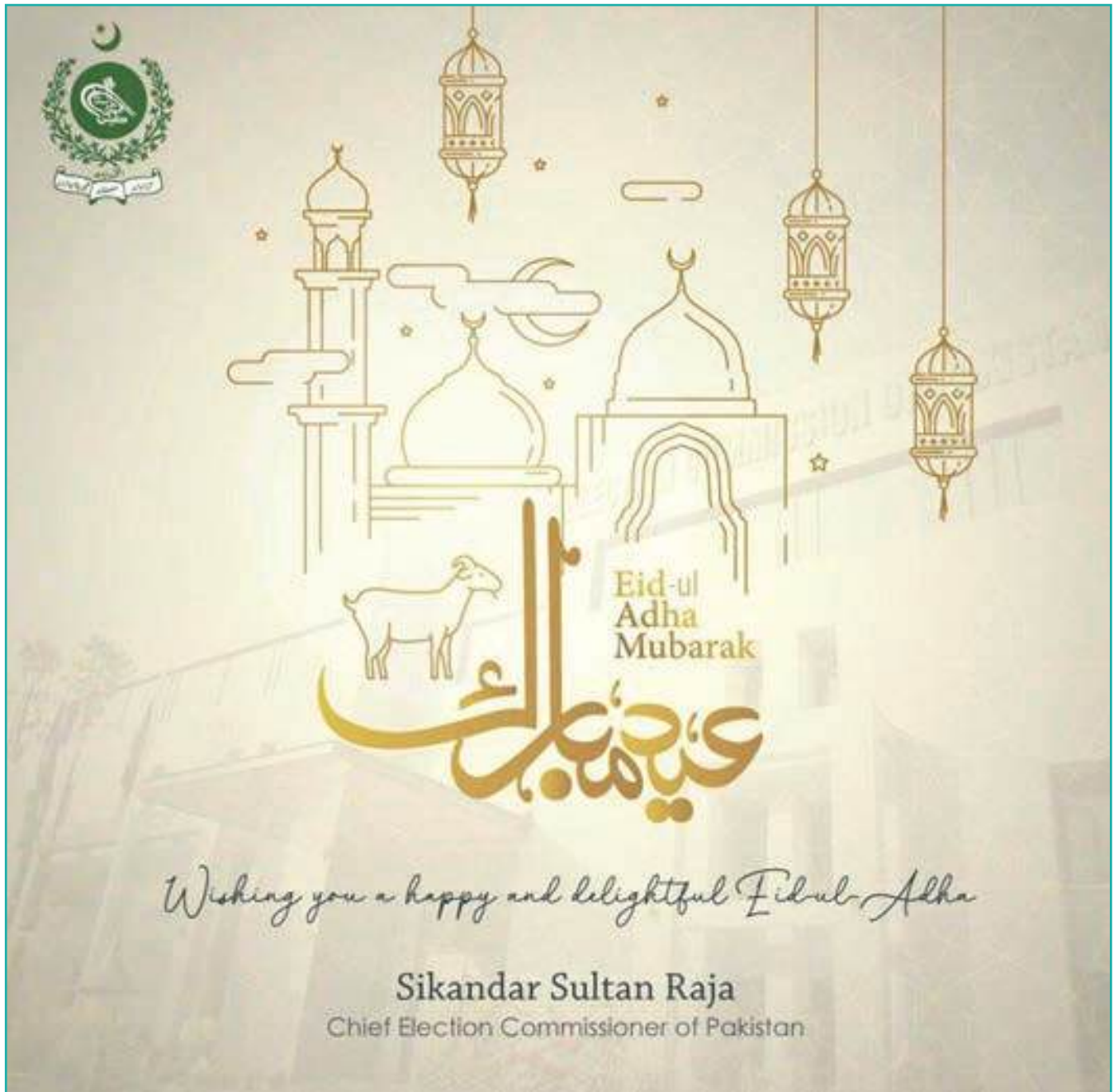
PUNJAB

Total: 76,563,243
Female: 35,862,536
Male: 40,700,707

SINDH

Total: 28,170,274
Female: 12,954,850
Male: 15,215,424

ECP's Inclusivity for Community World Over



ACKNOWLEDGE THE EFFORTS

ECP'S MONUMENTAL CHALLENGES

The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) bears a **significant responsibility**. With only **532 officers**, ECP is tasked with conducting Elections for over **133 million voters** and managing a population of **241 million**. The

challenge of overseeing **167 political parties** while adhering to all constitutional and legal frameworks is monumental. Their dedication deserves recognition and support.

It's time to say

YOUR ARE MAKING GREAT EFFORTS
KEEP YOUR SPIRITS ALWAYS UP

Bilal Singhra
Deputy Director, ECP

اٹھ، ووٹ پا، حق نبھا

جے توں ووٹ پاویں گا
لپنا مان ودھاویں گا

ووٹ قوم دی امانت اے
نہ پانا خیانت اے

جے لپنا فرض نہیں نبھاویں گا
کیویں حق جتاویں گا

جے نہ گیا تو پاؤں ووٹ
مہنگا گھی وپتی، مہنگے لنگوٹ

جے اج ووٹ نہیں پائیں گا
لگے پنج سال پچھتائیں گا

اٹھ جنیدا ووٹ پائیے
اپنی قوم دی تقدیر بنائیے

By:

Newly Inducted Officers Batch 2025

(Nayyab, Yasmin, Junaid, Abubakar, Aamir and Nawaz)



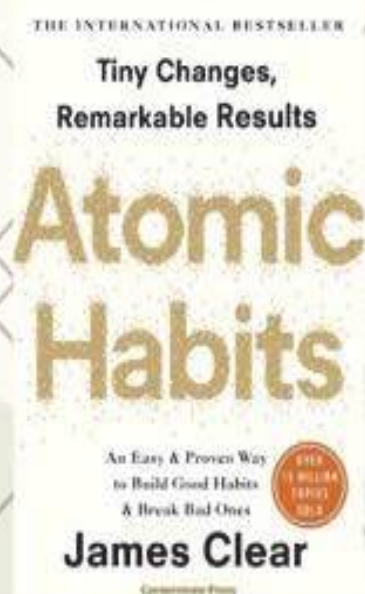
VOTE TODAY, SHAPE TOMORROW

- ✓ Beware of Misinformation – Get election news from reliable, fact-checked sources like ECP's website or its social media pages
- ✓ Report Issues Immediately – If you face any problems at the polls, contact election officials or voter assistance hotlines.
- ✓ Cast your vote wisely!

QUARTERLY Reader's Club Series

BY BIBI SUGHRA (DEPUTY DIRECTOR)

5 core ideas from Atomic Habits



1 Minuscule, daily 1% improvements compound into transformative life changes over time.

2 You can engineer any habit using a simple four-part framework: make it obvious, attractive, easy, and satisfying

3 Redesign your environment to reduce friction for good habits and increase it for bad ones

4 Downscale new habits to a two-minute version to master the art of showing up consistently

5 Lasting change requires believing a new identity, as every small action is a vote for the person you wish to become

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