

GENERAL ELECTIONS REPORT



2024 VOLUME-I



ELECTION COMMISSION OF PAKISTAN



General Elections Report 2024 Volume-I

Election Commission of Pakistan

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Message from the Chief Election Commissioner

On Behalf of Election Commission

The conduct of General Elections 2024 marked an important milestone as the fourth consecutive general elections in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. The events preceding the General Elections posed great challenges for the Commission, including the early dissolution of two Provincial Assemblies, publication of housing census on the verge of expiry of term of the National Assembly and the mass resignations of members of the National Assembly. These developments made the Commission's job of conducting the General Elections arduous.

The Commission undertook numerous steps to improve the electoral process and introduced multiple new initiatives including establishment of Election Monitoring Control Center (EMCC), printing of names of contesting candidates on Form-45, survey of buildings proposed for polling stations and maintaining data bank of officers / officials for their appointment as polling personnel. For the assistance of Returning Officers, a facilitation center was also established to facilitate them during scrutiny of nomination papers of candidates, which worked as a bridge between the Election Commission, the Returning Officers and relevant State institutions such as NADRA, FIA, NAB, FBR and the State Bank of Pakistan.

In order to engage the young generation in the electoral process, an extensive campaign was launched which included seminars, workshops in universities and at other relevant fora. Steps were also taken to minimize the gender gap between male and female voters. For this purpose, NADRA and civil society organizations were also engaged for

issuance of NICs to women and marginalized groups and for the registration of their votes in the Electoral Rolls.

The law and order situation during the general elections 2024 was more conducive vis-à-vis General Elections 2013 and 2018. The concerted efforts of law enforcement agencies, coupled with the Commission's steadfast commitment, to ascertain a secure electoral milieu, yielded notable reduction in election related violence. The Commission acknowledges invaluable contributions of all stakeholders, whose collective resolve transformed the electoral environment into one characterized by public trust, stability and peaceful completion of electoral process.

Despite the charged political scenario during the year 2023 and the sequence of events, it is encouraging that democracy evolved and the elections were successfully and peacefully conducted in 2024, allowing the nation to exercise its right of franchise.

Although significant progress has been made towards strengthening democracy, and the continuous organization of elections is a silver-lining in this respect yet a lot more is required to be done for improving the electoral process and fostering democracy. The Election Commission is fully committed to perform its constitutional and legal role and shall always be at the forefront in conducting free, fair and transparent elections in the country, without fear or favour.

Sikandar Sultan Raja
Chief Election Commissioner of Pakistan

ACRONYMS

ADG	Additional Director General
ANP	Awami National Party
APO	Assistant Presiding Officer
ARO	Assistant Returning Officer
BAP	Balochistan Awami Party
BPS	Basic Pay Scale
CBC	Census Block Code
CCI	Council of Common Interests
CCTV	Closed-Circuit Television
CEC	Chief Election Commissioner
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CERS	Computerized Electoral Rolls System
CMS	Complaint Management System
DCRs	District Census Reports
DC	Deputy Commissioner
DEC	District Election Commissioner
DEO	Data Entry Operator
DMO	District Monitoring Officer
DMCRs	District Monitoring Control Rooms
DMTs	District Monitoring Teams
DPO	District Police Officer
DRO	District Returning Officer
DVEC	District Voter Education Committee
ECP	Election Commission of Pakistan
EMB	Election Management Body
EMCC	Election Monitoring and Control Centre
EMS	Election Management System
ER	Electoral Rolls
FAQ	Frequently Asked Questions
FATA	Federally Administered Tribal Areas

FBR	Federal Board of Revenue
FC	Frontier Constabulary
GDA	Grand Democratic Alliance
GE	General Election
ICT	Islamabad Capital Territory
IGP	Inspector General of Police
IPP	Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party
IT	Information Technology
JUI(P)	Jamiat Ulema-E-Islam Pakistan
KP	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
LEAs	Law Enforcement Agencies
LFO	Legal Framework Order
LG	Local Government
LGE	Local Government Elections
LTs	Lead Trainers
MNA	Member National Assembly
MO	Monitoring Officer
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MPA	Member Provincial Assembly
MQMP	Muttahida Qaumi Movement Pakistan
MTs	Monitoring Teams
NA	National Assembly
NAB	National Accountability Bureau
NADRA	National Database and Registration Authority
NIC	National Identity Card
NSPC	National Security Printing Company
NTC	National Telecommunication Corporation
PA	Provincial Assembly
PB	Provincial Assembly of Balochistan
PBS	Pakistan Bureau of Statistics
PCP	Printing Corporation of Pakistan
PEC	Provincial Election Commissioner
PER	Preliminary Electoral Rolls

PK	Provincial Assembly Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
PMC	Provincial Monitoring Coordinators
PMCR	Provincial Monitoring Control Room
PML	Pakistan Muslim League
PML-N	Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz
PO	Polling Officer
PP	Provincial Assembly of Punjab
PPF	Pakistan Post Foundation
PPPP	Pakistan People's Party Parliamentarians
PrO	Presiding Officer
PS	Provincial Assembly Sindh
PTCL	Pakistan Telecommunication Company Ltd.
PTI(P)	Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaaf (Parliamentarians)
PTV	Pakistan Television Corporation
PWDs	Persons With Disabilities
REC	Regional Election Commissioner
RMS	Result Management System
RMCS	Regional Monitoring Coordinators
RMCRS	Regional Monitoring Control Rooms
RO	Returning Officer
RO	Registration Officer
RPO	Regional Police Officer
SBP	State Bank of Pakistan
SMS	Short Message Service
SOPs	Standard Operating Procedures
SPL	Security Papers Limited
Sr.APOs	Senior Assistant Presiding Officers
STD	Subscriber Trunk Dialling
UAN	Universal Access Number
VPN	Virtual Private Network

Chapter 01

Introduction

In a democratic state, the free will of the people is exercised through the medium of elections. As enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights "the will of the people shall be the basis for the authority of the government; this will be expressed in periodic genuine elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent free voting procedures". This peaceful transition of power in a democratic set up is universally accepted only if there are free, fair and impartial elections through which voters are provided a conducive environment for expressing their political will. Democracies across the globe flourish on this concept. The practice has gained key importance when it comes to elections which are held for electing people's representatives by providing a level playing field to all contestants and political parties without any discrimination. In Pakistan, the responsibility to hold elections to the Parliament, Provincial Assemblies and local governments rests with the Election Commission of Pakistan.

1.1 Elections in Pakistan

After the creation of Pakistan in 1947, the country adopted the Government of India Act, 1935, to run day to day affairs, as an interim constitution with slight modifications. A constitution making committee was formed which took almost nine years and the first ever Constitution was promulgated in March, 1956. This Constitution provided a parliamentary form of government with unicameral legislature. Election Commission was also established under this Constitution, but no election could be held. In 1959, the Basic Democracies system was introduced whereby 80,000 local council members were elected through direct voting, who then assumed role of Electoral College for electing members of the National and Provincial Assemblies as well as the President. In 1962, a new constitution was framed and promulgated which provided Presidential form of Government. The Election Commission conducted indirect elections for the National and Provincial Assemblies in 1962 and 1965. Similarly, election to the office of the President was held on 2nd January, 1965. In 1970, a Legal Framework Order (LFO) was issued and under that LFO, first ever General Elections on the basis of adult franchise were held for both the National Assembly and Provincial Assemblies on the 7th and 17th of December, 1970 respectively across the country. Thereafter, eleven general elections have been held in the years 1977, 1985, 1988, 1990, 1993, 1997, 2002, 2008, 2013, 2018 and 2024.

Chapter 02

Composition of Parliament and Provincial Assemblies

2.1 The Parliament

Majlis-e Shoora, the Parliament of Pakistan, consists of the President, the Senate and the National Assembly. The President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan is the Head of State, who represents the unity of the Republic (Article-50).

2.2 The Senate (Article-59)

The Senate of Pakistan, which is also called the Upper House of the Parliament, consists of ninety six members. It has equal number of representation from the Provinces i.e. twenty three members from each province. Similarly, four members are elected from the Federal Capital. Senate elections are held in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of a single transferable vote. The members of the Senate are elected for a term of six years and half of them retire after every three years. The category-wise division of seats in the Senate is as under:

Province/ Area	General Seats	Reserved Seats			Total
		Women	Technocrats and Ulema	Non-Muslims	
Federal Capital	2	1	1	--	4
Punjab	14	4	4	1	23
Sindh	14	4	4	1	23
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	14	4	4	1	23
Balochistan	14	4	4	1	23
Total	58	17	17	4	96

2.3 The National Assembly

The National Assembly of Pakistan, the Lower House of the Parliament, consists of 336 members: 266 General Seats; 60 seats reserved for Women and 10 seats reserved for non-Muslims. General seats are filled by direct vote on the basis of single member territorial constituencies. Under Article 51 of the Constitution each province is a single constituency for all women seats allocated in the National Assembly to that Province. The seats reserved for women are filled through proportional representation system from political parties' lists of

candidates on the basis of total number of general seats secured by each political party from the Province concerned in the National Assembly.

Likewise, the seats reserved for non-Muslims are also filled through proportional representation system from political parties' lists of candidates on the basis of total number of general seats won by each political party in the National Assembly. The constituency for all seats reserved for non-Muslims in the National Assembly is the whole of Country. The category-wise number of seats are as under:

Province/ Area	General Seats	Seats Reserved for Women	Total	Seats Reserved for Non-Muslims
Federal Capital	3	--	3	10
Punjab	141	32	173	
Sindh	61	14	75	
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	45	10	55	
Balochistan	16	4	20	
Total	266	60	326	336

2.4 The Provincial Assemblies

Members of the Provincial Assemblies for the general seats are also elected by direct vote on the basis of single member territorial constituencies in each Province. The seats reserved for Women and non-Muslims are allocated to political parties through a proportional representation system on the basis of total number of general seats secured by each political party in the Provincial Assembly. Each Province is a single constituency for all seats reserved for Women and non-Muslims allocated to that Province. The composition of the Provincial Assemblies under Article 106 of the Constitution, is as under:

Provincial Assembly	General Seats	Reserved Seats		Total
		Women	Non-Muslims	
Punjab	297	66	8	371
Sindh	130	29	9	168
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	115	26	4	145
Balochistan	51	11	3	65

Chapter 03

Composition and Organizational Structure of Election Commission of Pakistan

3.1 Composition

Article 218 of the Constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan, 1973 provides the composition of the Election Commission as under:

- The Commissioner, who is the Chairman of the Commission.
- Four members, one from each Province.

a) Qualification of the Chief Election Commissioner

According to Article 213 of the Constitution, qualifications for the appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner are:

- A person who has been a Judge of the Supreme Court, a senior civil servant, or a technocrat
- The person must not be more than sixty-eight years of age

b) Qualification of Members Election Commission

According to Article 218 of the Constitution, the qualifications for appointment of members of the Commission are:

- A person who has been a judge of a High Court, a senior civil servant, or a technocrat.
- The person must not be more than sixty-five years of age

c) Method of Appointment of Chief Election Commissioner and Members of the Commission

The Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition in the National Assembly with mutual consultation, appoint the Chief Election Commissioner and the Members of the Election Commission. In case there is no consensus between the Prime Minister and Leader of the Opposition, each forwards three names to the Parliamentary Committee, constituted by the Speaker, comprising equal representation from both treasury and opposition benches to confirm any one name from amongst the names provided for each position.

d) Term of Office of Commissioner and Members

The Chief Election Commissioner and Members hold office for a term of five years from the date they assume office. In October, 2024 the 26th Amendment was passed and Article 215 of the Constitution was amended with the insertion of a new proviso that after expiry of term, the incumbent CEC, or the incumbent Member shall continue to hold office until his successor enters upon the office.

3.2 Organizational Structure

The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has a vast network of its offices across the country. It has its presence at the Federal, provincial, divisional and districts levels. Election Commission runs the affairs of the Commission under the overall leadership of the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC). The CEC and four Members of the Commission play pivotal role in discharge of Constitutional and legal obligations for smooth completion of all electoral activities. The Secretary Election Commission being administrative head manages human and financial resources and formulates policies for the effective discharge of functions of the Commission. The Secretary has the support of Special Secretary and various Director Generals. In the hierarchical set-up, the Director Generals are assisted by Additional Directors General, Directors and Deputy Directors. At the provincial level, Election Commission is represented by Provincial Election Commissioners who are assisted by two Joint Provincial Election Commissioners, officers and other allied staff. At the divisional level, a Regional Election Commissioner is assisted by the District Election Commissioner in each district. All the above officers perform their duties under the direct supervision of Provincial Election Commissioner, who acts upon the directions of the Commission.

Chapter 04

Legal Framework

To conduct elections in a democratic country, an adequate legal framework is a pre-requisite so that all stakeholders have equal access and opportunities to participate in the electoral process. Usually, the constitution of different countries provides major guidelines and timeframe for conduct of elections. Under the constitution, laws are enacted and rules framed thereunder. The election management bodies also devise instructions and codes of conduct to govern the election process in a manner which is acceptable to all concerned.

The Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan 1973 provides basis for the democratic process, whereas the Elections Act, 2017 and the Election Rules, 2017 provide legal framework for the conduct of general elections. The composition of the National Assembly and Provincial Assemblies is given in Articles 51 and 106 of the Constitution, respectively.

Article 224(1) of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan outlines the timeline for elections. A general election to the National Assembly or a Provincial Assembly is required to be held within a period of sixty days immediately following the day on which the term of the Assembly is due to expire. Article 224(2) further provides that when the National Assembly or a Provincial Assembly is dissolved, a general election to the Assembly is required to be held within a period of ninety (90) days after the dissolution. Also, the election result must be declared within 14 days after the conclusion of the poll.

Following the 18th constitutional amendment, a new Article 224 (A) was inserted, specifying the procedure for the appointment of caretaker governments. The Government, before completion of term of assemblies, shall initiate the process of constituting caretaker governments. However, in case of early dissolution of assemblies, such process must be initiated immediately after dissolution. The mandate of the caretaker government is defined in Section 230 of the Elections Act 2017, and its key role is to assist the Election Commission of Pakistan in conducting free, fair and transparent elections.

Section 14 of the Elections Act, requires the Election Commission to prepare comprehensive action plan at least four months before the General Election is due. The plan should outline all legal and administrative measures taken or required to be taken in respect of the election.

The DROs, ROs and the AROs are appointed two months before the issuance of election programme as per Sections 50 and 51 of the Elections Act, 2017. However, in exceptional circumstances they are appointed simultaneously with election programme. The Election Commission for the smooth conduct of elections, issues certain guidelines, instructions, directives and codes of conduct during the course of election. The Constitution, Elections Act, and Election Rules framed thereunder along with guidelines and standing instructions issued by the Election Commission collectively provide a detailed mechanism for pre-election, election day and post-elections activities with respect to responsibilities of various stakeholders including Election Commissioner in each district.

Chapter 05

Political Scenario before the General Elections

The dawn of the year 2023 unfolded multiple challenges for the Election Commission while it was gearing up the preparations for holding of General Elections in the last quarter of the year after expiration of terms of Assemblies in August 2023. However, in the first month of the year, two major events changed the course of events when the two Provincial Assemblies i.e. Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa were prematurely dissolved. In addition to it, mass resignations tendered by 127 members of the National Assembly in April, 2022, were accepted by the Speaker National Assembly in the beginning of 2023 resulting in occurrence of casual vacancies. These events diverted focus of the Commission from making preparation for General Elections to a new scenario emerged after dissolution of two Provincial Assemblies and acceptance of resignations tendered by the MNAs. Implications of these events involved protracted litigations in the superior courts. In order to have better insight into the lead-up to the General Elections, it is appropriate to elaborate preceding events.

5.1 Dissolution of Assemblies

Following a series of political disagreements between the ruling and opposition parties the Provincial Assemblies of Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa were dissolved. Consequently, the caretaker governments were appointed in both provinces under Article 224 of the Constitution. The dissolution of the assemblies and the subsequent developments concerning the provincial general elections are outlined below

5.1.1 Provincial Assembly of Punjab

The Provincial Assembly of Punjab was dissolved on 14th January, 2023, under Article 112 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. This disrupted the Election Commission's planned schedule for preparing the General Elections, which was set for the end of the year 2023. On 24th January and 29th January, 2023, the Commission approached the Governor of Punjab for appointing a poll date and proposed that the date of poll may be fixed between 9th April and 13th April, 2023. Simultaneously, the Finance Division, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Defence, Chief Secretary Punjab, and IG Punjab were approached for provision of funds, and security respectively, for the smooth conduct of general elections in the province. Similarly, Chief Justice of Lahore High Court was approached through registrar for provision of details of judicial officers for their appointment as DROs and ROs.

The Governor, Punjab, while responding to ECP's request, did not appoint a poll date with the plea that dissolution of the Punjab Assembly was not made on his directive. He further

informed that Assembly was dissolved under clause (3) of Article 105 of the Constitution and suggested the ECP to consult other stakeholders given prevailing security and economic conditions. In the meanwhile, a writ petition was filed by a political party by invoking the constitutional jurisdiction of the Lahore High Court (LHC) seeking direction to the Governor Punjab and ECP for appointing poll date. On 10th February, 2023, the Lahore High Court (LHC) issued a consolidated judgment directing the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to promptly announce the date of election after consultation with the Governor of Punjab. In response, the ECP again contacted the Governor of Punjab for setting a poll date. In this regard a consultative meeting was held on 14th February, 2023, during which the Governor reiterated that he could not appoint a date, as he had not dissolved the Assembly. Subsequently, the ECP sought further guidance in the matter from the LHC through a Civil Miscellaneous Application (CMA). On 20th February, 2023, the LHC disposed of the CMA and referred the case to the Supreme Court of Pakistan as the matter was already sub judice before the Supreme Court. Mean-while the President of Pakistan through a letter dated 8th February, 2023 advised the ECP to announce the election date in the province by issuing the election program. Another letter was received from the President on 17th February 2023, proposing for a consultative meeting under Section 57(1) of the Elections Act, 2017. On 20th February, 2023, the President himself announced 9th April, 2023, as the poll date for the General Elections to the Provincial Assemblies of Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The Supreme Court of Pakistan then intervened through suo motu jurisdiction and issued direction on 1st March, 2023 to the Commission to propose a poll date to the President in accordance with sections 57 and 58 of the Elections Act, 2017, complying with the deadline given in the constitution i.e. within 90 days of dissolution of the Assembly. The Court further observed that if such a course is not available then the Commission shall in similar manner propose a date for the holding of the poll that deviates minimum possible from the aforesaid deadline. In compliance with the order, the ECP proposed new poll dates between 30th April and 7th May, 2023. The President later finalized 30th April, 2023. The ECP announced the Election Programme on 8th March, 2023 with poll date on 30th April, 2023. However, the election could not be conducted due to reasons mentioned in succeeding paras.

ECP made concerted efforts to fulfil its constitutional and legal obligation regarding conduct of election in the province of Punjab including multiple meetings with the Ministry of Interior, the Chief Secretary of Punjab, the Inspector General of Punjab Police and other law enforcement agencies (LEAs). Despite all these efforts, the Federal and Provincial Governments, as well as the LEAs, did not pledge to provide adequate security due to prevalent law and order situation. The ECP also required the Ministry of Finance for release of necessary funds for the Punjab Assembly elections, but the funds were not released due to the country's prevailing economic conditions. The Federal Cabinet endorsed this decision of Ministry of Finance on 22nd March, 2023. As a result, the ECP had to withdraw the election programme on 22nd March, 2023, after reviewing the reports and briefings, citing the lack of required support from all concerned quarters. On 4th April, 2023, the Supreme Court passed

a new order directing the ECP to hold the Provincial Assembly of Punjab elections on 14th May, 2023. Accordingly, the ECP issued notification of election programme on 5th April, 2023, but due to the ongoing issues and non-provision of above said support, the elections could not be conducted.

5.1.2 Provincial Assembly of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

The Provincial Assembly of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was dissolved on 18th January, 2023, by the Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa under Article 112 of the Constitution. Following this, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) requested the Governor vide letter dated January 24, followed by reminder on 29th January, 2023 to set a poll date. However, the Governor did not appoint a date due to precarious law and order situation of the Province and advised the ECP to consult the relevant law enforcement agencies regarding provision of foolproof security for the conduct of General Elections.

On 1st March, 2023, the Supreme Court of Pakistan ordered the Governor of KP to announce a poll date, in response, the ECP held two consultative meetings with the Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in Peshawar on 8th March, 2023, followed by another meeting at the ECP Secretariat in Islamabad on 14th March, 2023. Following these meetings, the Governor of KP vide letter dated 24th March, 2023 announced 8th October, 2023, as the poll date for the General Election to the Provincial Assembly of KPK.

5.2 Mass Resignations Tendered By MNAs

As the matter of dissolution of two Provincial Assemblies i.e. Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was being tackled by the Commission by engaging all relevant stakeholder for the conduct of Elections, another incident jolted the political scenario when the Speaker National Assembly began to accept resignations tendered by the members National Assembly belonging to Pakistan Tehrik-e-Insaf in the first quarter of 2023. These resignations were actually tendered immediately after the passage of a no confidence motion against the then Prime Minister. A total of 127 Members, National Assembly tendered their resignations. However, the Speaker National Assembly did not accept all the resignations jointly at that time due to technical and procedural formalities.

When the Speaker started acceptance of resignations in piecemeal manner between January to March 2023, the Commission was already fully occupied in preparation for conduct of elections in two Provinces as result of dissolution of the assemblies. This development further burdened the ECP as according to Article 224 of the Constitution, by-elections were required to be conducted to fill the vacant seats within a period of sixty days. It posed a significant challenge to the Commission amid ongoing preparation for general elections. Additional resources had to be allocated, to manage these bye-elections, and many election activities had to be re-initiated encompassing appointment of Returning Officers, submission of

nomination papers, scrutiny of documents, appointment of appellate tribunals, preparation of list of polling stations and polling personnel, preparation of polling material and preparation of different plans. However, poll could not be held due to stay granted by the various Courts. The stay orders remained in the field till the expiration of the term of the Assemblies. These additional unanticipated activities overburdened the Commission, not only in terms of human resource exhaustion but also in incurring of additional financial resources.

Despite these challenges the Commission prepared and issued the Action Plan in April 2023, for the conduct of general elections as required under Section 14 of the Elections Act, 2017.

5.3 Official Publication of Results of the 7th Population and Housing Census at the Eleventh Hour and delay in conduct of General Elections

General Elections 2018 were conducted on the basis of provisional results of the 6th National Population and Housing Census, 2017, as an exception facilitated by the 24th Constitutional Amendment which allowed utilization of provisional data of sixth population Census for allocation of seats for General Election 2018 and subsequent bye-elections only. The final results of the 6th Population and Housing Census, 2017, were officially published on 6th May, 2021, following the approval from the Council of Common Interests (CCI).

It is the obligation of the Election Commission under section 17(2) of the Elections Act, 2017 to undertake fresh delimitation after every official publication of census results by the Federal Government. Accordingly, ECP initiated preparatory measures to undertake fresh delimitation as a statutory requirement. The Federal Government was approached to clarify as to whether re-allocation of seats under article 51 of the Constitution would be carried out in view of said final publication of census results. Similarly, in view of the directions given by CCI, when it approved publication of result of 6th Population Census, timeline for conduct of next digital census was also sought.

The Federal Cabinet deliberated upon final result of 6th Population census and decided not to revisit allocation of seats due to insignificant variation of population between provisional and final result, thereof and this decision was communicated to ECP on 13th August, 2021. Likewise, after due deliberation, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) also intimated a tentative timeline for completion of new digital census, with completion date set for March 2023.

The above timeline for the completion of digital census was deliberated upon and it was anticipated that if digital census was to be completed by March 2023, then ECP would not be in a position to complete delimitation well before General Election 2023 as completion of delimitation exercise would take at least four months. Likewise, the reconciliation of electoral roll with census blocks from fresh census would also require the same period. As the term of Assemblies was going to expire mid-August 2023 and ECP was required to issue Action Plan under section 14 of the Elections Act, 2017 at least four months before the general elections the timeline was not feasible. Hence, the Federal Government was sensitized to complete all

activities of census including publication of final result thereof by 31st December, 2022. This was to enable the ECP to complete delimitation exercise, as well as the reconciliation and updation of Electoral Rolls, well before expiration of the term of the Assemblies.

Meanwhile, a major political development was witnessed when the Opposition moved a No Confidence Motion against the Prime Minister. This Motion was tabled in National Assembly in its session held on 3rd April, 2022 for voting. However, the Deputy Speaker passed a ruling against the Motion. The Prime Minister immediately thereafter sent advice to the President for dissolution of National Assembly and the President, acting on the advice, dissolved the National Assembly forthwith. The opposition parties agitated the matter before the Supreme Court to take Suo-Moto notice against the ruling of the Deputy Speaker and dissolution of National Assembly. Taking Suo-Moto notice, the then Chief Justice of Pakistan scheduled the matter for hearing before the Supreme Court on urgent basis. All the stakeholders, including the ECP, appeared before the Supreme Court in the said hearing. The Chief Election Commissioner, while appearing in person before the Supreme Court, informed the Court on 7th April, 2022 that a fresh general election could only be held at a minimum of 7 months. 4-5 months were needed to finalise the process of delimitation of constituencies due to merger of FATA territory in the Province of KPK. Further 2 more months were required to make arrangements for the election process. After the hearing, the Supreme Court set aside the ruling of the Deputy Speaker and Order of the President regarding dissolution of National Assembly and directed that proceedings of No Confidence Motion be completed as per Constitution. Accordingly, voting on No-Confidence Motion was held on 9th April, 2022 and the National Assembly approved the Motion which led to the removal of the Prime Minister. In the backdrop of these developments the ECP started the delimitation process on 11th April 2022 based on the final results of the 6th Census published on 5th August 2022 paving the way for holding of general election within a period of 60 days as per constitutional requirement after completion of term of Assemblies in mid August 2023.

However, the situation underwent a significant shift when the Federal Government officially published the final results of the 7th Digital Population and Housing Census 2023 on 7th August 2023. The publication of updated demographic data at such a critical juncture rendered the delimitation published in August 2022 obsolete. Cognizant of the sensitivity of this development, the ECP considered the implications of timely conduct of general election and requirement of fresh delimitation from legal point of view and initiated consultations with major political parties. Subsequent to the outcome of this consultative process the Commission resolved to conduct a new delimitation, on the basis of final results of the 7th Population and Housing Census. Accordingly, the ECP initiated fresh delimitation process on 1st September, 2023 and completed the same by publication of final list of constituencies on 30th November, 2023 thus ensuring that the electoral framework remains reflective of the latest demographic realities.

Simultaneously, the ECP also started the process of reconciliation of Electoral Rolls with new Census Block scheme, as Pakistan Bureau of statistics had increased Census Blocks from 163,686 to 180,051 in 7th Digital Population and Housing Census, 2023 resulting in increase of 16,365 census blocks. The reconciliation of Electoral Roll started on 28.8.2023 and

completed on 31st October, 2023, wherein the voters appearing in Electoral Rolls of all affected Census

Blocks were adjusted in the relevant blocks. After reconciliation, updation of Electoral Rolls and data processing, the Final Electoral Rolls were officially published on 1st December, 2023, which were used in General Elections, 2024.

The ECP had planned to issue election programme after completion of aforesaid two pre-requisites. Despite this, rumours were circulating that the elections would be postponed indefinitely. To dispel this impression and to show resolve on the behalf of ECP, a press release was issued stating that the election programme would be announced after completion of delimitation and reconciliation of Electoral Rolls. Despite this assurance, the matter was brought before Apex Court which advised the ECP to appoint an election date after consultation with the President. In this regard the Attorney General of Pakistan was advised to arrange the meeting of the Commission and the President. The Chief Election Commissioner, along with Members of the Election Commission, called on the President on 3rd November, 2023, wherein it was decided that General Elections would be held on 8th February, 2024. Accordingly, a notification of the date of poll was issued.

The above narrated events and developments reflect the prevalent political scenario and magnitude of the inherent and unprecedented challenges encountered by the Commission in conduct of General Elections in the country. Despite this, the Elections were held on the appointed date of 8th February, 2024.

Chapter 06

Delimitation of Constituencies

One of the core responsibilities of the Election Commission is to carry out the delimitation of constituencies. As per section 17 of the Elections Act, 2017, the ECP is under obligation to undertake the delimitation for National and Provincial Assemblies after every census is officially published by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics in the official gazette. Accordingly, after the publication of results of 7th digital population and housing census, the Election Commission of Pakistan decided to carry out the delimitation of 266 National and 593 Provincial Assemblies constituencies.

6.1 Number of Constituencies

Article 51(3) of the Constitution provides the following details of General seats for National Assembly constituencies to be delimited:

National Assembly	
Name of Province/Area	General Seats
Balochistan	16
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	45
Punjab	141
Sindh	61
Federal Capital	3
Total	266

Article 106 of the Constitution provides the number of general seat constituencies in Provincial Assembly as under:

Provincial Assembly	
Name of Province/Area	General Seats
Balochistan	51
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	115
Punjab	297
Sindh	130
Total	593

6.2 Principles of Delimitation

Section 20 of the Elections Act, 2017 lays down the principles for delimitation of constituencies. All constituencies for general seats shall, as far as practicable, be delimited

having regard to the distribution of population in geographically compact areas, physical features, existing boundaries of administrative units, facilities of communication and public convenience and other factors to ensure homogeneity in the creation of constituencies. As far as possible, variation in population of constituencies of any Assembly should not ordinarily exceed ten percent. For this purpose, it may not always be necessary to strictly adhere to existing district boundaries in exceptional cases. If the limit of ten percent is exceeded in an exceptional case, the Commission must record the reasons thereof in the delimitation order.

A Patwar Circle, or as the case may be, a Tapedar Circle is the basic unit for delimitation and it must not be broken under any circumstances. In case of urban areas census circle also cannot be broken. As far as possible, the delimitation of constituencies of an Assembly should start from the Northern end of the district and then proceed clock-wise in a zigzag manner, keeping in view that population among the constituencies of an Assembly remains close to the quota.

The quota is determined by dividing the total population of the province by the number of general seats allocated to that province. The variation in population between two or more constituencies should not ordinarily exceed ten percent and in such case, the Delimitation Committee is required to record reasons.

6.3 Procedure for Carrying out Delimitation

The procedure for carrying out delimitation is laid down in Section 21 of the Elections Act, 2017. For this purpose, the Commission constitutes delimitation committees responsible for carrying out the preliminary delimitation of constituencies for National and Provincial Assemblies. The delimitation results are then published for the information of general public and invitation of representations. After receiving representations, the Commission holds inquiries, summons witnesses, records evidence and orders appropriate changes in the preliminary list within the given timeframe. The changes so made are incorporated into the preliminary list and the final list is then published in the official gazette.

6.4 Delimitation for General Elections-2024

In the aftermath of 7th Population and Housing Census published by the Federal Government, the Election Commission of Pakistan was under obligation to undertake fresh delimitation. The Commission ordered to freeze the administrative boundaries in all provinces and ICT. Subsequently, the Commission constituted five delimitation committees one for each province and one for the Federal Capital. The committees completed their task which was published on 27th September, 2023.

6.5 Steps Involved in the Delimitation of Constituencies

6.5.1 Timelines for delimitation of Constituencies

To complete any task efficiently, a clear timeline is required to be defined. Accordingly, ECP issued the following schedule to ensure smooth completion of delimitation of constituencies:

Sr. No.	Actions	Dates
1	Freezing of boundaries of Administrative Units across the Country. Directive will be issued by ECP	17-08-2023
2	Constitution of Delimitation Committee for each Province including Islamabad <u>Rule 9 of the Elections Rule-2017</u>	By 21-08-2023
3	<u>Administrative arrangements</u> i. Requisition of maps on prescribed scale along with other necessary data and description of Districts, Tehsils etc. from Provincial Governments. ii. Obtaining District Census Reports (DCRs), digitized maps of Census Charges, Circles and Blocks along with Description from PBS.	22-08-2023 to 31-08-2023
4	Training of Delimitation Committees	01-09-2023
5	Determination and Sharing of District Quotas for National and Provincial Assemblies Seats with Delimitation Committees <u>Rule 8 & Rule 9(3) of the Election Rules-2017</u>	to 04-09-2023
6	Preliminary Delimitation of Constituencies by the Delimitation Committees <u>Section 19 & 20 of the Elections Act, 2017</u>	05-09-2023 to 26-09-2023
7	Publication of Preliminary proposals for Delimitation of Constituencies along with report <u>Section 21 of the Elections Act-2017</u>	27-09-2023
8	Filing of Representation on Preliminary proposals for Delimitation of Constituencies before the Hon'ble Commission <u>Section 21(2) of the Elections Act-2017</u>	28-09-2023 to 27-10-2023
9	Disposal/Hearing of Representation by the Hon'ble Commission <u>Section 21(4) of the Elections Act, 2017</u>	28-10-2023 to 26-11-2023
10	Final Publication of Delimitation	30-11-2023

6.5.2 Acquisition of Maps and Description of Revenue Units from District/Revenue Authorities and PBS

Updated maps of administrative units were procured from Districts Level Authorities and Pakistan Bureau of Statistics for the delimitation of Constituencies.

6.5.3 Number of Seats and Determination of Quota

Article 51 of the Constitution provides number of seats for the national assembly and federal capital. Similarly, Article 106 of the constitution provides the number of seats for the provincial assemblies. During the process of delimitation, the population of each province and the federal capital was divided by the number of seats allocated to calculate population quota for the seats of National and Provincial Assemblies separately. Subsequently the population of each district was divided by the quota obtained for the seat of National Assembly and provincial assembly separately to obtain the district wise share. The distribution of seats of the National Assembly and each Provincial Assembly among districts was worked out up to three decimal fractions and then rounded off to indicate the whole number of seats for each district as provided in the Rule 8 of the Election Rules, 2017. The quotas per seat based on final results of population census published in 2023 in respect of each Province/Area in the National Assembly was determined by the Commission. The detail is as under:

Quota Per Seat of the National Assembly					
Sr. No.	Province	Population	No. of Seats	Quota per Seat	
1	2	3	4	5	
1	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	40,856,097	45	$40,856,097 \div 45$	907,913
2	Federal Capital	2,363,863	3	$2,363,863 \div 3$	787,954
3	Punjab	127,688,922	141	$127,688,922 \div 141$	905,595
4	Sindh	55,696,147	61	$55,696,147 \div 61$	913,052
5	Balochistan	14,894,402	16	$14,894,402 \div 16$	930,900
Total		241,499,431	266		

Quota Per Seat in respect of the Provincial Assembly					
Sr. No.	Province	Population	No. of Seats	Quota Per Seat	
1	2	3	4	5	
1	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	40,856,097	115	$40,856,097 \div 115 =$	355,270
2	Punjab	127,688,922	297	$127,688,922 \div 297 =$	429,929
3	Sindh	55,696,147	130	$55,696,147 \div 130 =$	428,432
4	Balochistan	14,894,402	51	$14,894,402 \div 51 =$	292,047
Total		239,135,568	593		

6.6 Publication of Preliminary Delimitation

The delimitation committees began their work on 5th September, 2023 with dedication and finalized the task on 26th September, 2023. The preliminary delimitation was published on 27th September, 2023 for inviting representations and proposals from the voters of respective constituencies.

6.7 Filing of Representations on Preliminary Delimitation

To facilitate the general public in filing their representations/proposals under Section 21 of the Elections Act, 2017 different counters were set up to guide and facilitate the public. The draft maps were uploaded on the ECP website for easy access and the same were also available from the ECP Secretariat in the hard format.

During the specified period for filing representation between 28th September, 2023 and 27th October, 2023, total 1327 representations were filed as per following detail:

Province/Area	Total No. of Representations Filed
Punjab	675
Sindh	228
Khyber Paktunkhwa	293
Balochistan	124
ICT	07
Total	1327

To enhance transparency, all the filed representations were placed on the ECP's website along with their proposed maps. For speedy and efficient disposal of the representations, benches of the Commission were constituted under Section 6 of the Elections Act, 2017. Notices were issued to all concerned on the dates fixed for hearing. These notices were also placed on the website for public awareness. Besides notices, extensive publicity regarding the fixation of cases was given through print & electronic media. The petitioners were also informed through SMS in addition to conventional means.

During the hearings, petitioners and the general public were facilitated through modern gadgets and google maps along with already scanned maps to understand the grievances of the petitioners in a befitting manner. All proceedings took place in open court to ensure transparency in the process.

6.8 Publication of Final List of Constituencies

After the completion of hearings, required amendments were made in the preliminary list of constituencies as per orders of the Commission. The task was accomplished within the stipulated timeframe and the final list of constituencies was published accordingly on 30th November, 2023.

Chapter 07

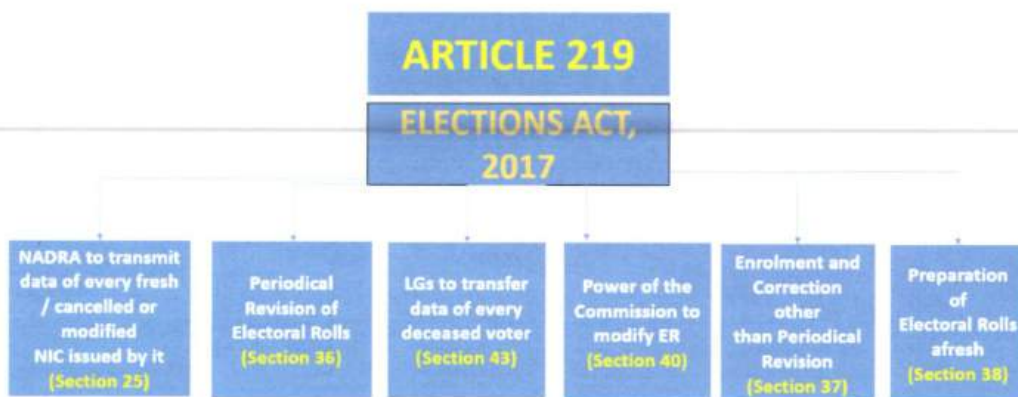
Electoral Rolls

Electoral rolls are prepared to enable citizens to exercise their right of franchise. They confer legitimacy on the electoral process. Voter registration is both the most central and important aspect of the electoral process. It establishes the eligibility of individuals to vote. The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) maintains and periodically updates electoral rolls to ensure registration of all those eligible voters.

To ensure accuracy and inclusivity in the electoral rolls for General Elections, the Commission made the decision to embark on an extensive process of periodical revision of ER in 2021. This revision process commenced on 8th October, 2021, with door-to-door verification of voters that spanned almost for one year. The gigantic activity was completed on 10th July, 2022. After the publication of the final electoral rolls, Registration Officers began processing forms for vote registration/transfer, deletion and correction of voting particulars till the cut-off date i.e. 20th July, 2023. Voter education and awareness campaigns were duly organized before the cut-off date to motivate and facilitate the public for the registration, transfer, deletion or correction of particulars of vote in the Electoral Rolls. Key stakeholders were encouraged to sensitize the general public about the importance of the cut-off date, to ensure an accurate and updated Electoral Rolls for the General Elections. However, due to the publication of the 7th Population and Housing Census, the number of census blocks were increased as a consequential effect. Likewise, some census blocks were either split, deleted, split and merged, or created new by the PBS. The Commission undertook the challenging exercise of updating electoral rolls in the affected census blocks to adjust the voters in the relevant census blocks. The entire exercise was completed on 3rd November, 2023 followed by the publication of Final Electoral Rolls which were used in General Elections 2024.

7.1 Legal Framework

Article 219(a) of the Constitution charges the Election Commission with the duty of preparing electoral rolls for elections to the National Assembly, Provincial Assemblies, and local governments, while also mandating Periodical Revision to keep these rolls up-to-date.



Generally, the ECP conducts a comprehensive revision of the electoral rolls before major elections to ensure accuracy and inclusivity. However, specific timelines for the updation of Electoral Rolls may vary depending on factors such as upcoming elections, legal requirements, and changes in the administrative limits in the provinces and the Federal Capital.

For preparation of Electoral Rolls, an Electoral Area is declared as under:

1. in rural areas, a village or a census block;
2. in urban areas,—
 - a. where there is a municipal ward or census block, such ward or census block;
 - b. where there is no municipal ward or a census block, a well-defined Mohallah or a street;
 - c. where the ward or census block, Mohallah or street is too big, a well-defined part thereof;
3. Provided that a census block shall not be divided except in exceptional circumstances for reasons to be recorded;
4. such other area as may be determined by the Commission;
5. The census blocks, as notified by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS), serve as the basic units for preparing the Electoral Rolls. Each block is assigned a unique nine-digit code, and the Electoral Rolls are identified by the Electoral Area's name and specific Census Block Code (CBC). Presently, the entire country comprises of 180,051 census blocks, each with a distinct Block Code. Below is a sample of the electoral roll.



حتمی انتخابی فہرست 2023 (مرد)

انتخابی سال کا نام: _____ شیڈ: _____

موضوع: _____ شیڈ: _____

تعمیل: _____ شیڈ: _____

نمبر: _____ شیڈ: _____

043020406

سلسلہ	نمبر	نام	پتہ	رقم	تاریخ
1	1	سید علی محمد	سید علی محمد	1430-2123296-9	6-1
2	1	سید علی محمد	سید علی محمد	1430-0312574-7	26
3	1	سید علی محمد	سید علی محمد	1430-2370115-3	37
4	1	سید علی محمد	سید علی محمد	1430-3687665-9	34
5	1	سید علی محمد	سید علی محمد	1430-7755442-7	35
6	1	سید علی محمد	سید علی محمد	1430-7009855-7	30
7	1	سید علی محمد	سید علی محمد	1430-6660478-3	24
8	2	سید علی محمد	سید علی محمد	1430-7136129-3	67
9	2	سید علی محمد	سید علی محمد	1430-2026332-6	64
10	2	سید علی محمد	سید علی محمد	1430-3996262-5	46
11	2	سید علی محمد	سید علی محمد	1430-8953667-3	36
12	2	سید علی محمد	سید علی محمد	1430-8777608-7	37
13	2	سید علی محمد	سید علی محمد	1430-8342611-1	32
14	2	سید علی محمد	سید علی محمد	1430-3337313-3	30
15	2	سید علی محمد	سید علی محمد	1430-8099543-7	24
16	2	سید علی محمد	سید علی محمد	1430-4580900-3	22
17	3	سید علی محمد	سید علی محمد	1430-1380745-7	61
18	3	سید علی محمد	سید علی محمد	1430-8752577-3	52
19	3	سید علی محمد	سید علی محمد	1430-1982163-9	46
20	3	سید علی محمد	سید علی محمد	1430-9746548-1	43
21	3	سید علی محمد	سید علی محمد	1430-9686515-5	36
22	3	سید علی محمد	سید علی محمد	1430-0572282-3	31
23	3	سید علی محمد	سید علی محمد	1430-2780926-1	30
24	3	سید علی محمد	سید علی محمد	1430-3224816-3	20

تاریخ: 01 ستمبر 2023ء

نمبر: 369/775 شیڈ: 043020406

7.2 Voter Enrolment Criteria

According to Section 26(2) of the Elections Act, 2017, the following criteria is required to be met by a person for enrollment as a voter:

- he is a citizen of Pakistan;
- he is not less than eighteen years of age;
- possesses a National Identity Card issued by the National Database and Registration Authority at any time till the last day fixed for inviting claims, objections and applications for preparation, revision or correction of electoral rolls;
- he is not declared by a competent court to be of unsound mind;
- is or is deemed under Section 27 to be resident in the electoral area.

It would be appropriate to highlight the definition of a resident provided in section 27 of the Elections Act, 2017 which provides that a person shall be deemed to be a resident in an electoral area if his temporary or permanent address in the National Identity Card issued by the National Database and Registration Authority lies in the said electoral area. However, an exception is available in sub section 2 and 3 of section 27 of the Elections Act, 2017, which gives facility to the persons in service of Pakistan as well as their spouse and children to get themselves registered as voter in the electoral areas where they physically reside irrespective of their address encapsulated in their NICs.

7.3 Computerized Electoral Rolls System (CERS)

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

- Synchronization of Electoral Rolls data with Civil Registry information,
- Reconciliation of Census blocks data of 2017 & 2023,
- Development of module for print and dispatch of electoral rolls which enabled the monitoring of real time progress of packing/delivery & receipt of electoral rolls by District Election Commissioners.
- Detailed voter history, reports containing historical statistics and electoral area description are updated on regular basis.
- Including of NA/PA constituency information in the voter extract, generated through CERS and 8300 SMS to provide vital information to general public and facilitate polling staff during election process.

7.4 Measures for General Elections-2024

7.4.1 Periodical Revision of Electoral Rolls-2021-22

Under Section 36 of the Elections Act, 2017, the Election Commission initiated the Periodical Revision of Electoral Rolls, 2021-22 on 8th October, 2021, to revise and update the Electoral Rolls for General Elections. This process started with the door-to-door verification of voters. For the purpose, 67,832 Verifying Officials, 18,586 Supervisors and 2,079 Assistant Registration Officers were appointed nationwide as per Section 24 (2) (b) of the Elections Act, 2017 & Rule 26 of the Election Rules, 2017. During door-to-door verification, the voter's particulars were verified, eligible citizens were registered as voters and names of deceased voters were deleted from the Electoral Rolls. After that, Preliminary Electoral Rolls (PERs)

were printed and displayed for inspection of general public for 41 days between 21st May to 30th June, 2022, for submission of claims, applications for transfer of votes, objections and corrections, on Form-15, 16 & 17 respectively. A total of 20,458 display centers were established across the country to receive claims, objections and applications for the correction of particulars. Under Section 29 of the Elections Act, 2017, 525 Revising Authorities were appointed for the purpose of receiving, hearing and deciding claims, objections and applications for corrections. As per Section 25 & 43 of the Elections Act, 2017, the ECP collaborates with NADRA and local government institutions, respectively, to identify and remove deceased voters from the electoral rolls. During this period, four million deceased voters were deleted from the Electoral Rolls. On 7th October, 2022, the ECP published the Final Electoral Rolls for use in General Elections, marking a significant milestone in the electoral process.

7.4.2 Updation of Electoral Rolls Under Section 37 - Cut-Off Date

After the publication of the Final Electoral Rolls on 7th October 2022, the Registration Officers across the country, started receiving forms under Section 37 of the Elections Act, 2017, for registration/transfer of vote (Form-21), deletion of vote (Form-22); and correction of voting particulars (Form-23) from 7th October, 2022 till the cut-off date i.e 20th July, 2023, as announced by the Commission under Section 39 of the Elections Act, 2017 which provides that there will be a cut-off date for registration of voters i.e. one month before the expiry of term of an assembly. The data of new/modified NIC holders till 20th July, 2023, was also obtained from NADRA and the same was entered and processed in the CERS software.

Voter education and awareness campaigns were also duly organized before the cut-off date to motivate and facilitate the public for the registration, transfer, deletion or correction of particulars in the electoral rolls. Key stakeholders were advised to motivate the general public about the importance of cut-off date in order to ensure an accurate and up-to-date Electoral Rolls for the General Election. On the approach of cut-off date, Electoral Rolls were frozen. All forms submitted on or before the cut-off date, before Registration Officers, for the addition/transfer/deletion/correction in the Electoral Rolls along-with the data transmitted by NADRA under section 25 *ibid* and the list of deceased persons provided by the Local Governments under section 43 *ibid*, were duly processed accordingly.

7.4.3 Removal of Deceased Voters From The Electoral Rolls

Removal of deceased voters from the Electoral Rolls is the key component towards preparation of credible and error free Electoral Rolls. For this purpose, following steps were taken:

- Removal of more than 4 million voters during periodical revision
- An amendment in Rule 43 of the Election Rules, 2017 and devised Form-20(A) for obtaining data of deceased voters from the Local Government Departments at local level on uniform pattern on quarterly basis to ensure removal of deceased voters from the electoral rolls after due verification by the Registration Officers.

- ECP obtains data from NADRA on monthly basis and after due verification removes deceased voters from the electoral rolls

Through the above exercises, following number of deceased voters were excluded from the electoral rolls: -

S. No	Activity	No. Deceased Voters Deleted from Electoral Rolls
1	Periodical Revision of Electoral Rolls 2021-22	4,000,000.
2	Information received from Local Governments	1,00,000.
3	Data received from NADRA	3,17,000.

The entire exercise of revision of electoral rolls, verification of voters and deletion of deceased voters from the electoral rolls was accomplished in successful manner before the use of these electoral rolls during General Elections-2024.

7.4.4 Updation of Electoral Rolls after Publication of Digital Census 2023

The Pakistan Bureau of Statistics published the results of Digital Census-2023 on 7th August, 2023. The Electoral Rolls were required to be adjusted and updated in accordance with the revised scheme of Census Blocks as notified by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS). The number of Census Blocks were increased from 163,686 to 180,051, with a total increase of 16,365 census blocks. During the process, 30,332 census blocks were either split, deleted, split & merged, or newly created by the PBS. As a result, the Commission under took the updation of Electoral Rolls in the affected Census Blocks to adjust voters in the relevant blocks. For this purpose, maps and population data were obtained from the PBS and provided to field offices for reconciliation of the same with the provisional data of census 2017, published by PBS on 25th August, 2017. Similarly, existing electoral rolls of the affected blocks were printed and provided to field offices for verification of voters.

As part of preparations for General Elections, Electoral Rolls had been frozen on 20th July, 2023 under Section 39 of the Elections Act, 2017. However, due to delay in the conduct of General Elections in the aftermath of digital census 2023, the Commission decided to unfreeze Electoral Rolls on 28th September, 2023, till 28th October, 2023, keeping in view the fundamental right of enfranchisement by providing ample time to eligible citizens to get their votes registered in the Electoral Rolls. The voters were also provided the opportunity to correct their voting particulars in the Electoral Rolls. Similarly, voters who had modified their NICs were also incorporated in the Electoral Rolls as per their renewed particulars. The votes of deceased voters were deleted and all data and forms approved by ROs were processed in the CERS till 3rd November, 2023, and the Final Electoral Rolls were officially published on 1st December, 2023, for the General Elections, 2024.

7.4.5 Registration Of Youth As First Time Voters

Targeted efforts have been made to register young citizens—particularly those turning 18—as first-time voters. These initiatives include awareness campaigns in educational institutions, collaboration with NADRA for timely issuance of CNICs, and mobile registration units to reach remote/ backward areas. By actively facilitating the inclusion of new voters, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) aims to reduce the generational gap in voter rolls and empower youth to play a meaningful role in shaping the country's democratic future.

7.4.6 Impact

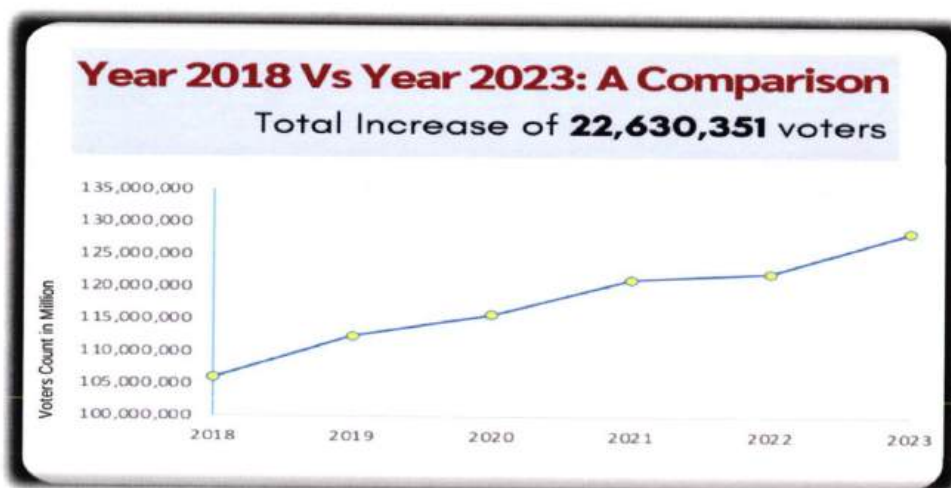
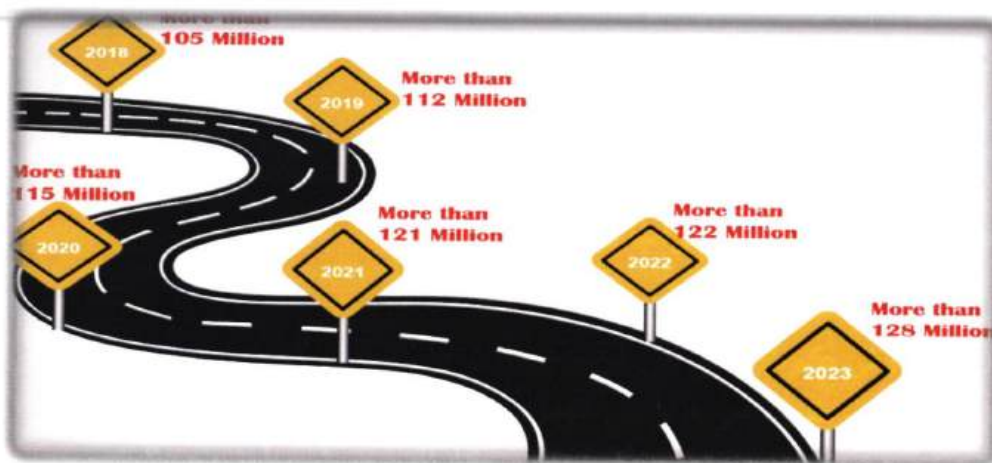
The total number of voters across the country increased from 121,195,062 as on 28th October, 2021 to 128,585,760 as on 1st December, 2023, with a total increase of 7,390,698. The total number of female voters increased from 54,690,457 to 59,322,056, with an increase of 4,631,599 voters, while the total number of male voters increased from 66,504,605 to 69,263,704 with an increase of 2,759,099 voters during this period.

Province/Area	As on 08/10/2021			As on 01/12/2023			Increase in Male voters	Increase in Female Voters
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total		
Punjab	37,620,384	31,424,010	69,044,394	39,122,082	34,085,814	73,207,896	1,501,698	2,661,804
Sindh	14,039,800	11,542,824	25,582,624	14,612,655	12,382,114	26,994,769	572,855	839,290
KPK	11,486,688	9,124,560	20,611,248	11,944,397	9,983,722	21,928,119	457,709	859,162
Balochistan	2,875,906	2,171,520	5,047,426	3,016,164	2,355,783	5,371,947	140,258	184,263
ICT	481,827	427,543	909,370	568,406	514,623	1,083,029	86,579	87,080
Total	66,504,605	54,690,457	121,195,062	69,263,704	59,322,056	128,585,760	2,759,099	4,631,599

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

Age-wise voter Statistics as on 01-12-2023						
Provinces/Area	18-35	36-45	46-55	56-65	66 and Above	Total
Punjab	31,860,624	16,342,090	10,622,034	7,171,505	7,211,643	73,207,896
Sindh	11,325,184	6,371,642	4,132,546	2,534,972	2,630,425	26,994,769
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	10,726,141	4,592,593	2,906,924	1,845,310	1,857,151	21,928,119
Balochistan	2,479,719	1,205,592	726,792	474,307	485,537	5,371,947
ICT	472,527	235,741	156,137	111,250	107,374	1,083,029
Grand Total	56,864,195	28,747,658	18,544,433	12,137,344	12,292,130	128,585,760

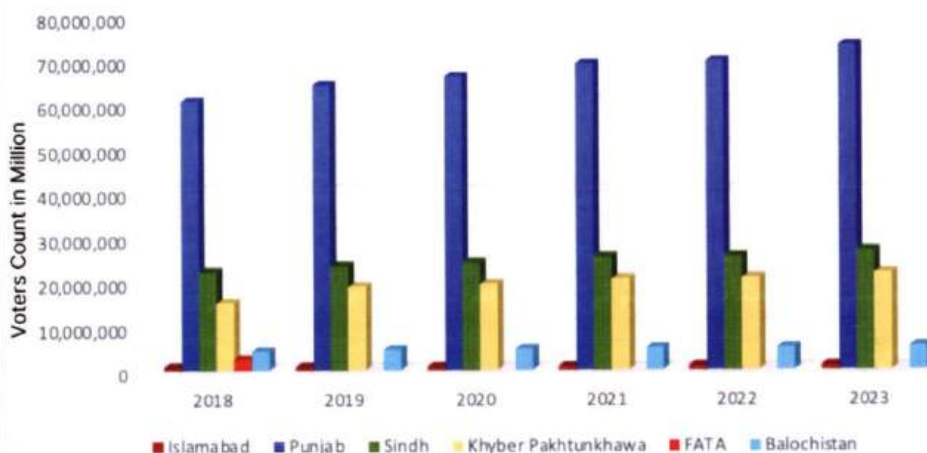
7.5 Comparison of number of voters in GE 2018 and GE 2024



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

Year	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023 (01.12.2023)
Total No. of Voters	105,955,409	112,390,938	115,748,753	121,195,062	122,196,122	128,585,760

Province wise number of Voters between 2018 and 2023



1- *Note: Status of Fata in 2018 & merged in KPK

Province wise Voter Statistics from 2018 to 2023						
Provinces/Area	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023 (01.12.2023)
Punjab	60,672,771	64,352,953	66,236,144	69,044,394	69,635,548	73,207,896
Sindh	22,391,244	23,648,001	24,351,681	25,582,624	25,663,939	26,994,769
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	15,314,169	18,950,900	19,533,964	20,611,248	20,821,301	21,928,119
Erstwhile FATA	2,512,284					
Balochistan	4,299,494	4,635,546	4,801,131	5,047,426	5,090,857	5,371,947
ICT	765,447	803,538	825,833	909,370	984,477	1,083,029
Grand Total	105,955,409	112,390,938	115,748,753	121,195,062	122,196,122	128,585,760

A significant increase in registration of female voters can be seen between the years 2018 and 2023. The statistics mentioned below show that this number increased from 46,730,570 to 59,322,056, with a rise of 12,591,486 voters during the above period. Similarly, registered male voters increased from 59,224,839 to 69,263,704 with an increase of 10,038,865 voters during this period.

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

Chapter 08

Procurement of Election Material

One of the basic requirements for successful completion of an election process is the timely planning, procurement and supply of required election material for conduct of elections. It is a huge exercise which takes time and has to be done in an organized manner. Election material, inter alia, includes posters, placards, ballot boxes, Screened-off compartments, cloth bags, plastic seals, stamps of different kinds, stamp pads, indelible ink, envelopes, duty badges and other relevant material etc. For the conduct of General Elections-2024, ECP mobilized all available resources through Provincial Election Commissioners (PECs) for procurement of election material, keeping in view the timelines of election programme. The process of competitive bidding was carried out by adopting all procedures and formalities prescribed under the PPRA Rules. The details of material procured by PECs are as under:

8.1 Indelible Ink

It is legal requirement that a voter, at the time of casting his vote, receives a personal mark of identification with indelible ink on his thumb/finger. Indelible Ink is a specialized product of Pakistan Council for Scientific and Industrial Research Laboratories (PCSIR), Karachi, manufactured exclusively for election purposes. The ink was supplied to the polling stations, at a scale of one vial per polling booth plus two vials reserved for each polling station. Province-wise procurement detail of indelible ink is as under:

Province/Area	Quantity Procured and Provided
Punjab/Federal Capital	313,000 vials
Sindh	132,000 vials
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	84,182 vials
Balochistan	29,250 vials
Total	558,432 vials

8.2 Standardized Ink Stamp Pads

In order to ensure transparency in casting of votes, thumb impressions of voters are obtained in the blank space on the electoral rolls provided, before they are allowed to vote. For this purpose, PCSIR Lab, Karachi manufactured 798,608 Ink Stamp Pads which were supplied to

all the PECs as per detail given below:

Province/Area	Quantity Procured and Provided
Punjab/Federal Capital	434,720
Sindh	198,000
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	124,388
Balochistan	41,500
Total	798,608

8.3 Standard Stationery Pack

Considering the maximum convenience during the polling process at polling booths, 17 assorted items in a standard stationery pack were procured for use at the polling stations, with 5% reserved packs. The scale for supply of these packs was one per polling station. The quantity of material in one standard stationery pack is as under:

Sr.No	Items	Quantity
1	Ball point	14
2	Rice Paper	20
3	Carbon Paper	5
4	Paper pin	1
5	Steel needle	1
6	Thread Roll	1
7	Gum stick	1
8	Candle	4
9	Wax Sealing (4 Pcs)	1
10	Match Box	1
11	Steel scale	8
12	Marker	1
13	Safety pin	15
14	Scissor	1
15	Torch	1
16	Tape	1
17	Box Plastic	1

To comply with the requirement 132,800 standard stationery packs were procured through open tender for use during General Elections-2024. The detail is as under:

Province/Area	Quantity Procured
Punjab/Federal Capital	74,000
Sindh	23,100
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	20,700
Balochistan	15,000
Total	132,800

8.4 Official Code Mark Rubber Stamps

The Official Code Mark Rubber Stamp bears the words "Election Commission of Pakistan" and code numbers are engraved on each stamp. The use of official code mark stamp is mandatory under the law as the Assistant Presiding Officer is required to stamp the back of the ballot paper as well as the counterfoil before issuing ballot to a voter. The number on the official code mark stamps assigned to a polling station is kept secret which rules out possibility of bogus voting. The Returning Officers are responsible for maintaining complete record of official code mark stamps on packing invoice before supplying polling bags to the Presiding Officers. Supply scale was two per polling booth plus one per polling station. In aggregate 877,810 official code mark rubber stamps were got manufactured including 2% reserved. Province-wise break-up is given below:

Province/Area	Quantity Procured and Provided
Punjab/Federal Capital	500,000
Sindh	201,960
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	90,850
Balochistan	85,000
Total	877,810

8.5 Marking Aid Rubber Stamps

Marking Aid Rubber Stamp is used for marking of ballot paper by the voter during casting of vote. The scale of supply of marking aid rubber stamps is three per polling booth plus one per polling station. All the PECs were allowed to procure the required quantity of marking aid rubber stamps i.e. 1,050,020 through tender from open market on their own, detail of which

is given as under:

Province/Area	Quantity Procured and Provided
Punjab/Federal Capital	500,000
Sindh	291,720
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	163,300
Balochistan	95,000
Total	1,050,020

8.6 Brass Seal

Brass Seal is used for sealing of various kinds of cloth bags and envelopes at polling stations to ward off any unauthorized opening of sensitive election material and documents. Each brass seal bears a distinct code number that is recorded on the Packing Invoice by the concerned RO for supplying at a scale of one per polling station. A total of 107,840 Brass Seals were procured by the PECs through open tender in addition to the existing stock as per break-up elaborated below:

Province/Area	Quantity Procured and Provided
Punjab/Federal Capital	55,000
Sindh	22,440
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	18,400
Balochistan	12,000
Total	107,840

8.7 Cloth Bags

Five cloth bags of three different kinds were provided at each polling station. Two green color cloth bags of the size of 18"x15" and 18"x30" were provided for the 'ballot papers' and 'election material' respectively pertaining to National Assembly, whereas two cloth bags of the same size in white color were provided for Provincial Assemblies which were then put into khaki color bag. A blue color bag of the size of 20"x35" was provided for retrieval of unused material for future utilization. Detail of these cloth bags is given below:

Province/Area	Quantity Procured and Provided
Punjab/Federal Capital	370,000
Sindh	115,500
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	103,500
Balochistan	70,000
Total	659,000

8.8 Transparent Ballot Boxes

For the conduct of 2024 General Elections, 43,447 ballot boxes were procured, following the previous scale of supply of ballot boxes i.e. 2 per polling booths and 1 extra per polling station.

8.9 Screened-off Compartments

For the conduct of 2024 General Elections, 43,447 Screened-off compartments were procured through open tender after fulfilling all the codal formalities. The required voting screens were supplied to the PECs well before the elections.

Province/Area	Quantity Procured and Provided
Punjab/Federal Capital	94,500
Sindh	20,447
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	-
Balochistan	3,000
Total	117,947

8.10 Plastic Seals

For the utilization of plastic seals in General Elections 2024 and taking into account the future use during bye-elections, the Committee recommended the procurement of 5,112,650 plastic seals which were accordingly procured through open tender by the concerned PECs, according to their requirement as per following detail:

Province/Area	Quantity Procured and Provided
Punjab/Federal Capital	3,000,000
Sindh	1,122,000
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	495,650
Balochistan	495,000
Total	5,112,650

8.11 Transportation of Election Material

Transportation Plan for election material was chalked out, taking into account time factor and maximum economy in expenditure. The entire quantity of election material was transported

from the successful Bidders/Firms. Priority was given to the remote areas of Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa so as to ensure timely delivery of the material. The dispatch process for the whole country was completed smoothly and well before time.

8.12 Printed Material

For conduct of elections, a wide range of non-sensitive printed material is required. A large volume of printing is undertaken by the Commission to make available all the prescribed printed material necessary for the conduct of General Elections. The printed material includes forms, registers, envelopes, posters, etc. In addition, various kinds of manuals, booklets and instructions are also printed for the guidance of DROs/ROs and polling personnel. Most of the printed material is printed afresh for the conduct of General Elections after updating and incorporating all changes required to be made due to amendments in the law/rules made since last such election. Well before issuance of election programme for General Elections 2024, the requirement of requisite forms, registers, envelopes, manuals, posters, codes of conduct, duty badges and entry passes etc. was evaluated in all the provinces in the light of enhanced number of polling stations/booths. Having estimated the precise quantity and cost of the printed material, the printing job was assigned to Printing Corporation of Pakistan presses (PCP) at Islamabad, Lahore and Karachi. The job was carried out according to the schedule and supplied to all concerned by adopting a centrally devised dispatch plan.

8.13 Details of Non-Sensitive Material

Various kinds of forms, placards and posters were used during the General Elections- 2024. These were used for stage-wise documentation, from the nomination of candidates to the compilation of final results by Returning officers. Relevant election laws also require provision of various kinds of forms during the polling and election process. The detail of Forms used during General Elections, 2024 is given below:

Sr. No.	Detail of Items	Detail of Procured Printed Election Material			
		Punjab	Sindh	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	Balochistan
1	FORM-A (Nomination for Election to National / Provincial Assembly/ Senate) (URDU) with Affidavit	78,000	21,010	17,000	15000
2	FORM-A (Nomination for Election to National / Provincial Assembly/ Senate) (ENGLISH) with Affidavit	78,000	21,010	17,000	15000
3	FORM-B (Statement of Assets and Liabilities (Urdu)	78,000	21,010	17,000	-
4	FORM-B (Statement of Assets and Liabilities (English)	78,000	21,010	17,000	-
5	Affidavit	156,000	42,020	34,000	36000
6	FORM-C (Return of Election expenses)	38,000	6,000	3500	25000
7	FORM-24 (Under taking by the candidate / election agent for provision of soft copy of the electoral rolls with photographs of voters).	33,000	5,253	-	1000
8	FORM-25 (List of Polling Staff)	5,000	-	-	6000
9	FORM-26 (Appointment orders of polling staff for election)	5,000	-	-	10000
10	FORM-27 (Oath by Election Officials) (English)	-	242,000	268,000	250000
11	FORM-27 (Oath by Election Officials) (Urdu)	1,381,000	242,000	-	250000

12	Forms No. (1 to 35 Miscellaneous)	-	-	-	7,217,900
13	FORM-28 (List of Polling Stations)	5,000	3,820	-	10000
14	FORM-29 (Deposit Register)	800	420	900	500
15	FORM-30 (Receipt of Deposit)	600	420	600	400
16	FORM-31 (Notice in respect of nominated candidates)	5,000	1051	-	6000
17	FORM-32 (List of validly nominated candidates)	5,000	1051	-	6000
18	FORM-33 (List of Contesting candidates)	5,000	1051	-	6000
19	FORM-34 (Return of uncontested election)	5,000	1051	-	6000

Sr. No.	Detail of Items	Detail of Procured Printed Election Material			
		Punjab	Sindh	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	Balochistan
20	Form-36 (Packing Invoice)	650,000	110,000	136,000	70000
21	Form-37 (Postal Ballot Papers)	877,500	378,000	307,500	124500
22	Form-38 (Declaration by voter using Postal Ballot)	850,000	390,000	323,000	200000
23	Form-39 Cover (A-Not to be opened before counting)	900,000	400,000	323,000	200000
24	Form-40 Cover (B-Not to be opened before counting)	900,000	400,000	323,000	200000
25	Outer Cover (Election Commission of Pakistan)	900,000	415,800	-	200000
26	Application for Postal Ballot Paper (Urdu)	450,000	405,000	-	200000
27	Application for Postal Ballot Paper (English)	450,000	405,000	-	200000
28	Form-41 (Instructions for the guidance of voters voting by Postal Ballot)	900,000	400,000	323,000	200000
29	Form-42 (Statement regarding inspection of Ballot Boxes before start of Poll)	715,000	242,000	90,000	450000
30	Form-43 (Tendered Votes List)	600,000	242,000	90,000	70000
31	Form-44 (Challenged Votes List)	600,000	232,000	90,000	70000
32	Form-45 (White)	150,000	-	-	-
33	Form-45 (White) (Carbonized)	350,000	633,300	-	-
34	Form-46 (White)	150,000	-	-	-
35	Form-46 (White) Carbonized	3,150,000	880,000	893,000	285000
36	Form-45 (Green)	150,000	-	-	-
37	Form-45 (Green) (Carbonized)	350,000	570500	-	-
38	Form-46 (Green)	150,000	-	-	-
39	Form-46 (Green) Carbonized	3,150,000	880,000	-	285000
40	FORM-47 (Provisional Consolidated Statement of Results of the Count)	3,000	1051	-	6000
41	FORM-48 (Consolidated Statement of the Results of the count furnished by the Presiding Officers)	3,000	1051	-	6000
42	FORM-49 (Final consolidated Result)	3,000	1051	-	6000
43	FORM-50 (Certificate Required to be furnished by Returning Officer under Section 99(2) of the Elections Act, 2017)	2,500	1051	-	6000
44	FORM-51 (Inventory of sealed Polling Bags deposited in storage of Election Commission / Treasury Or Sub-Treasury)	16,500	6303	-	6000
45	Form-60 (Record containing proceeding of cases under section-193 of the Elections Act, 2017)	620,000	232,000	18,000	30000
46	Form-61 (Form of prosecution for personation)	840,000	242,000	90,000	30000

47	FORM-62 (Warrant of commitment on a sentence of imprisonment passed by a Magistrate)	630,000	242,000	90,000	30000
48	FORM-63 (Warrant of Commitment on a Sentence of fine passed by a Magistrate)	450,000	230,000	90,000	30000
49	Application for Postal Ballot Paper English	-	405,000	365,000	-
50	Application for Postal Ballot Paper Urdu	-	405,000	365,000	-
51	Specimen Signature of Polling Staff	-	-	90,000	-
52	Instructions for Operating Ballot Boxes	170,000	48,400	-	-
53	Chart of Symbols	3,000	800	800	-
Placards/ Posters and Duty Badges					
54	Presiding Officer	170,000	48,400	54,000	25000
55	Assistant Presiding Officer	660,000	121,000	179,000	80000
56	Polling Officer	460,000	121,000	90,000	55000
57	Polling Agent	460,000	121,000	90,000	55000
58	Entrance	460,000	121,000	90,000	55000
59	Exit	460,000	121,000	90,000	55000
60	Place of Marking Ballot Paper	460,000	121,000	90,000	55000
61	Gents Polling Booth	460,000	121,000	90,000	55000
62	Placards (Pos APO's and POs, Polling Agents)	-	411,400	-	435,000

Sr. No.	Detail of Items	Detail of procured Printed Election Material			
		Punjab	Sindh	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	Balochistan
63	Placards (Entrance, Exit, Place of marking Ballot Papers, Gents Polling Booths and Female Polling Booths)	-	605,000	-	275,000
64	Female Polling Booth	460,000	121,000	90,000	55,000
65	Poster (Intekhabat)	490,000	121,000	90,000	55,000
66	Poster showing the procedure of marking ballot paper	450,000	121,000	90,000	55,000
67	Poster Polling Station for PA	180,000	121,000	35,000	15,000
68	Presiding Officer (Duty Badges)	150,000	48,400	36,000	15,000
69	Assistant Presiding Officer (Duty Badges)	460,000	193,600	143,000	80,000
70	Badges (PO, APOs and POs)	-	338,800	-	135,000
71	Polling Officer (Duty Badges)	270,000	96,800	90,000	40,000
72	Accreditation Cards	30,000	8,250	13,000	4000
73	Accreditation Cards (For Observer)	-	8,250	13,000	-
Packets					
74	Envelops (1-22 Packets)	-	-	-	2,190,000
75	Packet-1 Election Commission of Pakistan (Valid Ballot Paper)	26,50,000	950,000	893,000	600000
76	Packet-2 Election Commission of Pakistan (Ballot Paper excluded from the count)	130,000	35,000	90,000	55,000
77	Packet-3 Election Commission of Pakistan (Principle Packet)	150,000	48,400	90,000	55,000
78	Packet-4 Election Commission of Pakistan (Tendered Ballot Papers)	150,000	40,000	90,000	55,000
79	Packet-5 Election Commission of Pakistan (Valid Ballot Papers included in the count)	150,000	48,400	90,000	55,000

80	Packet-6 Election Commission of Pakistan (Tendered Ballot Papers excluded from the count)	150,000	48,400	90,000	55,000
81	Packet-7 Election Commission of Pakistan (Challenged Ballot Papers)	150,000	48,400	90,000	55,000
82	Packet-8 Election Commission of Pakistan (Challenged Ballot Papers included in the count)	150,000	48,400	90,000	55,000
83	Packet-9 Election Commission of Pakistan (Challenged Ballot Papers excluded from the count)	150,000	48,400	90,000	55,000
84	Packet-10 Election Commission of Pakistan (Spoilt Ballot Papers)	150,000	45,000	90,000	55,000
85	Packet-11 Election Commission of Pakistan (Un-Issued Ballot Papers)	150,000	35,000	90,000	55,000
86	Packet-12 Election Commission of Pakistan (Counterfoils of used Ballot Papers)	150,000	48,400	90,000	55,000
87	Packet-13 Election Commission of Pakistan (Marked copies of Electoral Rolls)	150,000	48,400	90,000	55,000
88	Packet-14 Election Commission of Pakistan (Tendered Votes List)	150,000	48,400	90,000	55,000
89	Packet-15 Election Commission of Pakistan (Challenged Votes List)	150,000	48,400	90,000	55,000
90	Packet-16 Election Commission of Pakistan (Result of the Count)	150,000	40,000	90,000	55,000
91	Packet-17 Election Commission of Pakistan (Ballot Paper Account)	150,000	48,400	90,000	55,000
92	Packet-18 Election Commission of Pakistan (Miscellaneous Papers)	160,000	48,400	90,000	55,000
93	Packet-19 Election Commission of Pakistan (Packet containing Brass Seals)	150,000	40,000	90,000	55,000
94	Packet Envelop (Specimen enclosed)	-	-	323,000	-
Manual					
95	Code of Conduct for Political Party (English)	14,000	500	-	-
96	Code of Conduct for Political Party (Urdu)	14,000	1,500	-	-
97	Hand Book for DRO	200 for all provinces			
98	Hand Book for ROs/AROs	1500 for all provinces			
99	Hand Book for Presiding Officer & Assistant Presiding Officers	315,000	45,000	47,000	56,000
100	Leaflets for APOs and Polling Officers	1,005,000	250,000	183,000	25,000
101	Placement for presiding officer	242,000	40,500	36,000	25,000

Chapter 09

Political Parties

Political parties play an important role in shaping the political landscape, representing diverse perspectives and influencing the decision making process. Political parties provide a framework for citizens to engage in politics, elect representatives and hold them accountable. They provide leadership and guidance to their members & supporters and promote democratic values, principles and practices such as freedom, equality and justice. In order to perform these tasks and functions, political parties and citizens need certain rights and obligations guaranteed by the Constitution and law. Article-17 of the Constitution guarantees freedom of association for all citizens, subject to reasonable restrictions as imposed by law.

9.1 Enlistment of Political Parties

Chapter XI of the Elections Act, 2017 provides mechanism for enlistment of political parties and regulating certain activities of the political parties. In terms of this Act, each political party is required to have a distinct name and a constitution having following details:

- Party's aims and objectives.
- An organizational structure, designation & tenure of office bearers.
- Criteria for receipt and collection of funds.
- Procedure for Election of office bearers.
- Selection of party candidates for public offices.
- Mechanism for resolution of disputes between a member and political party.
- Method and manner of amendments in party's constitution.

A copy of party constitution is required to be provided to the Election Commission. The political parties are duty-bound to hold their intra-party elections regularly in accordance with their party constitution. It is worth mentioning that a period, not exceeding five years, shall intervene between any two intra party elections of a political party. The intra-party election certificates of political parties are published on official website of ECP as well in official gazette. Parties are also required to submit a consolidated statement of their annual accounts duly audited by a Chartered Accountant, within sixty days from close of a financial year in which they also have to indicate the sources of their funds. Furthermore, no foreign-aided political party can be established.

9.2 Details of Political Parties

Following Political Parties are enlisted with the Election Commission:

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

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

55	Pakistan Awami Tehreek
56	Pakistan Citizen Movement
57	Pakistan Conservative Party
58	Pakistan Falah Party
59	Pakistan Falahi Tehreek
60	Pakistan Freedom Movement
61	Pakistan Human Party
62	Pakistan Human Rights Party
63	Pakistan Islamic Republican Party
64	Pakistan Justice & Democratic Party
65	Pakistan Kissan Ittehad (Ch. Anwar)
66	Pakistan Masiha Party
67	Pakistan Muhafiz Party (National)
68	Pakistan Muhafiz Watan Party
69	Pakistan Muslim Alliance
70	Pakistan Muslim League
71	Pakistan Muslim League (F)
72	Pakistan Muslim League (J)
73	Pakistan Muslim League (N)
74	Pakistan Muslim League (Sher-e-Bangal) A.K. Fazal-Ul-Haq
75	Pakistan Muslim League Council
76	Pakistan Muslim League Organization
77	Pakistan Muslim League (Zia-Ul-Haq Shaheed)
78	Pakistan National Party
79	Pakistan Peoples Party
80	Pakistan Peoples Party (Shaheed Bhutto)
81	Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians
82	Pakistan Peoples Party (Workers)
83	Pakistan Rah-e-Haq Party
84	Pakistan Siraiki Party (T)

85	Pakistan Sunni Tehreek
86	Pakistan Supreme Democratic Party
87	Pakistan Tehreek-e-Ijtihad
88	Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf
89	Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Nazriati
90	Jamaat-e-Suffah
91	Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaniat
92	Pakistan Welfare Party
93	Pakistan Yaqeen Party
94	Pasban Democratic Party
95	Pashtoonkhwa Milli Awami Party
96	Peoples Movement of Pakistan (PMP)
97	Peoples Muslim League (Pakistan)
98	Qaumi Awami Tehreek Pakistan
99	Qaumi Watan Party
100	Roshan Pakistan League
101	Saraikistan Democratic Party
102	Sindh United Party
103	Sunni Ittehad Council
104	Tabdeeli Pasand Party
105	Tehreek Ahl-e-Sunnat Pakistan
106	Tehreek Jawanan Pakistan
107	Tehreek Labbaik Pakistan
108	Tehreek Tabdili Nizam Pakistan
109	Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Parliamentarian
110	Tehreek-e-Darveshan Pakistan
111	Tehreek-e-Difa-e-Pakistan
112	Tehreek-e-Ehsas-e-Pakistan
113	Tehreek-e-Labbaiq Islam
114	Tehreek-e-Suba Hazara Pakistan

115	Tehreek-e-Tahafuz Pakistan
116	Tehreek-e-Tameer-e-Pakistan
117	Pakistan People's Alliance Party (A)
118	First Democratic Front
119	Pakistan Aam Admi Movement
120	Kissan Ittehad
121	Pakistan Tehreek-e-Eithad
122	Pakistan Muslim League (Khan Qayyum Khan)
123	Awami Falahi Party
124	Labour Qaumi Movement Pakistan
125	Pak League
126	Pakistan Markazi Muslim League
127	Pakistan Tehreek-e-Nizam
128	National Democratic Movement
129	Awami Jamhoori Party Pakistan
130	Pakistan Peoples League
131	Pakistan Nazriyati Party
132	Tehreek-e-Inqilab Political Movement
133	Pakistan Tehreek-e-Emaan
134	Istehkam-e-Pakistan Tehreek
135	Hazara Qaumi Mahaz Pakistan
136	Pakistan Inqalabi Party
137	Pakistan Tehreek-e-Shariat Party
138	Pakistan Reform Party
139	Pakistan Tehreek-e-Shadbad
140	Hum Awam Pakistan Party
141	Pakistan Tehreek-e-Such
142	Kissan Ittehad Awami Party
143	Haqooq khalq Party
144	Rabita Jamiat Ulma-e-Islam (RJUI)

145	Awami Democratic Party Pakistan
146	Sulaiman Khel Qabail Movement
147	Tehreek-e-Azmat Pakistan
148	Tehreek-e-Tarraqi-o-Kamal
149	Mazloom Olsi Tehreek Pakistan
150	Pakistan National Reformist Party
151	Awami Tehreek-e-Ilam Party
152	Tehreek-e-Awam Pakistan
153	Pakistan Muslim Party
154	Jadeed Awami Party
155	Apni Party Pakistan
156	Haq Do Tehreek Balochistan
157	Hassar-e-Muslim
158	Pakistan Kissan Labour Party
159	Khadmeen-e-Sindh
160	Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party
161	Green Democratic Party
162	Pak Defence Qoumi Movement
163	Pashtoonkhwa National Awami Party Pakistan
164	Technology Movement Pakistan
165	Pakistan Awami Quwat
166	Pakistan Qaumi Ittehad

Chapter 10

Code of Conduct

Section 233 of the Elections Act, 2017 stipulates that the Commission shall, in consultation with political parties, frame a Code of Conduct for political parties, contesting candidates, election agents and polling agents. The Commission is also required to frame a code of conduct for security personnel, media and election observers. Sub-section 3 of Section 233 requires the political parties, candidates, election agents, polling agents, media and observers to follow the code of conduct during elections. The Commission is required to publish the Code of Conduct in the official Gazette as well as on its website.

10.1 Code of Conduct for Political Parties, Contesting Candidates, Election Agents and Polling Agents

In order to frame code of conduct for General Elections-2024, the Commission invited major political parties for consultative meetings in the Election Commission Secretariat, Islamabad. A draft code of conduct was shared, well in advance with the political parties before the consultative meeting. Accordingly, a consultative meeting for framing the code of conduct was held on 11th October, 2023 with nominated representatives of political parties. The representatives of various political parties provided their feedback on draft code of conduct. The suggestions of political parties were properly recorded and their input was given due consideration while framing the final code of conduct. For General Elections-2024, the final code of conduct for political parties, contesting candidates, election agents and polling agents was issued on 20th December, 2023.

10.2 Code of Conduct for Security Personnel

Security personnel play a pivotal role in the conduct of peaceful elections. It is imperative that they should be well aware of their role and responsibilities. The Commission developed a code of conduct for security personnel, keeping in view sensitivity of their duty, which was issued on 18th January, 2024.

10.3 Code of Conduct for Observers and Media

A Code of Conduct for observers and media is also one of the many legal requirements that has to be fulfilled in term of Section 233 of the Elections Act 2017. Accordingly,

comprehensive Codes of Conduct for National and International observers, and media were notified for the General Election - 2024. These were also placed on ECP's Website.

10.4 Media Workshops/Trainings on Code of Conduct:

In collaboration with development partners, ECP arranged media, CSOs and other stakeholders workshops on awareness regarding Codes of Conduct issued by the Commission. ECP also conducted training of Desk Editors of lead channels of Islamabad to enhance their understanding of the electoral process. Additionally, 344 media personnel (285 male and 59 female) were trained on the code of conduct for national media, and 359 media personnel (278 male and 81 female) were trained on responsible and inclusive reporting. The training mainly covered the following topics: -

- i. Implementation of code of conduct for media personnel
- ii. Effective reporting on elections
- iii. Countering disinformation, misinformation and hate speech.

Details of Trainings and Workshops Convened

Sr. No.	Training Conducted (District/Province)	Date	Total	Male	Female
1	Media training Quetta/Baluchistan	29-8-2023	53	44	9
2	Media Training Swat/KP	08-03-2023	51	48	3
3	IDEA training Islamabad	24-11-2023	34	29	5
4	Media Training Peshawar/KP	18-7-2023	49	42	7
5	Media briefing on CoC Islamabad	01-04-2024	53	33	20
6	Media training Karachi/Sindh	19-9-2023	45	24	21
7	Media training Sukkur/Sindh	25-9-2023	74	58	16
Total			359	278	81

Workshop on Code of Conduct for National Media at Islamabad and all four provinces

Sr. No.	Title of Workshop	Date	District	Participants		
				Male	Female	Total
1	Orientation Session on Code of Conduct for National Media	26 th December 2023	Quetta	47	0	47
2	Orientation Session on Code of Conduct for National Media	27 th December 2023	Lahore	32	7	39

3	Orientation Session on Code of Conduct for National Media	28 th December 2023	Lahore	61	7	68
4	Orientation Session on Code of Conduct for National Media	2 nd January 2024	Karachi	56	23	79
5	Orientation Session on Code of Conduct for National Media	4 th January 2024	Islamabad	33	20	53
6	Orientation Session on Code of Conduct for National Media	23 rd January 2024	Peshawar	56	2	58
Total				285	59	344

Chapter 11

Appointments of District Returning Officers, Returning Officers and Assistant Returning Officers

11.1 Role and Responsibilities of DROs, ROs and AROs

After the completion of delimitation and revision of electoral rolls, the foremost duty of the Commission was to appoint District Returning Officers (DROs), Returning Officers (ROs) and Assistant Returning Officers (AROs). A District Returning Officer (DRO) is appointed for an administrative district. The primary responsibility of DRO is to coordinate and supervise all electoral activities in the respective district, to decide complaints/ suggestions on list of polling stations, approve final list of polling stations and polling personnel. Further he is also responsible to designate highly sensitive and sensitive polling stations. The categorization enables the local administration to install CCTV cameras at every polling booth of highly sensitive polling stations for recording, on the poll day.

A Returning Officer (RO) is appointed for each constituency. He is the nucleus of all electoral activities in the constituency from the very first day of the issuance of elections programme. The RO performs all the duties from receiving the nomination papers to the announcement of official results. During his duty as RO, he issues list of nominated candidates, scrutinizes the nomination papers filed by the candidates, issues list of validly nominated candidates, and allocates election symbols to the candidates before issuance of final list of contesting candidates. Preparation of list of polling stations and polling personnel is also a crucial responsibility of the RO.

An Assistant Returning Officer (ARO) is appointed to assist the Returning Officer during election process. He performs his duty under the direct supervision of the Returning Officer. Usually, two (02) Assistant Returning Officers are appointed with one (01) Returning Officer.

DROs and ROs are appointed from amongst the officers of Federal or Provincial Governments, Autonomous/ Semi-Autonomous bodies and Corporations or the ECP may appoint its own officers. The Judicial Officers can also be assigned the said duty after consultation with the concerned Chief Justice of High Court. Assistant Returning Officers may be drawn either from the executive or from ECP's own officers.

11.1.2 Appointment of District Returning Officers, Returning Officers and Assistant Returning Officers for General Elections 2024

For appointment of District Returning Officers and Returning Officers, which are crucial for conduct of General Elections, the Commission decided to obtain services of Judicial Officers. Chief Election Commissioner met with the Hon'ble Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Pakistan and Chief Justice, Lahore High Court, Lahore and, formally requested for provision of services of judicial officers, from the subordinate judiciary for secondment to these roles. Formal requests were made to the Chief Justices of all High Courts through the respective registrars for obtaining services of Judicial officers for their appointments as DROs and ROs. In response, the Lahore High Court regretted to extend the services of Judicial Officers by conveying reasons of pendency of cases, deficiency of work force strength of Judicial Officers and past experience. The High Court was again approached in July, 2023 for the same purpose and response was that the requisition qua appointment of DROs and ROs would be considered once election programme is announced. The Commission was also asked to make fresh request along-with copy of schedule, at the relevant time, for consideration of the Chief Justice. In December, 2023 the ECP responded to the High Court that the DROs and ROs are required to be appointed well before the issuance of Election Programme, and the High Court was requested to revisit its earlier response with reference to the earlier request made by the Commission regarding provision of services of Judicial Officers. In the absence of further response by the High Court, Executive Officers were solicited for performing duties as DROs and ROs in Punjab.

The Peshawar High Court initially did not give response to the reference from ECP, however, on reminder sent in July, 2023 the Peshawar High Court instead advised the Commission to approach National Judicial Policy Making Committee (NJPMC). Sindh High Court while responding to the request of Election Commission conveyed that the Chief Justice deferred the matter till announcement of Election Programme. Balochistan High Court initially agreed to extend services of Judicial Officers in July, 2023 however, when the High Court was approached in October, 2023 to share updated list of Judicial Officers for their appointment as DROs and ROs, it did not respond. Likewise, the Islamabad High Court did not respond to the request of the Commission. Further, option of appointment of ECP's own Officers was not found feasible as in majority of the districts, the number of constituencies exceeded beyond ten, and, very few districts have fewer than five constituencies. The existing cadre of ECP officers lacks the requisite strength, to exclusively undertake appointment as Returning Officers, as the strength of ECP officers, in large districts, is often not more than three. The District Election Commissioners were already entrusted with multifarious activities / responsibilities for the preparation of elections. Therefore, due to above constraints including the non-favorable reaction from the High Courts overall, only the option of appointment of Officers from executive was available. While making appointment Officers amongst the executive, it was ensured as far as possible that officers being appointed for the job are

impartial and bear good reputation. The details of the DROs, ROs and AROs appointed for the General Elections 2024 are as follows;

Province/Area	DROs	National Assembly		Provincial Assemblies		Grand Total
		ROs	AROs	ROs	AROs	
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	36	45	92	115	230	518
ICT	1	3	6	--	--	10
Punjab	41	141	282	297	594	1355
Sindh	30	61	122	130	260	603
Balochistan	36	16	101	51	102	306
Total	144	266	603	593	1186	2792

For the facilitation of Returning Officers, 2,843 Laptops were provided to all 859 Returning Officers across the country along with services of adequate number of trained Data Entry Operators for completion of day to day electoral activities smoothly and also prompt compilation and communication of results.

Chapter 12

Training of District Returning Officers, Returning Officers and Assistant Returning Officers

12.1 Introduction

The conduct of credible elections demands skilled workforce at every level. Professional, and trained election officials are sine qua non to accomplish election operations smoothly. Effective training ensures that Election Officials have requisite skill set to apply during election process accurately, impartially, and consistently which significantly reduces the chances of errors, omissions, and electoral disputes. To plan, design, and implement the training for ECP's own staff as well as staff deputed for General Election, the Election Commission took immediate and significant steps towards the training of elections officials well before the start of election operation. Under the directions of the Commission, the Training Wing of the Commission planned and imparted state-of-the-art training for the following five categories of election officials during the general elections 2024.

- I. District Returning Officers and Returning Officers
- II. Polling Staff (Presiding Officers, Assistant Presiding Officers, Polling Officers)
- III. Security Personnel (Police, Levies, Frontier Constabulary)
- IV. Election Management System Operators and Data Entry Operators.
- V. District Monitoring Teams (District Monitoring Officers and Monitoring Officers)

12.2 Training Objectives

There were five categories for the training of election officials, each with its own specific objectives, but the overall objectives of the training are given below:

- **Ensure Competence:** One of the key objectives was to equip election officials with the necessary knowledge and skills to effectively carry out their duties from the day of their appointment till the completion of assignment.
- **Understanding of Electoral Procedures:** To train election officials to comprehend and execute electoral procedures accurately.

- **Enhance Legal Knowledge:** To deepen officials' understanding of election laws and regulations to ensure compliance and fairness throughout the electoral process.
- **Promote Efficiency:** To enhance the efficiency at polling stations by ensuring that election officials understand their roles and responsibilities clearly, leading to smoother execution of their duties during the poll.
- **Foster Confidence:** To instill confidence, enabling them to handle various scenarios and challenges that may arise during the electoral process.
- **Enhance Technical Skills and Competency:** To provide DEOs and EMS operators with a comprehensive understanding and technical skills to operate Election Management System during elections.

12.3 Training Curriculum/Material Development

Training Curriculum Committees: Curriculum Development Committees were constituted for each category of training. These committees consisted of the ECP officers of grades 18 and 19 and members from development partners. The committee members were mandated to draft the training agendas/program, develop training modules by finalizing training content, and provide oversight of the training program.

The following training materials were developed by the Committees:

List of Training Material		
DROs	ROs	PrOs and Sr. APOs
1. Lead Trainers' Manual	1. Lead Trainers' Manual	1. 3 day Training Manual for Lead Trainers Training
2. Handbook for DROs	2. Handbook for ROs	2. 3 day Training Manual for Master Trainers Training
3. One-day Training Agenda	3. Three-day Training Agenda	3. 2 day Training Manual for PrOs and Sr. APOs training
4. PowerPoint Presentations	4. PowerPoint Presentations	4. Handbook for PrOs and Sr. APOs
	5. Placemat for ROs	5. Three-day ToLT Agenda
	6. Legal Case Studies Book	6. Three-day ToMT Agenda
	7. Training videos	

		Two-day PrOs and Sr. APOs Training Agenda 7. Training Charts for ToLT, ToMTs, PrOs and Sr. APOs trainings. 8. Placemat for PrOs 9. Training videos
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APOs and POs	Security Staff	DMTs
1. Leaflet for APOs and POs 2. Agenda for Half Day orientation 3. Training Charts 4. Training Videos	1. Lead Trainers' Manual 2. Handbook for Security Staff 3. One-day ToLT agenda 4. Two-Day ToMT agenda 5. PowerPoint Presentations 6. Placemat for ROs 7. Legal Case Studies Book 8. Training videos	1. Trainers' Manual 2. Framework for monitoring of election activities (handbook) 3. One-day training agenda 4. PowerPoint Presentations

Election Management System (EMS)
1. Trainers' Manual (IT Officers) 2. Handbook for EMS Operators 3. Two-day IT Officers Training Agenda 4. Two-day DEOs Training Agenda 5. One-day Briefing Agenda for RECs/DECs/Directors/ DDs 6. One day Orientation Agenda for DROs/ROs 7. Three-day Training Agenda for RMS Operators 8. Five-day NADRA Officers Training Agenda (RO Office support) 9. PowerPoint Presentations 10. Online Demo's Material 11. Training Videos

12.4 Training Design and Approach

In order to ensure consistency and quality in learning outcomes, each of the five categories of election officials' training was designed utilizing distinct training approaches, as per the following details:

Category of Training	Training Design	Explanation
DROs and ROs Training	Cascade Training	Two Tier Approach
a) DROs Training	Two tier approach	• Training of Lead Trainers • Training of DROs
b) ROs Training	Two tier approach	• Training of Lead Trainers • Training of ROs
Polling Staff Training	Cascade Training	Four Tier Approach
c) Presiding Officers and Senior Assistant Presiding Officers	Four tier approach	• Training of Lead Trainers • Training of Master Trainers • Training of PrOs and Sr. APOs • Orientation for APOs and POs
d) Assistant Presiding Officers & Polling Officers		
Security Staff Training	Cascade Training	Four Tier Approach
Security Personnel Training	Three tier approach	• Training of Lead Trainers • Training of Master Trainers • Training of Police, Levies, FC
EMS Training	Cascade Training	Three Tier Approach
a) Data entry Operators of ECP	Three tier approach	• Training of Lead Trainers • Training of Master Trainers • DEOs and EMS operators Training
b) EMS Operators		
c) Mobile App Training	Two tier approach	• Training of NADRA Master Trainers • Training of PrOs and Sr. APOs
DMTs training	Cascade Training	Two Tier Approach
District Monitoring Officers and Monitoring Officers Training	Two tier approach	• Training of Regional Monitoring Officers (RMCs) • Training of District Monitoring Officers and Monitoring Officers

12.5 Training Methodology

The level of success of any training depends on the methodology adopted, extent of knowledge and skills gained by the participants during the training. Considering this, all categories of training were designed using mixed learning techniques to establish a high-learning environment throughout the training programs. To achieve this aim,

the following well-tested training tools and methodologies were adopted:

- **Presentations:** To impart technical information, interactive presentations were delivered by the trainers, followed by questions/answers and engaging discussions.
- **Group work:** To enhance learning through diverse perspectives and promote deep focus and concentration on specific tasks, group work was also included in the training methodology.
- **Hands-on exercises:** To provide more effective and engaging learning experiences that allow participants to develop practical skills through direct practice and application, various hands-on exercises were included in all trainings.
- **Home assignments/readings:** To reinforce learning, participants were provided with home assignments based on in-depth readings or session preparation.
- **Brainstorming Simulation and Role-Plays:** To enhance experiential learning by drawing on participants' knowledge and information, brainstorming and role plays based on real-life electoral scenarios, quizzes, and other similar methods were encouraged.
- **Videos:** Short videos on important aspects of the procedures were also used during the training to share best practices, teach specific skills and procedures, and promote knowledge retention.

12.6 Execution of Training

Specifically, for the General Elections 2024, ECP planned and organized training for around 1,746,902 election officials to ensure better understanding of their responsibilities, knowledge and skills required to undertake election-related activities. Further details of training are as under:

Sr. No.	Training Categories and Election Officials	Duration of Training	Number of Training	Number of Participants
I.	DROs and ROs Training			
	a) Lead Trainers	Three day	1	37
	b) District Returning Officers	One day	4	144
	c) Returning Officers	Three day	37	862
II.	Polling Staff Training			
	a) Lead Trainers	Three day	2	40
	b) Master Trainers		102	2431
	c) Presiding Officers (PrOs) and Sr. Assistant Presiding Officers (Sr. APOs)	Two day	7663	191,274
	d) Assistant Presiding Officers (APOs) and Polling Officers	Half day	19,220	768,536

III.	Security Personnel			
	a) Lead Trainers	One day	01	35
	b) Master Trainers	Two day	39	1509
	c) Police, Levies, FC Training	One day	10,070	503,495
IV.	Election Management System Training			
	a) IT Officers Training	Two day	1	42
	b) ECP DEOs Training	Two day	9	228
	c) One Day Briefing of RECs/DECs/Directors/ DDs	One day	4	235
	d) One day Orientation of DROs/ROs	One day	37	1000
	e) Three-day training for EMS operators	Three day	138	3,436
	f) Five-day NADRA officers training agenda (RO Office support)		1	35
V.	Training of RMCs, DMOs & Monitoring Officers			
	a) Regional Monitoring Coordinators (RMCs)	One day	01	31
	b) District Monitoring Officers (DMOs) & Monitoring Officers (MOs)	One day	51	1334
	TOTAL			1,474,704

In line with constitutional obligations, the Election Commission of Pakistan arranged training programs for the above-mentioned staff using its own permanent staff as Lead Trainers (LTs), whereas approximately 4000 Master Trainers (MTs) were engaged from other departments for the top-down training of Polling staff, Security personnel, and staff engaged for the Election Management System.

The aforementioned training programme for election officials was the most extensive implementation plan of the ECP during General Elections - 2024, having been designed and executed on such a large scale within the shortest possible time and was completed smoothly.

Chapter 13

Telecommunication Facilities for DROs and ROs

13.1 Significance of Telecommunication in Elections

The significance of an effective telecommunication network in the election process can be gauged from the fact that election is the only public activity that takes place simultaneously countrywide within the timeframe prescribed by the Commission in its Action Plan and Election Programme. The inflow and outflow of information at various levels is massive in volume and urgent in nature, which has to be synchronized within stringent time schedules.

13.2 Provision of STD Telephone and Telefax Facilities

In order to achieve the objectives pertaining to the successful conduct of elections and to ensure prompt transmission of information, the DROs and ROs were provided with STD Telephones and telefax facilities throughout the country. The prescribed ceiling for DROs and ROs was fixed at Rs. 15,000/- and Rs. 10,000/- respectively. Challenges relating to locations of ROs in far-flung areas of KP and Balochistan were faced. These challenges were addressed by deploying alternate options such as installation of wireless telephones. The network proved to be of immense utility, from the preliminary stage of submission of nomination forms to the communication of final results.

13.3 Collaboration with National Telecommunication Corporation (NTC) and Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited (PTCL)

NTC & PTCL extended full cooperation and responded promptly to all the requirements sensing importance of the task assigned to them during national Elections.

13.4 Telecommunication Infrastructure Deployment Statistics

The deployment statistics of telephone connections for 144 DROs and 859 ROs across various provinces are as follows:

Sr.No.	Name of Province	No. of Telephone Connections
1	Balochistan	103
2	KP	196
3	Punjab	483
4	Sindh	221
Total		1003

Chapter 14

List of Polling Stations and Polling Personnel

14.1 Preparation of List of Polling Stations

Preparation of the polling scheme is a key activity in the electoral process. A well-prepared polling scheme ensures the smooth conduct of elections. The buildings used as polling stations during previous elections were assessed in light of the increased voters' strength, the construction of new buildings, the shifting of schools and colleges to new buildings which were previously established as polling stations, and upgradation of existing buildings. These key factors made it imperative to conduct physical survey of existing polling stations buildings. The Election Commission, keeping in view the extraordinary importance of this vital aspect of Election, conducted a physical survey of all existing and proposed Polling Stations. A comprehensive set of SOPs was devised to gather data on the ground. Two (02) proformas were devised for data analysis of existing and newly proposed buildings as per the details given below:

Proforma-A

Name of District _____

Sl. No	Name of Proposed Polling Station Visited	Number and Name of Constituencies NA/PA	Status of Building (Govt/Private) Visited	Number of Rooms Available in the Polling Station	Availability of Basic Facilities								
					Water	Electricity	Boundary Wall	Washrooms	Ramp	Number of Polling Stations Established on			
					Yes / No	Yes / No	Yes / No	Yes / No	Yes / No	Ground Floor	1 st Floor	2 nd Floor	Reason to be established on 1 st and 2 nd Floors
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	13

Proforma-B

Sr. No.	Number and Name of constituency NA / PA		Number and Name of Polling Station	Whether the Polling Station was proposed in General Elections 2018 (Yes / No)	In case of "NO" in Column 5 Reasons of Replacement may be mentioned	In case of Rural Area		In case of Urban Area		Sr.No of Voters on the Electoral Rolls in case the Electoral Area is Bifurcated	Number of voters Assigned to the Polling Station			Number of Polling Booths			Serial No of "Column No 1 of proforma A" shall be mentioned against each Polling Station
	NA	PA				Name of Electoral Area	Census Block Code	Name of Electoral Area	Census Block Code		Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18

In order to obtain the geo-coordinates of the buildings, an application was used. This exercise commenced in 2021 and lasted till the mid-2022. Due to this exercise, multiple options for replacement of buildings were explored, and draft list of polling stations was improved as far as possible. During the exercise, the shortcomings and missing basic facilities in the proposed buildings were also highlighted and communicated to the Federal and Provincial governments for taking appropriate measures. This not only benefited the voters but also improved the facilities for the students permanently in the long run. Likewise, a significant number of new buildings were proposed for establishment of polling stations due to the increase in the number of voters. The comparative data analysis of list of polling stations in 2018 & 2024 shows the results of the survey.

Sr. No	Name of Province	Polling Stations for GE 2018	Polling Stations for GE 2024	Increase of Polling Stations
1	Balochistan	4,546	5,028	482
2	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	14,527	15,697	1,170
3	Punjab/ ICT	48,259	50,944	2,685
4	Sindh	17,758	19,006	1,248
Total		85,090	90,675	5,585

While preparing lists of polling stations, the convenience of voters is always taken into account. As far as practicable, the distance between a polling station and a voter is tried to be kept within one kilometer. Usually, not more than 1200 voters are assigned to a polling

station and not more than 300 voters to a polling booth. However, in exceptional circumstances the above-mentioned parameter may slightly change. If required, polling stations can also be increased to ensure impartiality and credibility in the polling process. For General Elections 2018, ECP had established 85,090 polling stations with 2,44,687 polling booths whereas for General Elections, 2024, 90,675 polling stations with 2,76,402 polling booths were setup.

14.2 Legal Provisions

The legal framework is part and parcel of a transparent electoral process. As per Section 59 (1) of the Elections Act, 2017 read with Rule 50 of the Election Rules, 2017, within one week after the appointment of Returning Officer, the District Election Commissioner must provide a list of proposed polling stations for each constituency to the Returning Officer. The DROs & ROs are appointed at least two months before the announcement of Election Programme but in exceptional circumstances, they can be appointed simultaneously. In General elections 2024, the DROs and ROs could not be appointed two months prior to the announcement of Election Programme, because the delimitation of the constituencies was completed on 30th November, 2023. After the completion of delimitation, the Election Commission issued Election Programme, therefore, the DROs & ROs were appointed simultaneously with the Election Programme. After the appointment of ROs, the DEC's under Section 59 of the Elections Act, 2017, provided draft lists of Polling Stations to the Returning Officers for physical verification of Polling Stations and finalization of list of Polling Stations. However, timelines for physical verification of draft list of polling stations by the ROs, hearing of objections/ suggestions on the draft by the DROs and publication of final list of polling stations were squeezed. Keeping in view the circumstances, the following timelines were issued for finalization of list of polling stations:

Sr. No.	Activity	Timeline
1	Supply of draft list of polling stations by the District Election Commissioners to the Returning Officers	20 th December, 2023
2	Physical verification of draft list of polling stations by the Returning Officers	21 st December, 2023 to 4 th January, 2024
3	Publication of preliminary list of polling stations	4 th January, 2024
4	Filing of objections/ suggestions on preliminary list of polling stations	5 th January, 2024 to 11 th January, 2024
5	Disposal of objections/ suggestions by the District Returning Officer	12 th January, 2024 to 17 th January, 2024
6	Publication of final list of polling stations	24 th January, 2024

Under Section 59 (4) (a) of the Elections Act, 2017, the RO is required to personally verify the proposed polling stations and he may add or alter the list if he considers it necessary. He has to publish the preliminary list of polling stations outside his office under Section 59 (4) (c) of the Elections Act, 2017. Objections and suggestions on the preliminary list of polling stations are filed, if any, within the specified time after its publication under Section 59 (5) of the Elections Act, 2017.

Under Section 59 (5) (a) & (b) of the act *ibid*, a candidate with regard to any polling station in his constituency, and a voter, with regard only to the polling station to which he has been assigned can file objections and suggestions on the preliminary list of polling stations with the District Returning Officer. The DRO, after hearing the objections or considering the suggestions under Section 59 (6) of the Act *ibid* can make alteration to the list of polling station as may be required. Final list of polling stations is published at least thirty days or on the date fixed by the Election Commission before the polling day in the official gazette and on the official website of ECP. The District Returning Officer cannot make any change in the final list of polling stations published in the official Gazette. However, in very exceptional circumstances, for reasons to be recorded, a change in the final list of polling station can be made with the prior approval of the Commission but such change of polling station is allowed not later than five days before polling. The DRO & RO are required to ensure that such belated changes may be swiftly communicated to all concerned, specially the contesting candidates.

A polling station can be established in any Government building in the constituency and where no Government building is available, it can be established in a building owned by a private educational institution registered with the concerned education authorities. In case of non-availability of any such building, an improvised polling station may be set up on a public property. A polling station is not permissible to be established in any premises which belongs to or is under the direct or indirect control of a candidate. While finalizing the list of polling stations of a constituency, if the District Returning Officer declares a polling station as highly sensitive, the Commission installs or directs any Government to install a surveillance camera in each polling booth of such a polling station to record poll proceedings, the counting of votes, and the preparation of results by the Presiding Officer.

After the announcement of Election Programme, Election Commission of Pakistan issued guidelines for preparation of list of polling stations in detail so as to enable the Returning Officers to perform their job in accordance with Law and Rules. In order to facilitate the Contesting Candidates and the voters, the draft list of polling stations was uploaded on ECP's official website. After hearing and deciding the objections/ suggestions the final list of polling stations was also uploaded on the website. In addition to the above, a voter was also provided with the facility of obtaining required information by sending his/her CNIC number on SMS "8300".

14.3 Polling Stations for General Elections 2024

For the conduct of elections to 266 general seats in the National Assembly and 593 general seats of Provincial Assemblies, a total of 90,675 polling stations with 2,76,402 polling booths

were established. Province wise detail is given below:

Sr. No	Name of Province	No of Polling Stations					No of Polling Booths		
		Male	Female	Combined	Improvised	Total	Male	Female	Total
1	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	4809	4282	6533	73	15697	26155	20926	47081
2	Punjab including ICT	14544	14028	22337	35	50944	79023	70411	149434
3	Sindh	4356	4265	10041	344	19006	34160	30845	65005
4	Balochistan	1506	1314	2138	70	5028	8222	6660	14882
Total		25215	23889	41049	522	90675	147560	128842	276402

14.4 Appointment of Polling Personnel

As elucidated in the preceding lines regarding the procedure of establishment of polling stations with standard criteria, the appointment of polling personnel against each polling station is crucial for the conduct of polling. Section 53 of the Elections Act, 2017 read with Rule 48 of the Elections Rules, 2017 provides the manner and criteria for appointment of polling staff for each polling station. Officer/ officials of any government can be corporation, autonomous or semi- autonomous bodies controlled by any government, can be appointed as Presiding Officers, Assistant Presiding Officers & Polling Officers. The huge number of officers/ officials required for the job necessitates that a well-planned action may be taken to fulfill the responsibility. Therefore, it was decided well before the elections that each District Election Commissioner shall acquire data of officers/ officials deputed in his district and maintain a Data Bank thereof by regularly updating it. The District Election Commissioners, following the instructions, prepared the Data Bank well before the announcement of Election Programme. This exercise benefited in more than one way. Firstly, it gave easy access of data to the District Election Commissioners for its utilization at the time of election. Secondly, the District Election Commissioners were able to sift the data by removing the deceased officials, retired officials, disabled officials and the officials without an enviable reputation from the data bank. Lastly, it enabled them to gauge the shortfall or surplus of staff. The District Election Commissioners shared the Data Bank with each Returning Officer for the appointment of Election Officials. In order to assist the Returning Officer regarding appointment of Presiding Officer, Assistant Presiding Officer & Polling Officer, detailed instructions were circulated and a threshold was set to ensure uniformity and clarity. The crux of guidelines/ instructions is given below:

- No person shall be appointed as Presiding Officer, Assistant Presiding Officer or Polling Officer who is or has, at any time, been in the employment of a candidate.
- As far as possible the staff already trained, may be given preference.
- A person whose remaining service is less than six months from the date of appointment shall not be appointed as Presiding Officer, Assistant Presiding Officer or a Polling Officer.

- Female polling staff may be appointed for exclusive female Polling Stations as well as female Polling Booths at combined Polling Stations. In case of rural areas where female staff is not available, the booth may be manned by some elderly male member, with at least one female Polling Officer or Assistant Presiding Officer, at each booth meant for female voters. Moreover, it may be ensured that female polling staff are assigned duties nearest to their residences.
- A Naib Qasid will be deputed with each Presiding Officer to facilitate handling of election material and, carrying of ballot boxes, etc.
- The Presiding Officers may be in BPS-16 and above and they should be able to command respect and inspire public confidence.
- The Assistant Presiding Officers may be drawn from amongst officials working in BPS-11 and above. The Assistant Presiding Officer shall take over the functions of the Presiding Officer, if required.
- The Polling Officers may be drawn amongst the officials working in BPS-5 and above.
- The officials, who shall be appointed as Presiding Officers, Assistant Presiding Officers and Polling Officers, shall not be deputed for duty at their native electoral area/polling station.
- 5% reserved polling staff shall be earmarked for each category in the constituency.
- In case of non-availability of polling staff, the Returning Officer shall appoint a substitute from amongst the reserve polling staff.
- The Returning Officer is required to submit, at least fifteen days before the polling day, a list of such Presiding Officers, Assistant Presiding Officers and Polling Officers including 5% reserved polling staff for each category on Form-25 to the District Returning Officer for approval and no change in the list shall be made thereafter save in exceptional circumstances, for reasons to be recorded, and with the approval of the Commission.
- The Returning Officer shall issue appointment orders to the Presiding Officers, Assistant Presiding Officers and Polling Officers, in respect of each polling station, on Form-26.

Chapter 15

Announcement of Election Programme

After appointment of the DROs, ROs & AROs, under Section 57 of the Elections Act, 2017, the Election Commission issued the following Election Programme on 15th December, 2023 with a poll date fixed on 8th February 2024:

Sr. No.	EVENTS	DATE
1	2	3
1.	Public Notice to be issued by the Returning Officer on	19.12.2023
2.	Dates for filing of nomination papers with the Returning Officer by the candidates	20.12.2023 to 22.12.2023
3.	Publication of names of the nominated candidates	23.12.2023
4.	Last date for scrutiny of nomination papers by the Returning Officer	24.12.2023 to 30.12.2023
5.	Last date for filing of appeals against decisions of the Returning Officer rejecting/accepting the nomination papers	03.01.2024
6.	Last date for deciding of appeals by the Appellate Tribunal	10.01.2024
7.	Publication of revised list of candidates	11.01.2024
8.	Last date for withdrawal of candidature and Publication of revised list of candidates	12.01.2024
9.	Allotment of Election Symbol to contesting candidates	13.01.2024
10.	Polling day	08.02.2024

To facilitate the political parties and prospective candidates, the Commission extended the date for filing of nomination papers from 22nd December, 2023 to 24th December, 2023, with

the following revised Programme:

Sr. No.	EVENTS	DATE
1	2	3
1.	Public Notice to be issued by the Returning Officer on	19.12.2023
2.	Dates for filing of nomination papers with the Returning Officer by the candidates	20.12.2023 to 24.12.2023
3.	Publication of names of the nominated candidates	24.12.2023
4.	Last date for Scrutiny of nomination papers by the Returning Officer	25.12.2023 To 30.12.2023
5.	Last date for filing of appeals against decisions of the Returning Officer rejecting/accepting the nomination papers	03.01.2024
6.	Last date for deciding of appeals by the Appellate Tribunal	10.01.2024
7.	Publication of revised list of candidates	11.01.2024
8.	Last date for withdrawal of candidature and Publication of revised list of candidates	12.01.2024
9.	Allotment of Election Symbol to contesting candidates	13.01.2024
10.	Polling day	08.02.2024

15.1 Appointment of Election Officials for Conduct of General Election, 2024

For the conduct of the General Election, well-qualified and dedicated Election Officials were appointed. Province-wise detail is given below:

Sr. No.	Name of Province	Total No. of DROs	Total No. of ROs		Total No. of AROs		Total No. of Presiding Officers (5% Reserve)	Total No. of Assistant Presiding Officers (5% Reserve)	Total No. of Polling officer (5% Reserve)	Naib Qasid
			NA	PA	NA	PA				
1	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	36	45	115	92	230	16482	98870	49435	16482
2	Punjab including ICT	42	144	297	288	594	53492	310501	156906	53492
3	Sindh	30	61	130	122	260	19956	136511	68255	19956
4	Balochistan	36	16	51	101	102	5279	31252	15626	5279
Total		144	266	593	603	1186	95209	577134	290222	95209

Chapter 16

Filing of Nomination Papers

Conduct of election is a multifarious activity as several stakeholders are involved directly or indirectly. The first activity starts with issuance of Public Notice by the Returning Officer, inviting the public to elect their representatives.

16.1 Nomination of Candidates

The process of Elections began with the filing of nomination papers by the candidates. Initially three days (i.e. 20th to 22nd December, 2023) were fixed for filing of nomination papers. However, to facilitate prospective candidates and political parties, the time was extended to 24th December, 2023.

Prerequisites for filing of Nomination Papers by the candidates have been provided in Section 60 of the Elections Act, 2017, according to which every nomination shall be made on a separate nomination paper (Form-A). The form is required to be signed both by the proposer and the seconder, and, shall, on solemn affirmation be made and signed by the candidate. The nomination paper submitted by the candidate shall be accompanied by the following:

- a) a declaration that he has consented to the nomination and that he fulfils the qualifications specified in Article 62 and is not subject to any of the disqualifications specified in Article 63 for being elected as a Member.
- b) a declaration that before the date fixed for scrutiny of nomination papers he will open an exclusive account, or dedicate an existing account, with a scheduled bank for the purpose of election expenses, and has attached statement of the said bank account with the nomination paper, starting with entries of seven days prior to the election schedule;
- c) an attested copy of his National Identity Card; and
- (d) a statement of his assets and liabilities and of his spouse and dependent children as on the preceding thirtieth day of June on Form B.

Every nomination paper is delivered to the Returning Officer by the candidate, his proposer, or his seconder. The candidate can also authorize in writing any person to file nomination paper on his behalf. The nomination fee for filing of nomination papers against National Assembly and Provincial Assembly constituency is rupees thirty thousand and twenty thousand respectively, which are required to be deposited by the candidate in cash with

Returning Officer or in treasury/ National Bank in the specified head of account through bank challan. The amount so deposited is non-refundable. The candidate must fulfil the qualification enshrined in Article 62 of the constitution and should not fall under the disqualification clauses under Article 63 of the constitution. The detail of nomination papers filed are as under:

16.2 Nomination Papers filed for National Assembly during General Election-2024

National Assembly				
Sr. No.	Province/Area	Male	Female	Total
1	Federal Capital	182	27	209
2	Punjab	3368	254	3622
3	Sindh	1574	107	1681
4	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	1293	38	1331
5	Balochistan	612	19	631
Total		7029	445	7474

16.3 Nomination Papers filed for Provincial Assemblies during General Election-2024

Provincial Assemblies				
Sr. No.	Province	Male	Female	Total
1	Punjab	8496	439	8935
2	Sindh	4083	210	4293
3	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	3344	117	3461
4	Balochistan	1742	46	1788
Total		17665	812	18477

Chapter 17

Scrutiny of Nomination Papers and Disposal of Appeals

After receipt of nomination papers and publication of list of nominated candidates, the Returning Officer under Section 62 of the Elections Act, 2017 scrutinizes the nomination papers filed before him within a period specified for scrutiny of nomination papers. This is done on his own motion or upon receipt of objection from a voter of the constituency. As per Election Programme of the General Elections-2024, period of five days (i.e. 25th to 30th December, 2023) was specified for the scrutiny of nomination papers by the Returning Officers.

The Returning Officer provides an opportunity for the objector to attend the scrutiny process and to examine the nomination paper of the candidate against whom the objection has been filed. For determination of facts relating to an objection to the candidature of a candidate, the Returning Officer may require any authority or organization, including a financial institution, to produce any document or record or to furnish any information as may be necessary. Moreover, the Returning Officer under Section-62 of the Elections Act, 2017 may, on his own motion or upon an objection, conducts a summary enquiry and may reject a nomination paper if he is satisfied that the candidate is not qualified to be elected as a Member; that the proposer or the seconder is not qualified to subscribe to the nomination paper; that any provision of section 60 or section 61 has not been complied with; that the candidate has submitted a declaration or statement which is false or incorrect in any material particular; or that and the signature of the proposer or the seconder is not genuine. Lastly, the Returning Officer is required to endorse on each nomination paper his decision to accept or reject it, and in the case of rejection, to record brief reasons thereof.

17.1 Establishment of Online Facilitation Cell

Online Facilitation Cell was a digital setup or mechanism for sharing of candidates' data on real-time basis by using specialized MIS software that connects the ECP Secretariat with prime government organizations like NADRA, FBR, SBP, NAB and FIA through an ad hoc secure Virtual Private Network (VPN). The said system electronically checked and verified the credentials of all nominated candidates from the above government departments' databases and validate the information instantly using the online setup.

For the establishment of Scrutiny Facilitation Cell, ECP had issued directions to NADRA, FBR, SBP, NAB and FIA for the assistance of 859 Returning Officers during scrutiny process.

During this exercise, Online Facilitation Cell obtained about 28,053 records from the 859 Returning Officers (ROs). This data was then shared with NADRA, FIA, NAB, SBP and FBR for acquiring their feedback and candidate(s) credentials as per their databases and records. The records were then shared with the respective ROs for further necessary action at their end as per law and Section 62 of the Elections Act, 2017.

17.2 List of Validly Nominated Candidates

After the completion of scrutiny, the Returning officers issued a list of validly nominated candidates on the prescribed format, i.e. Form-32, as required under Section 64 of the Elections Act, 2017. The following number of candidates were validated as a result of the scrutiny of nomination papers:

National Assembly									
Province/ Area	Total No. of Nominated Candidates			No. of Candidates whose Nomination Papers Rejected by ROs			No. of candidates whose Nomination Papers Accepted by ROs		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
ICT	182	27	209	84	9	93	98	18	116
Punjab	3368	254	3622	455	66	521	2913	188	3101
Sindh	1574	107	1681	154	12	166	1420	95	1515
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	1293	38	1331	149	3	152	1144	35	1179
Balochistan	612	19	631	91	1	92	521	18	539
Total	7029	445	7474	933	91	1024	6096	354	6450

Provincial Assemblies									
Province	Total No. of Nominated Candidates			No. of Candidates whose Nomination Papers Rejected by ROs			No. of candidates whose Nomination Papers Accepted by ROs		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Punjab	8496	439	8935	866	77	943	7630	362	7992
Sindh	4083	210	4293	341	36	377	3742	174	3916
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	3344	117	3461	352	14	366	2992	103	3095
Balochistan	1742	46	1788	379	7	386	1363	39	1402
Total	17665	812	18477	1938	134	2072	15727	678	16405

17.3 Constitution of Appellate Tribunals for Hearing and Disposal of Appeals

A remedy for filing an appeal by aggrieved candidate(s) or objector(s), against the decisions of the Returning Officer is provided in the Elections Act, 2017. Under Section 63 of the Elections Act, 2017, a candidate or the objector may, within the time specified by the Commission, file an appeal against the decision of the Returning Officer rejecting or accepting a nomination paper before the Appellate Tribunal, consisting of a person who is a Judge of a High Court appointed by the Election Commission in consultation with the Chief Justice of the High Court concerned. The details of Appellate Tribunals appointed for deciding appeals filed against the acceptance or rejection of nomination papers by the Returning Officers for National Assembly and Provincial Assembly constituencies during General Election-2024 are as under:

Sr. No.	Province Area	Number of Appellate Tribunals
1	Punjab	12
2	Sindh	6
3	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	7
4	Balochistan	2
5	Federal Capital	2
Total		29

17.4 Period of filing of Appeals

Four (4) days, from 31st December, 2023 to 3rd January, 2024 were prescribed for filing of appeals before the Appellate Tribunals. As per the Election Programme, the last date for deciding of appeals was 10th January, 2024. The following number of appeals were filed before the Appellate Tribunals against the rejection/acceptance of nomination papers for National Assembly and Provincial Assembly constituencies:

General Seats of National Assembly

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

General Seats of Provincial Assemblies

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

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

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

General Seats of National Assembly

Sr. No.	Province/ Area	No. of Appeals Accepted against Acceptance of Nomination Papers	No. of Appeals Accepted against Rejection of Nomination Papers	Total No. of Appeals Accepted	Total No. of Appeals Rejected against Acceptance of Nomination Papers	Total No. of Appeals Rejected against Rejection of Nomination Papers	Total No. of Appeals Rejected
1	Islamabad	0	65	65	2	3	5
2	Punjab	0	277	277	14	161	175
3	Sindh	0	90	90	11	34	45
4	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	0	94	94	13	12	25
5	Balochistan	3	74	77	4	8	12
Total		3	600	603	44	218	262

General Seats of Provincial Assemblies

Sr. No.	Province/ Area	No. of Appeals Accepted against Acceptance of Nomination Papers	No. of Appeals Accepted against Rejection of Nomination Papers	Total No. of Appeals Accepted	Total No. of Appeals rejected against Acceptance of Nomination Papers	Total No. of Appeals Rejected against Rejection of Nomination Papers	Total No. of Appeals Rejected
1	Punjab	5	452	457	18	225	243
2	Sindh	1	102	103	32	77	109
3	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	3	146	149	15	49	64
4	Balochistan	1	277	278	9	29	38
Total		10	977	987	74	380	454

17.6 Revised List of Candidates for General Seats in National Assembly and Provincial Assemblies after Disposal of Appeals by Appellate Tribunals

As per Section 64 of the Elections Act, 2017, the Returning Officers were required to issue revised list of candidates in light of appeals accepted by the Appellate Tribunals against the

acceptance & rejection of nomination papers. Accordingly, revised Form-32 for those constituencies were issued where the appeals were accepted. The statistical number of candidates after the issuance of revised list of candidates is as under:

National Assembly

Sr. No.	Province/Area	No. of Candidates		Total
		Male	Female	
1	Punjab including ICT	3289	241	3530
2	Sindh	1498	101	1599
3	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	1226	36	1262
4	Balochistan	589	19	608
Total		6602	397	6999

Provincial Assemblies

Sr. No.	Province/Area	No. of Candidates		Total
		Male	Female	
1	Punjab	7920	402	8322
2	Sindh	3772	185	3957
3	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	3102	105	3207
4	Balochistan	1634	44	1678
Total		16428	736	17164

Chapter 18

Withdrawal and Issuance of List of Contesting Candidates

18.1 Withdrawal of Candidature

The list of validly nominated candidates was issued on 30th December, 2023 whereas, the last date for withdrawal of candidature was 12th January, 2024. As per Section 65 of the Elections Act, 2017, a validly nominated candidate may, by notice in writing, withdraw his candidature on or before the withdrawal date, either by himself or through an advocate authorized in writing. A notice for withdrawal by validly nominated candidate cannot be recalled or cancelled. If the Returning Officer is satisfied that the signature on the notice is that of the candidate, he shall affix a copy of the notice of withdrawal at a conspicuous place in his office. The details of withdrawal are given below:

Withdrawal from Contest

National Assembly

Sr. No.	Province/Area	Male Candidates	Female Candidates	Total
1	Punjab including ICT	584	60	644
2	Sindh	405	12	417
3	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	505	7	512
4	Balochistan	160	4	164
Total		1654	83	1737

Provincial Assemblies

Sr. No.	Province/Area	Male Candidates	Female Candidates	Total
1	Punjab	1412	69	1481
2	Sindh	1026	23	1049
3	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	1283	29	1312
4	Balochistan	388	3	391
Total		4109	124	4233

18.2 Allotment of Symbols

The Returning Officers are required to allot symbols to the candidates, in case, after withdrawal, there remains more than one contesting candidate in the constituency. A candidate nominated by a political party in a constituency is allotted the electoral symbol allocated to that party by the Commission. Similarly, a candidate who is not nominated by any political party is treated as an independent candidate and is allotted one of the symbols not allocated to any political party.

As per election programme, 13th January, 2024 was fixed for the allotment of symbols to the candidates. After allotment of symbols, the Returning officers issued a list of contesting candidates on Form-33 for each constituency. The following numbers of contesting candidates remained in the field after the issuance of Form-33 (list of contesting candidates):

**No. of Contesting Candidates
National Assembly**

Sr. No.	Province/Area	Male Candidates	Female Candidates	Total
1	Punjab including ICT	2699	180	2879
2	Sindh	1093	88	1181
3	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	721	29	750
4	Balochistan	429	15	444
Total		4942	312	5254

Provincial Assemblies

Sr. No.	Province/Area	Male Candidates	Female Candidates	Total
1	Punjab	6435	329	6764
2	Sindh	2746	162	2908
3	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	1818	76	1894
4	Balochistan	1246	41	1287
Total		12245	608	12853

18.3 Termination of Election Proceedings due to Death of Contesting Candidate(s)

If a contesting candidate dies before the commencement of the poll or during the polling hours, the Returning Officer is required to terminate the proceedings relating to that election in terms of Section 73 of the Act, *ibid*. Where the proceedings of an election are terminated, fresh proceedings are commenced for a new election. However, the other contesting candidates who have already filed nomination papers are not required to file fresh nomination papers or make a further deposit of fee.

In General Elections, 2024, elections proceedings were terminated in four constituencies, as detailed below:

Sr. No.	Name of Assembly	No. & Name of Constituency	Reason
1	National Assembly	NA-8 Bajaur	Due to the death of Mr. Rehan Zeb, contesting candidate from NA-8 Bajaur and PK-22 Bajaur-IV.
2	Provincial Assembly of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	PK-22 Bajaur-IV	
3		PK-91 Kohat-II	Due to the death of Mr. Asmat Ullah Khan, contesting candidate from PK-91 Kohat-II.
4	Provincial Assembly of Punjab	PP-266 Rahim Yar Khan-XII	Due to the death of Mr. Israr Hussain, contesting candidate from PP-266 Rahim Yar Khan-XII.

Chapter 19

Allocation of Symbols

An election symbol is such a universally accepted tool, which helps the electors in identifying their candidates and in marking the ballot without any difficulty. The candidates also find it convenient to reach out to the electorate during the campaign period by using the election symbol allotted to them. Thus, the process of allocation of election symbols to political parties and the candidates becomes critical in an election.

19.1 Eligibility of Political Parties to obtain Election Symbol

A political party is eligible to obtain an election symbol to contest elections for the National Assembly and Provincial Assemblies on submission of certificate and statements as are mentioned in Sections 202, 206, 209 and 210 of Elections Act, 2017. A political party is required to submit;

- A copy of notification of its enlistment.
- A certificate regarding the selection of candidates on general seats ensuring at least five percent representation of women candidates.
- A certificate about intra-party elections.
- Annual consolidated statement of accounts duly audited by a Chartered Accountant, within 60 days from the close of a financial year.

A combination of political parties is also entitled to obtain a common election symbol for that election only if, each party constituting such a combination has submitted the requisite certificate and statements as detailed above.

19.2 Process of Inviting Applications for Allocation of Symbols for General Elections-2024

The Election Commission issued a Press Release on 1st July, 2023 inviting applications for allocation of symbols from such political parties, which met criteria for allocation of Election Symbols under Section-216 of the Elections Act, 2017. In response thereof, 145 political parties (including 01 Alliance) submitted their applications for allocation of symbols for General Elections-2024.

The Commission allocated Election Symbols to the political parties for General Elections, 2024. Out of 145 political parties (including 01 Alliance), 124 political parties having no dispute / issue on demand of Election Symbol, were allocated symbols according to their preferences. However, matter of 21 political parties which had disputes on allocation of symbol was placed before the Commission for appropriate decision. The Commission heard the disputed cases of allocation of symbols at length in the presence of authorized representatives /party leaders

of the relevant political parties for ascertaining their options/preferences. After deciding the cases, vide order dated 3rd August, 2023 the Commission allocated election symbols to the above said 21 political parties. The details of 145 political parties along with allocated symbols are as under:

Sr. No.	Name of Political Party / Alliance	Name of Symbol	Symbol Code
01	Pak League	Apple	11
02	Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians	Arrow	12
03	Balochistan National Party	Axe	14
04	Pasban Democratic Party	Balloons	17
05	Tehreek-e-Azmat-e-Pakistan	Basket	18
06	Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (Nazriati)	Batsman	20
07	First Democratic Front	Bell	25
08	All Pakistan Muslim League (Jinnah)	Bicycle	27
09	Tehreek-e-Tarraqi-o-Kamal	Binoculars	28
10	Khadmeen-e-Sindh	Boat	30
11	Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam Pakistan	Book	31
12	Tehreek-e-Difa-e-Pakistan	Bow	33
13	Pakistan National Reformist Party	Bridge	36
14	Kissan Ittehad	Bucket	39
15	Awami Workers Party	Bulb	40
16	All Pakistan Kissan Ittehad	Bullock Cart	41
17	Pakistan Muslim League (J)	Bus	43
18	Hazara Qaumi Mahaz Pakistan	Butterfly	44
19	Balochistan National Party (Awami)	Camel	49
20	Mohajir Qaumi Movement Pakistan	Candle	50
21	Tehreek-e-Labbaik Islam	Cannon	51

22	Mohib-e-Wattan Nowjawan Inqilabion Ki Anjuman (MNAKA)	Cap	52
23	Sindh United Party	Car	53
24	Pakistan Markazi Muslim League	Chair	55
25	Qaumi Watan Party	Chiragh (Lamp)	58
26	Hamdardan-e-Watan Pakistan	Coat	61
27	Istehkam-e-Pakistan Tehreek	Coins	63
28	Mustaqbil Pakistan	Comb	64
29	Muttahida Ulema Mashaikh Council of Pakistan	Combat Aircraft	65
30	Nazria Pakistan Council	Combat Tank	66
31	Kissan Ittehad Awami Party	Corn	69
32	Tehreek Labbaik Pakistan	Crane	71
33	Hazara Democratic Party	Crescent	72
34	Pakistan Tehreek-e-Such	Crocodile	74
35	Tabdeeli Pasand Party	Crown	75
36	Peoples Muslim League (Pakistan)	Cup and Saucer	76
37	Pakistan Freedom Movement	Date Tree	78
38	Saraikistan Democratic Party	Deer	80
39	Pakistan Supreme Democratic Party	Diamond	82
40	Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party	Eagle	93
41	Jamote Qaumi Movement	Electric Pole	95
42	Tehreek Tabdili Nizam-e-Pakistan	Elephant	97
43	Ittehad-e-Ummat Pakistan	Energy Saver	99
44	Pakistan Muhafiz Party (National)	Fan	101
45	Pakistan Muslim Alliance	Fish	104

46	Pakistan Peoples Party (Shaheed Bhutto)	Fist	105
47	Pakistan Aam Admi Movement	Flower Pot	107
48	Islami Jamhoori Ittehad Pakistan	Foot Ball	108
49	Pakistan Tehreek-e-Shariat Party	Fort	110
50	Jannat Pakistan Party	Fountain	111
51	Sulaiman Khel Qabail Movement	Gate	117
52	Pakistan Justice & Democratic Party	Gavel	118
53	Tehreek-e-Ahl-e-Sunnat Pakistan	Generator	119
54	Awami Tehreek	Ghulail	121
55	All Pakistan Minority Movement	Giraffe	122
56	Pakistan Muslim League (KQK)	Gun	128
57	Pakistan People's Alliance Party (A)	Hammer	129
58	Pakistan Muslim League (Zia-ul-Haq Shaheed)	Helicopter	134
59	Pakistan Awami League	Hockey	136
60	Sunni Ittehad Council	Horse	137
61	Pakistan Tehreek-e-Eithad	House	139
62	Pakistan Tehreek-e-Emaan	Hud Hud	140
63	Balochistan Awami Party	Cow	70
64	Awam League	Human Hand	143
65	Aam Log Party Pakistan	Hut	144
66	Awami Muslim League Pakistan	Inkpot with Pen	146
67	Pakistan Rah-e-Haq Party	Iron	147
68	Pakistan Islamic Republican Party	Jeep	149
69	Pakistan Awami Raj	Jharoo	150

70	Allah-o-Akber Tehreek	Jug	151
71	All Pakistan Muttahida League	Kangaroo	152
72	Jamiat Ulama-e- Pakistan (Noorani)	Key	154
73	Pakistan Masiha Party	King	158
74	Muttahida Quami Movement Pakistan	Kite	159
75	Pakistan Tehreek-e-Shadbad	Knife	160
76	Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam Pakistan (S)	Ladder	161
77	Pakistan Awami Jamhoori Ittehad	Leaf	164
78	Awami Tehreek-e-Islam Party	Lock	167
79	Haqooq Khalq Party	Loud Speaker	169
80	Pakistan Muslim League (Council)	Minar-e-Pakistan	174-A
81	Pakistan Aman Tehreek	Missile	175
82	Pak Muslim Alliance (Dewan)	Mobile Phone	177
83	Pakistan Awami Tehreek	Motorcycle	179
84	National Democratic Movement	Mountain	180
85	Aam Admi Tehreek Pakistan	Mug	181
86	Awami Democratic Party Pakistan	Oil Tanker	185
87	Pakistan Welfare Party	Olympic Torch	186
88	Move on Pakistan	Ostrich	189
89	Awami Jamhoori Party Pakistan	Ox	190
90	Barabari Party Pakistan	Pen	195
91	Aam Loeg Ittehad	Pencil	196
92	Pakistan Reform Party	Pickup	201
93	Mazloom Olsi Tehreek Pakistan	Pitcher	204

94	Pakistan Kissan Ittehad (Ch. Anwar)	Plough	206
95	Haq do Tehreek Balochistan	Rabbit	213
96	Pakistan Nazriyati Party	Railway Engine	216
97	Tehreek-e-Tameer-e-Pakistan	Railway Track	217
98	Tehreek-e-Tahafuz-e-Pakistan	Revolver	218
99	Pakistan Muslim League (Sher-e Bangal) A.K. Fazal-Ul-Haq	Rickshaw	219
100	Rabita Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (RJUI)	Ring	220
101	Peoples Movement of Pakistan	Rope	225
102	Pakistan Muslim League (F)	Rose	226
103	Jadeed Awami Party	Safety Helmet	229
104	National Party	Saw	230
105	Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan	Scale	232
106	Awami Falahi Party	School Bag	233
107	Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaniat	Scissors	234
108	Pakistan Peoples League	Scooter	235
109	Apni Party Pakistan	Sewing Machine	239
110	Pakistan Falah Party	Ship	242
111	Pakistan Siraiki Party (T)	Spade	250
112	Pakistan Muslim Party	Sparrow	251
113	Markazi Jamiat Ahl-e-Hadith Pakistan	Spectacles	252
114	Pak Defence Qoumi Movement	Spider	253
115	Pakistan Muslim League Organization	Stag	257
116	Grand Democratic Alliance	Star	259
117	Tehreek-e-Ehsas-e-Pakistan	Street Light	262

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

142	Aam Awam Party	Wheat Bunch	322
143	Jamhoori Watan Party	Wheel	323
144	Qomi Awami Tehreek Pakistan	Whistle	326
145	Tehreek-e-Inqilab Political Movement	Wrist Watch	330

In addition to it, elections symbols to five political parties, three newly enlisted and two existing parties, upon fulfillment of requisite criteria, were also allocated symbols. The details are given hereunder:

01	Pashtoonkhwa National Awami Party Pakistan	Bunch of Grapes	42
02	Pakistan Qaumi Ittehad	Window	328
03	Pakistan Awami Quwat	Hanger	132
04	Jamiat ulam-e- Pakistan (Imam Noorani)	Chitralli Cap	59
05	Awami National Party	Lantern	162

Further, before General Elections 2024 the election symbols were allocated to only those political parties which fulfilled the criteria set in Section 215 including holding of Intra Party Elections to ensure notification of the authorized office bearers much before allocation of symbol process. For General Elections 2024, the ECP did not allocate symbol to those political parties which did not hold Intra Party Elections in fulfilment of Sections 208 & 209 and in accordance with their respective party constitution.

It is also pertinent to mention that the case of intra Party Elections of PTI remained highlighted before and after the General Elections 2024. As per schedule Intra Party Election of PTI were due on 13-06-2021 and the Election Commission of Pakistan duly informed the party well in advance regarding conduct of the Intra Party Elections. However, PTI failed to conduct Intra Party Election within prescribed time frame and parameters of its constitution resulting in issuance of show cause notice dated 27-07-2021. In response, PTI requested for provision of one year extension due to outbreak of COVID epidemic which was granted by the Commission, directing the party to hold its Intra Party Elections on or before 13-06-2022. Meanwhile, PTI made changes in its constitution and conducted Intra Party Elections on 10-06-2022. The amendments in the constitution were not communicated to the Commission, as necessitated Under Section 201(3) of the Elections Act, 2017. The matter was fixed before the Commission, which after providing opportunity to the party, decided the matter vide order dated 23-11-2023, and taking a lenient view, directed the party to hold Intra Party Elections in accordance with its constitution, 2019, within 20 days. Afterwards, PTI conducted

Intra Party Elections on 02-12-2023 and submitted Form-65 (certificate regarding Intra Party Elections) which was challenged by a number of the party's own members.

Upon scrutiny of Intra Party Elections results, the Commission vide order dated 22-12-2023 concluded that the Intra Party Elections were conducted in violation of PTI's own constitution as well as provisions of the Elections Act, 2017. PTI filed a petition in Peshawar High Court against the order of the Commission, which revoked the same vide judgment dated 10-01-2024. The Commission assailed the order of the Peshawar High Court before the Supreme Court of Pakistan, which in its judgment dated 13-01-2024, upheld the decision of the Election Commission, with the consequential effect of withholding of its election symbol.

Chapter 20

Facility of Postal Ballot Paper

The facility to vote through postal ballot, under Section 93, is extended to the individuals in Government service, members of Armed Forces, their spouses, and such of their children who are registered voters and temporally reside with them, provided they are stationed at a place other than the place in which their constituency is situated. Persons with any physical disability who are unable to travel and hold a National Identity Card with a logo for physical disability issued by the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA), persons who are detained in prison or held in custody are also entitled to vote by postal ballot. The persons appointed by the Returning Officers, including police personnel, for the performance of any duty in connection with election at polling stations other than the one at which they are entitled to cast their vote, are also eligible to cast their vote through postal ballot.

The Election Commission, through a press release, fixed 22nd January, 2024 as the last date for receipt of applications on prescribed Form for issuance of postal ballot papers for General Elections to the National Assembly and Provincial Assemblies. The polling staff appointed by the Returning Officers, was also advised to apply for postal ballot paper, to the Returning Officers within three days of their appointment. The application forms for postal ballot were available in the offices of the Returning officers as well as on ECP's website. It was also conveyed to the voters that the application for postal ballot should be forwarded/endorsed by the office/ department of the voter. The detail of the postal ballot papers issued by the Returning Officers is as below:

Sr. No.	Province	Total No. of Postal Ballot Papers Issued
1	Punjab	53,251
2	Sindh	44,822
3	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	108,940
4	Balochistan	62,100
Total		269,113

Chapter 21

Complaints

Complaint management and resolution are important components of an election. It helps the political parties, candidates and public at large, to register their complaints and seek redressal thereof. The law provides appropriate mechanism for resolution of election complaints. Complaints of general nature are lodged before the poll day, on poll day and after the poll. Such complaints generally relate to the announcement of development projects by the government, candidate(s) or political party(s), influence by government functionaries in election processes, law and order situation with threats for candidates and voters, acceptance or rejection of nomination papers by the ROs, appointment of biased polling staff, change of polling staff and change in list of polling station(s) etc.

The Commission, immediately after the announcement of schedule for general elections, 2024, constituted a Complaint Cell under supervision of Additional Director General in the ECP Secretariat, Islamabad for prompt redressal of complaints. The Complaint Cells were also established in the respective Provincial Election Commissioner Offices, supervised and headed by the Joint Provincial Election Commissioners. The composition of Complaint Cell established at ECP Secretariat is as follow:

Sr. No.	Team leader	Jurisdiction	Incharge of Complaint Cell
1	Deputy Director, (LGE KPK & Sindh)	i. Bahawalpur Division ii. Dera Ghazi Khan Division iii. Faisalabad Division iv. Lahore Division of Punjab Province	Director, LGE
2	Deputy Director, (LGE Punjab)	i. Gujranwala Division ii. Gujrat Division iii. Multan Division iv. Rawalpindi Division v. Sahiwal Division vi. Sargodha Division of Punjab Province	
3	Deputy Director, (LGE, Balochistan & ICT)	Sindh Province	Director, ER

4	Deputy Director, (Electoral Rolls)	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province	
5	Deputy Director (Library) Assistant Director, (Record)	Balochistan Province & Islamabad	

Following is the summary of complaints received during the General Elections, 2024:

Sr. No.	Name of Province	No. of Complaints Received	No. of Disposed of Complaints
1	Punjab	276	276
2	Sindh	132	132
3	Balochistan	34	34
4	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	51	51
5	ICT	22	22
Total		515	515

Apart from the above-mentioned teams, various complaints were received through dedicated Whatsapp number and E-mail in Election Management Complaint Cell (EMCC) which were also disposed of instantly, in accordance with law and rules.

Chapter 22

Maintenance of Law & Order

For successful conduct of elections, one of the basic ingredients is the provision of secure environment to the political parties, contestants, staff and voters, which is crucial not to facilitate their participation in the election process but also exercise their right of franchise on the poll day without apprehension. Being cognizant of this fact, the Election Commission undertook rigorous measures. Prior to elections, a comprehensive need assessment of deployment of security personnel in various activities relating to elections was conducted. The Federal & Provincial Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) were engaged from the outset. Initially, shortfall of security officials was intimated by the Provinces and Federal Capital. However, owing to rigorous engagement and coordination among stakeholders, coupled with a proactive approach by Election Commission, a well-knitted security plan was not only implemented during the election campaign period, but also extended to poll day and during consolidation of results. A few isolated incidents of terrorists attacks on political activities were reported, but this did not deter the public at large, for their participation in the electoral process.

To ensure fool proof security measures for General Elections 2024, the Election Commission scheduled meetings with Chief Secretaries and Inspector Generals of different provinces. In this connection, a meeting was held on 18th October 2023 in Civil Secretariat, Balochistan, where the Commission was apprised that there was no shortfall of security personnel required for security during General Elections-2024. The Additional IG Police also informed about the deployment strategy of Police, FC, and Army personnel at highly sensitive polling stations. The Commission directed the Caretaker Government to link the Safe City Quetta Project with CEMCR and PEMCR and ensure fool proof arrangements. Likewise, the Election Commission also met with Chief Secretary, Sindh and Inspector General of Police, Sindh wherein it was informed that 110,724 Police, 47,332 Rangers, and 47,332 Army personnel were required for security during General Elections-2024. The IG Sindh briefed on efforts under taken for improvement of law and order, especially in area of Katcha, and updation of lists of sensitive polling station lists. The Commission directed Provincial authorities to keep close liaison between Provincial Election Commissioner, Sindh and other law enforcement agencies for smooth conduct of elections. Similarly, the Election Commission held a meeting with Provincial Caretaker Government of Punjab which was co-chaired by the Chief Election Commissioner and Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab. In the meeting, preparations for General Elections-2024 were discussed and security measures for General Election remained core focus of the meeting. The Election Commission was apprised by the Chief Secretary, Punjab and Inspector General of Police, Punjab about the security arrangements for General Elections. The Inspector General of Police, Punjab highlighted the shortfall of security personnel and suggested that the said shortfall could be augmented through Army/Rangers deployment. At the end of the meeting, the Election Commission directed the Provincial Caretaker Government of Punjab to ensure installation of CCTV cameras on all sensitive and highly sensitive polling stations, the preparation of security plan, the deployment of security

personnel as per security plan, categorization of polling stations as per security plan and ensure provision of security cover to election officials during training and consigning of polling record at strong rooms.

To ascertain the security of the processions, rallies & corner meetings, the procedure was highlighted in the code of conduct. The political parties & candidates were made responsible to intimate the local administration about their political activity well in advance for making security arrangements. This facilitated the local administration to take appropriate security measures for such activities. The ECP issued directions and SOPs to the Chief Secretaries of all provinces, including Chief Commissioner of Islamabad, to implement foolproof security arrangements during the elections including installation of CCTV Cameras in each polling booth of highly sensitive polling stations.

Considering the prevailing law and order situation in the country particularly in the Province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan, meetings with the Provincial Governments and Law enforcement agencies were held, resultantly elections 2024 were conducted in a peaceful manner without any major incident of violence, comparing general elections 2013 and 2018. The statistical data of the violence during campaign and poll day is as under: -

Sr. No	Detail of Major Incidents	General Elections 2013	General Elections 2018	General Elections 2024
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Suicide attack on election rallies and target killing of contesting candidates	155 Casualties (Including three contesting candidates)	162 Casualties (Including three contesting candidates)	6 Casualties (Including two contesting candidates)
2.	Suicide attack / target killing on poll day	38 Casualties (General public)	31 Casualties (General public)	8 Casualties (Security personnel)

22.1 Deployment of Pak Army, FC/Rangers

Taking into account, the law and order situation in the country, the Election Commission, in exercise of its powers under Article 220 of the Constitution and all other powers enabling it in that behalf, obtained the services of Pakistan Armed Forces and Civil Armed Forces. These forces extended their assistance to the ECP in the fashion, outlined below:

- (i) Pakistan Armed Forces/Civil Armed Forces constituting the Quick Reaction Force were deployed outside most of the sensitive polling stations from 5th February, 2024 to 10th February, 2024
- (ii) Civil Armed Forces were deployed at Printing Corporation of Pakistan, Islamabad and Pakistan Post Foundation, Islamabad from 12th January, 2024 to 8th February, 2024 to

ensure fool proof security arrangements during the printing/stacking/storage of Ballot Papers.

- (iii) Pakistan Armed Forces/Civil Armed Forces were also engaged during transportation of Ballot Papers and other sensitive election material from printing presses to respective District Returning Officers' offices as per transportation Plan issued by the Commission.
- (iv) Pakistan Armed Forces/Civil Armed Forces also provided fool proof security during transportation of election material from offices of Returning Officers to polling stations and back, after completion of counting process at the Polling Stations.

The Election Commission of Pakistan in terms of Article 220 of the Constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan, read with Section 5 and 193 of the Elections Act, 2017 (XXIII of 2017) authorized, each designated officers In-Charge of Pakistan Armed Forces/Civil Armed Forces deployed, to exercise powers of Magistrate First Class. The troops were also empowered by the Federal Government to exercise the powers under Sections 4 & 5 of Anti-Terrorism Act (1997) as amended, till the duration of their deployment.

22.2 Comparison of Deployment Plan of Security Officials during General Elections 2013, 2018 and 2024

Pursuant to the rationalization and micromanagement strategy for the deployment plan, a three-tier security framework was instituted for the General Elections 2024 aimed at ascertaining multiple layers of security measures. The first and second tiers comprised of local police forces and additional law enforcement units were responsible for providing on-ground security at polling stations. The third tier consisted of a Quick Response Force (QRF) from the Pakistan Armed Forces, stationed outside the polling stations and was prepared to respond swiftly to any threats or emergencies. In comparison, during the General Elections 2018, the Armed Forces and Civil Armed Forces were deployed both inside and outside of all polling stations to maintain law and order and ensure a secure environment. It is pertinent to mention, that, the deployment strategy for the General Election 2013, was more limited, with the armed forces and civil armed forces being deployed at, prioritized polling stations, among those categorized as most sensitive.

Chapter 23

Financial Arrangements for General Elections – 2024

The successful conduct of General Elections is a cornerstone of any democratic system, requiring meticulous planning and significant financial resources. The financial arrangements for the General Elections 2024 were designed to ensure that electoral process was carried out simultaneously for National Assembly and all the four Provincial Assemblies and enabling over 130.500 million registered voters to cast their votes at 90,675 polling stations across the country.

The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) faced the complex task of managing a vast budget that was required to cover multiple aspects of the electoral process, from voter registration and education, purchase of election material (sensitive and non-sensitive) to polling day logistics and security measures. It underscores the importance of sound financial management in the electoral process and reflects the ECP's commitment to fostering a transparent and accountable electoral system.

The establishment of fair and transparent election rate is a critical component in ensuring the smooth conduct of elections. These rates cover a wide range of services, including polling staff remuneration, transportation, voter education, and election security. The approval process involved thorough consultations with stakeholders, rigorous analysis of budgetary constraints, and a commitment to maintaining the integrity of the electoral process.

ECP approved enhancement of various rates/scales on the basis of which funds were released to the concerned quarters. The approved rates/scales adopted for conduct of General Elections-2024 are as follow:

a. Rates for Payment of Remuneration to District Returning Officers (DROs)/ Returning Officers (ROs), District Monitoring Officers (DMOs) & Monitoring Officers (MOs):

Sr. No	Head of Account	Rates for General Elections 2024
1.	A03201- Postage & Telegraph	Rs.2,000/- per DRO & RO
		Rs.10,000/- per DMO
		Rs.5,000/- per MO
2.	A03806- Transportation of Goods	Rs.18,000/- per polling station for DRO (throughout Pakistan except Balochistan Rural Area)
		Rs.30,000/- for Rural Area of Balochistan

3.	A03807 - POL Charges	Rs. 80,000/- per DRO & RO
		Rs. 100,000/- Per DMO & Rs. 90,000/- Per MO
4.	A03901 - Stationary	Rs. 20,000/-per DRO & RO
		Rs. 20,000/- per DMO & Rs.10,000/- per MO
5.	A03970 (Others) Contingent- Including Mobile Charges	Rs. 10,000/- per DRO & RO
		Rs. 10,000/- Per DMO & Rs. 10,000/- Per each member of MO
		Rs. 10,000/- Per each member of MO
	A03970 (Others) Contingent- Internet Charges	Rs.6,000/- per DMO & MO
	A03970 (Others) Contingent-Improvisation of Polling Station	Rs.8,000/- per polling station

b. Rates of Honoraria to District Returning Officers (DROs), Returning Officers (ROs), and Complementary Staff:-

Sr. No	Category	Rates for General Elections 2024
1.	District Returning Officer	Rs. 100,000/-
2.	Returning Officer	Rs. 75,000/-
3.	Assistant Returning Officer	Rs. 50,000/-
4.	Date Entry Operator	Rs. 50,000/-
5.	03-Nos of Complementary Staff of DRO/RO	Rs. 20,000/- Per Head
6.	01-No of Naib Qasid of DRO/RO	Rs. 15,000/-

c. Rates of Remuneration for Payment to Presiding Officers (POs), Assistant Presiding Officers (APOs), Polling Officers (POs) & Naib Quasids:-

Sr. No.	Category	Rates for General Elections 2024
1.	Presiding Officer	Rs.6,000/- (Rs. 2,000 per day for 3-days)
2.	Assistant Presiding Officer	Rs.4,500/- (Rs. 1,500 per day for 3-days)
3.	Polling Officer	Rs.4,500/-(Rs. 1,500 per day for 3-days)
4.	Naib Quasid	Rs.2,000/- (Lump Sum)
5.	Mobile Charges	Rs.2,000 per Presiding Officer

d. **Rates of Remuneration for Payment of Training Charges to Lead Trainers, Master Trainers & Trainees (Polling Personnel) i.e. Presiding Officers, Senior Presiding Officers, Assistant Presiding Officers:-**

Sr. No.	Description of Expenditure		Rates for General Elections 2024
1	2-days Training of Presiding Officers and Sr. APOs	Refreshment charges & stationary for Pr. Officer Sr. POs	Rs.1,000/- per person per day (Rs.900/- Food & Rs.100/- Stationery)
		Reward / Remuneration to cover travelling expenses(for Trainee)	Rs.1,000/- per person per day (for 2-days) (Total Rs.2,000/- per person)
		Training Fee/remuneration to Master Trainers	Rs.5,000/- per Trainer per day
2	Half Day Orientation Sessions for APOs and Polling Officers	Refreshment Charges & Stationary	Rs.600/- per person for per Session (Rs.400/-Food & Rs.200/-Stationary)
		Training Fee/Remuneration to Master Trainers	Rs.3,000/- per session
		Reward / Remuneration to cover travelling expenses (for Trainee)	Rs.1,000/- per person per day
3	2 days Training of Master Trainers	All the participants of trainings to be paid lump-sum to cover their food / accommodation & travelling expenses	Rs.10,000/- per person (Lump-sum)
		Per trainers lecture Fee / remuneration	Rs.10,000/- per person per day

e. **Rates of Honoraria to DMO'S & Members of Monitoring Teams.:-**

Sr. No.	Category	Rates for General Elections 2024
1.	District Monitoring Officer	Rs.100,000/-
2.	Monitoring Team Consisting upon 2-Members Each	Rs. 75,000/- Each Member

f. **Rates of Remuneration for Payment to the Verifying Officials on Account of Door to Door Verification of Electoral Rolls:-**

Sr. No.	Category	Rates for General Elections 2024
1.	Returning Authority	Rs. 20,000/-
2.	Assistant Registration Officer	Rs. 15,000/-
3.	Supervisors	Rs. 12,000/-
4.	Verifying Officials	Rs. 10,000/-
5.	Display Center In-Charge	RS. 15,000/-

g. Rates of Remuneration/Honoraria for Payment to Election Management System (EMS) Operators:-

Sr. No.	Category	Rates for General Elections 2024
1.	EMS Operator	Rs.60,000/-

Funds to the tune of **Rs.33,482,450,914/-** were utilized during **F.Y. 2022-23 and 2023-24** for conduct of General Elections-2024. A major portion of these funds was disbursed to District Returning Officers / Returning Officers (DROS/ROs) and District Monitoring Officers / Monitoring Officer (DMOs/MOs) through respective Provincial Election Commissioners (PECs) on basis of total number of National Assembly and Provincial Assembly constituencies, the deployment strength of polling personnel, and total number of polling stations. In addition, payments were made to various government organizations and departments engaged by the Election Commission of Pakistan for conduct of General Elections including National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) for preparation of Electoral Rolls, Printing Corporation of Pakistan (PCP), Pakistan Printing Foundation (PPF) and National Security Printing Company (NSPC) for printing requirements, as well as for Security duty during the election period.

Chapter 24

Printing of Ballot Papers

In order to calculate the expected utilization of paper for General Elections-2024, the Election Commission kept in view the past trends of the number of contesting candidates per constituency in General Elections-2013 and General Elections-2018.

General Elections-2013

<i>Total nomination papers filed</i>	=	26,874
<i>Validly Nominated Candidates</i>	=	23,356
<i>% decrease</i>	=	13%

General Elections-2018

<i>Total nomination papers filed</i>	=	19,433
<i>Validly Nominated Candidates</i>	=	11,677
<i>% decrease</i>	=	40%

It is pertinent to mention here that ballot papers used during General Elections-2013 were printed on local paper with no special features, as there was no specific provision in the law regarding the use of Special Watermarked Paper at that time. However, after the enactment of the Elections Act, 2017, ECP is bound to use Special Watermarked Paper during General Elections.

General Elections-2018

Out of 2000 tons paper imported by NSPC for ECP, 800 tons were used in General Elections-2018 and 142 tons were used in Bye-Elections from 2018 to 2023. Hence, 1058 tons were available in stock for use during General Elections-2024.

General Elections-2024

ECP opted for indigenous paper manufacturing of same specifications through Security Paper Limited (SPL) in 2022 instead of import of paper to avoid vulnerabilities of dollar rate fluctuation. Accordingly, ECP procured 1100 tons of papers from Security Paper Limited (SPL) of same specifications under two (02) contracts. Hence, total 2158 tons paper was available for use during General Elections-2024.

Considering the under mentioned increased number of contesting candidates for General Elections-2024, the Election Commission reviewed the requirement of Ballot Paper.

Sr. No	Name of Province	No of Nomination Filed
1	Punjab	13,109
2	Sindh	5,947
3	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	4,786
4	Balochistan	2,419
Total:-		26,261

The paper in stock i.e. 2,158 tons, which was considered sufficient for printing of 260 million ballot papers went short due to significantly increased number of candidates. It was estimated by the printing presses during General Elections-2024 that tentatively 57,000 Reams of (Light Green) and 60,000 Reams (Off-White) would be required to be procured. Hence all three printing presses i.e. Security Printing Press, Karachi, Printing Corporation of Pakistan, Islamabad and Pakistan Post Foundation, Islamabad demanded additional papers, both Light Green and Off White for printing of 260 million ballot papers. The additional quantities required by the presses are as under:

Sr. No	Name of Press	Additional Quantity required of Light Green Paper(Reams)	Additional Quantity required of Off-white Paper(Reams)
1	PCP, Islamabad	15,290	16,200
2	PPF, Islamabad	21,660	22,800
3	NSPC, Karachi	19,950	21,000
Total:-		56,900	60,000

To cover the shortfall of paper for General Elections to be held on 8th February, 2024 and for subsequent Bye-Elections, it was decided that Security Paper Limited (SPL) may be contacted to arrange for more paper production on emergency basis.

To further pursue the matter, a meeting was held at Secretary ECP, level on 9th January, 2024 with CEO SPL along with his team for negotiation to procure additional watermarked paper on emergency basis. However, the SPL team showed their inability to provide Special Watermarked paper for use in General Elections, 2024 which was due on 8th February, 2024 and printing of ballots was scheduled to be started w.e.f. 14th January, 2024.

On the other hand, the abnormally high number of contesting candidates created an alarming situation.

Keeping in view the abnormal increase in the number of contesting candidates, it was apprehended that tentatively 255 tons shortage of paper would be faced by ECP for printing of approximately 260 million ballot papers which could result in:

- i. Delay or postponement of elections in some Constituencies,
- ii. May raise concerns about the credibility and integrity of the electoral process,
- iii. Allegations from political parties or candidates regarding irregularities or discrepancies in the electoral process,
- iv. Public discontent and protests,
- v. Scrutiny from international observers and organizations monitoring the elections.

In order to avoid this unpleasant situation, team of the Commission headed by ADG (Budget) worked on different options, so that ballot papers for General Elections-2024 could be printed completely and according to the prescribed Election Programme.

The potential alternatives highlighted are as follows:

- i. Use of plain paper for an Assembly in a province.
- ii. Rounding off the number of ballot papers to be printed for a polling stations to the nearest hundred.
- iii. Increase number of symbols per column to 10, instead of 8.
- iv. Increase number of columns per sheet.

Total number of validly nominated candidates after withdrawal on 12th January, 2024 was tentatively 18,069. Keeping in view this number, it was projected that 3-4 column ballot papers may be printed which may still cause insufficiency of special watermarked paper available with the presses. Therefore, the following proposals were submitted for the consideration and approval of Election Commission to meet the requirement of ballot paper within the available stock of paper:

- i. *Size of the box of the ballot paper may be reduced from 1.25" to 1.1" to accommodate 10 candidates in a single column Ballot Paper without disturbing the actual size of the ballot paper i.e. 14.5" x 3.25".*
- ii. *Instead of printing 100% Ballot Paper for each polling station, 10% less ballot papers may be printed and supplied to the ROs.*

The case was submitted before the Commission for consideration and appropriate decision. Approximate paper required on basis of 8 symbols and 10 symbols column was also worked out based on actual number of contesting candidates in each National and Provincial Assembly.

In the meeting held on 14th January, 2024, the sample for the option-i was placed before the Hon'ble Commission for deliberation to cover the shortfall of paper. The Commission after due deliberation took prompt and immediate decision and approved option-i, as reducing the

size column of Ballot Paper did not affect the marking of the ballot paper and option-ii being contrary to section 71(1) of the Elections Act, 2017 was declined by the Commission. The decision of the Commission was communicated to the printing presses.

After the completion of printing and delivery of ballot papers within time, following significant achievements were noted by the Commission:

1. Increasing the number of symbols per column from 8 to 10 saved 348 tons of paper.
2. This measure also fulfilled the immediate requirements for Bye-Elections.
3. The utilization of Special Watermarked paper with level-II security features in all constituencies countered fake videos of ballot paper printing.
4. Concerns about the postponement or delay of elections in certain constituencies were eliminated.
5. Approximately **Rs. 1.4 Billion** of public money was saved as a result of this initiative and decision.

Chapter 25

Monitoring of Electoral Activities

25.1 Legal Framework

Under article 218 of constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan, it is the duty of Election Commission of Pakistan to organize and conduct the elections and to make such arrangements that are necessary to ensure that the election is conducted honestly, justly, fairly and in accordance with law. In this regard, Election Commission of Pakistan took necessary measures to conduct the elections smoothly and successfully. Under section 234 of the Elections Act 2017, monitoring of elections campaign is a legal obligation of the ECP.

25.2 Establishment of Election Monitoring Control Center (EMCC)

Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has taken a significant step towards ensuring transparency and accessibility by establishing the Election Monitoring Control Centre (EMCC). This initiative was aimed at facilitating general public in registering any complaints related to the elections through multiple channels, including a helpline with 26 lines' telephone exchange the landline number 051-111-327-000, an email at complaints@ecp.gov.pk, and a WhatsApp number 0327-5050610. EMCC was established in line of commitment of ECP outlined in its M&E Framework.

The facility of a sign language interpreter for individuals with hearing and speech impairments to convert complaints into text messages was also available in the Monitoring Control Center .



Following the approval of strategy by the Commission, an M&E framework was developed for efficient monitoring of General Election 2024 as well as to ensure compliance of Electoral laws by all concerned. The said Framework was designed to complement ECP's decision support system. The framework envisaged, two-pronged strategy i.e. appointment of Monitoring Teams who were supposed to send reports from bottom to top while another tier was operationalization of Control Rooms under EMCC to oversee the monitoring activities and conveying directions from top to bottom.

25.2.1 Objectives of EMCC

- To ensure implementation of the code of conduct and appropriate legal action against violations
- To facilitate the general public and instant redressal of their complaints.

- To implement decision support system in the light of real time reports and evidence.
- To track the progress of various election activities.
- To strengthen the coordination mechanism between the ECP and Monitoring Teams as well as key election officials.
- To ensure effective monitoring of the main stream media.

25.2.2 Facilities in EMCC

- Digital Wall for viewing real-time monitoring field reports
- 12 LED Screens to monitor mainstream media coverage of election activities
- A network of more than 800 officials engaged for a robust complaints redressal system
- The latest Computers to run the M&E Management Information System
- The universal Access Number (UAN) to receive complaints from the public through 26 telephone exchange lines
- Help Desk and workstations for 16 facilitators for 24/7 instant response during all election activities
- A Gender and Social Inclusion Desk

25.2.3 Working Mechanism of EMCC

EMCC performed a lead role under the supervision of a BPS-20 officer to monitor/oversee the overall activities related to General Elections. Overall, three teams were deputed at the ECP Secretariat level, one each for Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and One for Sindh and Baluchistan.

25.2.4 Key Functions of EMCC

- To receive & resolve complaints.
- To keep close liaison with Monitoring Teams.
- To keep close liaison with key election officials.
- To monitor main stream media and upon receipt of any incident information immediately obtain report from C.S and I.G concerned for onward placement before Election Commission.
- To oversee/monitor the polling material distribution process on pre-poll day through Monitoring Teams and sub-ordinate DMCRs and track safely reach of said material to the relevant Polling Stations.
- To obtain, on poll day, reports of timely start of Poll at each Polling Station.
- To oversee polling process and monitor following at polling stations through monitoring teams:
 - Security arrangements.
 - Any Interference or undue influence.
 - Special arrangements for differently abled persons i.e. ramp.
- On close of polling hours, to keep close liaison with LEAS to ensure the peaceful conduct of counting process and safely return of polling staff to RO office.

- To oversee the consolidation of result process.

For effective monitoring of all Electoral activities the ECP appointed number of Monitoring teams as under:

Province	No. of PMCs	No. of RMCs	No. of DMOs	Monitoring Officers
Punjab	01	11	42	594
Sindh	01	07	30	260
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	01	07	37	230
Balochistan	01	07	36	102
ICT	-	-	01	06
Total	04	32	146	1192

25.3 Tiers of Monitoring

In furtherance of said framework, Monitoring Teams were appointed for each constituency supervised by District Monitoring Officer (DMO) appointed for each district. Likewise, for effective monitoring and swift coordination with monitoring teams, role of Regional Monitoring Coordinator (RMC) at each region and Provincial Monitoring Coordinator (PMC) at each province was assigned to REC and JPEC (Admn) O/o Provincial Election Commissioner respectively.

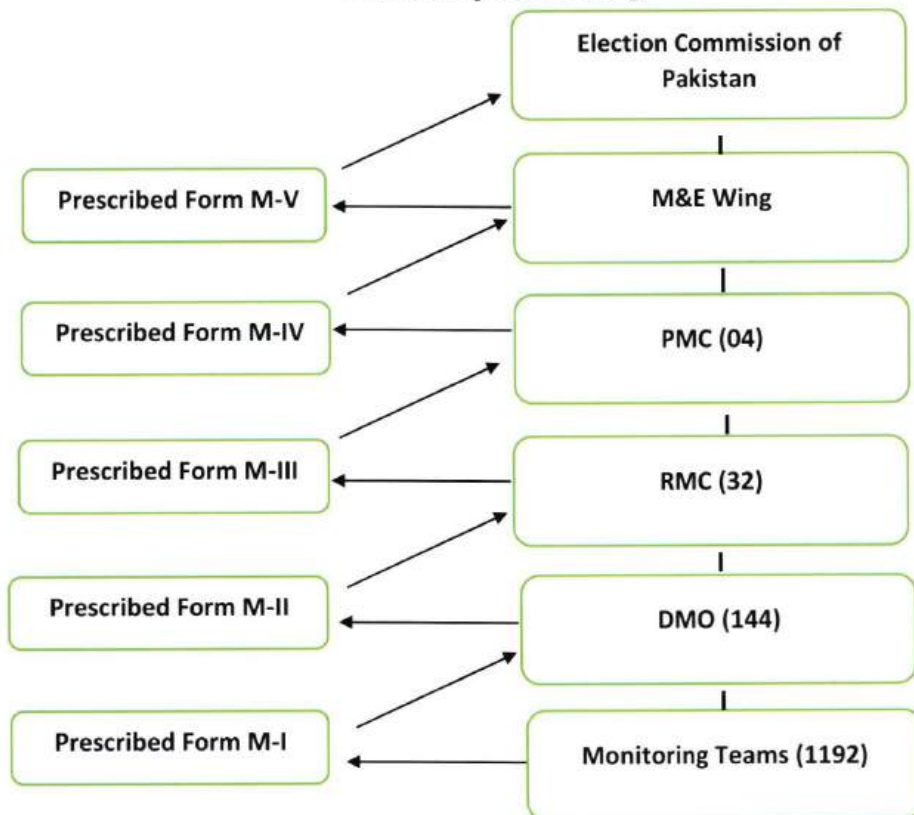
25.3.1 Working Mechanism of Monitoring Teams

All the monitoring teams were required to perform their duties as per prescribed standard operating procedures and TORs. Following was the working and reporting mechanism of monitoring team:

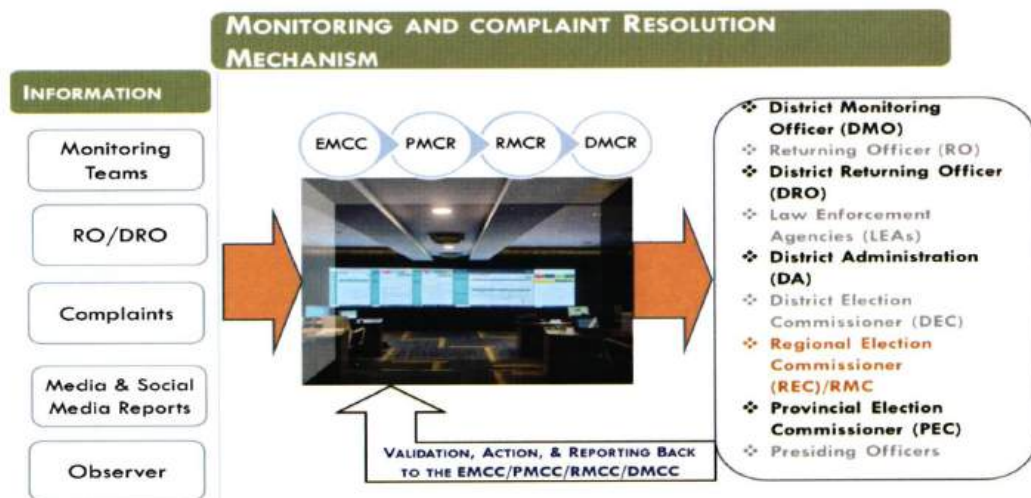
- Monitoring Teams were required to directly report to the DMO.
- In case Monitoring Team observed any violation, the same was immediately reported to the DMO on prescribed Form-M-I.
- The Monitoring Report submitted by the Monitoring Team was of great importance. On the basis of reports submitted by the Monitoring Team, the DMO adopted further course of action under the law.
- DMO maintained record of daily monitoring reports on Form – M-II, and was also responsible for submitting reports to the RMC on Form – M-II.
- The RMC compiled reports of DMOs in his respective region and forwarded a consolidated report on Form – M-III to the PMC.
- The PMC shared consolidated report of his province on Form – M-IV to M&E Wing of ECP Secretariat.

- The M&E Wing placed consolidated reports on Form – M-V before the Election Commission.

Channel of Monitoring



25.4 Monitoring Mechanism, Role and Coordination



25.4.1 Effectiveness of EMCC

Since 24x7, EMCC has all the powers to issue directions and obtain reports of any incident occurred and issue rebuttals/clarifications to the Media. Several number of interventions have been made by the EMCC after each incident occurred or any news appeared on the news channels. The said alertness of EMCC involved all LEAs from Top to Bottom. It also clarified many baseless rumors about violence on Poll time by issuing rebuttals and also clarified any incident misreported by Media Channels.

25.4.2 EMCC/Data Analysis

Summary of thematic area wise EMCC Complaints received, resolved and disposed of is as under:-

Province Wise Summary of Complaints Since 23 rd December, 2023 To 9 th February, 2024				
Sr. No.	Province	Action Taken /Resolved	In-Process	Total
1	Punjab	109	0	109
2	Balochistan	90	0	90
3	KP	17	0	17
4	Sindh	69	0	69
5	General	30	0	30
Grand Total		315	0	315

25.4.3 Establishment of 180 Subordinate Control Rooms

The monitoring of election activities was done at different tiers/levels to work as a decision support system and timely redressal of complaints. Therefore, in the light of Framework a chain of 180 subordinate Control rooms was established/operationalized at provincial, Divisional and districts level with following sequence:

1. Provincial Monitoring Control Room (PMCR)
 - i. Established in the O/o PEC under supervision of PMC.
 - ii. The PMCR assisted EMCC and supervised RMCR and DMCR while vigilantly monitoring and overseeing ongoing election activities.
2. Regional Monitoring Control Room (RMCR)
 - i. Established in the O/o REC under the supervision of RMC.

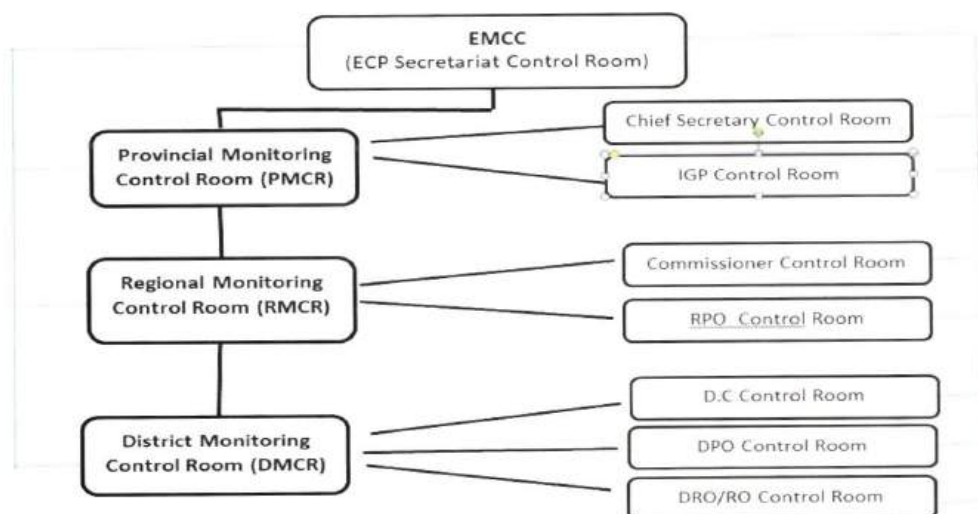
- ii. The RMCR assisted PMCR & EMCC and also supervised DMCR while vigilantly monitoring and overseeing ongoing Election Activities.

3. District Monitoring Control Room (DMCR)

- i. To be established in the office of DRO at a central place of district under the supervision of DRO
- ii. The DMCR will assist EMCC, PMCR and RMCR, while vigilantly monitoring and overseeing ongoing Election Activities.
- iii. The following members were included in the Control Rooms.
 - a) A member from District Election Commissioners office
 - b) A member of Police Department
 - c) Two members of Education Department (one Male & one Female)
 - d) One member of Law Enforcement Agencies (LEA's)
 - e) A member from electricity distribution company.

25.4.4 Coordination with Control Rooms of Provincial Governments and District Returning Officers

The EMCC coordinated with other Control rooms at the Provincial, Regional and district levels, monitoring teams, other key Election Officials and Law Enforcing Agencies (LEAs) and passed on necessary direction wherever required.



The EMCC was made operational with the announcement of election program. Initially, the EMCC helpline operated from 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM, but as the election day approached, it was made operational round the clock (24/7) i.e. seven days before the election day (1st-7th Feb 2024), on the election day itself (8th February 2024), and seven days after the elections (9th-15th Feb 2024).

25.4.5 Data Reported by Monitoring Teams

Each Monitoring Team shared report of monitoring and action taken as per the Code of Conduct, Election Laws and Rules framed there under and SOPs issued by the Commission from time to time. After completion of General Elections 2024 M & E Wing of ECP collected a concluding final report from each officer as per following detail:

Summary of Actions Taken by the Monitoring Teams							
Sr. No	Name of Province	Total Number of Violations	Notices Issued	Warnings Issued	Disciplinary Action	Fines Imposed	Publicity Material Removed (Approx)
1	Punjab	509	444	225	02	60	7825
2	Sindh	363	353	119	-	31	5580
3	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	379	357	49	-	200	5390
4	Balochistan	212	44	17	-	10	3550
Total		1463	1198	410	02	301	22345

General Election Gallery Walk



One Day Training (online) of Regional Monitoring Coordinators (RMCs) as Master Trainers



Briefing to National Media on working of (EMCC)



One Day Training of District Monitoring Teams



Video Conferencing with Provincial Monitoring Coordinators (PMCs)



Briefing to International Observers on working of (EMCC)



Briefing to European Union mission on working of (EMCC)



Press Briefing to National Media on working of (EMCC) on Poll-day



Visit of International Observers to (EMCC)



Provincial Monitoring Control Room (PMCR) Sindh



Regional Monitoring Control Room (RMCR)
Bahawalpur.



District Monitoring Control Room (DMCR)
Gujrat.



Removal of unauthorized publicity material by Monitoring Teams during the G.E 2024



Monitoring of PO/APOs Training session at Loralai District during G.E 2024



Monitoring of Poll-day Activities

Chapter 26

Consolidation and Communication of Elections Results

Consolidation and communication of elections results is the most crucial activity in the election process. After the close of the poll, the voters, political parties, and the media wait for consolidation and announcement of the result. The election process, which starts with the filing of nomination papers by the candidates, culminates with the announcement of election results. An efficient, swift, and credible result consolidation and communication system ensures transparency and success of the election process.

26.1 Election City

State-of-the-art Election City was established with primary aim of receiving provisional election results (Form-47) from Returning Officers across the country. It was equipped with the latest array of Digital Video Walls for displaying the results on real time basis (24/7) by ensuring transparency besides providing access to the stakeholders. The 'Election City' facilitated national and international observers, national and international media, candidates and representatives of various political parties and members of civil society organizations. Dedicated teams were deputed to the 'Election City' who worked round the clock, demonstrating their commitment for efficient reporting results with the use of smart digital technologies. It was a marathon activity spanning over more than 48 hours. This initiative was duly acknowledged by the stakeholders including diplomats, International missions, International and national media and election observers. Additionally, the results were also displayed at ECP's website for global audience and the convenience of the general public.

The facilitation provided to media representatives, observers, and state media departments such as PTV and Radio Pakistan further highlights the commitment to inclusivity and accessibility in the electoral process. This concerted effort reflects the fundamental principles of elections such as transparency, accessibility, participation, and coordination, thereby enhancing public trust and confidence in the electoral process.

26.2 Consolidation of Results by the Returning Officers

On receipt of result of the count from the Presiding Officers, the Returning Officers prepare and announce the provisional consolidated statements of the result of the count on Form-47. After announcement of provisional results, the Returning Officers were required to issue consolidated result after issuing notices to the contesting candidates and their election agents. During consolidation of results, the Returning officers had to also count the postal ballots received within the stipulated timeline.

After scrutinizing the postal ballots received, the Returning Officers mentioned the postal ballots obtained by each contesting candidate on Form-48. Form-49, which is summary of Form-48, was also issued by the Returning Officer. The Returning Officers after consolidation of results placed Form-48 & Form-49 of each constituency in tamper-evident bags and dispatched through Provincial Election Commissioners to the ECP Secretariat. On the basis of Form-49 and after receiving confirmation from the Returning Officers regarding submission of election expenses by the returned candidates, formal notifications were issued by the Commission and published in the official gazette. The overall turn out in General Election-2024 remained at 47.65%.

Chapter 27

Election to the Seats Reserved for Women and Non-Muslims

Articles 51 and 106 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan provide reserved seats for Women and Non-Muslims in addition to general seats in the National and Provincial Assemblies respectively. For general seats there is a single member territorial constituency. However, the method of election is different for reserved seats. In case of National Assembly, each province is considered as a single constituency for all reserved seats for women while the whole country will be a single constituency in case of Non-Muslims. Likewise, in case of Provincial Assemblies, the respective province shall be a single constituency for all seats reserved for Women and Non-Muslims. Under Article 51 of the Constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan, total 60 reserved seats have been allocated for Women and 10 reserved seats have been allocated for Non-Muslims. Women and Non-Muslims are elected in accordance with Law through a proportional representation system of political parties' lists of candidates on the basis of total general seats won by each political party in a particular assembly. While allocation of seats to the political parties, the independent candidates who duly join a political party within three (03) days of their declaration as returned candidate are also included in the strength of that party. The detail of the reserved seats for women in the National Assembly for each province is as under:

Name of Province	Women Seats
Punjab	32
Sindh	14
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	10
Balochistan	4
Total	60

Furthermore, 10 seats have been allocated for non-Muslims in the National Assembly; the constituency for all seats reserved for non-Muslims is the whole country.

Similarly, under Article 106 of the Constitution, following number of seats have been reserved for Women and Non-Muslims in the Provincial Assemblies:

Name of Province	Women Seats	Non-Muslims Seats	Total
Punjab	66	8	74
Sindh	29	9	38
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	26	4	30
Balochistan	11	3	14
Total	132	24	156

27.1 Method of Elections to Reserved Seats

A process of election for reserved seats commences simultaneously with the issuance of notification of election programme for general seats. It has been a tradition that the political parties are sensitized/ informed before the issuance of the election programme through press release to make preparation for priority lists of candidates in respect of each category. Similarly, separate Returning Officers for one or more category of reserved seats are appointed for receipt of nominations, priority lists, scrutiny and issuance of list of contesting candidates. The timelines for submission of nomination papers by the candidates for reserved seats before the Returning Officer are the same as for general seats. The political parties are also required to submit their priority list before the Returning Officer by the last date for filing of nomination papers.

27.2 Appointment of Returning Officers (ROs) for the Seats Reserved for Women and Non-Muslims in the National Assembly and Provincial Assemblies during General Elections-2024

The Election Commission appointed its own officers as Returning Officers for the seats reserved for Women and Non-Muslims in National Assembly and Provincial Assemblies as per following detail:

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

Provincial Election Commissioner, Sindh, Karachi	Reserved Seats for Women in the National Assembly from Sindh Province
	Reserved Seats for Women in the Provincial Assembly of Sindh
	Reserved Seats for Non-Muslims in the Provincial Assembly of Sindh
Provincial Election Commissioner, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Peshawar.	Reserved Seats for Women in the Provincial Assembly of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.
Joint Provincial Election Commissioner (Elections), Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Peshawar.	Reserved Seats for Women in the National Assembly from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province.
	Reserved Seats for Non-Muslims in the Provincial Assembly of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
Provincial Election Commissioner, Balochistan, Quetta.	Reserved Seats for Women in the National Assembly from Balochistan Province.
	Reserved Seats for Women in the Provincial Assembly of Balochistan
	Reserved Seats for Non-Muslims in the Provincial Assembly of Balochistan

27.3 Schedule

During General Elections-2024, for the Election to the reserved seats following timelines were issued for various activities:

Sl. No.	EVENTS	DATE
1	2	3
1.	Public Notice to be issued by the Returning Officer on	19.12.2023
2.	Dates for filing of nomination papers with the Returning Officer by the candidates	20.12.2023 to 22.12.2023
3.	Publication of names of the nominated candidates	23.12.2023
4.	Last date for Scrutiny of nomination papers by the Returning Officer	24.12.2023 to 30.12.2023
5.	Last date for filing of appeals against decisions of the Returning Officer rejecting/accepting the nomination papers	03.01.2024

6.	Last date for deciding of appeals by the Appellate Tribunal	10.01.2024
7.	Publication of revised list of candidates	11.01.2024
8.	Last date for withdrawal of candidature and Publication of revised list of candidates	12.01.2024
9.	Allotment of Election Symbol to contesting candidates	13.01.2024
10.	Polling day	08.02.2024

However, to facilitate the political parties and candidates, the election programme for reserved seat was revised as per following detail:-

REVISED ELECTION PROGRAMME

Sl. No.	EVENTS	DATE
1	2	3
1.	Public Notice to be issued by the Returning Officer on	19.12.2023
2.	Dates for filing of nomination papers with the Returning Officer by the candidates	20.12.2023 to 24.12.2023
3.	Publication of names of the nominated candidates	24.12.2023
4.	Last date for Scrutiny of nomination papers by the Returning Officer	13.01.2024
5.	Last date for filing of appeals against decisions of the Returning Officer rejecting/accepting the nomination papers	16.01.2024
6.	Last date for deciding of appeals by the Appellate Tribunal	19.01.2024
7.	Publication of revised list of candidates	20.01.2024
8.	Last date for withdrawal of candidature and Publication of revised list of candidates	22.01.2024
9.	Issuance of list of contesting candidates	23.01.2024

27.4 Filing of Nomination papers on Reserved Seats

During General Election-2024, the following number of candidates filed their nomination papers before the Returning Officers against the seats reserved for Women and Non-Muslims.

National Assembly

Name of Province	Seats Reserved for Women		Seats Reserved for Non-Muslims	
	No. of Seats	No. of Nomination Paper Filed	No. of Seats	No. of Nomination Paper Filed
Punjab	32	195	10	150
Sindh	14	118		
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	10	98		
Balochistan	4	49		
Total	60	460		

Provincial Assemblies

Name of Province	Seats Reserved for Women		Seats Reserved for Non-Muslims	
	No. of Seats	No. of Nomination Paper Filed	No. of Seats	No. of Nomination Paper Filed
Punjab	66	600	8	127
Sindh	29	309	9	125
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	26	318	4	74
Balochistan	11	133	3	67
Total	132	1360	24	393

27.5 Scrutiny of Nomination Papers

The Returning Officers appointed for the category of reserved seats for women and non-Muslims in the National Assembly and Provincial Assemblies scrutinized the nomination papers of the candidates under the relevant Electoral laws and issued the list of validly nominated candidates, accordingly. The details of validly nominated candidates is as under:

National Assembly

Name of Province	Seats Reserved for Women			Seats Reserved for Non-Muslims		
	No. of Nomination Paper Filed	No. of Validly Nominated Candidates	No. of Rejected Nomination Papers	Nomination Paper Filed	No. of Validly Nominated Candidates	No. of Rejected Nomination Papers
Punjab	195	50	145	150	37	113
Sindh	118	37	81			
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	98	27	71			
Balochistan	49	28	21			
Total	460	142	318			

Provincial Assemblies

Name of Province	Seats Reserved for Women			Seats Reserved for Non-Muslims		
	No. of Nomination Papers filed	No. of Validly Nominated Candidates	No. of Rejected Nomination Papers	Nomination Papers filed	No. of Validly Nominated Candidates	No. of Rejected Nomination Papers
Punjab	600	139	461	127	23	104
Sindh	309	83	226	125	38	87
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	318	70	248	74	24	50
Balochistan	133	64	69	67	32	35
Total	1360	356	1004	393	117	276

27.6 Appeals Filed Against Acceptance / Rejection of Nomination Papers for Reserved seats

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

Reserved Seats for Women in National Assembly

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

Reserved Seats for Women in Provincial Assemblies

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

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

Reserved Seats for Non-Muslims in National Assembly

No. of Appeals filed with the Appellate Tribunals against Acceptance of Nomination Papers	No. of Appeals filed with the Appellate Tribunals against Rejection of Nomination Papers	Total No. of Appeals filed with the Appellate Tribunals
0	0	0
0	0	0

Reserved Seats for Non-Muslims in Provincial Assemblies

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

27.7 Disposal of Appeals by the Election Tribunal

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

Reserved Seats for Women in National Assembly

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

Reserved Seats for Women in Provincial Assemblies

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

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

Reserved Seats for Non-Muslim in National Assembly

No. of Appeals Accepted against Acceptance of Nomination Papers	No. of Appeals Accepted against Rejection of Nomination Papers	Total No. of Appeals Accepted	Total No. of Appeals Rejected against Acceptance / Rejection of Nomination Papers
0	0	0	0

Reserved Seats for Non-Muslim in Provincial Assemblies

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

27.8 Determination of Quota for Reserved Seats

Article 224 (1) of the Constitution provides that the results of the election shall be declared not later than 14 days after the poll. Section 98 of the Elections Act, 2017 also reiterates that on receipt of final consolidation of result from the Returning Officer, the Commission shall within 14 days from the date of poll, publish in the official gazette the names of the contesting candidates who have received the highest number of votes. The independent returned candidates, after their notifications, may join a political party within three days. So that, they may also be counted as part of that party's total strength for the determination of quota of reserved seats. The per centum share of political parties is determined on the basis of the total number of general seats won by them in the National and Provincial Assemblies, including the independent returned candidates who duly joined these parties. As per that share, number of reserved seats was allocated to the Political Parties in General Election 2024. The allocation of reserved seats to Sunni Ittehad Council was kept pending till disposal of applications of other political parties and Sunni Ittehad Council regarding claim of remaining reserved seats because the Sunni Ittehad Council neither contested the General Election nor it submitted list of candidates for reserved seats.

Details of allocation of Reserved Seats on 22nd February, 2024, is given below:

Seats Reserved for Women (National Assembly)					
Sr. No	Province	Category	Total Seats	No. of Seats Allocated on 22.02.2024	
1	Punjab	Seats Reserved for Women in the National Assembly from Punjab Province	32	PML(N)	17
				PPPP	1
				PML	1
				IPP	1
				Total	20
2	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	Seats Reserved for Women in the National Assembly from KPK Province	10	PML(N)	1
				JUI(P)	1
				Total	2
3	Sindh	Seats Reserved for Women in the National Assembly from Sindh Province	14	PPPP	10
				MQMP	4
				Total	14
4	Balochistan	Seats Reserved for Women in the National Assembly from Balochistan Province	4	PML(N)	2
				JUI(P)	1
				PPPP	1
				Total	4

Seats Reserved for Non-Muslims (National Assembly)					
Sr No	Province	Category	Total Seats	No. of Seats Allocated on 22.02.2024	
1	National Assembly	Seats Reserved for Non-Muslims in the National Assembly	10	PML(N)	4
				PPPP	2
				MQM(P)	1
				JUI(P)	-
				Total	7

Seats Reserved for Women (Provincial Assemblies)					
Sr No	Province	Category	Total Seats	No. of Seats Allocated on 22.02.2024	
1	Punjab	Seats Reserved for Women in the Provincial Assembly of Punjab	66	PML(N)	36
				PPPP	3
				PML	2
				IPP	1
				Total	42
2	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	Seats Reserved for Women in the Provincial Assembly of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	26	JUI(P)	2
				PPPP	1
				PML (N)	2
				Total	5
3	Sindh	Seats Reserved for Women in the Provincial Assembly of Sindh	29	PPPP	20
				MQM(P)	6
				GDA	1
				Total	27
4	Balochistan	Seats Reserved for Women in the Provincial Assembly of Balochistan	11	JUIP	2
				PML(N)	3
				PPPP	3
				BAP	1
				National Party	1
				ANP	1
				Total	11

Seats Reserved for Non-Muslims (Provincial Assemblies)					
Sr No	Province	Category	Total Seats	No. of Seats Allocated on 22.02.2024	
1	Punjab	Seats Reserved for Non-Muslims in the Provincial Assembly of Punjab	8	PML(N)	5
				Total	5
2	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	Seats Reserved for Non-Muslims in the Provincial Assembly of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	4	-	-
3	Sindh	Seats Reserved for Non-Muslims in the Provincial Assembly of Sindh	9	PPPP	6
				MQM(P)	2
				Total	8
4	Balochistan	Seats Reserved for Non-Muslims in the Provincial Assembly of Balochistan	3	PPPP	1
				PML(N)	1
				JUIP	1
				Total	3

After allocation of reserved seats on 22nd February, 2024, notifications of returned candidates for seats reserved for women and non-Muslims in the National and Provincial Assemblies were also issued by the Election Commission on 22nd February, 2024.

With regard to applications submitted by Sunni Ittehad Council and other political party for allocation of reserved seats the Commission passed an order on 1st March, 2024 which resulted in distribution of remaining reserved seats among the political parties who contested General Election. Accordingly, the overall share of reserved seats was determined on 4th March, 2024, as below:

Seats Reserved for Women in the National Assembly						
Sr No	Province	Category	Total Seats	Name of Party	Additional No. of Seats Allocated on 04.03.2024	Total Number of Seats Allocated to the Party
1	Punjab	Seats Reserved for Women in the National Assembly from Punjab Province	32	PML(N)	10	27
				PPPP	2	3
				PML	-	1
				IPP	-	1
				Total	12	32
2	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	Seats Reserved for Women in the National Assembly from KPK Province	10	PML(N)	4	5
				JUI(P)	2	3
				PPPP	2	2
				Total	8	10

Seats Reserved for Non-Muslims in the National Assembly						
Sr No	Province	Category	Total Seats	Name of Party	Additional No. of Seats Allocated on 04.03.2024	Total Number of Seats Allocated to the Party
1	National Assembly	Seats Reserved for Non-Muslims in the National Assembly	10	PML(N)	1	5
				PPPP	1	3
				MQM(P)	-	1
				JUI(P)	1	1
				Total	3	10

Seats Reserved for Women in Provincial Assembly						
Sr No	Province	Category	Total Seats	No. of Seats Allocated on 22.02.2024	Additional No. of Seats Allocated on 04.03.2024	Total Number of Seats Allocated to the Party
1	Punjab	Seats Reserved for Women in the Provincial Assembly of Punjab	66	PML(N)	21	57
				PPPP	1	4
				PML	1	3
				IPP	1	2
				Total	24	66
2	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	Seats Reserved for Women in the Provincial Assembly of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	26	JUI(P)	8	10
				PPPP	5	6
				PML (N)	6	8
				ANP	1	1
				PTI(P)	1	1
				Total	21	26
3	Sindh	Seats Reserved for Women in the Provincial Assembly of Sindh	29	PPPP	1	21
				MQM(P)	1	7
				GDA	-	1
				Total	2	29

Seats Reserved for Non-Muslims in Provincial Assembly						
Sr No	Province	Category	Total Seats	No. of Seats Allocated on 22.02.2024	Additional No. of Seats Allocated on 04.03.2024	Total Number of Seats Allocated to the Party
1	Punjab	Seats Reserved for Non-Muslims in the Provincial Assembly of Punjab	8	PML(N)	2	7
				PPPP	1	1
				Total	3	8
2	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	Seats Reserved for Non-Muslims in the Provincial Assembly of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	4	JUI(P)	2	2
				PML(N)	1	1
				PPPP	1	1
				Total	4	4
3	Sindh	Seats Reserved for Non-Muslims in the Provincial Assembly of Sindh	9	PPPP	1	7
				MQM(P)	-	2
				Total	1	9

After distribution of reserved seats among other parliamentary parties on 4th March, 2024, the Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) approached the Peshawar High Court for setting aside Election Commission's order dated 1st March, 2024 and allocation of reserved seats to Sunni Ittehad Council on the basis of their strength in the National Assembly and Provincial Assemblies. The larger bench of Peshawar High Court, vide order dated 25th March, 2024 dismissed SIC's plea and upheld the decision of ECP, dated 1st March, 2024. Thereafter, the SIC challenged the decision of Peshawar High Court dated 25th March, 2024 in the Supreme Court of Pakistan. The Apex Court on 6th May, 2024 passed an order, whereby, the operation of the impugned judgement of the Peshawar High Court dated 25th March, 2024 as well as the order of the Election Commission of Pakistan dated 1st March, 2024 were suspended and the court directed the ECP to suspend the Notification issued in light of ECP's order dated 1st March, 2024. In compliance with order of Apex Court dated 6th May, 2024 the Election Commission on 13th May, 2024 suspended Notifications of 77 members of National and Provincial Assemblies elected on these seats.

Later, on 12th July, 2024, a full bench of the apex court through a majority passed an order whereby the court directed the ECP to declare 39 members of National Assembly, who had submitted certificates of their affiliation with PTI along with their nomination papers as returned candidates of the said party. Further, the Apex Court ruled that the remaining 41 members of National Assembly who had not submitted their affiliation certificates at the time of nomination papers could file the same within a period of 15 days.

Consequently, the Election Commission of Pakistan had notified 39 members of National Assembly as returned candidates of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), and, on the similar analogy, 29 members of Provincial Assembly of Punjab, 6 members of Provincial Assembly of Sindh and 58 members of Provincial Assembly of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa were declared as returned candidates of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI). However, in response to the Supreme Court's 12th July judgment, the Election Commission of Pakistan filed review petitions, seeking for setting aside the majority judgment dated 12th July, 2024, in its review, and recall its earlier decision. The Commission argued that the allocation of reserved seats must be guided by constitutional principles and established parliamentary norms, and that the Supreme Court's ruling had significant implications on the electoral framework and party representation in the legislatures. The Apex Court vide its order dated 27th June, 2025 restored the decision of Peshawar High Court. Consequently, the ECP vide Notification dated 2nd July, 2025 notified returned candidates on seats reserved for Women and Non-Muslims in the National and Provincial Assemblies.

Chapter 28

Election Dispute/Petitions

28.1 Election Disputes Resolution Mechanism Under the Constitution and Law in Pakistan

28.1.1 Pre-Election Disputes

The electoral process for general elections officially commences with the issuance of the election schedule by the Election Commission. This schedule serves as a legally binding framework that outlines specific timelines for each phase of the electoral process, including but not limited to the filing of nomination papers by prospective candidates, the scrutiny of such papers by the Returning Officers, and the subsequent acceptance or rejection of the nominations based on the requirements laid down in the Constitution and the Elections Act, 2017.

During this pre-election phase, disputes may arise primarily concerning the eligibility of candidates, deficiencies or inaccuracies in nomination documents, or the application of disqualifications as provided under the relevant provisions of law. In order to provide a legal remedy and ensure transparency, fairness, and due process, the Election Commission, in exercise of its powers under Section 63 of the Elections Act, 2017, appoints Appellate Tribunals. These Tribunals are composed of serving Judges of the respective High Courts and are vested with the exclusive jurisdiction to adjudicate upon appeals preferred by aggrieved candidates against the decisions of Returning Officers concerning the acceptance or rejection of nomination papers.

The decisions of the Appellate Tribunals are final and binding, and form an integral part of the candidate scrutiny mechanism, thereby strengthening the integrity and credibility of the electoral process. Through this appellate structure, the legal framework ensures that all candidates are given an equitable opportunity to contest elections in accordance with law, and that any arbitrary or erroneous decisions by Returning Officers may be rectified through a fair and independent judicial forum.

This appellate mechanism serves not only to resolve disputes efficiently within a limited timeframe but also to reinforce the confidence of stakeholders in the impartiality and rule-based conduct of the election process.

28.1.2 Post-Election Dispute Resolution Mechanism Constitutional and Statutory Framework

The resolution of post-election disputes is firmly grounded in the constitutional and statutory scheme of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. Article 225 of the Constitution explicitly provides:

“No election to a House or a Provincial Assembly shall be called in question except by an election petition presented to such tribunal and in such manner as may be determined by an Act of [Majlis-e-Shoora (Parliament)].”

This constitutional mandate establishes that the validity of an election to either House of Parliament or a Provincial Assembly can only be challenged through an election petition, adjudicated by a duly constituted Election Tribunal, in accordance with the procedure prescribed by law.

To give effect to this constitutional provision, the Election Commission of Pakistan, in exercise of its powers under Article 219(d) of the Constitution, read with Section 140 of the Elections Act, 2017, appoints Election Tribunals. These Tribunals are constituted for the purpose of hearing, trying, and deciding election petitions arising out of disputes relating to the conduct or outcome of general elections.

The Election Tribunals are empowered to adjudicate upon a wide range of electoral disputes, including but not limited to allegations of corrupt practices, illegalities in polling or counting processes, questions regarding the eligibility or disqualification of returned candidates, and procedural irregularities that may have materially affected the result of an election. The Tribunals operate independently and are bound to decide petitions within the timeframe specified under the Elections Act to ensure the timely disposal of election-related grievances.

The establishment and functioning of these Tribunals form a critical part of the democratic process, ensuring that electoral outcomes are subject to legal scrutiny and accountability, thereby upholding the principles of fairness, transparency, and the rule of law in the post-election phase.

28.1.3 Statutory Provisions Empowering the Election Commission of Pakistan to Resolve Election Disputes

In addition to the post-election dispute resolution framework provided under Chapter IX of the Elections Act, 2017—which deals with the presentation, trial, and adjudication of election petitions before duly appointed Election Tribunals, the Election Commission of Pakistan is also statutorily vested with specific powers to address certain election related irregularities during the immediate post-poll period.

Pursuant to Section 9 of the Elections Act, 2017, the Commission is empowered to exercise quasi-judicial authority akin to that of an Election Tribunal for a limited period of sixty (60) days from the date of publication of the returned candidate's name in the official Gazette. This provision enables the Commission to examine and decide matters where it is satisfied that, by reason of grave illegalities or violations of the provisions of the Act, the result of an election in any constituency has been materially affected.

Under this statutory mandate, the Commission may, after giving a reasonable opportunity of hearing to the concerned parties, pass any appropriate order including declaring the election

void in the entire constituency or in respect of one or more polling stations, and may order a re-poll as deemed necessary in the interest of justice and electoral integrity.

The authority exercised by the Commission under Section 9 serves as a critical safeguard against procedural anomalies and electoral malpractices that come to light immediately after the election, ensuring that the electoral mandate reflects the true will of the people. This mechanism supplements the regular election petition process and allows for timely rectification of serious violations without awaiting the initiation of formal litigation before an Election Tribunal.

Thus, through a combination of powers under Chapter IX and Section 9 of the Elections Act, the legal framework ensures a comprehensive, multi-tiered mechanism for the redressal of election-related disputes, reinforcing public confidence in the transparency and fairness of the electoral process.

28.2 Appointment of Election Tribunals

Under Section 140 of the Elections Act, 2017, the Commission has power to appoint as many Election Tribunals as may be necessary for the disposal of Election Petitions with respect to an election to the National or Provincial Assembly, which comprises a judge of a high court.

After the conduct of General Election 2024 following Election tribunals were constituted and notified by the Election Commission.

The details of such Tribunals are given below:

Number of Election Tribunals Constituted		
Province	Place of Sitting	Number of Election Tribunal
Capital Islamabad	Islamabad	1
Punjab	Lahore High Court, Lahore, Multan and Bahawalpur, Rawalpindi	8
Sindh	Karachi, Sukkur, Hyderabad, Larkana	4
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	Peshawar, D.I.Khan, Abbottabad, Mingora, Bannu	5
Balochistan	Quetta, PB 27 to 51 PB 01 to 26	3

The Tribunals appointed by the Commission shall decide the election petitions in accordance with law. The total number of election petitions of National / Provincial Assemblies filed with the Commission and referred to the Tribunals is as under: -

28.2.1 Election Petitions Filed in the Election Tribunal in Respect of General Election 2024

National Assembly / Provincial Assembly

Province	Total Petitions Filed
Balochistan	47
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	42
Punjab	198
Sindh	86
Federal Capital	3
Total	376

Chapter 29

Voter Education

29.1 Voter Education & Public Awareness Initiatives for General Elections 2024

The Election Commission of Pakistan took special initiatives to educate voters using innovative approaches, including social media campaigns, community-based initiatives before General Elections 2024. For this purpose, the Commission launched a comprehensive & inclusive Voter Education & Awareness Campaign on all media i.e. Print, electronic and digital media. The primary objective of disseminating voter education material was to enlighten voters, especially the youth about the significance of their right to vote, the correct procedures for casting votes, and the importance of inclusion of all marginalized groups in the electoral process. Educating 128.6 million voters was a major undertaking, however, as per its mandate, the Commission, to a great extent, achieved the target of educating the 128.6 million voters, specifically the first-time voter/youth. As a result, there is an increase of 106 million voters as compared to GE 2018.

29.1.1 Public Awareness Campaign

In collaboration with Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA), the Election Commission arranged for airing of public awareness videos and messages before the General Elections-2024. These short videos were aired **6518 times** on various electronic media channels as Public Service Messages. These videos were also broadcast as Public Service Message through Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation on radio channels. ECP also created four voice messages in Urdu and four regional languages, targeting different demographics, including men, women, youth, marginalized groups, persons with disabilities, elderly, religious minorities, and transgender persons and these messages were released on different radio channels.

29.1.2 PakVoter Social Media Accounts, YouTube and Website

The Election Commission by using digital media platform created its account as (PakVoter Social Media Accounts) and public awareness material was disseminated through the said account and millions of Voters benefited from the messages.

- Total outreach of the videos on social media till the elections on 8th February 2024 was **28, 15,967** (approx. 3 million).
- Outreach of videos on electoral processes e.g. nomination, scrutiny process, polling processes was approx. **198,705**.

29.1.3 Public and voter awareness through media briefings and TV Shows

Prior to General Elections 2024, a detailed media briefing was given to media to highlight the importance of vote and encourage them to raise awareness about registration and casting of votes that was widely covered. Heads of wings of ECP appeared in talk shows on Radio, TV highlighting importance of vote and various procedures and aspects of electoral process in General Elections-2024.

29.1.4 Dissemination of Information, Education & Communication Material

- The ECP designed and printed 150,000 posters on women's participation in elections, how to avoid vote rejection, and postal ballot process which were then disseminated to districts for display at polling stations, educational institutions and other relevant stakeholder offices
- 03 types of approx. **100,000** posters were also designed and disseminated through District and Voter Education Committees (DVECs), Civil Society, Public and Private sector organizations and academia at district level in all four provinces to educate and engage the voters.
- 100,000 copies of the Urdu brochure and 23,000 copies of the Sindhi brochure were provided to Provincial Election Commission (PEC) for dissemination for public and voter awareness.
- Public Service Messages were displayed on ATMs regarding registration of Voters, checking of vote and Polling Station.

29.1.5 Red Circle Campaign for Voter Registration

The Election Commission of Pakistan successfully orchestrated the "Red Circle Campaign," as 20th July, 2023 was the last date for registration, deletion, correction and transfer of vote for general elections. The campaign primarily focused on public awareness and informing citizens about the final dates for voter registration, deletion, and correction of their registration details. To ensure the campaign's extensive reach, the Commission executed a comprehensive promotional strategy encompassing print, electronic, and social media platforms. The details of advertisements are as under:

- **Print Media** : A wide campaign was run in 5 national newspapers and 8 regional newspapers
- **Electronic Media**: TVC related to deadline of voter registration aired on six national news channels and three regional channels. Besides the message was broadcasted on fifteen prominent radio channels.

- Digital Media: For the first time in ECP's history, a paid digital media campaign regarding voter registration deadline for general elections was also launched on digital media platforms.

The campaign's advertisements were strategically placed not only across traditional media outlets but also on prominent government organization websites. This inclusion significantly amplified the campaign's outreach, leveraging the wide user base of platforms such as NADRA, FPSC, and NITB, Pakistan Film Censor board, PTA, ATM screens of banks which often attract significant public engagement. ECP's collaborative efforts with various public entities enabled the campaign's message to reach a diverse demographic, promoting a more inclusive and informed electoral process.

29.1.6 Electronic Media Campaign

The Commission in collaboration with development partners developed around 50 videos for creating awareness of the voters. Some of the details are as under:

Topic of videos:

- i. Check Your Vote by Sending CNIC Number to 8300
- ii. Three animated videos on Encouraging voters to cast their vote on Poll day and their translation in four regional languages (Balochi, Sindhi, Pushto and Punjabi)
- iii. Awareness on respectful communication (English & Urdu versions)
- iv. Awareness on disinformation in Elections
- v. Awareness on misinformation (English & Urdu versions)
- vi. Women Participation and Representation in the Electoral Process
- vii. Awareness on empowering citizens: learning the process of casting of vote (English & Urdu versions)
- viii. Awareness on Prevent Ballot Paper from Rejection
- ix. Awareness on "Securing Your Digital Presence" (English & Urdu versions). The purpose was to avoid fake news and rumors during elections"
- x. Awareness on avoiding bullying during Elections (English & Urdu versions)

ECP has also developed the following videos for awareness to educate voters and candidates for their effective participation in General Elections 2024:

- i- Nomination Process
- ii- Scrutiny Process

29.1.7 Awareness on Postal Ballot

This video was prepared and disseminated for the facilitation of voters for availing Postal Ballot facility and using of proper procedure to avoid rejection of vote.

29.1.8 Awareness on Electoral Offences

The Election Commission designed and arranged 21 Videos on different Electoral Offences. The objective of these videos was to prevent the corrupt practices during the election process and improve the electoral integrity and disseminate awareness among voters and general public to enhance their understanding and enable them to differentiate the corrupt practices and build their confidence on electoral processes. The videos were developed on the following topics;

1. **Bribery** – Through bribery convincing a candidate to withdraw his/her candidature.
2. **Personation** –to cast a vote in place of another voter
3. **Undue Influence** –to influence the voter to cast the vote to a specific candidate, not of his/her own choice.
4. **Capturing a Polling Station or a Pooling Booth** – Creating the law and order situation and capturing the polling station with force to stop or interrupt the polling process
5. **Lawlessness** – creating hurdles for voters in casting of vote, influence the voters not to vote of their own choice candidate, interrupt the polling process, tearing of the ballot papers, cutting the seals on ballot boxes.
6. **Tampering with Election Material** – externals accessing the election material and tampering it for changing the results and disrupt the polling process, putting some other papers in ballot boxes, tear off the ballot paper or other election material.
7. **False Statement** – giving false statements against candidates to defame them and to misguide the voters
8. **Disorderly Conduct in or near a Polling Station** – creating the law and order situation inside or outside the polling station to interrupt the polling process.
9. **Bar on Canvassing in a Specific Area** –creating awareness on the specific terms and conditions on canvassing by the candidates in specific area around the polling station.
10. **Interference with Secrecy of Voting** – try to get information of casted votes, try to look into the voter screen compartment, taking pictures of ballot papers or using illegal means to access the results of election.
11. **Making Wrong Entries** – submission of fake nomination papers with fake signatures.
12. **Publicity Campaign Codes** - Regulations of Publicity Awareness Video on Chapter X of the Elections Act 2017
13. **Announcement of Development Projects** - Announcement of Development Schemes Awareness Video on Chapter X of the Elections Act 2017

14. **Prohibited Period for Public Meetings/Processions** - Prohibited Period for Public Meeting Processions Awareness Video
15. **Illegal Acts** - Illegal Acts Awareness Video on Chapter X of the Elections Act 2017
16. **Violation of Official Duty** - Violation of Official Duty Awareness Video on Chapter X of the Elections Act 2017
17. **Violation of Secrecy of Vote** - Violation of Secrecy of Vote Awareness Video on Chapter X of the Elections Act 2017
18. **Misuse of Official Capacity** - Misuse of the Official Capacity Awareness Video of Chapter X of The Elections Act 2017
19. **Enrollment as Voter More than Once** - Enrolment as Voter More Than Once Awareness Video on Chapter X of the Elections Act 2017
20. **Cognizance and Trial** - Cognizance and Trial Awareness Video on Chapter X of the Elections Act 2017
21. **Prosecution against Elections Officials** - Prosecution Against Election Officials Awareness Video on Chapter X of the Elections Act 2017

29.2 Media Workshops and Trainings

To promote inclusive elections, the Media Coordination and Outreach (MCO) Wing organized a series of workshops and trainings across the country. These initiatives focused on raising awareness about the Code of Conduct issued by the Election Commission and strengthening the capacity of media professionals, civil society organizations (CSOs), and other stakeholders.

Since November 2021, the MCO Wing has conducted over 75 workshops and dialogues with media personnel and CSOs to support inclusive electoral participation. In collaboration with the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES), a total of 703 media professionals received specialized training:

- 344 media personnel (285 male, 59 female) were trained on the national media code of conduct.
- 359 media personnel (278 male, 81 female) were trained on responsible and inclusive reporting.

Additionally, desk editors from leading media channels in Islamabad were trained to enhance their understanding of the electoral process and ensure accurate and ethical reporting. These efforts reflect the Commission's commitment to a well-informed media landscape that supports credible elections.

29.3 Youth Voter Education and Awareness Campaigns

The MCO Wing conducted a nationwide voter awareness campaign to promote informed electoral participation. In partnership with educational institutions, civil society organizations (CSOs), non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and district government departments, over **2,000 awareness sessions** were held, reaching more than **3 million people** across the country.

To support these efforts, the ECP established four Provincial Voter Education Committees (PVECs) and 140 District Voter Education Committees (DVECs). These committees comprised members from government departments, academia, CSOs, NGOs and the media, and were responsible for implementing localized voter education activities.

This coordinated approach helped expand outreach to diverse segments of the population, including youth, women, and marginalized groups, thereby strengthening public engagement in the electoral process.

Chapter 30

National /International Observers & Media

30.1 Observation of General Elections -2024 by Observers and Media

In light of the Section 238 of the Elections Act 2017, ECP adopted an “Open Door Policy” and, in coordination with the External Publicity Wing (EPW), a department of MOIB, formally invited foreign media outlets to observe the 2024 General Elections. Accreditation applications were made accessible on the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) website. The applications were invited through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the last date was fixed as 24th October 2024. Visa applications deadline was also extended till 31st January 2024 for the facilitation of international observers.

30.2 Issuance of Accreditation Cards under Section 238 of the Elections Act 2017

For General Elections 2024, national and international media and observers applied for observing the electoral process and obtaining permission and accreditation cards from ECP. ECP under the open door policy that facilitated the observers and media, issued accreditation cards in 4 categories having distinguished colors and security features. ECP also provided a congenial environment to the National and International Media and Observers for observing electoral process during the election. For smooth issuance of accreditation cards, the following desks were established at different locations of the Country: -

Sr. No.	Issuance of card	Issuing authority	Observation jurisdiction
i	Accreditation Cards for National Observers/National Media at Islamabad	MCO Wing at ECP Secretariat, Islamabad.	The MCO wing of ECP Secretariat issued Accreditation Cards to Islamabad based Central CSOs, central media and observer organizations.
ii	Provincial Headquarters	Provincial Election Commissioner (PEC)	Accreditation Cards were issued to all sort of domestic NGOs, organizations and media in the case of their respective province for all respective constituencies of the province. Provincial MCO Wings coordinated with all stakeholders.
iii	District level	District Returning Officer (DRO)	Accreditation Cards were issued to the domestic observers and media for all constituencies in the district.

The observers and media not only observed the process of polling but also observed the counting and result tabulation process. The leading international, domestic/national observers, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) acknowledged the effective facilitation, support, smooth arrangements and atmosphere provided by the Commission for observing the electoral process.

30.3 Issuance of Accreditation Cards to Domestic Observers & Media

30.3.1 National Media

A large number of national journalists, representing different print and electronic media, received accreditation from ECP to observe the electoral process. The Press Information Department (PID), an adjunct entity of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MOIB), significantly coordinated with ECP for the issuance of accreditation cards for observing the electoral process on poll day. The details are as under:

30.3.2 Accreditation Cards Issued to National Media & Observers

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

30.4 Facilitation to the Observers

- ECP ensured that all international observers and media holding accreditation cards were fully facilitated. In this regard, ECP coordinated with MOI, MoFA, MoIB, FBR and law enforcement agencies to ensure timely security clearance of international observers, speedy visa issuance, free movement, safety and security, and access of accredited international observers/media to polling stations as per law.

- ECP also provided an Information kit containing an Information Kit Booklet, diary, pen, folder and bag to international observers/media as a souvenir.

- A facilitation Desk at ECP Secretariat was arranged for international observers/media and ECP officials facilitated the observers.
- The ECP arranged briefings for international observers at the Secretariat wherein they were apprised about constitutional obligations, working mechanism of Election Monitoring Control Centre (EMCC), preparation of General Elections 2024, key strategies of ECP i.e. Electoral Legal reforms, social inclusion, institutional reforms, digital ecosystem, functioning of Election Monitoring Control Center, voter education initiatives, and gender mainstreaming etc. The details of international observers and media who visited Pakistan for observing the Election 2024, are as under:-

30.4.1 Detail of International Observers & Media

Sr. No.	No. of Representatives of International Media who Observed Elections	No. of International Observers for the Election
1.	341	91

30.4.2. Detail of Observing Countries/ Organizations/ Missions

Sr. No.	Name of Observer Country, Organization/Mission in Pakistan	Cards Issued
1	United Kingdom (British High Commission, Islamabad)	15
2	Commonwealth Observer Group	24
3	Russian Federation (Embassy of the Russian Federation Islamabad)	16
4	Japan (Japan Embassy, Islamabad)	7
5	European Union (Election Experts Mission) EEM	03
6	European Union Delegation to Pakistan (EU Delegation to Pakistan, Islamabad)	03
7	Republic of South Africa (High Commission of South Africa, Islamabad)	02
8	Republic of Zimbabwe (Embassy of the Republic of Zimbabwe, Islamabad)	02
9	Malaysia	03
10	Kyrgyz Republic	02
11	Embassy of Uzbekistan	03
12	Embassy of Kazakhstan	02
13	United Nations Development Programme	09
Total		91

30.5 Remarks and Observations of National & International Observers

30.5.1 Commonwealth Observer Group (COG) Visit to Pakistan

The Commonwealth Observer Group on a visit to Pakistan, led by the chairman of the group, former President of Nigeria, Dr. Goodluck Abele Jonathan, met the Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja at the Election Commission Secretariat on 5th February, 2024. The honorable members of the Election Commission, Secretary and other senior officials of ECP were also present. The Chairman of the Commonwealth Observers Group appreciated the preparations of the Election Commission of Pakistan for the peaceful and successful conduct of the 8th February 2024 elections. The Head of the Commonwealth Observer Mission also gave their observation on the conduct of General Election which was covered by leading newspaper “Dawn” the detail is as under:-

ISLAMABAD: Expressing satisfaction at the polling exercise, a team of international observers from the Commonwealth, who arrived in Islamabad to monitor the electoral process, on Thursday, played down suspension of mobile cellular services in the country.

During their visit to the Islamabad Model College for Boys F-8/4, in the morning, Commonwealth experts observed that voters had exercised their right to vote without mobile cellular services in the past. Dr Goodluck Jonathan, the former Nigerian President, who is leading the team of Commonwealth observers group, said that the suspension of mobile cellular services was a government decision. Later, in a briefing, Dr Goodluck Jonathan said that Pakistan was one of the key member of Commonwealth countries. “Technical experts had been in Pakistan since December, to work with the Election Commission of Pakistan and other stakeholders,” he said. The team of observes, comprising retired bureaucrats, judges and representatives of electoral bodies, met various stakeholders including journalists and members of civil society. The observers were deployed in various cities to check arrangements and interact with polling staff and take note of complaints for a comprehensive report about the poll process. Giving details of visits the team made in Islamabad, Dr Goodluck Jonathan expressed satisfaction with the level of security arrangements at the polling stations. “So far no significant incident of violence was reported,” he said

30.5.2 Press Conference of Head of COG

Pakistan Post in its report published on 10th February 2024, covered the press conference of the Head of the COG Mission in following words:

“Jonathan Goodluck, the head of the Common Wealth election observers’ mission, has said, except for a few incidents, the elections process in Pakistan went smoothly.

Addressing a news conference in Islamabad he said:

"May I begin by conveying, on behalf of the Group, our appreciation for the invitation extended to observe these General Elections, and for all the arrangements that have been made to facilitate the work of the COG by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) and the Government of Pakistan. Pakistan is a founding and valued member of the Commonwealth family and one of the world's largest democracies. We are aware of the importance of these elections for the people of Pakistan.

While on deployment, we observed ECP preparations. In advance of Election Day, we visited a number of polling stations in different constituencies, and met with provincial electoral officials, representatives of political parties and civil society, the police and other stakeholders in their respective locations, to gain a broader picture of the electoral process on the ground....

We wish to commend the ECP and its staff for the substantial amount of work and the detailed logistical preparations they made for the elections. While noting some delays involved in proceeding with these General Elections, we also acknowledge the significant challenges in organizing an election involving around 128 million registered voters, a marked increase from the approximately 106 million registered voters in 2018. We recognize the security challenges faced by the ECP. We note that, in the lead up to Election Day, there were attacks which resulted in the unfortunate loss of lives. Recalling the statement I issued on 7th February, I wish to reiterate my condemnation of these attacks.

It is commendable that the national gender gap in registered voters was reduced from almost 13 percent in 2013 to 7.7 percent. We note also that 60 seats in the National Assembly are reserved for women.

We observed that they were generally well-prepared and we wish to commend the ECP, their staff, and temporary workforce of over one million personnel. We observed the significant presence of youth, including young women, as ECP officials and polling agents.

We encourage the ECP to continue their important work towards fostering the inclusion of PWDs in the electoral process, including through increased voter education on postal ballots."

30.5.3 Remarks from FAFEN Preliminary Election Observation Report of General Elections 2024

The extract from FAFEN Preliminary Election Observation Report of General Elections 2024 is as under:

"FAFEN acknowledges the ECP for setting in place a hassle-free process of accreditation for these observers, which is indicative of the Commission's greater focus on increasing the transparency of the electoral processes.

Unfazed by a spate of scathing criticism from some political parties, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) must particularly be acknowledged for having organized the country's largest electoral exercise – with the greatest number of candidates and highest number of voters – in a reasonably orderly manner. More than 1.1 million election officials performed election duties in a highly challenging political environment. They ensured the integrity of voting and counting processes at the polling stations that largely remained free of controversy, notwithstanding sporadic complaints by political parties and candidates about not getting the election results forms to which they are legally entitled. More than 0.7 million police and military officials stood guard across Pakistan and outside polling stations, ensuring peace and order on the election day against the backdrop of fears of militant and political violence."

Chapter 31

Media Comments

The 2024 General Elections in Pakistan constituted a pivotal event in the nation's democratic framework, garnering substantial attention from domestic and international observers alike. This chapter presents a systematic compilation and analysis of media coverage and expert commentary pertaining to various facets of the electoral process. The subsequent pages encompass a diverse array of sources, including reputable national publications, international news agencies, and official statements from accredited observer groups. These accounts provide critical insights into the conduct and outcomes of the elections, spanning from assessments of polling operations to in-depth analyses of voter participation and demographic engagement.

The primary objective of this chapter is to offer a comprehensive and impartial overview of how the 2024 General Elections were perceived, reported, and evaluated across different media platforms. Key areas of focus include:

1. Assessments from international monitoring entities
2. Evaluations of electoral integrity and transparency
3. Quantitative and qualitative analyses of voter turnout
4. Examinations of demographic participation, with particular emphasis on women's engagement

This compilation serves dual purposes: firstly, as a historical record of media reportage and secondly, as an analytical tool for understanding the broader narrative surrounding Pakistan's democratic processes. It provides an avenue to analyze multifaceted perspectives on the 2024 General Elections.

1. Common Wealth Observers Group (COG) Assessment:

The News dated 9th February, 2024 stated that:

"The COG delegation visited the polling stations of NA-47 Islamabad and expressed satisfaction over the polling process besides declaring it fair and transparent."

2. Nawa e Waqt dated 9th February, 2024 stated that:

کامن ویلتھ کے مبصر گروپ کے سربراہ کا کہنا ہے کہ عام انتخابات کے پولنگ عمل سے مطمئن ہیں

3. Free and Fair Election Network (FAFEN) Evaluation:

Business Recorder dated 11th February, 2024 stated that:

"Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) must particularly be acknowledged for having organized the country's largest electoral exercise- with the greatest number of

candidates and highest number of voters- in a reasonably orderly manner, the FAFEN suggested.”

4. Perception of Election Fairness:

Jang dated 9th February, 2024 stated that:

گیلپ پاکستان نے 8 فروری کو چاروں صوبوں میں الیکشن ڈے سروے کیا۔ جس میں ووٹرز سے پوچھا گیا کہ جمعات کو ہونے والا انتخابی عمل شفاف اور آزادانہ تھا جس کے جواب میں 87 فیصد نے ہاں میں جواب دیا

5. Al Jazeera dated 9th February, 2024 stated that:

“Iran’s FM Spokesman congratulated Pakistan’s government & people on successfully holding their parliamentary elections, saying it shows the solid place of democracy in the country”

6. Increasing Women Participation:

Dunya News dated 15th February, 2024 stated that:

عام انتخابات میں کسی حلقے سے خواتین ووٹرز کا ٹرن آؤٹ 10 فیصد سے کم نہیں رہا، قومی اسمبلی کے 254 حلقوں میں خواتین ووٹرز کی تعداد 29 لاکھ اور مرد ووٹرز کی 11 لاکھ بڑھی، قومی اسمبلی کے 254 حلقوں میں مرد ووٹرز کا ٹرن آؤٹ 55.6 فیصد جبکہ خواتین کا 45.6 فیصد رہا۔

7. Japanese Oversee Group Visit:

The Nation dated 8th February, 2024 stated that:

“A delegation of Japanese Overseer group visited a polling station in NA-48 Islamabad today.”

8. Record Breaking Candidature:

Geo News dated 8th February, 2024 stated that:

عام انتخابات کے دوران قومی اور چاروں صوبائی اسمبلیوں کے 855 حلقوں کیلئے 882 خواتین اور 4 خواجہ سراؤں سمیت ملک کی تاریخ میں سب سے زیادہ امیدواروں نے حصہ لیا جن کی تعداد 17 ہزار 816 ہے۔

9. Voter Turnout and Faith in Democracy

Voice of America dated 15th February, 2024 stated that:

“Data show that while turnout was almost 48%, about 60.6 million Pakistanis, more than ever before, came out to vote.”

10. Nawa e Waqt dated 9th February, 2024 stated that:

صوبائی دارالحکومت میں ملک کے بارہویں عام انتخابات 2024ء کے موقع پر امن و امان کو لاحق خدشات کے باوجود ہر عمر کی خواتین نے بڑی تعداد میں گھروں سے نکل کر انتہائی جوش و خروش سے پولنگ سٹیشنوں کا رخ کیا جس کی وجہ سے شہر میں گزشتہ انتخابات کے مقابلے میں خواتین کی ووٹنگ کی شرح بہت بہتر رہی۔

Chapter 32

Initiatives for Reducing Gender Gap, Social Inclusion and Facilitation to Public

32.1 Introduction

Article 25 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan provides equality for all citizens and explicitly prohibits discrimination based on gender. The Commission is committed to ensure inclusivity in the electoral process by providing equal opportunities and a conducive environment to all the segments of the society including vulnerable groups. Prior to the General Elections 2024, ECP implemented various targeted initiatives to integrate women, persons with disabilities, minorities, and the transgender community into the electoral processes, enabling them to use their right to vote without intimidation and discrimination.

32.2 Pilot Survey on Gender Gap in Electoral Rolls

Section 47 of the Elections Act, 2017 provides that the Commission shall take special measures for enrolment of women as voters where the variations in the disaggregated data of registered voters are more than ten percent in a constituency. Historically, there has been a persistent gender gap of 12 million (12%) in the electoral rolls. To identify and understand the reasons of gender gap and to design the right policy measures to address the gap, the Hon'ble Chief Election Commissioner directed that a pilot survey be conducted in selected electoral areas of various districts of all provinces. Door-to-door verification of unregistered women was carried out in 2020 as a pilot project in around 230 Census Blocks of 20 selected districts across the country. The reasons that were identified during the survey were mainly inaccessibility to NRC (NADRA Registration Centers) due to long distances, social and cultural barriers (Parda, mobility, male dominance and domestic responsibilities), lengthy and complex documentation process for NIC registration, poverty/financial problems, lack of awareness/interest in NICs registration.

32.3 Women NIC and Voter Registration Campaign to Reduce Gender Gap

Based on the findings and recommendations of the pilot survey, to reduce the gender gap in the electoral rolls, various special initiatives were implemented to address the issue of gender gap. One of the special initiatives was the implementation of ECP-NADRA Women NIC/Voter Registration Campaign. The campaign was led by the Commission in collaboration with NADRA and other stakeholders such as concerned government departments and civil society organizations (CSOs). The Campaign was implemented in four phases in 117 districts of

Pakistan with the aim to reduce the gender gap in targeted districts with more than 10 % variation in the electoral rolls. As a result of these special Campaigns, gender gap has significantly reduced from 12% in 2017 to 7.4 % in December 2024.

32.4 Campaign Districts

Following is the breakdown of Women NIC/Voter Registration Campaign (Phase-IV) districts which was implemented in 77 following districts of the country:

- **Punjab:** Rawalpindi, Lahore, Sheikhupura, Okara, Muzaffargarh, Sialkot, Rahim Yar Khan, Gujranwala, Rajanpur, Lodhran, Multan, Khanewal, Toba Tek Singh, Faisalabad, Bhakkar, Layyah, Pakpattan, Sahiwal, Bahawalnagar, Mianwali, Sargodha, Chiniot, Gujrat, Jhang, Jhelum
- **KP:** Mardan, Mansehra, Charsadda, Peshawar, Dir Upper, Bannu, Batagram, Haripur, Nowshera, Swabi, Lower Dir, Malakand, Kohat, Swat, Lakki Marwat, D.I.Khan, Hangu, Chitral, Kohat, Buner, Abbottabad, Bajaur, Shangla, Khyber
- **Sindh:** Khairpur, Kashmore, Kambar Shahdadt, Dadu, Jamshoro, Ghotki, Sukkur, Badin, Mirpur Khas, Karachi West, Tharparker, Umarkot, Malir, Sajawal, Shaheed Benazirabad, Hyderabad, Larkana, Tando Muhammad Khan
- **Balochistan:** Pishin, Quetta

32.5 Landmark Achievement

Women NIC/Voter Registration Campaign brought registration services of Mobile Registration Vans (MRVs) directly to underserved women, often in remote and conservative areas. The results were transformative, as gender gap reduced to 7.4% by December 2024 by providing registration facility to women at their door steps. As a result, of these innovative approach and intervention, women voter registration outpaced male registration by 10 % in last five years and their enrollment increased by 27 % as compared to 17% for male voters during the same period.

32.6 Retrieval of NICs for Displaced Female Population

As a result of recent floods in Pakistan, millions of people were displaced and consequently lost or had their National Identity Card (NICs) damaged, in the process. Loss of NICs means disenfranchisement of the population from exercising their right to vote. Consequently, under the direction of the Commission, a special campaign was conducted for the voter registration of population affected by floods in Sindh and Balochistan in collaboration with NADRA to facilitate voters with lost or damaged NICs, enabling them to cast their votes during General Elections-2024.

32.7 Youth Engagement and Voter Awareness Sessions for Inclusive Elections

Civic and voter education is of paramount importance for ensuring inclusivity in the electoral process. To increase voter turnout, ECP engaged with various segments of society, including marginalized and underrepresented communities by disseminating information about

electoral procedures, voting rights and highlighting the significance of civic participation. Understanding the electoral system and processes encourages youth from diverse backgrounds to engage in the democratic process confidently. This inclusive approach of the Commission not only fosters diversity in voter turnout but also contributes to the formation of a representative government that truly reflects the pluralistic fabric of the society it serves. Prior to the General Election 2024, ECP conducted gender sensitive sessions and outreach programs with a large number of female students and first-time voters on their voting rights and voting procedure.

32.8 Voter Awareness Campaign with Marginalized Communities

Recognizing the structural exclusion faced by marginalized groups, ECP adopted an empathetic and rights-based approach to enhance electoral participation of marginalized segments of the population including women, transgender, persons with disabilities (PWDs) and minorities. In collaboration with the rights based organizations, ECP conducted voter awareness sessions for transgender, PWDs and minorities to inform them about their voting rights and encourage them to participate in the electoral process and represent their communities. These measures helped foster a safer and more respectful voting experience for marginalized citizens

32.9 Accessible Polling Stations

Before General Elections, ECP conducted extensive survey of buildings designated as polling stations across the country. Directions were passed to Chief Secretaries of the provinces to ensure accessibility at polling stations through permanent or temporary ramps for PWDs and voters with health conditions to make sure they use their right to vote without any hindrance and difficulty.

32.10 Gender Sensitive Guidelines for GE-2024

ECP issued special gender sensitive guidelines/instructions to DROs and ROs during GE-2024 and ensured their implementation. The following guidelines were implemented in letter and spirit:

- Duty stations were assigned nearest to the residence of female polling staff.
- The duty plus diet allowance distribution to all female polling staff was made before the poll day
- Multiple counters for Female Presiding Officers/Assistant Presiding Officers were set up for distribution and receiving of election material.
- Provision of basic facilities like clean drinking water, fan, well-lit premises, toilets etc. as far as possible was ensured.

- Transport facility was provided to female staff to and from RO office on priority basis. Special measures were taken to facilitate female polling staff at the Polling Stations established in hard areas.
- DROs /ROs were directed during General Elections-2024 to take immediate action under the law against any alleged agreements restraining participation of women as voters and candidates.

32.11 Preferential Voting Facility for Marginalized Voters

ECP ensured special polling arrangements and preferential voting facility as per the Elections Act 2017, for expecting mothers, PWDs, elderly people, and transgender persons to cast their vote (without standing in lines) to enhance their participation in the G.E 2024.

32.12 Spot Checks

ECP staff, District Monitoring Officers (DMOs) and Monitoring teams conducted spot-checks of female polling stations to confirm conducive environment for female voters and polling staff with basic facilities such as provision of clean drinking water, well-lit rooms and corridors, rest rooms and ramps at the polling stations.

32.13 Special Arrangements for Female Polling Staff and Voters

ECP ensured the provision of separate polling stations or booths for women, incorporating adequate privacy measures such as Kanats at the entrances of combined polling stations to facilitate separate entry and exit for male and female voters. Female polling staff and security personnel were present at female polling stations and designated female polling booths within the combined stations to guide women voters on election day.

32.14 Dedicated Gender Desk for redressal of Complaints

ECP established dedicated Gender and Social Inclusion Desks at ICT and Provincial headquarters, operated within the ECP's Election Monitoring Control Centers (EMCC), and the Desks provided services round the clock from 1st February to 10th February, 2024. These desks were established to promptly record and address electoral complaints received from women and marginalized groups, through dedicated Universal Access Number (UAN). Additionally, the ECP introduced a WhatsApp number for the EMCC with special accessibility features, including the provision of a sign language interpreter for individuals with hearing

and speech impairments to convert complaints into text messages for staff at EMCC and the gender desks. The ECP Secretariat and Provincial offices disseminated information regarding the establishment of these desks through mainstream electronic and print media, as well as through ECP's social media accounts to inform voters about filing of complaints for prompt redressal related to undue influence, gender based electoral violence, intimidation, discrimination and other violation of the Codes of Conduct and the Elections Act, 2017.

32.15 Gender Sensitive IEC Materials

ECP prepared and disseminated gender-sensitive Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials for all marginalized segments of the society including women, persons with disabilities, transgender person, and minorities to enhance their participation in the electoral processes.

32.16 Review of Training Materials

ECP conducted a review of training material through a gender lens to ensure that training materials are gender-sensitive and sessions of gender inclusion were made part of all ECP's trainings.

32.17 Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB)

ECP is committed to ensure that financial resources are allocated in a way that promotes gender equality and addresses the specific needs of men, women, and marginalized groups within the electoral process. This includes funding for gender-sensitive voter education campaigns, infrastructure for accessible polling stations and safe workplace for women. To materialize its vision of inclusive electoral process, for the first time the Commission has introduced Gender Responsive Budgeting Guidelines (GRB) in its budgetary planning and implementation. In this regard, two days' workshops on the principles and mechanics of GRB were held at ECP Secretariat and provinces for the concerned Cost Centers (DDO) to enhance their skills in GRB.

32.18 Gender Mainstreaming and Social Inclusion Framework (GMSIF)

ECP has successfully prepared Gender Mainstreaming and Social Inclusion Framework (GMSIF) 2024-2025 through a consultative process, which is a five years' policy document to mainstream gender in electoral processes. GMSIF was launched on 3rd December 2024 to commemorate the International Day of Persons with Different Abilities. Thus, ECP became one of the first EMBs in the region with its Gender Mainstreaming and Social Inclusion policy Framework to integrate gender concerns and perspective in all the stages of electoral process.

32.19 Engagement with Stakeholders

The Commission has engaged national and international stakeholders to address issues and

challenges through a collaborative approach. ECP's dedicated Gender and Disability Electoral Working Group (GDEWG) engaged more than 100 civil society organizations (CSOs) for meaningful engagement with grassroots communities, particularly focusing on enhancing the participation of women, persons with disabilities, and other marginalized groups in the electoral process. Through this collaboration, ECP carried out awareness campaigns, implemented capacity-building initiatives, and implemented local-level outreach activities, which significantly enhanced representation and participation of marginalized communities.

32.20 Commemorating Inclusion: Celebration of National and International Days of Marginalized Communities

The Commission actively marked various national and international days dedicated to marginalized communities, including women, transgender individuals, persons with disabilities (PWDs), and minorities. These occasions served as important platforms to celebrate the achievements and resilience of these communities, raise public awareness about their electoral rights, and promote their meaningful participation in the electoral process. Through collaborative events, ECP reaffirmed its commitment to building an inclusive environment that leaves no one behind.

Chapter 33

Technologies

In recognition of the rapidly evolving technological landscape and the imperative to remain aligned with contemporary digital advancements, the ECP has a firm commitment to embrace innovation and modernity within its institutional framework. The Commission fully acknowledges that in today's era of digital evolution, the adoption of cutting-edge technology is not only a strategic necessity but also a foundational pillar for ensuring efficiency, transparency and responsiveness in electoral administration. Accordingly, ECP has undertaken a series of comprehensive measures aimed at transforming the organization into a knowledge driven and technologically advanced public institution.

33.1 Result Management System (RMS), Result Transmission System (RTS) and Election Management System (EMS)

33.1.1 Result Management System (RMS)

The establishment of Result Management System (RMS) is aligned with the statutory requirement outlined in Section 13 of the Elections Act, 2017 for expeditious counting, tabulation, compilation, transmission, dissemination, and publication of results. The RMS was developed with the technical assistance of UNDP and deployed during the General Elections 2018. For the operationalization of RMS software application, around 1,100 laptop computers alongwith other peripheral devices, with two trained operators, were provided to the 849 ROs nationwide. Cascade trainings on effective use of RMS were imparted for DROs, ROs, DECAs and RMS Operators across the country. Upon completion of Form-45 data entry of the respective constituency into the RMS, the Returning Officers were able to generate Forms 47, 48, 49 and transmit to ECP. Some administrative, logistic, operational and technical challenges were encountered during the implementation of the RMS, which are as under:

- (a) The arrangement, transportation and deployment of IT equipment along with backup internet connectivity at 849 RO offices within stipulated time period was a colossal task.
- (b) Poor connectivity issue was faced by some ROs due to weak signal of internet services in far-flung areas of Balochistan, erstwhile FATA, interior Sindh and Punjab.
- (c) The use of a single computer for operating the RMS led to some delays, particularly in large constituencies with a high number of polling stations. The system did not support simultaneous or multiple data entry points, limiting the efficiency of result compilation.
- (d) At some locations, despite training, capacity of RMS operators was not up to the mark due to non-availability of skilled staff. Deputation and training of

approximately 2,200 IT personnel with the ROs was a challenge in a short period of time.

Through collaborative efforts, continuous monitoring and adaptive strategies, the challenges encountered during the implementation of the RMS were duly addressed, ensuring its effective deployment and functionality.

33.1.2 Result Transmission System (RTS)

As per Section 13 (2) of the Elections Act, 2017, the Presiding Officer was required to capture a snapshot of result of the count and once connectivity is available and it is feasible to do so, the result was to be transmitted electronically to the Returning Officer and the Commission. There was an inherent challenge of time constraints to develop and launch an Application for implementation of aforesaid legal requirement as the Elections Act, 2017 was enacted in October, 2017, whereas, the term of Assemblies was to expire in May, 2018. However, the Commission resolved to duly implement the legal provision and National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) was entrusted the tasks for provision of a solution in this regard, on turn-key basis. Accordingly, NADRA developed a software namely "electronic Result Transmission System" (eRTS) encompassing the end-to-end design, development, testing, implementation, user support, trainings for the Presiding Officers, configurations & integration of mobiles with hosting at NADRA Data Center. Some administrative, logistic, operational and technical challenges were faced during the execution of RTS project, which are as under:

- a) The RTS was a 3G/4G-enabled software solution that required stable and high-speed Internet connectivity at all polling stations to function effectively. However, according to PTA, 3G/4G network coverage was available in only approximately 60% polling stations of the country.
- b) Arrangement of smartphones for use of RTS across the country at more than 85,000 polling stations which involved huge public exchequer.
- c) Training on RTS to Presiding Officers and Sr. Assistant Presiding Officers, being non-tech savvy due to generation and digital gap.

As a result, approximately 51% of Forms-45 were transmitted electronically from polling stations by midnight on polling day. However, due to the challenges mentioned earlier, the rate of electronic data transmission declined significantly thereafter. Despite this, all Forms-45 were physically submitted by the Presiding Officers in accordance with Section 90 of the Elections Act, 2017, and the results were compiled accordingly.

33.1.3. Election Management System (EMS)

For the General Elections-2024, the ECP devised an enhanced and robust mechanism to ensure compliance with Section 13 of the Elections Act, 2017, in the form of an enterprise-level software solution namely "Election Management System (EMS)" to comprehensively address two components of the election result processes:-

- a) Electronic transmission of results from polling stations to the respective ROs offices by Presiding Officers (PrOs);
- b) Timely and accurate result tabulation and compilation at the Returning Officers' (ROs) offices;

Both modules were seamlessly integrated, adhering to digital standards of the software development lifecycle to ensure quality, reliability and system integrity. It incorporated key functionalities such as result tabulation, compilation, transmission and the generation of Forms 47, 48 and 49 within the offices of Returning Officers. The EMS incorporated a built-in mobile application which was specifically designed for the electronic transmission of the Result of the Count (Form-45). This mobile application enabled Presiding Officers to capture and transmit snapshots of Form-45 directly to their respective Returning Officers. By integrating this functionality within EMS, it effectively replaced the previously standalone RTS system, providing a unified platform for result transmission and monitoring during the General Elections-2024.

EMS was deployed in a fully decentralized manner, enabling all 859 Returning Officers across the country to operate the system independently even in the absence of internet connectivity, as in order to mitigate potential network disruptions or technical issues, the EMS was also able to function in offline mode (desktop application and MS Excel). The EMS was deployed and operationalized in the following manner:

- i) Four branded laptops were provided to each Returning Officer along with a scanner, printer/copier, wired data connectivity over Fiber Optics as well as wireless backup connectivity and storage devices.
- ii) Cascade trainings on EMS were given to all 155 DROs, 859 ROs, about 4,000 Data Entry Operators (DEOs) and 190,000 PrOs and APOs in the country.
- iii) The services of four trained DEOs were provided to each Returning Officer nationwide to operate EMS.
- iv) Help desks were established in Islamabad, Lahore, Karachi, Quetta and Peshawar to address routine technical issues and its timely rectifications.

Notably, the implementation of EMS led to a significant improvement in the speed and efficiency of result compilation. The first official result in the General Elections-2024 was received and announced two hours earlier compared to the corresponding timeline in the previous general elections, demonstrating the system's enhanced operational readiness and technological effectiveness.

In order to maintain law and order on the polling day, the Federal Government temporarily suspended wireless cellular network services nationwide. This suspension only affected mobile-based communications and all types of wired data communication including internet services remained fully functional throughout the country. Due to non-availability of cellular data connectivity, Presiding Officers were unable to electronically transmit Form-45 from

polling stations to the respective RO at that night. The non-availability of wireless cellular network had no impact on results whatsoever because as per Section 90 of the Elections Act, 2017, all Presiding Officers physically delivered Form-45 to their respective Returning Officers for further tabulation. Upon receipt of Forms-45, the Returning Officers entered the data into the EMS and generated Form-47, the provisional consolidated result of the constituency. After consolidation these results were transmitted to ECP for real-time publication on its official website.

Simultaneously, the results were displayed on large video walls in the Election City established at ECP Secretariat, which was accessible to all stakeholders including foreign diplomats, international and national election observers, national and International media representatives, civil society organizations, contesting candidates and the general public. About 1.0 million pages of Forms 45, 46, 47, 48 and 49 were also uploaded on ECP's website for public access and convenience.

33.2 SMS 8300 Service

The SMS 8300 Service is made available 24/7 to facilitate the voters and general public to check their voting details by sending 13-digit National Identity Card (NIC) number on 8300 *via* SMS.

These services not only facilitate voters in accessing essential information but also contributes to building trust and confidence in the electoral system by promoting transparency and accountability. Approximately 17 million hits were recorded from 1st January to 7th February, 2024 out of total number of hits i.e. 300 million since SMS 8300 Service was launched in February, 2012.

33.3 Facilitation through ECP's Official Website

An interactive website can serve as a centralized hub for accessing a wide range of information related to electoral processes, voter registration, election schedules, candidate profiles, polling station locations and other relevant updates. Features such as interactive maps, search functionalities and multimedia content can further enhance the user experience and facilitate easy navigation and information retrieval.

ECP has developed and implemented a new interactive and dynamic website to disseminate information and manage activities before the General Election-2024. The ECP took a special initiative of ECP's new website before the General Election for provision of wide range information regarding Electoral roll activities to the Public, voters and Political Parties. The Hon'ble CEC inaugurated the new Website. Various information / content is available on the new website i.e. Election Laws, Voters' Awareness, Electoral Rolls Statistics, Election Results, Judgements and Orders of the Commission, Notifications, Press Releases, Special Initiatives, Complaint Management System, Online Recruitment System, Delimitation alongwith Maps,

Strategic Plan, Linkages with Social Media, different reporting modules, latest updates and top stories, interactive videos and code of conduct alongwith video clips etc.

The Website proved instrumental in dissemination of vital information regarding all phases - Pre-Poll, Poll-day and Post-Poll in the light of the Elections Act, 2017 for convenience of general public. The website also contains:-

- a) Public awareness video clips regarding complete Electoral cycle and its processes in six different languages i.e. Sindhi, Saraiki, Punjabi, Pashto, Balochi, Urdu and English are available.
- b) Information with respect to Election process which includes list of polling stations for a constituency (Form-28), List of contesting candidates (Form-33), Result of the count (Form-45), Ballot Paper account (Form-46), Provisional consolidated statement of result of the count (Form-47), consolidated statement of the results of the count furnished by the Presiding Officers (Form-48), final consolidated result (Form-49) and other information related to ECP and electoral process.

33.4 Presence on Social Media Platforms

Keeping in view the importance of social media, ECP took a significant step by establishment a presence on social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter and YouTube during General Elections-2024. Followings are the social media accounts of ECP with registered official tags:

-  @ElectionCommissionofPakistan
-  @PakistanECP
-  @ECP_Pakistan

This move is aimed to enhance transparency, accessibility and engagement with voters. By providing crucial information and updates on these widely used platforms, the ECP effectively reached a broader audience to ensure their participation in the electoral process.

ECP's social media accounts are also active for spreading general awareness on social media platforms regarding electoral activities like election schedules, electoral rolls statistics, press releases, notifications, public awareness messages and FAQs regarding electoral activities etc.

Chapter 34

Bye Elections

Article 224(4) stipulates that “When, except by dissolution of the National or a Provincial Assembly, a general seat in any such Assembly has become vacant not later than one hundred and twenty days before the term of that Assembly is due to expire, an election to fill the seat shall be held within sixty days from the occurrence of the vacancy”.

During the General Elections- 2024 some contesting candidates passed away, which resulted in the termination of election proceedings in those constituencies. Likewise, a few candidates were declared returned against more than one seat. Under Article 223(1) of the Constitution no person shall at the same time be a member of the National Assembly, Senate or Provincial Assembly. In case a person is elected against more than one seat, he is required to tender his resignation within a period of thirty days after the declaration of the result on all seats except the one he wants to retain. If a person does not resign within the stipulated timeline, all his seats shall become vacant except the seat against which he was declared returned last; or, if he was declared returned candidate on multiple seats on the same day, he shall retain the seat for which he filed his nomination papers last.

After General Election-2024, 22 seats of National and Provincial Assemblies became vacant due to the reasons mentioned above. In addition to this, immediately after general Election, Asif Ali Zardari elected as member National Assembly from NA-207 Shaheed Benazirabad-I, was elected as President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. Therefore, this seat of National Assembly became vacant, under Article 43(2) of the Constitution. The ECP issued the bye-elections-2024 program for National and Provincial Assembly Constituencies of all provinces. The details of constituencies and the Election Programme are as under:

National Assembly of Pakistan		Provincial Assembly of Punjab	
1	NA-8 Bajaur	1	PP-22 Chakwal-Cum-Talagang
2	NA-44 Dera Ismail Khan-I	2	PP-32 Gujrat-VI
3	NA-119 Lahore-III	3	PP-36 Wazirabad-II
4	NA-132 Kasur-II	4	PP-54 Narowal-I
5	NA-196 Kamber-Shahdadt-I	5	PP-93 Bhakkar-V
6	NA-207 Shaheed Benazirabad-I	6	PP-139 Sheikhpura-IV
Provincial Assembly of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa		7	PP-147 Lahore-III
1	PK-22 Bajaur-IV	8	PP-149 Lahore-V
2	PK-91 Kohat-II	9	PP-158 Lahore-XIV
Provincial Assembly of Balochistan		10	PP-164 Lahore-XX
1	PB-20 Khuzdar-III	11	PP-266 R.Y. Khan-XII
2	PB-22 Lasbela		
Provincial Assembly of Sindh		12	PP-290 D.G. Khan-V
1	PS-80 Dadu-I		

Election Programme

Sl. No.	EVENTS	DATE
1	2	3
1.	Public Notice to be issued by the Returning Officer on	15.03.2024
2.	Dates for filing of nomination papers with the Returning Officer by the candidates	16.03.2024 to 18.03.2024
3.	Publication of names of the nominated candidates	18.03.2024
4.	Last date for Scrutiny of nomination papers by the Returning Officer	21.03.2024
5.	Last date for filing of appeals against decisions of the Returning Officer rejecting/accepting the nomination papers	25.03.2024
6.	Last date for deciding of appeals by the Appellate Tribunal	28.03.2024
7.	Publication of revised list of candidates	28.03.2024
8.	Last date for withdrawal of candidature and Publication of revised list of candidates	29.03.2024
9.	Allotment of Election Symbol to contesting candidates	30.03.2024
10.	Polling day	21.04.2024

Two candidates against NA-207 Shaheed Benazirabad-I and PS-80 Dadu-I were returned as unopposed. Bye-elections for the remaining 21 seats were held on 21st April, 2024.

34.1 Detail of Nominated Candidates, Validly Nominated and Contesting Candidates

Details regarding nominated candidates, validly nominated candidates and contesting candidates in respect of National and Provincial Assembly constituencies of all provinces where bye-elections were held on 21st April 2024 are as under:

National Assembly of Pakistan				
No. & Name of Constituencies		Total No. of Nominated Candidates	Total No. of Validly Nominated Candidates	Total No. of Contesting Candidates
1	NA-119 Lahore	13	12	09
2	NA-132 Kasur-II	11	11	10
3	NA-8 Bajaur	8	8	7

4	NA-44 Dera Ismail Khan-I	19	19	19
5	NA-196 Kamber-Shahdadkot-I	11	11	5
6	NA-207 Shaheed Benazirabad-I	11	4	Un-contested Election
Provincial Assembly of Punjab Province				
1	PP-22 Chakwal-Cum-Talagang	15	15	9
2	PP-32 Gujrat-VI	14	14	13
3	PP-36 Wazirabad-II	21	21	13
4	PP-54 Narowal-I	16	16	14
5	PP-93 Bhakkar-V	12	12	06
6	PP-139 Sheikhupura-IV	11	10	08
7	PP-147 Lahore-III	19	13	11
8	PP-149 Lahore-V	20	20	14
9	PP-158 Lahore-XIV	29	29	21
10	PP-164 Rahim Yar Khan-XX	31	28	19
11	PP-266 Rahim Yar Khan-XX	24	22	20
12	PP-290 Dera Ghazi Khan-V	7	7	7
Provincial Assembly of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa				
1	PK-22 Bajaur-IV	17	17	13
2	PK-91 Kohat-II	15	14	10
Provincial Assembly of Balochistan				
1	PB-20 Khuzdar-III	12	11	8
2	PB-22 Lasbela	5	5	4
Provincial Assembly of Sindh				
1	PS-80 Dadu-I	12	6	Form-34 (1)

34.2 List of Returned Candidates

National Assembly of Pakistan			
Sr No.	No and Name of Constituency	Name of Returned Candidate	Party Affiliation
1.	NA-08, Bajaur	Mubarak Zeb	Independent
2.	NA-44,D.I. Khan	Faisal Amin Khan,	Sunni Ittehad Council
3.	NA-119 Lahore-III	Ali Pervaiz	Pakistan Muslim League (N)
4.	NA-132 Kasur-II	Rasheed Ahmad Khan	Pakistan Muslim League (N)
5.	NA-196, Kamber Shahdadkot-I	Khurshed Ahmed Junejo,	Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians
6.	NA-207 Shaheed Benazirabad-I	Aseefa Bhutto Zardari	Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians

Provincial Assembly of Punjab			
1.	PP-22 Chakwal-cum-Talagang	Falak Sher Awan,	Pakistan Muslim League (N)
2.	PP-32 Gujrat-VI	Musa Ellahi,	Pakistan Muslim League
3.	PP-36 Wazirabad-II	Adnan Afzal Chattha	Pakistan Muslim League (N)
4.	PP-54 Narowal-I	Ahmad Iqbal Chaudhary	Pakistan Muslim League (N)
5.	PP-93 Bhakkar-V	Saeed Akbar Khan	Pakistan Muslim League (N)
6.	PP-139 Sheikhupura-IV	Rana Afzaal Hussain	Pakistan Muslim League (N)
7.	PP-147 Lahore-III	Muhammad Riaz	Pakistan Muslim League (N)
8.	PP-149 Lahore-V	Muhammad Shoaib Siddiqui	Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party
9.	PP-158 Lahore-XIV	Ch Muhammad Nawaz	Pakistan Muslim League (N)
10.	PP-164 Lahore-XX	Rashid Minhas	Pakistan Muslim League (N)
11.	PP-266 R.Y. Khan-XII	Mumtaz Ali	Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians
12.	PP-290 D.G. Khan-V	Ali Ahmad Khan Leghari	Pakistan Muslim League (N)
Provincial Assembly of Sindh			
1.	PS-80 Dadu-I	Zubair Ahmed Junejo	Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians
Provincial Assembly of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa			
1.	PK-22, Bajaur-IV	Mubarak Zeb	Independent
2.	PK-91, Kohat-II	Daud Shah,	Sunni Ittehad Council
Provincial Assembly of Balochistan			
1.	PB-20, Khuzdar-III	Mir Jahanzaib Mengal	Balochistan National Party
2.	PB-22, Lasbela	Muhammad Zarain Khan Magsi	Pakistan Muslim League (N)

In addition to above, two National Assembly seats became vacant immediately after general Election. Asif Ali Zardari was elected as member National Assembly from NA-207 Shaheed Benazirabad-I. Later on he was elected as President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. His seat from constituency No. NA-207 Shaheed Benazirabad-I fell vacant under Article 43(2) of the Constitution which provides that if a member Parliament or Provincial Assembly is elected as President, his seat in Parliament or, as the case may be, the Provincial Assembly shall become vacant on the day he enters upon his office. Accordingly, a bye election was held in NA-207 Shaheed Benazirabad-I. As a result of bye-election Asifa Bhutto Zardari, a candidate of Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians, was elected uncontested.

Likewise, Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani was elected as member National Assembly from constituency No. NA-148 Multan-I. He was elected as Senator in Bye-Election of Senate held

on 14th March, 2024. Accordingly, his seat fell vacant by virtue of Article 223 (4) of the Constitution which provides that if a member of either house or of a provincial assembly becomes a candidate for a second seat, then his first seat shall become vacant as soon as he is elected to the second seat. Consequently, a bye-election in NA-148 Multan-I was held on 19th May, 2024. As a result Syed Ali Qasim Gillani, a candidate of Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians, was elected.

Further, Mubarak Zeb was elected from NA-08 Bajaur and PK-22 Bajaur-IV simultaneously, in bye elections held on 21st April, 2024. He opted to retain seat of National Assembly and resigned from PK-22 Bajaur-IV. Resultantly, bye election was held again against vacant seat on 11th July, 2024. As a result of a bye election Muhammad Nisar, from ANP was declared as returned candidate.



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