Election Commission of Pakistan

JANUARY-MARCH 2023

YOUR VOTE ASSURES A PROMISING FUTURE



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT MEMBER PUNJAB MR. BABAR HASSAN BHARWANA, MEMBER SINDH MR. NISAR AHMED DURRANI, CHIEF ELECTION COMMISSIONER MR. SIKANDAR SULTAN RAJA, MEMBER BALOCHISTAN MR. SHAH MUHAMMAD JATOI AND MEMBER KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA MR. JUSTICE (R) IKRAMMULAH KHAN.



میں ایک بوند هوں
قطبرہ ہی هوں اب ۔۔۔
لکین۔۔۔
حقب رہے ہے ،
حقب رہے ہی اول گا
جب دوسری باری آول گا
تو بارشی بن کر آول گا
میں هبریالی بن حباول گا
خوشحالی بھیلاؤں گا۔۔۔!!!

Nodoubt,
i am a drop
a mere drop now.
But,
don't look... don't look
contemptuously at me,
When I come again
Surely I will come as rain
Will turn all green...
And will spread Prosperity!!!

(Voice of Vote)

هارون شنواری | Haroon Shinwari

Pakistan is a democratic country and elections are sine qua non for democracy. Election Commission is committed to deliver its constitutional responsibilities to conduct free ,fair, transparent, inclusive and peaceful elections in the country. ECP urges all segments of society including marginalized groups i-e females, youth, differently abled persons, minorities, transgenders community etc not only for registration as voters but also casting votes on poll day as through ballot we can ensure a promising future and better quality of life for our generations. We can be part of decision making only through ballot .

I am grateful to all team members Ms. Qurat-ul-Ain Fatima, Ms. Zile Huma, Ms. Bibi Sughra, Ms. Asifa Khursheed, Mr. Nabeel Ahmed, Ms. Husnain Batool, Mr. Mohsin Shahab and Mr. Farhan Asim, who supported me in collecting data, proof reading & designing and special thanks to Seretary ECP, Omar Hamid Khan under whose dynamic leadership we are continuously publishing 4th addition of ECP News since 2022.

Looking forward for your valuable feedback and comments please.



Haroon Khan Shinwari Chief Editor

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Inauguration of State-of-the-Art Record Room by Hon'ble Chief Election Commissioner



Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has established a state-of-the-art record room under fool proof security to maintain official record in secured manner. The record room was inaugurated by Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja. No unauthorized person would be allowed to enter the premises where large racks have been placed to keep thousands of secured boxes monitored closely by CCTV cameras. The record room also contains the record of Forms 45 (Statement of Count) and 46 (Ballot Paper Account) related to the election for which a separate room has been allocated. The records in the rooms has been preserved since 1960s till date, in which about 18,000 files of various types are present. The record room consists of digital data and hard copies. The Election Commission has also started the process of digitalization of the old record which is available in hard form. There is still sufficient space available in the record room for preservation of record . Apart from elections, records of various fields are also kept in the record room.



IT Initiatives For Next General Elections





Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja chaired a meeting to review the progress on several IT initiatives for successful conduct of next General Elections. The meeting was attended by Hon'ble Members, Special Secretary, Additional Secretary and other dignitaries. The meeting focused on various IT technology initiatives for the forthcoming elections, including Election Management System (EMS) to facilitate the Returning Officers (ROs) in compiling results, ensuring the accessibility of results through live screens in the offices of ROs, Provincial Election Commissioners and ECP Secretariat.

The D.G IT and Project Management Team briefed the participants about the online scrutiny facilitation system being established for scrutiny of credentials in collaboration with SBP, FIA, NAB, and FBR,

which will aid ROs in scrutinizing dual citizenship, bankruptcy, FBR and NAB cases to pass timely order on nomination papers filed by the candidates. The system has generated validated data of 8595 candidates after verification from the relevant authorities, before the scrutiny of nomination papers. The participants were also updated about the Election Management Control Center (EMCC) for the supervision of election process as well as establishment of Security Facilitation Centre (SFC) to assist ROs in credentials verifications of contestants. For the first time, ECP will be sharing WhatsApp and UAN numbers for timely redressal of complaints.

Women Commission Handed Over Code of Ethics to Secretary ECP

Secretary ECP, Omar Hamid Khan participated as Chief Guest in a consultation session on "Draft Code of Ethics to Prohibit Hate Speech & Enhance Women's Political Participation" by National Commission on the Status of Women on 6th March, 2023. The event was attended by the women Parliamentarians & Senators. Chairperson NCSW Ms. Nilofar Bakhtiar along with women participants ceremoniously handed over proposed Code of Ethics to the Secretary ECP, Omar Hamid Khan.

Secretary ECP, Omar Hamid Khan, emphasized on abiding the code of conduct by political parties and candidates as well. He also shared various initiatives taken by ECP to counter hate speech and ensure gender parity in electoral process.





Chairperson NCSW along with women participants ceremoniously handed over proposed Code of Ethics to the Secretary ECP, Mr. Omar Hamid Khan.

Conduct of Bye-Elections NA-193 Rajanpur

Bye-Election to the National Assembly Constituency of NA-193 Rajanpur, which became vacant due to the death of MNA Sardar Muhammad Jaffar Khan Leghari, was successfully conducted on 26th February 2023. There were 379204 registered voters in the constituency, out of which 206495 were male and 172709 were female. Total 11 candidates contested in the elections. There were 237 polling stations established in the constituency, out of which 80 were male, 77 were female and 80 were combined polling stations. There were 68 highly sensitive and 169 sensitive polling stations. Polling staff included 249 Presiding Officers, 746 Assistant Presiding Officers, and 746 Polling Officers were appointed as polling personnel at the polling stations. The DMOs and monitoring teams appointed by ECP ensured the implementation of the Code of Conduct by political parties and candidates.









Display of live results of NA-193 Bye-Election through RMS

Conduct of Second Phase of Sindh Local Government Election

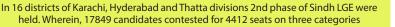
The Sindh Local Government Election, 2022 (2nd Phase) of Union Councils, Union Committees, Municipal Committees and Town Committees was held on 16th of January, 2023 in 16 districts of Karachi and Hyderabad /Thatta divisions. Wherein, 17849 candidates contested for 4412 seats on three categories i.e. Chairman/Vice Chairman, Member District Council and General Members at 8838 polling stations. Total No. of voters in 16 districts were 13414028.

The Provisional Results were announced on 18th January, 2023 and consolidation in this regard was completed by Returning Officers on 23rd January, 2023. Moreover, the notification of returned candidates was issued by The Election Commission on 3rd March, 2023.





Women and elderly voters casting their votes during LG Elections Sindh phase-II on 15th January, 2023





Oath Taking Ceremony

of elected Chairmen/Vice Chairmen and Councillors in Balochistan





Newly elected chairmens, Vice Chairmens & Councillors from different districts of Balochistan taking oath.

To ensure establishment of Local Governments in Balochistan, as per schedule of the Election Commission of Pakistan, the oath taking ceremony of elected Councillors who were elected in first and second phase of Local Government Elections in Balochistan province and voting for Chairmen and Vice Chairmen in 790 Union Councils, 6 Municipal Corporations, 43 Municipal Committees in 32 districts of Balochistan province was held on 9th February 2023. The third phase of Local Government Elections and entire process of oath taking and voting was conducted in a transparent manner with complete security arrangement. The efforts of the Returning Officers and officials who took part in the process are highly appreciated.







Monitoring of Sindh LG & Rajanpur Bye-Election



In January, 2023 Local Government Elections Sindh (Phase-II) were held and monitored in the light of Section 234 of Election Act 2017. For effective monitoring, Joint Provincial Election Commissioner was nominated as Provincial Monitoring Coordinator. Total 16 District Monitoring Officers were appointed one at each district for monitoring of election campaign of candidates and political parties, abidance of Election Act/Rules and Code of Conduct and Directives of ECP. These teams monitored entire electoral activities of candidates and political parties, during elec-

tion campaign and on poll day. The teams remained vigilant and active in pre-poll, poll day and post-poll day activities to ensure compliance of monitoring tools.

Likewise, one DMO and a team comprising of two Monitoring Officers were appointed to monitor the election campaign of contesting candidates and political parties in the Bye-Election in NA-193 Rajanpur-I which was held on 26th February, 2023.

SUMMARY OF VIOLATIONS, WARNINGS ISSUED

AND FINE IMPOSED AND REMOVAL OF PROHIBITED MATERIAL BY DISTRICT MONITORING OFFICERS

Elections	Violations	Notices issued	Warnings issued	Fines imposed	Approx. banners, Hoardings and flexes
Local Government Elections Sindh (Phase-II)	14	13	1	1	2568
National/ Provincial Bye-Elections	3	-	-	-	537





Monitoring activities at Central Control Room during NA-193 Bye-Elections and second phase of Sindh Local Government Elections









PEC Balochistan Fayyaz Hussain Murad's visit to different polling stations proposed for GE in the month of January.



For the first time, a new upper tier monitoring notify mechanism established and RECs as Regional Monitoring Coordinators to supervise monitoring of DMOs and monitoring teams in their respective jurisdiction

Initiatives taken for Voters Registration

REGISTRATION OF NEW VOTERS

More than 15,000 requests were received for voters' registration and these cases were processed accordingly in the months of January and February, 2023 at One Window Centers established in the offices of the District Election Commissioners and Assistant Registration Officers

Total No. of registered Voters in Pakistan as recorded on 15-2-2023 are reflected below:-

Table 1: Province wise voter Stats as on 15-2-2023

Province	Male	Female	Total
Punjab	38,796,978	33,486,506	72,283,484
Sindh	14,276,612	12,019,283	26,295,895
KP	11,649,780	9,674,778	21,324,558
Balochistan	2,931,666	2,281,000	5,212,666
Total	67,655,036	57,461,567	125,116,603

Conduct Of Various Trainings And Workshops

CONDUCT OF TWO DAYS TRAINING OF REGIONAL ELECTION COMMISSIONERS (RECs)

A two days training of Regional Election Commissioners (RECs) of Punjab province was held on 18th and 19th March, 2022 at ECP Secretariat, Islamabad. They will further impart trainings to 36 District Monitoring Officers (DMOs), 594 Monitoring Officers (MOs) appointed by Hon'ble Commission to monitor election campaign of Punjab Assembly Election. As per section 234 of Election Act 2017, Commission has legal obligation to appoint District Monitoring Officers and Monitoring Teams for each district. For the first time, a new upper tier monitoring mechanism has been introduced and RECs has been appointed as Regional Monitoring Coordinators to supervise monitoring of DMOs and monitoring teams in their respective nine divisions of Punjab.

LEAD TRAINERS FOR PUNJAB ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS TRAINED

ECP arranged 3 days (17th -19th March, 2023) training/ workshop of the "Lead Trainers" for the Training of "Master Trainers" during conduct of up coming General Elections 2023 in Punjab. Master Trainers will further impart trainings to Presiding Officers (POs), Assistant Presiding Officers (APOs) & Polling Officers.



THREE DAYS BRIDGE COURSE FOR MEDIA PERSONS

Media Coordination and Outreach Wing arranged a BRIDGE Course on Media and Elections (22nd February-24th February, 2023) with the collaboration of UNDP for awareness of beat reporters of ECP regarding different electoral laws and code of conducts. 26 reporters from different news channels and newspapers participated in the said training. The important topics such as introduction of BRIDGE, definition and roles of media, legal frameworks, draft Code of Conduct for Media, role of Election Management Bodies, media coverage from international perspective, election process, media and gender, misinformation/disinformation and hate speech were covered during the course.





Code of Conduct for Media, role of Election Management Bodies, media coverage from international perspective, election process, media and gender, misinformation/disinformation and hate speech were covered during the course.

META WORKSHOP "CONNECTING WITH OUR COMMUNITIES"

A four days capacity-building workshop in collaboration with Meta team was held w.e.f 27th February to 2nd March, 2023, for ECP officers, vulnerable communities, political parties representatives, social media heads, and civil society organizations. The title of the event was "Connecting With Our Communities". Many important topics were covered during this engagement that includes effective use of Meta platforms (Facebook and Instagram), community standards and reporting mechanisms, protecting election integrity, using political advertisements and understanding the advertisements library, safety policies (focused on vulnerable communities), and tackling misinformation.



Group photo of ECP officers at Meta workshop "Connecting with Communities" arranged with the collaboration of ECP & Meta team.

"CAMBRIDGE CONFERENCE ON ELECTORAL DEMOCRACY"
VIRTUAL PROGRAM



ECP is cognizant of the hazards of the un-authentic information about elections and electoral processes, on the social media and making ways to mainstream media as well, which seriously affects ECP's public perception. Prevailing polarized public opinions also have the potential to get fueled by the incorrect and malicious information creating hurdles in the way of conduct of peaceful elections. As a preventive and corrective measure, ECP's social media team is working hard to counter the onslaught of misinformation, disinformation and fake news by means of providing accurate and up-to-date information about elections that originates from the constitution of Pakistan, Elections Act 2017, Election Rules and Code of Conduct.

Cambridge Malaysian Education and Development Trust (CMEDT) and Malaysian Commonwealth Studies Centre (MCSC), organized the Fourth Virtual Program "Cambridge Conference on Electoral Democracy" on 6th March, 2023. The theme of this seminar was "Commissions in Time of Crisis". The seminar helped in understanding the factors that can assist an electoral commission in a time of crisis and discussed processes to adopt to preserve and maintain integrity and impartiality of an electoral commission in the eyes of voters and other stakeholders. Five officers of ECP actively participated in the virtual program.

Trainings and workshops in Provinces

PUNJAB

The Regional Election Commissioner, Sahiwal, Mr. Basit Ali and Director (MIS), Mr. Babar Malik delivered lecture on conduct of elections and preparation of electoral rolls at Civil Services Academy, Lahore.







SINDH

A Week-long training for master trainers was held in the Sindh province. All Senior Assistants, Data Entry Operators, and Junior Assistants were imparted training to be the master trainers for the upcoming General Elections 2023. Certificates were given to all deserving officials of Sindh.







• Two days training was held on 3rd & 4th January, 2023 as part of the Pilot Project of EM2 Monitoring Software which was effectively used in the Local Government Elections (2nd Phase) held in Karachi & Hyderabad division. In this Pilot Project, 20 Election Officers participated were engaged to implement, access the experiment and quality of project.

BALOCHISTAN

Two Days Training of Master Trainers/Troubleshooters on Result Management System (RMS)



Gender and Social Inclusion Initiatives of

ECP

Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) is committed to conduct inclusive elections by making avenues for marginalized groups, especially focusing on women, minorities, persons with disabilities and transgender persons. Special awareness programs using social media and in-person sessions are arranged with male and female youth in academic institutions throughout the country. The purpose was that the youth should act as the agents of commission and educate their relevant communities regarding importance of registration and casting of votes.



Public outreach Initiatives of ECP for vulnerable groups

AWARENESS SESSIONS WITH TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY

ECP conducted three awareness sessions for transgender community to ensure their participation in electoral process with the support of Dareecha and Forum for Dignity Initiatives (FDI) at Deras of a transgenders in Rawalpindi and Islamabad. During the sessions, transgender community were explained that under law, they have equal

voting rights. They were also encouraged to register and cast their votes. Transgender community were also informed about the initiatives taken by ECP to mainstream and facilitate the transgender community in the election process. The form 20 and 21 were also distributed among socially excluded community to register or transfer their votes. Transgender community appreciated the efforts of ECP for organizing awareness sessions at grass root level and sharing important information.



Awareness session conducted at a dera of a transgender at Khanna Pul Rawalpindi on 10th February, 2023









Awareness session conducted at a dera of transgender at Bari Imam, Islamabad on 17th February , 2023.



Awareness session conducted for transgender community at a dera of a transgender at Pirwadhai Rawalpindi on 10th March, 2023.

AWARENESS SESSION FOR DIFFERENTLY ABLED PERSONS

A session was conducted by ECP for differently abled persons at National Library, Islamabad with the support of "Step" on 1st February, 2023. The differently abled persons were apprised about their electoral rights and participation in election process. The participants were also given form 20 and 21 for their registration and transfer of votes. The participants were also told about different facilities and initiatives introduced by ECP like postal ballot, ramps and permission of a facilitator to support while casting vote. These steps are taken to ensure maximum participation of differently abled persons in the election process.



Gender And Disability Electoral Working Group (GDEWG) Meeting In the office of Provincial Election Commission KP

A meeting of Gender and Disability Electoral Working Group (GDEWG) was held with Mr. Shamshad Khan in the office of Provincial Election Commission KP to discuss the issues with regard to their NICs and Voter registration. The meeting was attended by the representatives of different segments of society.



Community Meeting in Abbottabad

The District Election Commissioner Abbottabad arranged a community meeting in which he informed the participants regarding the preparation of General Elections 2023 and briefed them about the services provided by Election Commission of Pakistan to check vote through 8300 SMS service. The District Election Commissioner addressed the participants that women and disabled persons should actively participate in the election for prosperity and good governance in the Country.

Consultative meeting on Code of Ethics for Women in Balochistan

Mr. Abdul Qayyum Shinwari, Joint Provincial Election Commissioner (Election) Balochistan, is participating in the consultative meeting on Code of Ethics for Women organized by National Commission for Status of Women and UNDP on 28th February, 2023. In the meeting, the challenges faced by the female in the political and electoral process and ways forward to eradicate these challenges were also discussed. The Joint Provincial Election Commissioner was accompanied by Mr. Waseem Ahmed, Director Elections and Mr. Arsalan, Assistant Director, GSI, office of the PEC Baluchistan. The meeting was also attended by a large number of participants including former parliamentarians and members of CSOs.



Female registration process through MRV with collaboration of Election Commission of Pakistan and NADRA was conducted at Upper Dir on 10-03-2023

Development Projects of the

CONSTRUCTION OF TWO ADDITIONAL FLOOR AT ECP:

Two additional floors were constructed in the new block of ECP to provide sufficient space for official use. The work is at finishing stage and almost complete.

ALLOCATION OF FUNDS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF FIVE OFFICE BUILDINGS OF PUNJAB

The construction of office buildings of at 05 sites i.e., REC/DEC Sargodha, Okara, Layyah, Attock is in progress.

CONSTRUCTION OF BOUNDARY WALLS (BALOCHISTAN)

Boundary Walls estimates of 06 DECs offices of Balochistan i.e, Lasbela, Naushki, Mastung, Loralai, Sibi and Jaffarabad in Balochistan has been received and approved.

• FACADE, FRONT ELEVATION OF ELECTION COMMISSION OF PAKISTAN:

The Facade and front elevation of ECP Secretariat carried out by Pak PWD. This enhanced the beauty of a building with a modern look. The entrance along with provision of ramp has been made to facilitate the differently abled persons.



Recruitment of new human resources:



A glimpse of recruitment test at the center

ECP COMPLETED THE RECRUITMENT PROCESS OF FOLLOWING HUMAN RESOURCE

- 1. 10 posts of Assistant Director (IT)
- 2. 10 posts of Election Officers for Balochistan province
- 3. 2 posts of Assistant Director (Protocol)
- 4. One post of Assistant Director (MCO)
- 5. One post of Assistant Director (Law III)
- 6.03 posts of law officers
- 7. 01 post of legal Assistant.
- 8.01 post of Non-linear editor
- 9. 01 post of creative writer

10.01 post of photographer/video grapher

Conducted tests of approximately 18000 candidates for the post of Senior Assistant, Junior Assistant and Deputy Assistant Director Accounts across the country.

Preparations of Annual Report of ECP:

To fulfill the requirement of Section 16 of the Elections Act-2017, a committee was constituted to draft Annual Report-2022, based on the activities of the Commission for placing final report to the the Parliment and Provincial Assemblies. The Committee is mandated to: i) Committee will Compile data of initiatives taken by the Commission

ii) Activities completed during last years-2022.

iii) Steps taken for improvement in the electoral process

iv) The Committee will submit the draft report before the Hon'ble Commission for perusal and approval. The submission of the report will be ensured with the prescribed schedule.

v) Engagement with stakeholders. vi) Actions taken dating the period.

vii) Other electoral activities.





Special Secretary Mr. Zafar Iqbal Hussain awarding certificates after completion of training of Regional Monitoring Coordinators

Student Voters Education Sessions

 Youth engagement program and mock poll exercise at Punjab College for Girls and Boys, Bhera

As part of youth engagement program to increase youth participation in electoral process, Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), arranged a Youth Engagement Program and Mock Poll Exercise for both male and female students separately at Punjab College for Girls and Boys, Bhera, in collaboration with IFES on 17th January, 2023. The program was arranged with the aim to enhance democratic knowledge among young leaders and equip them with voter education to mobilize the youth for a larger community voter education drive. In the said program, around two hundred girls and one hundred and fifty Boys participated and learned about electoral process and their voting rights.



15th Briefing Session for Students and Staff of Virtual University

As part of ECPs interaction with national stakeholders, voter awareness and civic educational drive, 15th briefing session/study tour was arranged at ECP Secretariat on 16th February, 2023 for 24 BS level students and faculty of Virtual Institute of Professionals, Study Center of Virtual University of Pakistan in Wah Cantt. The objective of the briefing session was to apprise the participants about the role and functions of the ECP.





Briefing session with students and faculty of Virtual University, Wah
Cantt at ECP Secretariat on 16th February, 2023

• "Elections and Youth Voters in Pakistan" session with Think Fest, Lahore

Mr. Abdul Hafeez, JPEC Admin Punjab, represented ECP in a session titled "Elections and Youth Voters in Pakistan" held under Thinkfest Lahore. He shed light on role the Youth of Pakistan for shaping the democracy and how their participation in electoral process can positively impact in the country. He encouraged the youth and gave examples of such events across the world where youth played pivotal roles in the political and democratic stability in their countries.



Mr. Abdul Hafeez, JPEC Admin Punjab representing ECP in a session titled "Elections and youth voters in Pakistan"- 14.01.23.

Lahore Thinkfest



AWARENESS RAISING SESSION HELD ON 21STJANUARY,
 2023 AT BOYS HIGH SCHOOL LASBELLA CONDUCTED BY DISTRICT ELECTION COMMISSIONER HUB, TARIQ BUGTI

Meeting With Pakistan Red Crescent Youth And Volunteer Department Balochistan

The officers from Election Commission Balochistan attended the 2nd Stakeholders meeting organized by Pakistan Red Crescent (PRCS) Youth and Volunteer Department Balochistan held on 20th February, 2023. The meeting was introductory in nature. In the meeting, different departments shared the nature of working and environment of their organizations and discussed possibilities of working together in order to reach on a meaningful conclusion, How to use volunteers to achieve different goals. The Red Crescent apprised the meeting that it plans to impart training to its volunteers regarding elections so that they may work as ambassadors of the Elections Commission.

Orientation Session at Government Higher Secondary School Chakai, Kohistan Lower

The District Election Commissioner apprised the students and teachers about the role of Commission, importance of voter registration and Election Commission's initiatives for facilitation of voters, role of students in enhancing the turnout of the upcoming General Elections. The DEC also stressed the student and teachers to come forward and spread the message of ECP in their respective Communities.

16th Briefing Session – Study Tour of Trainee Officers of Pakistan Provincial Services Academy (PPSA), Peshawar.

A briefing session was arranged at ECP Secretariat on 10th March, 2023, for 40 Trainee Officers of 8th Junior Command Course included Deputy Superintendents of Police, Govt of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa & Gilgit Baltistan and faculty of Pakistan Provincial Services Academy (PPSA), Peshawar. The objective of the briefing session was to sensitize the participants about role/functions of the ECP and to highlight role of law enforcement agencies during Election.





Secretary ECP, Omar Hamid Khan presenting shield study to tour of trainee officers of 8th Junior Command Course of Pakistan Provincial Service Academy (PPSA), Peshawar at ECP Secretariat on 10th March, 2023.

A group photograph with Secretary ECP on study tour of trainee officers of 8th Junior Command Course of Pakistan Provincial Service Academy (PPSA), Peshawar at ECP Secretariat on 10th March, 2023.

