



ANNUAL REPORT

2021



ELECTION COMMISSION OF PAKISTAN

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Foreword

Article 218(3) of the Constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan mandates the Election Commission of Pakistan to organize and conduct election and to make necessary arrangements to ensure that election is conducted honestly, justly, fairly and in accordance with law and that the corrupt practices are guarded against. Article 219 charges the Election Commission, inter alia, with the duty of organizing and conducting elections to the Senate and to fill the causal vacancies in a House or Provincial Assemblies and holding General Elections to the Assemblies. Election Commission of Pakistan also has a Constitutional mandate to delimit constituencies and prepare Electoral Rolls.

Election Commission of Pakistan during year 2021 was engaged in the accomplishment of multifarious electoral activities like conduct of election to the Senate, bye-elections to the Assemblies, delimitation of constituencies for local governments, conduct of local government elections and periodical revision of electoral rolls to update Electoral Rolls for General Election 2023.

Election Commission is undergoing a process of review and reliability to keep pace with the demands of a changing world. A Project Management Unit has been established to introduce modern technologies in the electoral processes including EVM and Overseas Voting. Election Commission is also working on upgrading human resource requirement, both through induction of quality resource as well as professional training. In this regard, seventy six Election Officers were appointed and a comprehensive sixteen weeks Pre-Service Training was imparted in 2021. In addition, multiple seats were created in various wings.

Election Commission also initiated the fourth-phase of campaign to reduce the gender gap in voter registration and create mass awareness through nationwide public outreach programs, media campaigns, celebration of National voters' day and International Women's Day. This is part of the focus of the Commission on vulnerable groups of society including transgenders, minorities, disabled, rural population etc. ECP desires that the working of the Commission in secretariat and field offices is able to keep pace with demands of the nation and its aspiration in a modern world.

The Commission appreciates the hard work and commitment of Officers, Staff of Election Commission including all stakeholders who contributed towards the accomplishment of the tasks assigned during the year 2021.

(Sikandar Sultan Raja)

Chief Election Commissioner

(Nisar Ahmad Durrani)

Member Election Commission

(Shah Muhammad Jatoi)

Member Election Commission

Preface

In pursuance of Section 16 of the Elections Act, 2017, Election Commission of Pakistan publishes its Annual Report and submits it to the Federal Government and each Provincial Government for laying before each House of the Parliament and Provincial Assemblies. The Report covers the detail of activities and initiatives undertaken by the ECP during 2021.

In order to prepare updated and accurate electoral rolls, ECP initiated the exercise of periodical revision of electoral rolls across the country. In order to accomplish this task, 142 Registration Officers, 2085 Assistant Registration Officers, 18,676 Supervisors and 68,143 Verifying Officials were appointed and trained.

To fill the vacant seats in National Assembly and Provincial Assemblies, Bye-Elections were held in 15 constituencies. After the expiry of term, the election against 48 vacant seats of Senate was held on 3rd March 2021. In addition, elections to the Cantonment Boards and 1st phase of local government elections in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa were held. To enhance credibility in the electoral processes, Monitoring Wing of the ECP was further strengthened by expanding its scope and is now called Monitoring and Evaluation Wing. Moreover, three-tier control rooms were established to resolve the complaints on real-time basis. Multimedia screens were also installed at the offices of Returning Officers to enhance transparency in results tabulation and dissemination.

To create awareness among the masses in general and youth in particular about the importance of participation in the electoral process, National Voters Day was celebrated on 07th December 2021. National Rural Women's Day, International Day for Persons with Disabilities and Working Women's Day were also commemorated in ECP. In order to sensitize the youth and students, outreach programs were organized all over the country in various colleges and universities. Realizing the importance of social media platform as a tool for disseminating information and public outreach, a trained Social Media Monitoring Team was constituted for effective utilization of digital media platform. It is a part of a reformed structure known as Media, Coordination & Outreach Wing. Similarly the FEA is being upgraded and a vibrant R&D Center is being created to value it.

In order to enhance the overall efficiency, ECP adopted modern technologies such as Online Recruitment System, Optical Mark Recognition System, Case Management Portal, Complaint Management System (upgraded) and Human Resource Management System. Similarly, the establishment of state-of-the-art Data Centre, in-house large scale printing facility and Electoral Process Automation System (ePAS) are in the offing.

I would like to express my special gratitude and thanks to the ECP officers and staff for their hard work and dedication. I am also pleased to acknowledge the support provided by UNDP in the designing and publication of Annual Report 2021.

Omar Hamid Khan
Secretary, Election Commission of Pakistan

Acronym

ARO	Assistant Returning Officer
CCI	Council of Common Interests
CEC	Chief Election Commissioner
CERS	Computerized Electoral Rolls System
CMS	Complaint Management System
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DEC	District Election Commissioner
DMO	District Monitoring Officer
DRO	District Returning Officer
DVECs	District Voters' Education Committees
ECP	Election Commission of Pakistan
ePAS	Electoral Process Automation System
EVM	Electronic Voting Machine
FATA	Federally Administered Tribal Areas
FEA	Federal Election Academy
GDEWG	Gender and Disability Electoral Working Group
GIS	Geographical Information System
HRMS	Human Resource Management System
ICT	Islamabad Capital Territory
IEC	Information, Education and Communication
NADRA	National Database and Registration Authority
NIC	National Identity Card
OMR	Optical Mark Recognition
PEC	Provincial Election Commissioner
PWDs	Persons with Disabilities
REC	Regional Election Commissioner
RMS	Results Management System
RO	Returning Officer
SPIC	Strategic Plan Implementing Committee
UNDP	United Nations Development Program

ELECTION COMMISSION OF PAKISTAN

The Election Commission of Pakistan was established under the Constitution of 1956 comprising of the Chief Election Commissioner and number of members as to be determined by the President. Their term of office was five years. The duties of the Election Commission were preparation of electoral rolls and conduct of elections to the Assemblies. Similarly, the Constitution of 1962 also provided for Election Commission comprising of the Chief Election Commissioner and two Members, one each from West Pakistan and East Pakistan who were required to be the Judges of their respective High Courts. Their term of office was three years.

The Constitution of 1973 also provides for the Election Commission. Originally, the Election Commission was required to be constituted for each General Election and the Commission was comprised of two members only. Article 213 of the Constitution envisages that the Chief Election Commissioner shall be a person who has been a Judge of Supreme Court or has been a senior civil servant or is a technocrat and is not more than sixty-eight years of age. Under Article 218, the Election Commission consists of the Chief Election Commissioner who is the Chairman of the Commission; and four members, one from each Province, each of whom shall be a person who has been a Judge of a High Court or has been a senior civil servant or is a technocrat and is not more than sixty-five years of age. The Commissioner and Members shall hold office for a term of five years.

Two Hon'ble Members of the Commission Justice (r) Altaf Ibrahim Qureshi and Justice (r) Irshad Qaiser retired on 26 July 2021 after completion of their five years term.

Under the Constitution of 1973, the Commission is charged with the duties of:

- i. Preparation of Electoral Rolls
- ii. Election to the office of the President
- iii. Organizing and conducting elections to Senate, National Assembly, Provincial Assemblies and local governments
- iv. Appointment of Election tribunals

For holding elections, the Commission also delimits the constituencies of National Assembly, Provincial Assemblies as well as the local governments in the Provinces, the Federal Capital and Cantonments. All executive authorities in the Federation and the Provinces, under Article 220 of the Constitution, are required to assist the Chief Election Commissioner and the Commission in the discharge of his or their functions.

A. Organizational structure of the Election Commission

In order to perform its functions, the Commission has organizational structure at Secretariat, Provincial, Divisional and District levels. The Commission has about 3500 staff positions across the country. An overview of each tier is given as under:

i. Election Commission Secretariat

The Secretariat of the Commission is in Islamabad headed by the Secretary and has

the support of Special Secretary, Additional Secretary, Director Generals (DGs), Additional Director Generals (ADGs) and other officers. The Secretariat consists of various wings such as Election, Electoral Rolls, Local Government, Information Technology, Media Coordination & Outreach, Training, Law, Gender & Social Inclusion, Budget, Administration, Establishment, Monitoring and Evaluation and Political Finance wings. Each wing is headed either by a DG or ADG. In the hierarchical set-up, DGs are assisted by ADGs and a number of Directors, Deputy Directors and Assistant Directors.

ii. Provincial Election Commissioners

The provincial set-up is headed by Provincial Election Commissioners (PECs) at all provincial capitals i.e Karachi, Lahore, Peshawar and Quetta. The PECs are supported by Joint Provincial Election Commissioners (Elections & Administration), Directors, Deputy Directors, Assistant Directors and other supporting staff.

The Commission has Regional Election Commissioners (RECs) offices at divisional level. The RECs play the role of coordinator between PEC and DEC offices. They also liaise with the divisional administration and other stakeholders in their respective jurisdictions.

The lowest tier of ECP's organizational set-up is at the district level which is headed by District Election Commissioner (DEC) and assisted by Election Officers. There are 134 district offices countrywide. The DEC is the Registration Officer of the district who prepares and maintains the electoral rolls. He is the liaison officer for coordination with District Returning Officer, Returning Officers, District Administration and other stakeholders.

B. Assistance to the Parliament

The Commission assists the Standing Committees of the National Assembly and the Senate on different legislative matters. The Commission responds to starred questions and provides requisite information in the shape of comments and briefings on proposed legislation as and when required.

1. ELECTION OPERATIONS

1.1 Bye-Elections to the National / Provincial Assemblies held during the year 2021

As per Article 219(b) of the Constitution, the Commission shall be charged with the duty of organizing and conducting elections to the Senate or to fill casual vacancies in a House or a Provincial Assembly. An election to fill the seat in Assemblies shall be held within sixty days from the occurrence of the vacancy as per Article 224 (4) of the Constitution.

During the year 2021, fifteen (15) bye-elections including a re-poll in constituency NA-75 Sialkot-IV were conducted. **Details of the bye-elections may be seen at Annex-I.**

After each election, detailed de-briefing sessions were held and on the basis of lessons learnt, efforts were made to improve the guidelines for elections. For real-time result display and dissemination, ECP installed multimedia screens in the office premises of the Retuning Officers for the convenience of public and other relevant stakeholders. Moreover, three tier control rooms were established i:e at ECP Secretariat, Provincial (HQs) and constituency level in order to address complaints and take corrective measures on need-basis. Likewise, Form-45 and Form-46 were redesigned to make them more comprehensive and to improve the quality of tabulation process.

1.2 Daska Bye-election (NA-75 Sialkot-IV)

The seat became vacant on 2nd August, 2020 due to death of Syed Iftikhar-ul-Hassan MNA. Due to COVID-19, bye-elections in NA-75 Sialkot-IV could not be held within due time of 60 days as per Article 224(4) of the Constitution. The Election Commission on 17th December, 2020 decided to conduct bye-elections on all vacant seats of National and Provincial Assemblies by complying with COVID-19 SOPs. Accordingly, Election Programme for NA-75 Sialkot-IV was issued on 21st December, 2020 fixing poll day on 19.02.2021. Election Commission directed the Chief Secretary Government of Punjab to issue necessary instructions to all concerned to extend complete assistance to the Election Commission during conduct of the bye-election. The Deputy Commissioner concerned was also directed to assist DRO, RO and AROs for holding the election in free, fair and transparent manner. In order to ensure neutrality the Election Commission banned postings and transfers in the district on 21st December, 2020 till the publication of name of the returned candidate.

1.2.1 Poll Day Activities

On 19th February 2021, polling in the constituency commenced as per schedule and no incident of violence was reported in the first few hours. However, before noon, situation in the constituency became tense which affected the smooth conduct of polling at some polling stations. After receiving reports of the situation from 12:30pm onwards, the Secretary, ECP approached district administration and police authorities to control the situation. The police authorities were directed to take effective and preventive measures to maintain law and order. Afterwards, the Chief Election Commissioner also called the IG Police and directed him to immediately control the situation. Despite such high level contacts, unfortunately, two persons were killed belonging to two rival groups outside a polling station whereas several other incidents of aerial firing in Daska city also took place which hinted at lack of proper arrangements for maintenance of law and order in the constituency by Police and District Administration.

1.2.2 Post Poll activities

Compilation of results is one of the most important activities undertaken immediately after the close of poll. The Returning Officer NA-75 could not compile and announce the provisional results by 2:00 a.m. as required under the law, due to non-receipt of results of 20 polling stations as presiding officers of these polling stations went missing. On receipt of the information from DRO and RO, the Chief Election Commissioner tried to contact Chief Secretary, IGP and DPO Sialkot several times but none of them could be contacted. The Presiding Officers of 20 polling stations appeared before the RO in the morning on 20th February, 2021. The RO reported that results of these polling stations were found doubtful on account of mismatch in copies of Form-45 provided by the Presiding Officers and those produced by a contesting candidate. Consequently, the Commission withheld the result of bye-election.

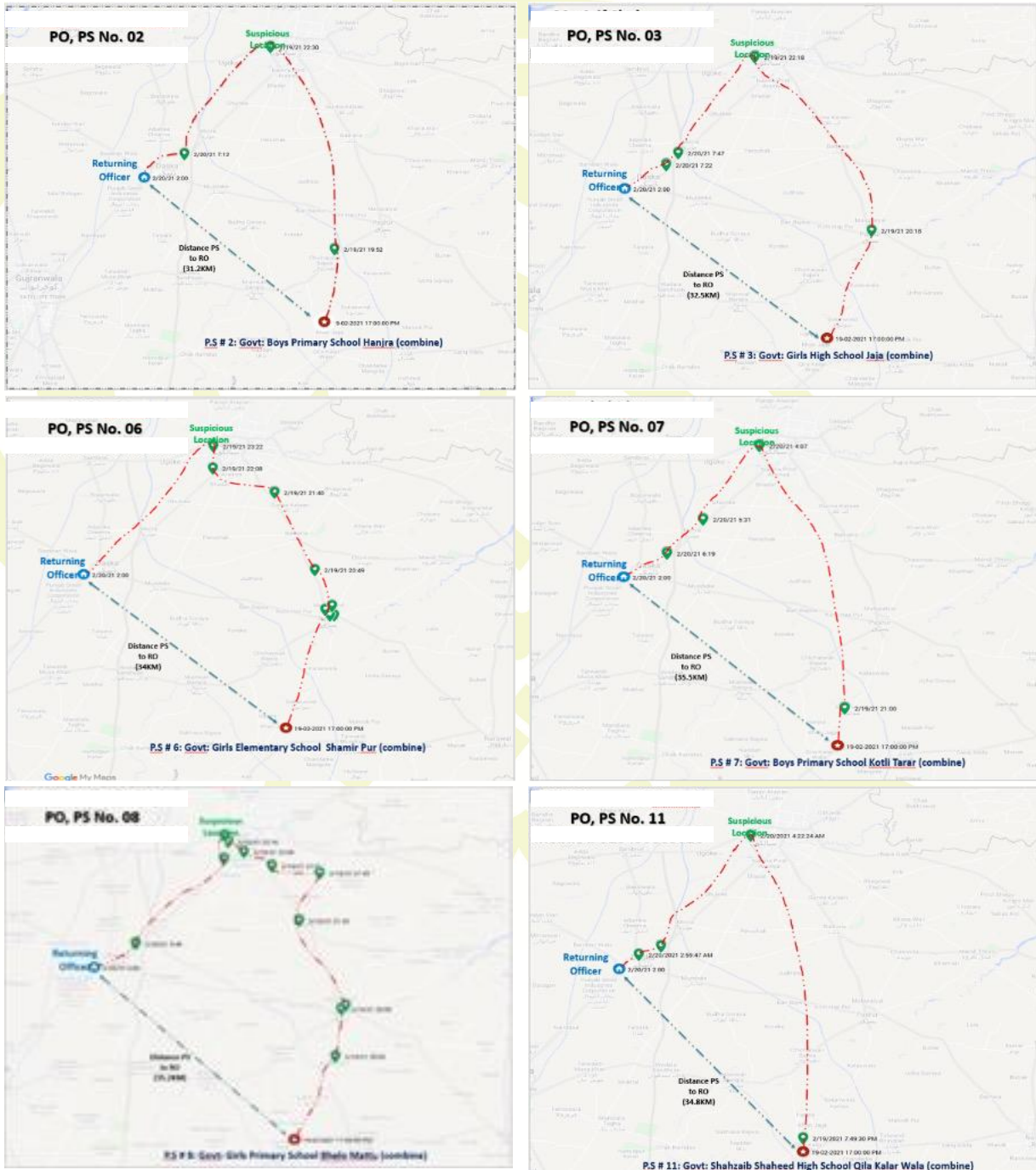
1.2.3 Geofencing

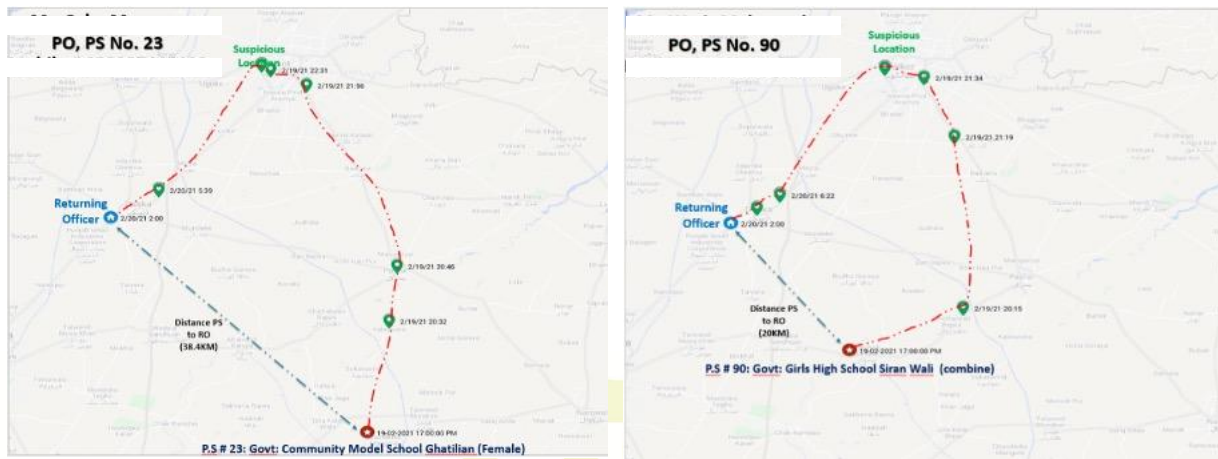
Taking cognizance of the situation and to ascertain facts on scientific grounds, ECP decided to conduct geofencing to find out whereabouts of the missing Presiding Officers with the help of the latest technology and state-of-the-art forensic analysis. Mobile numbers of the Presiding Officers, drivers and security personnel deputed with them were shared with the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) for provision of geo-coordinates of the mobile phones along with time and location data to ECP. The requisite information from PTA was sought under Article 220 of the Constitution.

PTA provided the required data of the election officials. The data was analyzed forensically and scientifically pointing to the fact that these election officials, on their way to

RO office, deviated from the prescribed route and stayed at an unidentified place. It was found that they were present at a common location far away from the office of RO. They were accordingly mapped on Google Map along with time and location stamping. Tracking path was determined by spotting moment by moment of the election officials deviation displacement from polling stations to an unidentified place and finally to the office of RO on 20th February, 2021.

Geofencing report was compiled and submitted before the Election Commission and thereafter before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of Pakistan during hearing of the appeal against Order of the Election Commission declaring poll in the entire constituency as void. Coordinates of some of the Presiding Officers showing their locations are given below:-





1.2.4 Re-Poll in NA-75 Sialkot-IV

The Commission after taking stock of the situation, issued notices to contesting candidates i.e. Mr. Ali Asjad Malhi and Syeda Nosheen Iftikhar, the Law Enforcing Agencies, the DRO & the RO and heard the matter at length with thorough examination of the record. The Election Commission observed that conducive environment was not available for the candidates & voters and the election was not conducted honestly, justly, fairly and in a transparent manner. Incidents of murders, firing, worsening law and order situation and other circumstances led to harassment for voters while making result process doubtful. On 25th February, 2021 the Election Commission in exercise of powers under Article 218(3) of the Constitution read with Section 9(1) of the Elections Act, 2017, declared the poll as void and ordered re-poll in the entire constituency on 18th March, 2021.

The Government of Punjab informed the Commission that officers of district and divisional administration and police were removed from their positions and postings of new officers were being made. In this backdrop, the Government of Punjab requested to delay the polls in the constituency so that sufficient time may be provided to the local administration and police hierarchy to ensure a safe and secure election. In response to a request from the Government of Punjab, the Election Commission directed to conduct poll on 10th April, 2021 instead of 18th March, 2021.

1.2.5 Appeal in the Supreme Court of Pakistan

Mr. Ali Asjad Malhi, a contesting candidate later challenged the decision of the Election Commission before the August Supreme Court of Pakistan. However, the Apex Court vide its order dated 02.04.2021 uphold the Order of the Commission and dismissed the appeal of Mr. Ali Asjad Malhi.

1.2.6 Conduct of Re-poll on 10th April, 2021

The Re-poll in the constituency was held in a peaceful manner on 10th April, 2021 and the Commission notified Miss Nosheen Iftikhar (Pakistan Muslim League (N)) as

returned candidate on 15th April, 2022.

1.2.7 Conduct of Inquiry

In pursuance of the Order of the Election Commission dated 25.02.2021, two inquiries were held to probe the matter in its entirety whose details are given below:

- a. Joint Provincial Election Commissioner, Punjab was appointed as inquiry officer for conducting fact finding inquiry in order to ascertain breach of duty by the said Presiding Officers and security staff.
- b. Another inquiry Committee was also constituted in order to conduct fact finding inquiry against the officers placed under suspension i.e. Ex-Deputy Commissioner Sialkot, Ex-District Police Officer Sialkot, Ex-Assistant Commissioner Daska, Ex-Deputy Superintendent of Police Sambrial and Ex-Deputy Superintendent of Police, Daska) in connection with bye-election in NA-75 Sialkot-IV. The Inquiry Committee consisted of following officers:
 - (i) Joint Provincial Election Commissioner, Punjab. Convener
 - (ii) Regional Election Commissioner, Gujranwala, Member
 - (iii) Special Secretary (B&R) Government of Punjab Finance Department, Member.

After consideration of both fact finding inquiry reports, the Commission decided to proceed further against officers and officials who were nominated in the inquiry reports as delinquents. Both report were also placed on the official website of ECP for information of general public.

In the light of reports of two inquiries, criminal proceedings have been initiated against twenty seven (27) officers including Ex-Deputy Commissioner Sialkot, Ex-District Police Officer Sialkot, Ex-Assistant Commissioner Daska, Ex-DSP/SDPO Sambrial and Ex-Deputy District Education Officer Sialkot. At the same time, disciplinary proceedings, under Efficiency & Discipline Rules, 2020 and PEEDA, 2006 have also been initiated against Sixty (60) officers/officials including above mentioned senior public office holders. The Commission has also directed that all the officers nominated under the inquiries shall not be deputed in any future elections.

1.3 Filling of Vacant Reserved Seats

Article 224(6) of the Constitution read with Section 104(5) of the Elections Act, 2017 stipulates that when a seat reserved for women or non-Muslims in the National Assembly or a Provincial Assembly on account of death, resignation or disqualification of a member in an Assembly falls vacant it shall be filled by the next person in order of precedence from the party list of the candidates to be submitted to the Election Commission by the political party whose member has vacated such seat. During the year 2021, four (04) reserved seats fell

vacant and accordingly following candidates were notified as returned candidates against reserved seats in National Assembly and Provincial Assemblies as per detail given below:

Sr No.	Reason of Vacancy	Category of Reserved Seat	Name of returned candidate	Party Affiliation
National Assembly				
1	Mst. Shaista Pervaiz elected as MNA in bye election in NA-133 Lahore held on 5 th Dec, 2021.	Women	Shakila Khalid Chaudhry	PML(N)
Provincial Assembly of Punjab				
1	Due to death of Mst. Munira Yamin Satti, MPA	Women	Mst. Salma Butt	PML(N)
2	Due to death of Mr. Peter Gill, MPA	Non-Muslim	Mr. Youdester Chohan	PTI
Provincial Assembly of Balochistan				
1	Due to resignation tendered by Mr. Danesh Kumar, MPA	Non-Muslim	Khalil	BAP

1.4 Conduct of Senate Elections-2021

Pursuant to the provisions of Article 59(3) of the Constitution, fifty two (52) members of the Senate retired on expiry of their term of office on 11-03-2021. Detail is given as follows:

Province/Area	General	Women	Technocrats including Ulema	Non- Muslims	Total
Federal Capital	1	1	-	-	2
Punjab	7	2	2	-	11
Sindh	7	2	2	-	11
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	7	2	2	1	12
Balochistan	7	2	2	1	12
Erstwhile FATA	4	-	-	-	4
Total	33	9	8	2	52

Note: Election against 4 seats vacated by members of erstwhile Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) were not held due to its merger in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

1.4.1 Appointment of Returning Officers and Polling Officers

The Commission appointed Special Secretary, ECP and four Provincial Election Commissioners as Returning Officers for the conduct of Senate Election which was held on 3rd March, 2021.

1.4.2 Notification of Election Program

In pursuance of Article 59(3) and 224 (3) of the Constitution , read with Section 107 of the Elections Act, 2017, the Commission issued the Election Programme for conduct of election to the Senate on 11th February, 2021. Likewise, in pursuance of Section 113(1) of the Elections Act, 2017, Judges of High Courts were appointed as Appellate Tribunal to decide the appeals filed against the acceptance/rejection of the nomination papers by the Returning Officers.

1.4.3 Presidential Reference / Ordinance regarding status of Senate Election

The President of Islamic Republic of Pakistan filed a reference in the Supreme Court of Pakistan under Article 186 of the Constitution seeking legal opinion to hold senate election on Open ballot. The following question was sent by the President of Islamic Republic of Pakistan to the Hon'ble Supreme Court for opinion:-

“Whether the condition of secret ballot referred to in Article 226 of the Constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan is applicable only for the elections held under the Constitution such as the election to the office of the President of Pakistan, Speaker and Deputy Speaker of National Assembly, Chairman and Deputy Chairman of Senate, Speakers and Deputy Speakers of the Provincial Assemblies and not to other elections such as the election for the members of the Senate of Pakistan held under the Elections Act, 2017 enacted pursuant to Article 222 read with Entry 41, part 1, Fourth Schedule to the Constitution , which may be held by way of secret or open ballot, as may be provided for in the Elections Act,2017?”

After filing of the Reference, the President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan also promulgated an Ordinance on 6th February, 2021. The relevant and operative part of the Ordinance was;

“Provided that in case the Supreme Court of Pakistan gives an opinion in Reference No.1 of 2021 filed under Article 186 of the Constitution, that elections for the members of Senate do not fall within the purview of Article 226 of the Constitution, the poll for elections for members of the Senate to be held in March, 2021 and thereafter shall be conducted by the Commission through open and identifiable ballot;”

The Ordinance was subject to the opinion of the Hon'ble Supreme Court. Election Commission of Pakistan issued Election Programme for Senate Elections 2021 on 11th February, 2021 as the Supreme Court of Pakistan had not issued any restraining order regarding issuance of Election Programme for Senate Elections 2021 till that date.

The Hon'ble Supreme Court issued notice to the Commission for hearing in said presidential reference. The Commission appeared in person before the Supreme Court of Pakistan and was of the opinion that as per existing arrangements of the Constitution under Article 226 read with Section 122 (6) of the Elections Act, 2017, the election to the Senate was to be conducted by secret ballot.

The Hon'ble Supreme Court of Pakistan gave its opinion on 1st March, 2021 on the Presidential Reference which reads as under:

“...the REFERENCE is answered as follows:

- (i) *The Elections to the Senate of Pakistan are held “under the Constitution ” and the law;*
- (ii) *It is the duty of the Election Commission of Pakistan in terms of Article 218(3) of the Constitution , to ensure that the election is conducted honestly, justly, fairly and in accordance with law and that corrupt practices are guarded against on which this Court has given successive judgments and the most exhaustive being Workers’ Party Pakistan through Akhtar Hussain, Advocate, General Secretary & 6 others v. Federation of Pakistan & 2 others (PLD 2012 SC 681);*
- (iii) *The Election Commission of Pakistan is required by the Constitution to take all necessary steps in order to fulfil the above mandate/duty in terms of Article 222 of the Constitution, which empowers the Parliament, subject to the Constitution to legislate, inter alia, on the conduct of elections and matters relating to corrupt practices and other offences in connection with elections but categorically provides that, “no such law shall have the effect of taking away or abridging any of the powers of the Commissioner or the Election Commission” under Part VIII, Chapter 1 of the Constitution ;*
- (iv) *Further in terms of Article 220 of the Constitution, all the executive authorities in the Federation and Provinces are obliged to assist the Commissioner and the Election Commission of Pakistan in discharge of his or their functions, as provided for in Article 218(3) of the Constitution;*
- (v) *As far as the secrecy of ballot is concerned, this Court has already answered this question in a judgment of a 5-member Bench of this Court reported as Niaz Ahmad v. Azizuddin & others (PLD 1967 SC 466), where it has been held that secrecy is not absolute and that “the secrecy of the ballot, therefore, has not to be implemented in the ideal or absolute sense but to be tempered by practical considerations necessitated by the processes of election”;*
- (vi) *Furthermore, in order to achieve the mandate of the Election Commission in terms of Article 218(3) read with Article 220 and other enabling provisions of the Constitution and the law, the Election Commission is required to take all available measures including utilizing technologies to fulfil the solemn Constitutional duty to ensure that the election is “conducted honestly, justly, fairly and in accordance with law and that corrupt practices are guarded against”.*

The Election Commission in a meeting held on the same date i.e. 1st March, 2021,

decided to implement the opinion of Hon'ble Supreme Court in letter and spirit and to take all possible measures to fulfill its Constitutional duty to guard against corrupt practices. The Commission, in order to utilize technologies and to develop a mechanism for fulfillment of its Constitutional obligation under Article 218(3) of the Constitution constituted a Committee to prepare recommendations regarding use of technologies in Senate Election within a period of four weeks. Due to time constraint, the Commission also decided to conduct Senate Election scheduled for 3rd March, 2021 as per past practice provided in the Constitution. Accordingly, the Senate Election of 2021 was conducted through secret ballot in free, fair and transparent manner.

Ballot papers for general seats were printed in white color, whereas for the seats reserved for women and Technocrats/ Ulema and non-Muslims were printed in pink, green and yellow colors, respectively. Each ballot paper contained names of contesting candidates in Urdu alphabetical order and box for marking preference against each candidate. There is no provision for allotment of symbol to contesting candidates in the Senate elections. All ballot papers were printed under proper security at the Printing Corporation of Pakistan Press, Islamabad.

Polling station was established in National Assembly Building, Parliament House for Senate election in the Federal Capital. Similarly, for election to the Senate from Provinces, polling stations were established in respective buildings of Provincial Assemblies.

ECP also constituted vigilance committee to ensure transparency in the election besides issuing code of conduct for Senate Elections. Election Commission issued notification of forty eight returned candidates in the official Gazette on 10th March, 2021 in pursuance of Section 124 of the Elections Act, 2017, **(See Annex – II)**



1.4.4 *Vote casting by MPA during Senate Election 2021 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly*

Technology Driven Software Solution

In compliance with the opinion of the Apex Court, a technology driven software solution has been designed and developed by the Commission to be used in Senate Election for the generation of an encrypted QR (Quick Response) code on counterfoil and ballot paper in such a manner that the secrecy of the ballot remains intact but it can be altered to guard against corrupt practices as per opinion of the Supreme Court of Pakistan. The voter identification and its association with the polled vote may be viewable by the Commission as and when required under special circumstances.

While designing and developing the proposed solution, the application security and data encryption & decryption techniques have been considered as a priority. The proposed application has the following features and components.

a) Features

- a. Two-factor biometric authentication;
- b. Data Encryption and Decryption technique;
- c. System Generated Secure QR code-based Ballot paper production, Printing and Quality Check (QC). The Secure QR code is identical on counterfoil and ballot paper and not readable by any person, only Super User authorized by the Commission can read the encrypted information stored inside the printed QR code on the ballot paper; and
- d. A secured method of data decryption has been used by generating Special Key for translating the same into readable format.

b) Components

- a. Secured QR Code-based ballot paper generation, printing on security paper and Quality Check (QC) before issuance of ballot papers to RO;
- b. Scanning module for digitizing and scanning of polled ballot papers and counterfoil, if required; and
- c. Decoding of the Secure QR Code during the scanning process, the system can automatically decode the encrypted QR code for the identification of the Voter by application and the Administrator duly authorized by the Commission can only verify/search the information through the application as required.

c) Recommendation

The Election Commission has recommended to the Federal Government through Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs that in order to enable the Commission to use the aforesaid technology driven software solution for future Senate elections, following proviso may be added in Section 122 of the Elections Act 2017.

“Provided that the Commission may adopt such technology as it deems appropriate to devise a mechanism for printing of ballot papers in such manner that secrecy of ballot papers can be tempered with to guard against the corrupt practices.”

1.5 Senate Bye-Elections - 2021

In terms of Article 224(5) of the Constitution, two bye-elections were held in 2021, to fill the vacant seats in the Senate of Pakistan. The detail of returned candidates is as under:

Vacant seat from Balochistan Province

Sr No.	Reason of Vacancy	Name of the Returned Candidate	Category	Party Affiliation
1	Death of Mst Kalsoom Perveen	Nusrat Shaheen	Women	BAP

Vacant seat from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province

Sr No.	Reason of vacancy	Name of the Returned Candidate	Category	Party Affiliation
1	Resignation tendered by Ayub Afridi	Shaukat Fayaz Ahmed Tarin	General Seat	PTI

2. Local Government Elections

The Election Commission of Pakistan is mandated under Article-140(A) and Article-219 of the Constitution, read with Section 219 (4) of the Elections Act-2017 to conduct local government elections within 120 days after the expiry of its term.

2.1 Punjab Province

Local Government Institutions in Punjab Province completed their term on 31st December, 2021.

2.1.1 Delimitation of Village & Neighbourhood Councils

The Election Commission issued Schedule for delimitation of village and neighborhood councils on 04-02-2021. Despite issuing the Schedule with 18.02.2021 as date of publication of preliminary list of constituencies, the delimitation process could not be completed owing to promulgation of the Punjab Local Government (Amendment) Ordinance, 2021 dated 03-02-2021.

Repeated correspondence was made with the Government of Punjab for provision of Act & Rules on the basis of which delimitation and elections to the local government were to be conducted.

The Hon'ble Supreme Court of Pakistan vide its order dated 25-03-2021 restored the local government Institutions, established under the Punjab Local Government Act, 2013. The Government of Punjab implemented the said order vide Notification dated 17-10-2021. As a result of restoration of local government Institutions, the Election Commission issued necessary notifications of various seats of Chairman and Vice-chairman lying vacant due to death/resignation.

The Government of Punjab promulgated an Ordinance namely "the Punjab local government Ordinance, 2021" vide Gazette Notification dated 11.12.2021. ECP provided its feedback on the Ordinance and Punjab local government Delimitation of Village & Neighborhood (draft) Rules, 2021 on 14-12-2021. In pursuance of the Ordinance ECP started its proceedings relating to delimitation of village and neighborhood councils.

2.1.2 Appointment of Delimitation Committees & Delimitation Authorities

Delimitation Committees and Delimitation Authorities were notified again by the ECP on 27-12-2021 for carrying out delimitation of village and neighborhood councils in Punjab Province.

2.1.3 Delimitation Programme

The Schedule for delimitation of village & neighborhood councils was issued on 27-12-2021 and delimitation process was completed on 22.03.2022 accordingly. Schedule of the delimitation is given as below:

Sr. No.	Activity	Timeline
1	Completion of all the administrative arrangements including procurement of maps, fresh notification of demarcation under Section-7 of the PLGO, 2021 and other relevant data.	27-12-2021 to 10-01-2022
2	Preparation of Preliminary List of Constituencies by the Delimitation Committees	11-01-2022 to 09-02-2022
3	Publication of Preliminary List of Constituencies by the Delimitation Committee for inviting objections.	10-02-2022
4	Filing of objections by the voters concerned before the Delimitation Authorities.	11-02-2022 to 25-02-2022
5	Disposal of objections by the Delimitation Authorities	11-02-2022 to 12-03-2022
6	Last date for communication of decision of Delimitation Authorities to the Delimitation Committees	13-03-2022 to 19-03-2022
7	Final Publication of list of Constituencies by the Delimitation Committees	22-03-2022

2.1.4 Challenges Faced Regarding Conduct of LG Elections in Punjab

The Provincial Government enacted Punjab Local Government Act, 2019 and Punjab Village Panchayats & Neighborhood Councils Act, 2019 on 04-05-2019. In pursuance of Section 3(1) of PLGA, 2019, all the Local Government institutions established under repealed PLGA, 2013 were dissolved vide Provincial Government notification dated 04.05.2019.

The Hon'ble Supreme Court declared Section-3 of the Punjab Local Government Act, 2019 as ultra vires of the Constitution vide Order dated 25.03.2021. Consequently, the local governments as were existing in the Province of Punjab prior to promulgation of the said Section were restored and allowed to complete term in accordance with law.

2.1.5 Challenges faced by ECP on account of Government of Punjab

In the light of the order of Hon'ble Supreme Court of Pakistan dated 25.03.2021, local government election in Punjab Province were required to be held in April, 2022. In this regard, the ECP initiated correspondence and held different consultative meetings with the Government of Punjab for conduct of local government elections. The Government of Punjab was asked for consultative meeting regarding fixation of date for local government elections. In response, the Punjab Government requested for grant of time due to Covid-19. Some of the challenges faced by the ECP are as under:

1. The ECP carried out delimitation and for the purpose of assigning name to the village panchayats and neighborhood councils, the Provincial Government was approached so that the Preliminary list of village panchayats and neighborhood councils could be published for inviting representations from the public; however, the same was not provided due to which the delimitation process remained incomplete.
2. The Government of Punjab was asked on 18.01.2021 to incorporate necessary amendments in the Punjab Local Government (Election) Rules, 2020 wherein initial draft of Punjab Local Government (Election) Rules, 2021 was provided after lapse of four months.
3. The tier of village panchayats and neighborhood councils was replaced with village & neighborhood councils through Promulgation of an Ordinance dated 03.02.2021, namely Punjab Local Government (Amendment) Ordinance, 2021. The Government of Punjab was required to determine the number of VC/NC in accordance with the said Ordinance.
4. Due to promulgation of Ordinance dated 03.02.2021 by the Provincial Government amendments were made in the Punjab Local Government Act, 2019 altogether introducing tier of village council/neighborhood council in place of village panchayats and neighborhood council. Hence, steps taken by the ECP for conduct of local Government elections i.e. Delimitation of village panchayats and neighborhood councils, Issuance of Notification of Electoral Groups and Appointment of Authorized Officers etc. became redundant.
5. The Punjab Local Government (Third Amendment) Ordinance, 2021 was promulgated on 13.04.2021 whereby town committees were restored with population threshold of 30,000 and two new Metropolitan Corporations i.e. Gujrat and Sialkot were also created. This made the delimitation process more complicated.
6. The Provincial Government was asked on 18.05.2021 to intimate the status of PLG (Amendment) Ordinance, 2021. The Government of Punjab vide letter dated 10.06.2021 informed that the said Ordinance had expired on 04.05.2021.

7. The ECP through repeated correspondence asked Government of Punjab for provision of Act, Rules, documents and maps for carrying out delimitation of local government constituencies.
8. The Government of Punjab promulgated a new Ordinance namely "The Punjab Local Government Ordinance, 2021 on 11.12.2021 and introduced another Local Government System comprising of Metropolitan Corporation, District councils and village & neighborhood councils.

It is evident from the above that Government of Punjab throughout the year 2021, remained engaged in issuing different Ordinances, which itself is a temporary law and as a result the ECP was left with no option other than to restart the process from the scratch. Frequent changes in local government laws reflect lack of political will on the part of Government of Punjab to conduct the local government elections in the Province.

2.2 Cantonment Boards

2.2.1 Delimitation

The delimitation in respect of 35 out of 42 Cantonment Boards was completed by the ECP in 2020. However, the Ministry of Defence requested for postponement of the delimitation process of seven (07) Cantonment Boards i.e. Bahawalpur, Kamra, Taxila, Shorkot, Malir, Korangi and Abbottabad due to reclassification and change of number of wards. Accordingly, the ECP issued the following schedule on 30-12-2020:

Sr.No	Activity	Timeline
1	Completion of all the administrative arrangements including procurement of maps and relevant data.	04-01-2021 to 08-01-2021
2	Preparation of Preliminary List of constituencies by the Delimitation Committees	11-01-2021 to 18-01-2021
3	Publication of Preliminary List of constituencies by the Delimitation Committee for inviting Objections.	19-01-2021
4	Filing of objections by the voters concerned before the Delimitation Authorities.	20-01-2021 to 03-02-2021
5	Disposal of objections by the Delimitation Authorities	Till 18-02-2021
6	Last date for communication of decision of Delimitation Authorities to the Delimitation Committees	25-02-2021
7	Final Publication of list of constituencies by the Delimitation Committee	26-02-2021

The final list of constituencies of the seven Cantonments was published on 26-02-2021.

2.2.2 Consultative Process

Several meetings were held with the Ministry of Defence regarding conduct of local government Elections in Cantonment Boards between April, 2021 to August, 2021. The Ministry of Defence was approached for fixation of date for the conduct of local government elections in Cantonment Boards. The Ministry of Defence responded in June, 2021 under Section-58(2) of the Cantonment Ordinance, 2002.

2.2.3 Election Programme

The Election Programme in 42 Cantonment Boards was notified on 09-07-2021 wherein poll date was fixed for 12-09-2021. The Schedule is given below:

Sr.No.	Activity	Date
1	Notice for invitation of nomination papers to be issued by the Returning Officers	15-07-2021
2	Receipt of nomination papers by the Returning Officers	26-07-2021 to 29-07-2021
3	Publication of notice of all the nomination papers received	30-07-2021
4	Scrutiny of nomination papers and publication of names of validly nominated candidates by the Returning Officers	31-07-2021 to 30-08-2021
5	Filing of appeals against acceptance / rejection of Nomination papers.	04-08-2021 to 07-08-2021
6	Last date for disposal of appeals by the Appellate Authorities	10-08-2021
7	Publication of revised list of validly nominated candidates	11-08-2021
8	Last date for withdrawal of candidature	12-08-2021
9	Publication of list of contesting candidates with allotted Symbols	13-08-21
10	Polling day	12-09-2021
11	Announcement of provisional results by the ROs	12-09-2021
12	Declaration of official results by the Returning Officers	17-09-2021

Under the relevant provisions laid down in the Act & Rules of Cantonment Board elections, it is responsibility of Returning Officer to prepare a list of polling stations of all the constituencies falling under his jurisdiction and submit it before the DRO for approval and publication. After necessary modification in the proposed list, the DRO approves and notifies the same. The ECP issued necessary guidelines regarding preparation of list of polling stations and appointment of polling personnel on 09-07-2021. The detail of polling stations and polling booths established during Cantonment Board elections is as under:

Province	Total Cantt. Boards	Total Wards	No. of Polling Stations	No. of Polling Booths
Punjab	20	119	1155	3338
Sindh	8	54	325	1247
KPK	11	37	131	400
Balochistan	03	09	37	111
Total	42	219	1648	5096

2.2.4 Appointment of District Returning Officers, Returning Officers & Assistant Returning Officers

DROs, ROs and AROs were notified on 22-06-2021 for the conduct of local government elections in Cantonment Board as per detail given below:

Province	Total Cantt Boards	Total Wards	District Returning Officers	Returning Officers	Assistant Returning Officers
Punjab	20	119	12	26	52
Sindh	8	54	07	11	21
KPK	11	37	07	11	11
Balochistan	03	09	03	03	04
Total	42	219	29	51	88

2.2.5 Appellate Authorities

Appellate Authorities were appointed for hearing and disposal of appeals against acceptance/rejection of nomination papers by Returning Officers. The number of Appellate Authorities is as under:

Province	Total Cantt Boards	Total Wards	No. of Appellate Authorities
Punjab	20	119	12
Sindh	8	54	06
KPK	11	37	08
Balochistan	03	09	03
Total	42	219	29

2.2.6 Code of Conduct

To provide level-playing field to all political parties and contesting candidates, ECP issued Codes of Conduct for Political Parties/Contesting Candidates, Media, Security Personnel and Election Observers.

Number of contesting candidates and un-opposed candidates were tabulated after the scrutiny of nominated candidates and disposal of appeals, which is given below:

Province	No. of Validly Nominated Candidates	No. of Candidates who Withdrew their Candidature	No. of Contesting Candidates	No. of Un-opposed Candidates
Punjab	1197	273	920	4
Sindh	546	121	425	0
KPK	220	43	173	4
Balochistan	48	1	46	1
Total	2011	438	1564	9

Polling staff was appointed by the concerned Returning Officer from amongst the officers of Federal/Provincial Governments, Autonomous Bodies, Corporations and Authorities. The detail is given below:

Province	Presiding Officer	Assistant Presiding Officer	Polling Officers	Total
Punjab	1189	3434	3434	8057
Sindh	325	1247	1247	2819
KPK	133	402	403	938
Balochistan	37	111	109	257
Total	1684	5194	5193	12071

As a result of elections held on 12-09-2021, the returned candidates were notified on 01-10-2021 as per detail below:

Province	No. of Cantonment Boards	No. of Wards	No. of Returned Candidates	No. of Vacant Seats
Punjab	20	119	112	07
Sindh	8	54	53	01
KPK	11	37	37	-
Balochistan	03	09	09	-
Total	42	219	211	08

2.2.7 Election to the Special Interest (Reserved) Seats

Election Programme for special interest seats was notified on 01-10-2021 and poll date was fixed for 26-10-2021. The returned candidates were notified on 11-11-2021 as per

following details:

Province	No. of Cantonment Boards	Category of Seat	No. of Returned Candidates
Punjab	20	Peasants/Youth/Workers/Women	12
		Non-Muslims	15
Sindh	08	Peasants/Youth/Workers/Women	04
		Non-Muslims	06
KPK	11	Peasants/Youth/Workers/Women	02
		Non-Muslims	08
Balochistan	03	Peasants/Youth/Workers/Women	01
		Non-Muslims	01
Total	42		49

2.2.8 Cooperation by the Ministry of Defence

The Election Commission appreciates the cooperation and assistance extended by the Ministry of Defence and Director General Military Land & Cantonment Department during conduct of local government elections in Cantonment Boards. The Commission also acknowledges the support of the Ministry of Interior towards conduct of elections in a peaceful manner.

2.3 Sindh Province

As a run-up to the conduct of local government elections in Sindh, the Election Commission performed several key activities. Efforts were made to get the final results of 6th National Population and Housing Census-2017 published by the Council of Common Interests (CCI). The CCI in its meeting held on 12th April 2021, approved the official publication of final census results-2017 and notified it on 6th May, 2021.

The Commission asked the Sindh Government for provision of necessary data, maps and other documents required for delimitation process and conduct of local government elections.

Initially, the Sindh Government held that they had not received the official result of population census. Besides, expressing serious reservations over the officially published results of Census-2017. The Provincial Government took the stance that the reservations in this regard were forwarded to the Parliament under Article-154 of the Constitution for decision. The Sindh Government also attempted to seek legal cover under PLD2016 Sindh (63), where in it was ruled that amendments in law be started eighteen months prior to the announcement of the Election Programme and the process of delimitation be initiated one year prior to issuance of the Election Programme. Afterwards, the Sindh Government sought time to make amendments in the Sindh Local Government Act, 2013.

ECP proposed an amendment in Rule-24 (3) of Sindh Local Councils (Election) Rules, 2015 where *Representation of the Peoples (Conduct of Election) Rules 1977* was mentioned and necessary reference to the Election Rules 2017, regarding the specimen of ballot paper i.e. Form-35, was required. The Government of Sindh made the amendment on 16th June, 2021. ECP further proposed an amendment in Section-71 of the Sindh Local Government Act, 2013, where *Representation of the Peoples Act, 1976*, was mentioned and necessary reference to the Elections Act, 2017 was required, to bring it in conformity with the Elections Act, 2017. The Government of Sindh made amendments on 11th August, 2021.

The ECP constituted Delimitation Committees and Delimitation Authorities in respect of Sindh Province for carrying out delimitation of constituencies on 1st June, 2021. Later, ECP withdrew the said notification and reconstituted Delimitation Committees for carrying out delimitation of local councils/wards for conduct of local government elections. ECP also issued delimitation schedule accordingly on 28th December, 2021.

In order to expedite the matter, the Commission after regular hearing directed the Provincial Government to provide the requisite data/notifications for delimitation purpose and also to make necessary amendments in the Sindh Local Government Act 2013 within a period of one month. However, the same was not provided and a notice was issued on 06-11-2021 to the Chief Secretary for appearing before the Commission. The Secretary, local government, Sindh appeared before the Commission on 10th November, 2021 and

requested for grant of time for necessary legislation. After hearing the case, the Commission directed the Government of Sindh to provide necessary legislation and the requisite data as well as notifications within two weeks, failing which the Commission would initiate the delimitation process with effect from 1st December, 2021 under the existing Law.

However, the Government of Sindh requested to grant 15 days time for making certain amendments in the Sindh Local Government Act, 2013 in consultation with political parties. Therefore, the delimitation schedule was held in abeyance for 15 days vide notification dated 9-12-2021 and revised delimitation Schedule was issued on 28th December, 2021 and delimitation process was resumed from 31st December, 2021.

2.3.1 Challenges in the way for the Conduct of Local Government Elections

The Election Commission faced number of challenges during the preparation for the conduct of local government elections in Sindh, as mentioned below:

i. Legal limitations

The Government of Sindh took the stance that as per Sindh Local Government Act, 2013, delimitation could not be carried out on the basis of provisional results of Population Census-2017. The case was fixed before the Commission for hearing on 11th February, 2021 and a notice was issued to the Provincial Government. Notice was also issued to Attorney General for assistance of the Commission. The Hon'ble Commission heard the parties and issued an order on 12th February, 2021 for deferment of delimitation process till the meeting of CCI.

ii. Reluctance on part of the Government of Sindh

After publication of final results of the 6th National & Housing Census-2017 on 6th May, 2021, the Commission asked the Sindh Government for provision of necessary data for delimitation process and conduct of local government elections. Initially, the Sindh Government held that they had not received the results. Subsequently, the Sindh Government expressed serious reservations on the officially published results of Census-2017 resulting in further delay in the conduct of local government elections.

2.4 Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province

Delimitation of village / neighborhood councils in 28 districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was completed and published on 25.10.2020. Delimitation in six districts i.e. Abbottabad, Bannu, D.I.Khan, Kohat, Mardan and Swat was published on 08.03.2021 due to late issuance of notification regarding the extent of city councils by the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Programme to carry out delimitation in district Peshawar was issued on 27.01.2021. Final list of village / neighbourhood councils was to be published on 13.04.2021. However, on the stance of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Government before the Commission and the Hon'ble Supreme Court of Pakistan in CMA No.6762 & 2797 of 2020 and Civil Appeal No. 20 of 2014, that the delimitation of local governments could not be carried out on the provisional census data, 2017, the ECP vide orders dated 11.02.2021 and 12.02.2021 deferred the final publication till the next meeting of Council of Common Interests (CCI).

Hearing of CMA No. 6762/2020 2797/2020 and CA No.20/2014

A suit was filed by Mr. Taimur Hussain Amin & others in the Court of learned Civil Judge-III, Peshawar on 21.04.2011 stating therein that they had purchased vide sale mutation No. 8482 attested on 11.01.2008, property measuring 1 Kanal and 10 Marlas, bearing Khasra No. 172, situated in Mauza Tukra No. 1, Peshawar City, four functionaries of Municipal Corporation, Peshawar (Corporation) were arrayed as defendants. The case was set for hearing before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of Pakistan on different dates i.e. 18.11.2020, 04.02.2021 and 15.03.2021. In the final hearing dated 15.03.2021 the Hon'ble Supreme Court took suo-moto action whereby it was directed that;

“The aforesaid responsibility of the Chief Election Commissioner and the Election Commission of Pakistan (‘ECP’), which is a Constitutional body, is reiterated in Article 222(f) of the Constitution and also finds mention in the Act. To abide by the Constitution and the law is not optional but obligatory. All Constitutional office holders before entering their offices take oath, including the Chief Election Commissioner and the members of the ECP whose oath requires them to act ‘in accordance with the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the law’, but unfortunately, neither they, the Chief Minister nor the Members of the Provincial Cabinet are abiding by the Act and the Constitution as local government elections are not being held and the people continue to be deprived of democracy. This grave violation of the Act and the Constitution must be brought to an end and the Act and the Constitution must be complied with. Copy of the order passed today be sent to the Chief Election Commissioner, the Members of ECP, the Chief Minister and every member of the Provincial Cabinet to ensure compliance with the Act and the Constitution and their respective legal and Constitutional duties and to

the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, through its Chief Secretary, and to the said Secretary. Notices be also sent to the learned Advocate-General, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the learned Attorney-General for Pakistan to advise their respective governments to abide by the law and the Constitution and to stop depriving the people of their democratic right to elect their local government representatives.”

2.4.1 Response of the Commission

On 15.03.2021, Mr. Afnan Kareem Kundi Legal Counsel together with Secretary and DG (Law) of the Commission represented the Election Commission of Pakistan and stated that the Commission was ready to conduct local government elections in the province of Punjab. However, on 3rd February 2021, the Punjab Local Government (Amendment) Ordinance, 2021 (‘the Amendment Ordinance’) comprising 70 pages was promulgated, which ‘made the Commission’s earlier efforts towards carrying out delimitation, enlistment of Electoral Groups and subsequent conduct of local government elections, redundant’. Similarly, in the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the Commission had made requisite arrangements to hold local government elections and is ready to hold such local elections. However, Mr. Shumail Ahmed Butt, the learned Advocate General, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa stated that the process of delimitation in his province, which is dependent on the approval of the census by the CCI followed by delimitation, has to be completed first and only thereafter the local government elections can be held.

Apparently, the position taken by the province of Sindh is the same as that taken by the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Regrettably, there is no representation on behalf of the province of Sindh. However, the Commission does not subscribe to the views of these two provinces. In the case of Balochistan, the stay order issued by the High Court of Balochistan operating in the province of Balochistan had been dismissed and the stay has been vacated vide order dated 22 February 2021, which is confirmed by Mr. Arbab Muhammad Tahir, the learned Advocate General, Balochistan. Therefore, the legal impediment towards holding local government elections in the province of Balochistan stands removed. Mr. Kundi further stated on behalf of the Commission that the tenure of the local government in Islamabad Capital Territory has expired recently and there is no issue with regard to holding of elections in the Islamabad Capital Territory.

On the direction of the Hon’ble Supreme Court, the Commission appeared before the Court and responded to the queries of the Court.

Finally, the August Supreme Court passed the order of holding local government election in all the provinces except Punjab, the operative Para of which is as under:

“All executive authorities in the Federation and in the provinces are mandated by Article 220 of the Constitution to assist the Commissioner and the Election Commission in the discharge of his or their functions.

Therefore, we expect that local government elections will be held in these three provinces and the Islamabad Capital Territory as soon as possible.”

The Council of Common Interests (CCI) on 12.04.2021 officially approved publication of final census result, 2017 and ECP in its meeting on 28.04.2021, passed following decisions in respect of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province:-

- Resume the process of delimitation in seven districts from where it was halted/ stopped in the light of the decision taken by the CCI regarding official publication of Census-2017.
- Delimitation in 28 districts may be considered as completed/ valid and necessary steps for conduct of elections in such districts may be taken, accordingly.

Timeline for completion of remaining activities of delimitation process in 07 districts was issued where delimitation in (06) districts was completed on 04.06.2021 while in district Peshawar, it was completed on 08.07.2021. Detail of representations filed against the preliminary delimitation is as under:

Number of Districts	No. of Representations or Objections		
	Filed	Accepted	Rejected
35	218	125	93

2.4.2 Provision of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Local Councils (Conduct of Elections) Rules, 2020

The Provincial Government, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was approached vide letters dated 04-02-2021 and 19-02-2021 for provision of notified copies of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Local Councils (Conduct of Elections) Rules, 2020 before 08-02-2021. The Secretary (LG&RDD) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa informed that the said Rules were approved by Provincial Cabinet on 24.02.2021 and were notified in April, 2021, accordingly.

2.4.3 Consultative Process for the Determination of Poll Date

Consultative meetings were held with the Provincial Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on 10.06.2021, 29.07.2021 and 10.08.2021 for determination of poll date as provided under Section 219(3) of the Elections Act, 2017 read with Rule 15(1) of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Local Councils (Conduct of Elections) Rules, 2021, wherein, the Provincial Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa requested that local government elections in the Province may be conducted in March, 2022. The Commission did not agree with the proposal and directed that the matter may be placed before the Provincial Cabinet and decision be communicated to this Commission.

On receipt of no response from Provincial Government, the matter was fixed for hearing before the Election Commission whereupon following order was passed on 21.09.2021:

“In view of statements made by the representatives of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, proposing the local government elections in phases i.e. first phase in November- December, 2021, the provincial government is directed to share the action plan with the Election Commission indicating therein the districts/constituencies wherein elections would be conducted in first phase and also the plan of phase- wise elections in other districts at the earliest without waiting for the formal orders/instructions from the Commission.”

On non-compliance of the above order by the Provincial Government, the matter was again discussed in the internal meeting of the Commission held on 05.10.2021 and it was decided that a meeting may be convened with the Provincial Government on 14.10.2021.

The Hon’ble Commission in its meeting held on 14.10.2021 did not agree with the proposal of Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for holding separate elections of tehsil councils, after the elections of village/neighbourhood councils. However, it was proposed by the Commission that:-

- i. 1st phase elections of VCs/NCs together with the tehsil councils will be conducted in December, 2021 so that all the local governments could be functional in all such districts, where the election proceedings are completed.
- ii. Election process in the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa will be completed by March, 2022.
- iii. Commission further clarified that after this meeting, ECP will announce the dates for 1st and 2nd phase of local government elections as consultation process has been completed today. However, on the request of representative of Provincial Government to give one- week time so that they could give feedback to the ECP, the Commission clarified that ECP is all set for conducting elections and Provincial Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa may provide detail of two-phased elections within one week to the Commission.

Pursuant to the decision of the Commission, election schedule for the 1st phase of local government elections in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was issued on 25.10.2021 along with notification of DROs, ROs and AROs.

2.4.4 Conduct of Lower Tier Elections on Party Basis

ORDER OF HON'BLE PESHAWAR HIGH COURT DATED 02.11.2021

Writ petitions Nos. 3605-P/2019, 3772-P/2019 and 5051-P/2019 were filed before the Hon'ble Peshawar High Court seeking the intervention of the High Court to conduct the local government elections at lower tier i.e. VC/NC on party basis. The Peshawar High Court passed an order dated 2nd November, 2021 by striking down Section-27(2) of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Local Government Act-2013 being ultra vires of Article-17 of the Constitution of Pakistan and thereby ordered that the elections for village and neighborhood councils shall be held on party basis. Furthermore, Provincial Government Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Election Commission of Pakistan were directed to issue necessary directions to the Returning Officers to accept the nomination papers from the candidates contesting elections for VC/NC on party basis.

2.4.5 Implementation of the Order of the Court

In pursuance of the Order of the Hon'ble Peshawar High Court, the Commission after conducting meeting with the Ministers of Provincial Cabinet of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Advocate General, issued instructions to all ROs to allot party symbols to contesting candidates of political parties at VC/NC level. Heads of political parties were directed on 5th November, 2021, to nominate authorized person at district level for issuance of party ticket.

2.4.6 CPLA filed by the Government of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

The Provincial Government filed a CPLA in the Hon'ble Supreme Court of Pakistan against the order of the Peshawar High Court dated 02.11.2021 with the plea that in general category at VC / NC level, three general members shall be elected and it is practically impossible for any political party to nominate three persons in the same category having same election symbol.

The August Supreme Court of Pakistan directed the Election Commission to come up in the next hearing with the clarification that how an illiterate voter will differentiate between the multiple members of same political party on a ballot paper. In the light of the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, the Election Commission devised a mechanism to print photographs of multiple contesting candidates in case of same political party and presented sample of ballot paper before the Hon'ble Court on 30th November, 2021. The Hon'ble Court was apprised that out of total 2382 NCs / VCs, multiple candidates of same political party are contesting election in the general category in only 67 NCs / VCs and for that, the Election Commission would print their pictures on the ballot paper so that an

illiterate voter may differentiate between them while casting their vote. The Hon'ble Court agreed with the proposal of the Election Commission. The Commission in light of judgment of the Court issued necessary directions to all relevant authorities for allotment of symbols and printing of ballot papers, accordingly.

To conduct free and fair local government elections in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and to provide proper guidance to the DROs and ROs, necessary instructions ranging from filing of nomination papers to consolidation of result were issued by the Commission.

2.4.7 Statistics of First Phase Elections

Statistics relating to DROs, ROs, AROs, registered voters, number of Tehsils/NCs/VCS, number of polling stations, number of polling personnel and number of contesting candidates during 1st phase of local government elections in 17 districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa held on 19th December, 2021 are as under:

Number of DROs/ROs and AROs

No. of DROs	No. of ROs	No. of AROs
17	331	397

Number of Registered Voters

Male	Female	Total
7015767	5653095	12668862

Number of Tehsil/Village/Neighbourhood Councils

No. of Tehsil/City Councils	No. of Village/Neighbourhood councils
66	2382

Number of Polling Stations and Polling Booths

Number of polling stations	Number of Polling Booths
9223	30101

Number and Nature of Polling Stations

Normal	Sensitive	Highly Sensitive
2528	4188	2507

Number of Polling Staff

Number of Presiding Officer	Number of Assistant Presiding Officer	Number of Polling Officer	Number of Naib Qasids
9223	90303	30101	9223

NUMBER OF CONTESTING CANDIDATES					
Tehsil/City Council	General	Women	Peasants/Workers	Youth	Non-Muslims
689	19282	3905	7513	6081	282

2.4.8 Electoral Violence

Various unpleasant incidents of electoral violence occurred before as well as on poll day i.e. 19-12-2021 due to which results could not be concluded in 20 tehsil councils and 87 village councils of 12 major districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, especially Bannu, Karak, Kohat, Khyber and Lakki Marwat. The Commission took serious notice of untoward incidents and ordered for re-poll at 237 polling stations.

Violence in Bannu, Kohat, Khyber and Karak was of serious nature where violent mob attacked polling stations, polling staff along with security personnel deployed on the polling stations was abducted and polling bags were snatched from polling staff. As a result, re-poll was held on 287 polling stations in these 05 districts.

- a. In district Bannu on 18th and 19th December, 2021, unfortunate incidents took place in tehsil Bakka Khel where polling stations were attacked and polling staff was abducted along with security personnel deployed on the polling stations. Similarly, in tehsil Domel, supporters of the contesting candidates disturbed the peaceful atmosphere in 08 polling stations and snatched polling bags from polling staff and disturbed polling process.
- b. In district Kohat, the whole area of tehsil sub-division Darra Adam Khel was disturbed due to violent mob attacks on polling stations. The violent mob snatched the election material from the polling staff and burnt it. Resultantly, the election was not conducted on 54 polling stations in Darra Adam Khel.
- c. In district Karak, violent mobs in various parts of the district disturbed the polling process. Especially, tehsil Takht Nasrati was disturbed seriously by this violence. Polling bags were snatched and polling material was burnt. The Presiding Officers were not allowed to prepare the result. In some areas, female voters were not allowed to

cast their votes. Resultantly, re-poll was ordered on 56 polling stations in district Karak in which 38 polling stations belonged to tehsil Takht Nasrati.

- d. In district Khyber, due to precarious Law and Order situation, particularly in the remote areas of the district, various incidents occurred in 30 polling stations on 19.12.2021 due to which polling process was stopped and results were not concluded. The police personnel deployed were insufficient and owing to large number of miscreants, they could not control the situation. Re-poll on 30 polling stations in tehsil Landi Kotal and Barra of district Khyber was ordered.
- e. The Election Commission took cognizance of all such cases of violence and poll disturbance by initiating FIRs, lodging criminal complaints in the Session Courts and disqualifying contesting candidates of tehsil and neighborhood councils.

Keeping in view the above, Civil Armed Forces were deployed outside all polling stations established for re-poll held on 13-02-2022 in Darra Adam Khel, Bakka Khel, Landi Kotal, Barra and Karak and re-poll was held successfully in a peaceful manner.

2.5 Balochistan Province

2.5.1 Background

On the expiry of term of local government, the Government of Balochistan was sensitized for bringing Local Government Act, 2010 in conformity with the Elections Act-2017. The Provincial Government was also asked to provide details of local government institutions / tiers, maps and other relevant data. Subsequently, the Chief Secretary, Balochistan was approached for the purpose and Provincial Election Commissioner, Balochistan also held several meetings in 2019 for obtaining detail of all tiers of the local governments, maps and other relevant data.

In order to initiate first pre-requisite for conduct of election in the province, Election Commission decided to use provisional census data of 2017 for carrying-out delimitation. Accordingly, Delimitation Committees were notified by the Commission on 17th January, 2019. As per timelines, delimitation process was to be completed by 30th March, 2019.

The Chief Election Commissioner of Pakistan conveyed to the Chief Minister Balochistan that the Commission is serious in taking practical steps to conduct local government elections in the province within stipulated timelines under the law. The Provincial Election Commissioner, Balochistan held a follow-up meeting with the Secretary, local government Balochistan where he was assured full cooperation in that regard.

Meanwhile, a Constitutional Petition No. 143/2019 titled “President Balochistan High Court Bar Association vs. Chief Secretary, Balochistan & Others” was filed on 11th February, 2019 in Balochistan High Court. Prayer of the petition was as under:-

- I. To constrain the ECP from carrying-out the delimitation process by keeping in view disproportion/incompatibility between the existing population of the rural/urban councils of districts of Baluchistan and the Baluchistan Local Government Act, 2010.
- II. Directions be issued to the Chief Secretary Balochistan and Secretary LG Balochistan to take up matter in the Provincial Cabinet for deliberation and then obtain further approval from the floor of the Balochistan Assembly.

On the very next day of filing of petition, the notification issued by the Commission regarding constitution of Delimitation Committees was suspended by the Hon’ble Balochistan High Court. This suspension halted the process of delimitation and ultimately conduct of local government elections in the Province.

Despite suspension of process of delimitation, efforts and search of new avenues were not stopped by the Election Commission. The Provincial Government was again engaged in December, 2020 by sending a draft proposal with respect to amendments in

Balochistan Local Government Act, 2010 and Rules in order to bring it in conformity with the Elections Act, 2017 and the Election Rules, 2017. However, in a meeting held on 2nd February, 2021, the Chief Secretary, Balochistan took stance that delimitation cannot be carried out in the absence of officially notified results of Census, 2017. In the meanwhile, the Election Commission directed its Law Wing to pursue the pending case before the Balochistan High Court and to approach the Provincial Government to expedite process of amendments required in the law.

The Chief Secretary, Government of Balochistan appeared before the Commission on 12-02- 2021 and maintained that under Section 17(2) of the Elections Act, 2017 delimitation could not be carried out in the absence of final publication of Census results, 2017. The Commission after hearing all the concerned parties deferred the delimitation process till the meeting of CCI. In the meanwhile, the August Supreme Court of Pakistan while hearing a Civil Miscellaneous Application (CMA) bearing number 6762/2020 “Administrator Municipal Corporation, Peshawar vs. Taimur Hussain Amin and others” took suo-moto notice of non-holding of local government elections in the provinces. With regard to holding elections in the province of Sindh, Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the Islamabad Capital Territory, on 15.03.2021 the relevant para of August Court directed as under:-

“19. Under the circumstances it is clear that this matter may be bifurcated into two; one with regard to the province of Punjab and the other with regard to the other provinces and the Islamabad Capital Territory. We dispose of this matter with regard to the holding of local government elections in the province of Balochistan where their term expired on 27 January 2019, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa where their term expired on 28 August 2019, Sindh, where their term expired on 20 August 2020 and the Islamabad Capital Territory, where their term expired on 4 March 2021 in terms of the assurance of the Commission that it is ready to hold local government elections therein. It is pointed out that all executive authorities in the Federation and in the provinces are mandated by Article 220 of the Constitution to assist the Commissioner and the Election Commission in the discharge of his or their functions. Therefore, we expect that local government elections will be held in these three provinces and the Islamabad Capital Territory as soon as possible.”

The Apex Court further observed in paragraph 6 of the order as follows:-

“The matter of holding local government elections lies within

the domain of the Commission as per Article 219(d) of the Constitution and a province cannot dictate to the Commission, if and/or when, the same can be held. On the contrary, Article 220 of the Constitution mandates that, 'it shall be the duty of all executive authorities in the Federation and in the Provinces to assist the Commissioner and the Election Commission in the discharge of his or their functions.' In case the Federation and/or the Province(s) create hurdles in the way of the Commission holding elections, they will be violating the Constitution, which may attract serious consequences."

The Hon'ble Balochistan High Court vide order dated 22.02.2021 vacated its stay order in the C.P No. 142/2019, whereby the notification of the Delimitation Committees, notified by the Commission for carrying out delimitation, was suspended on 12.02.2019. The Government of Balochistan vide letter dated 19-03-2021, requested the Commission to withdraw its notification dated 21.01.2019, whereby revenue limits and number of local government institutions was frozen which was acceded to vide notification dated 31.03.2021.

The Government of Balochistan vide letter dated 03.05.2021, was asked for provision of maps and other relevant data for carrying out delimitation of local government institutions. Meanwhile, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics notified official results of Census-2017 on 06.05.2021 and the Commission issued a reminder to the Secretary, local government, Balochistan on 20.05.2021 regarding provision of maps and other relevant data.

After official publication of results of Census-2017, the Commission notified Delimitation Committees and Delimitation Authorities on 31.05.2021. In the meeting held on 27.05.2021 under the chairmanship of the Secretary ECP, the Secretary, local government, Balochistan informed that the proposed amendments in Balochistan Local Government Act 2010 have been placed before the Provincial Cabinet and in view of increased population in Census-2017, changes were required to be made in the existing tiers and number of seats in the local governments.

The Commission convened a meeting on 10.08.2021 with the Chief Secretary, Secretary local government and PEC Balochistan regarding conduct of elections in the province. In the said meeting, the Provincial Government was given time frame of one month for making necessary legislation and provision of required notifications to the Commission. Owing to non-compliance the matter was placed before the Commission for regular hearing.

On 03-11-2021, the representatives of province again took the stance before the Commission that the subject of delimitation of constituencies of local governments was very

much sensitive as demographical, geographical and political factors are involved therein and the province is in a better position to delimit the constituencies of the local governments. Furthermore, Article 142(a) of the Constitution gives exclusive powers to Majlis-e-Shoora (Parliament) to make laws with respect to any matter in the Federal Legislative List, whereas, the subject of delimitation is not included in the Federal Legislative List, therefore, the Parliament cannot make law in respect of delimitation and it is sole prerogative of the province.

The Hon'ble Commission vide its order dated 03.11.2021 under the command of Constitution and law, directed the Chief Secretary, Balochistan and the Secretary local government to provide the requisite details of all urban and rural tiers of local councils, criteria of constitution of councils along with maps and notifications to the Commission within two weeks positively. Alternatively, the Commission shall initiate the delimitation process in the province of Balochistan with effect from 06-12-2021 under the existing applicable laws.

2.5.2 Delimitation

ECP in partial modification of its notification dated 31-05-2021, reconstituted the Delimitation Committees and Delimitation Authorities on 17-11-2021. The delimitation schedule was issued on 18.11.2021 and the actual work of delimitation commenced from 21.12.2021. The Provincial Government provided revised number of union councils/wards on 22-12-2021. Instructions were issued on 27.12.2021 for carrying out delimitation based on the number of union councils/wards as provided by Provincial Government of Balochistan.

2.5.3 Challenges in Conduct of Local Government Elections in Balochistan

A number of challenges arose for the Election Commission during preparation for the conduct of local government elections in Balochistan, detail whereof is given below:

- **Publication of Final Results of Population Census 2017**

On 02-02-2021, in the meeting of the Commission, the Chief Secretary, Balochistan took the stance that delimitation cannot be carried out by the Commission in the absence of official publication of results of Census-2017. The Commission directed the Provincial Government to expedite the process of legislation/amendments in the Local Government Act, 2010 and Rules. The Secretary, Ministry of Inter Provincial Coordination, was called for assistance to the Commission in the hearing on 11-02-2021 regarding publication of official result of census 2017. He informed that the meeting of the Council of Common Interests (CCI) was likely to be held in the first or second week of March, 2021, and the matter of publication of census results, 2017 is the top agenda item. The Chief Secretary, Balochistan appeared on 12.02.2021, before the Commission and reiterated the stance that delimitation cannot be carried out by the Commission in the absence of final publication of results of

Census-2017. As a result, the Commission deferred the delimitation process till the meeting of CCI.

In the meantime, the August Supreme Court of Pakistan while hearing a Civil Miscellaneous Application (CMA) number 6762/2020 took suo-moto notice of non-holding of local government elections in Sindh, Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the Islamabad Capital Territory, and disposed of the said CMA with the following directions on 15.03.2021:

“Therefore, we expect that the local government elections will be held in these three provinces and the Islamabad Capital Territory as soon as possible.”

The Court also ordered:

“In case the Federation and/or the Province(s) create hurdles in the way of the Commission holding elections, they will be violating the Constitution, which may attract serious consequences.”

- **Incorporation of Proposed Amendments**

The Commission reminded time and again to the Provincial Government to expedite the issue of incorporation of proposed amendments in the Local Government Act, as recommended by the Commission. The Government of Balochistan informed the Commission that the proposed amendments had been placed before the Provincial Cabinet and in view of increase in population, changes were required to be made in the existing tiers and number of seats in the local governments. The Commission also held several meetings and issued reminders to the Government of Balochistan for incorporation of amendments in the local government Act and Rules.

2.6 Islamabad Capital Territory

Term of local governments in ICT expired on 14.02.2021 and well before the expiry of the term, ECP sensitized the Ministry of Interior for provision of maps and notifications along with updated laws/rules to carry out delimitation of union councils and wards in Islamabad. In this regard, several letters were issued to the Ministry of Interior. Afterwards, Ministry of Interior provided requisite documents and notifications and conveyed that delimitation of union councils shall be carried out on the basis of 50 union councils vide its letter dated 18.05.2021. ECP notified the Delimitation Committee and Delimitation Authority on 30.04.2021. Subsequently, the Schedule for delimitation was issued on 21-06-2021 as per following timeline:

Sr. No.	Activity	Timeline
01	Administration arrangements including procurement of maps and relevant data	21.06.2021 To 01.07.2021
02	Preparation of preliminary list of constituencies/wards (Form-8)	02.07.2021 To 10.08.2021
03	Publication of preliminary list of constituencies/wards on (Form-8)	11.08.2021
04	Filing of objections by the voter concerned before delimitation authority	12.08.2021 To 27.08.2021
05	Disposal of objections by the delimitation authority	12.08.2021 To 11.09.2021
06	Communication of decision of Delimitation Authority to DC	12.09.2021 to 18.09.2021
07	Final Publication of list of constituencies / wards on (Form-9)	20.09.2021

However, during the proceedings of delimitation the Ministry of Interior vide letter dated 06.07.2021 unilaterally withdrew its letter dated 18.05.2021, whereby number of union councils to be delimited, were conveyed to the Commission. Hence, the ECP was compelled to withdraw its earlier notification dated 21.06.2021 containing the programme of delimitation in ICT.

In wake of this scenario, a meeting with Ministry of Interior was held on 05.08.2021,

wherein representative of the Ministry of Interior requested for grant of one month time for provision of number of UCs, which was given to the Ministry of Interior. However, due to non-provision of number of UCs, cognizance of the matter was taken by ECP and case was fixed for hearing on 10.11.2021 and Order dated 10.11.2021 was passed, the operative part of which is as under:

“This Commission therefore, under the command of Constitution and law, directs the Secretary, Ministry of Interior to provide the necessary legislation / enactment and the Chief Commissioner, Islamabad to provide the requisite data / notifications to the Commission within 10 days positively. Alternatively, the Commission shall initiate the delimitation process on the already determined/notified 50 UCs (Urban 27, Rural 23) in the ICT with effect from 25.11.2021 under the applicable local government law i.e. the ICT local Government Act, 2015 and Rules framed there under.”

Afterward, the Ministry of Interior promulgated Islamabad Capital Territory local government Ordinance-2021 on 24.11.2021 and in compliance of the said Ordinance, ECP started the delimitation process of neighborhood councils in ICT. Preliminary list of neighborhood councils was published by the Delimitation Committee on 07.01.2022 for inviting objections. After due process, final list of neighborhood councils of ICT will be published.

2.6.1 Challenges in conduct of Local Government Elections in ICT

The Commission, prior to and after the expiry of the term of the local governments urged the concerned authorities i.e. Ministry of Interior and Chief Commissioner Islamabad for provision of requisite data i.e. documents, notifications, maps required for the delimitation of constituencies as well as for completion of legislation process. However, the Ministry of interior raised question that in the absence of officially published census results, delimitation cannot be carried out. Provision of legislation, maps and other relevant data was delayed on one pretext or another. Resultantly, the elections in ICT could not be conducted by the Commission.

The President promulgated an Ordinance namely Islamabad Capital Territory Ordinance 2021 dated 24th November, 2021 whereby ICT Local Government Act, 2015 was repealed. The Ministry of Interior instead of providing Rules compatible with the said Ordinance, provided a copy of Rules of 2015 relating to previous local government system.

The above narrated events clearly point to the challenges and hardship faced by the Election Commission in conduct of local government elections in the ICT.

2.7 Dependence of the Commission on the Federal and Provincial Governments in conducting Local Government Elections

The Constitution of Pakistan provides that it is the responsibility of Election Commission to conduct local government elections. Under Section-219 of the Elections Act, 2017, local government elections are required to be held within 120 days after expiry of term of local governments. However, the Election Commission is constrained legally and administratively to conduct elections within stipulated timeframe. Illustration of legal hindrances and administrative issues may provide better understanding of practical difficulties in the way of conducting elections.

2.7.1 Legal Dependence

- a) Under the Constitution, it is the prerogative of provinces to provide local government system of their choice which contains composition of local governments, determination of tiers (District Council, Tehsil / Taluka Council, Metropolitan, Municipal Corporation, union Council and Neighbourhood Council etc.), number and extent of local areas, number of seats and process of election.
- b) It has been usual practice that the Provinces make amendments in the system of elections and tiers every now and then before and after completion of term of local government without consultation with the Election Commission which handicaps Election Commission to conduct elections in time.
- c) There is no restriction in the Constitution that the system of local government may not be replaced till certain period of time to ensure consistency of local governments and conduct of elections.
- d) Consultation with the Federal and Provincial Governments for conducting local government elections in the ICT, Cantonments and Provinces is required for fixing date of elections.

2.7.2 Administrative Dependence

- a) In order to complete prerequisites for conduct of elections, initial step is delimitation of constituencies of local governments and for that purpose maps and other revenue record is provided by the Federal / Provincial Governments.
- b) Human resource (polling staff, security personnel) for conduct of local government elections is also provided by the Provincial Governments.
- c) Delay in requisite amendments in the local government laws and provision of necessary documents/data leads ECP to awkward position in completion of prerequisites for elections i.e. procurement

of election material, printing of relevant forms, appointment of DROs, ROs, AROs & polling staff, arranging training material and fixing timelines.

2.7.3 Observations of the Commission

As highlighted above, there is no denying that the Election Commission made concerted efforts for timely conduct of local government Elections across the country. The above discourse also points to the fact that how difficult it has been for the Election Commission to fulfil its constitutional responsibility under Article 140 A of the Constitution.

Based on the facts in the preceding paras, following conclusion along with recommendations can be derived: -

- i. Under Articles 140 A (2) & 219 (d) of the Constitution and Section 219 (4) of the Elections Act, 2017 it is the responsibility of the Election Commission to conduct local government elections within 120 days after the expiry of terms of local governments.
- ii. Section-219 (1) of the Elections Act, 2017 binds Election Commission to conduct local government elections in accordance with applicable local government laws and Rules made by the Federal Government / Provincial Governments and Section-219(3) requires that the Commission shall in consultation with Federal or Provincial Government make an announcement of the date or dates on which the elections to a local government be held. However, that consultation with respect to dates is subject to sub-Section-4 of Section-219 of the Elections Act, 2017, which requires elections to be held within 120 days.
- iii. Under Article-140A, each Province is empowered to establish a local government system through legislation. This Article empowers the Province to set up a local government system as per legislature's choice. Therefore, it has been witnessed that the system of local government every now and then is partially or completely replaced and amended legislation is not made in accordance with the Constitution and the Elections Act, 2017, which makes it almost impossible for the Election Commission to conduct election immediately after completion of terms of local governments.
- iv. Delimitation of constituencies is one of the major components and pre-requisites in organising an election. Although delimitation of constituencies is domain of Election Commission but the Election Commission technically relies on Federal or a Provincial Government on following accounts and unless the same is provided in time, this threshold cannot be met: -

- a. Composition of local governments.
- b. Determination, demarcation of local areas / tiers and naming thereof.
- c. Provision of:
 - i. Number & extent of local areas;
 - ii. Number of seats of a local area or local council including reserved seats in each local area.
- d. Naming of local areas or local councils (as the case may be) is mandate of Provincial Government in case of Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The ECP carried out delimitation of village/neighbourhood councils but the Government of Punjab showed reluctance on the naming of councils.
- e. In case of Federal Capital, the Federal Government provided number of UCs i.e. 50 but during the course of delimitation, unilaterally withdrew its letter without justified reasons. Consequently, the Commission was constrained to withdraw its notification of delimitation.
- f. Provision of maps / revenue records and data etc.

2.7.4 Recommendations

In order to fulfil its duties under Articles 140 A (2) & 219(d) of the Constitution and Section 219 (4) of the Elections Act, 2017, the Commission recommends that it is essential that comprehensive local governments law is compatible with the Constitution, the Elections Act, 2017 and Rules made there under. Complete detail of local areas/councils, number of seats, maps and other relevant data etc, may be made available to the Commission before the expiry of term of local governments. Further timely completion of each and every activity regarding the conduct of local government elections, partly relies on the commitment of Federal Government and Provincial governments. Based on the above findings, following recommendations are proposed.

- i. The Article 140 A may be amended as proposed below;

“140A. local government. — (1) -----

(2)-----

(3) “The Federal Government or as the case may be, the Provincial Government shall make necessary arrangements including amendments in existing laws, Rules, alteration in the

administrative limits of districts, tehsils and local areas before the expiry of term of local governments, if so required, in such a way that the Election Commission could hold election within 120 days after the expiry of term of the local governments:

Provided that the Federal or as the case may be, Provincial Government shall not alter the administrative limits of districts, tehsils and urban & rural local areas after the expiry of term of local governments:

Provided further that in case, existing local government system is required to be completely replaced with new local government system or substantially altered during its currency by any Government, then such enactment shall be made at least one year prior to the expiry of term of existing local governments.

- ii. In case, the legislation on above proposed amendment in Article 140 A is not possible for the Federal Government, then it is proposed that the responsibility of conduct of local government elections may be taken from Election Commission and such responsibility may be entrusted to Federal or as the case may be, Provincial Governments. In such case Article 140 A (2) of the Constitution and Chapter XIII of the Elections Act, 2017 may be omitted.

3. Electoral Rolls

Availability of accurate and error-free electoral rolls is the first and foremost prerequisite for holding credible election. Each Election Management Body around the world prepares the electoral rolls in accordance with the legal framework of the land and ensures the implementation of legal framework in letter and spirit so that the electoral rolls are considered credible by all stakeholders.

Election Commission of Pakistan is an independent Constitutional body mandated to organize and conduct elections and make necessary arrangements to ensure that election is conducted honestly, justly, fairly and in accordance with the law. Article 219 of the Constitution charges the Commission with the duty of preparing electoral rolls for election to the National Assembly, Provincial Assemblies and local governments, and revising such rolls periodically to keep them up-to-date.

In order to update the current electoral rolls by including therein names of all eligible persons as voters, removing there from names of deceased voters and of such voters who have become disqualified from being registered as voters and allowing the voters to apply for correction of their voting particulars, the Election Commission decided to carry out Periodical Revision of Electoral Rolls under Section 36 of the Elections Act 2017 on 5th October, 2021 by using existing electoral rolls as baseline so that an accurate and updated electoral rolls is made available for the General Elections-2023.

The periodical revision process consists of various phases, i.e. door-to-door verification of Draft Electoral Rolls (DER), printing and publication of Preliminary Electoral Rolls (PER), display of PER for filing of claims, objections and applications for corrections, disposal thereof by the Revising Authorities and final publication of revised electoral rolls. The preliminary electoral rolls are displayed in the offices of the Registration Officers, Assistant Registration Officers and Display Centers established in governments institutions etc. for inviting claims, objections and applications for correction within specified period. The Revising Authorities adjudicate upon these claims, objections and applications for correction. Thereafter, the Registration Officers with the assistance of Assistant Registration Officers incorporate decisions of Revising Authorities in the PER. Thereafter, the revised and updated electoral rolls are printed and published as Final Electoral Rolls (FER).

The periodical revision process accordingly commenced on 8th October, 2021 by making necessary administrative arrangements in initial 30 days. For undertaking this gigantic exercise of periodical revision, on 20th October, 2021, the Election Commission, in exercise of its powers under Section 24(1) of the Elections Act 2017, appointed 142 Registration Officers and 2085 Assistant Registration Officers across the country. Similarly, the Registration Officers appointed Supervisors and Verifying Officials in their areas of jurisdiction under Section 24(2) of the Elections Act 2017 to assist the Assistant Registration

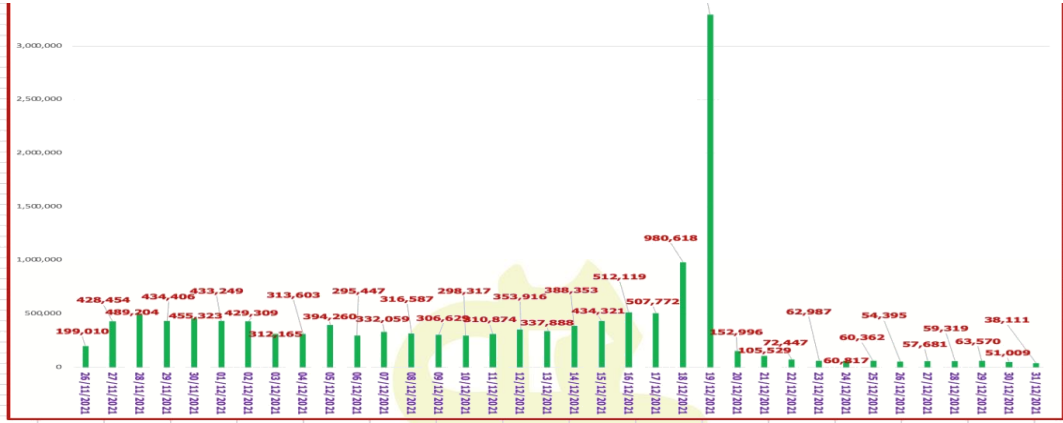
Officers in the performance of their functions. Province-wise break up of these appointments is given below:

Province	ROs	AROs	Supervisors	Verifying Officials
Punjab including ICT	43	1,114	10,762	38,097
Sindh	30	414	3,891	15,326
KP	35	275	3,196	11,425
Balochistan	34	282	827	3,295
Total	142	2,085	18,676	68,143

ECP provided each of the aforesaid officers/officials comprehensive guidelines for door-to-door verification of electoral rolls in the form of a booklet. In addition, ECP arranged comprehensive training for the Registration Officers for the periodical revision of electoral rolls who in turn imparted necessary training / orientation to the AROs, Supervisors and Verifying Officials in their respective areas of jurisdiction. ECP also procured census block scheme of 2017 census along with maps from Pakistan Bureau of Statistics and provided the same to the Registration Officers for onward supply to AROs, Supervisors and Verifying Officials. ECP arranged a public awareness campaign in print and electronic media to sensitize the general public to get their votes registered in accordance with addresses as per their NICs.

The door-to-door verification process started w.e.f 7th November 2021 which was to be culminated on 6th December, 2021 however, keeping in view the overwhelming response of public in getting their votes registered or transferred to their permanent or temporary address of their National Identity Cards, the Hon'ble Commission extended the time period initially for 15 days followed further by 10 days. The door-to-door verification process culminated on 31st December, 2021 where after data-entry process was initiated which will result in printing of preliminary electoral rolls to be published for inviting objections, claims and applications for correction to be decided by the Revising Authorities.

In order to facilitate the general public, SMS 8300 was made free of cost across the country to all subscribers w.e.f 26th November, 2021. Initially, this facility was made available upto 15th December 2021, thereafter, the free provision of this service was extended upto 31st December, 2021. Around 13.34 million hits were recorded during this period, averaging 372,000 hits daily, which shows the level of interest of the voters for registration of their votes. A graph showing the daily hits of 8300 received during this free period is given below:



Daily hits on 8300 during 26th Nov-31st Dec 2021

It may be added that previously, reply to the 8300 SMS, inter alia, used to reflect serial number of voter, however, in order to properly identify members of the same family in the electoral rolls, it was decided that, in addition to the serial number, "Gharana No." may also be included in 8300 SMS reply. This modification resulted in larger facilitation to the public and it expedited the process of verification of voters.

شماریاتی بلاک کوڈ: [322030602](https://www.ecp.gov.pk/erolls)

سلسلہ نمبر: 419

گھرانہ نمبر: 171

انتخابی علاقہ: پولیس ہیڈ کوارٹر شکار

پور روڈ، سکھر سٹی، سکھر

دفتر سکھر: [5807170-071](https://www.ecp.gov.pk/erolls)

ہیلپ لائن نمبر: [0518848888](https://www.ecp.gov.pk/erolls)

ویب سائٹ: [ecp.gov.pk/erolls](https://www.ecp.gov.pk/erolls)

Addition of Gharana No. on 8300 SMS

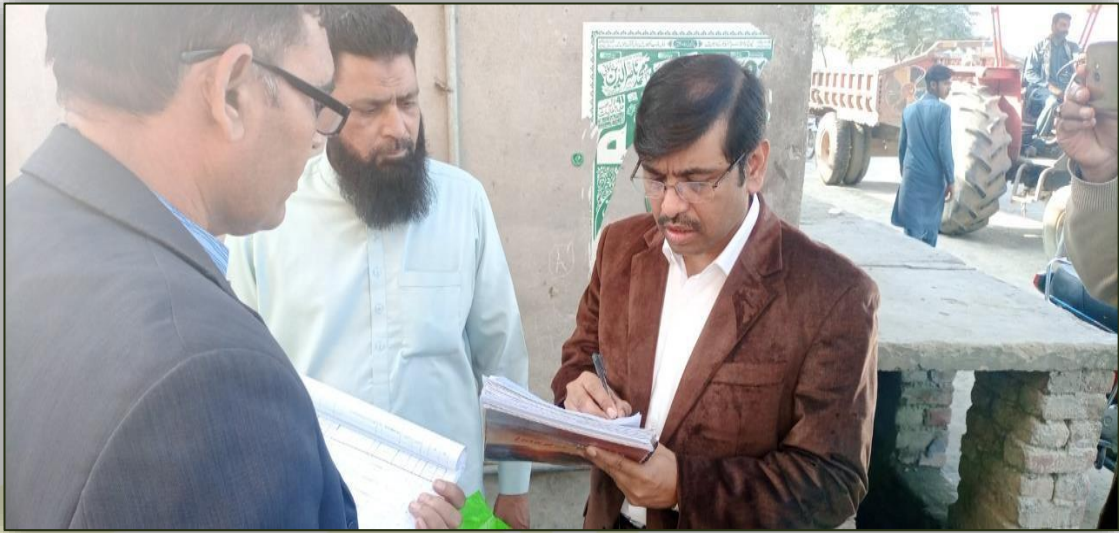
The process of door-to-door verification was closely monitored by the ECP across the country. In this regard, monitoring officers were deputed for field visits who used special monitoring tools to gauge the progress of verification, observe inherent challenges and propose recommendations. The monitoring reports submitted by these officers were duly processed and necessary actions were accordingly undertaken to facilitate the general public. Some highlights of monitoring process are given below:



Monitoring of door-to-door verification of draft electoral roll in Lahore



Monitoring of door-to-door verification of draft electoral roll in Tando Muhammad Khan



Monitoring of door-to-door verification of draft electoral roll in Gujranwala



Monitoring of door-to-door verification of draft electoral roll in Karachi

During monitoring of door-to-door verification, it was observed that incomplete addresses of the voters mentioned on their NICs became a challenge in allocating correct electoral area/census block code to the voters. NADRA was asked to ensure mentioning of standardized addresses on the NICs. In some areas, low interest of the public during door-to-door verification of voters also remained a serious challenge for ECP staff. The media campaign launched by ECP in print and electronic media effectively helped in addressing this

issue, however, low interest of public remained a big hurdle in remote areas.

In addition to field monitoring, real-time resolution of the complaints relating to door-to-door verification of electoral rolls received via online Complaint Management System(CMS) was also ensured on daily basis and all the complainants were properly guided and necessary measures were accordingly taken. Most of the complaints received on CMS were related to schedule of visit of particular areas by ECP staff, provision of forms, etc.

During 2021, several bye-elections to National Assembly as well as Provincial Assemblies were held for which required sets of electoral rolls with photographs and without photographs were provided to the Returning Officers. Details of these bye-elections are given below:

National Assembly	Punjab Assembly	Sindh Assembly	KP Assembly	Balochistan Assembly
NA-45 Kurram-I	PP-38 Sialkot-IV	PS-43 Sanghar-III	PK-63 Nowshera-III	PB-20 Pishin
NA-75 Sialkot (Including re poll)	PP-51 Gujranwala-I	PS-52 Umerkot-II		
NA-133 Lahore-XI	PP-84 Khushab-III	PS-70 Badin-I		
NA-221 Tharparkar-I	PP-206 Khanewal-IV	PS- 88 Malir-II		
NA-249 Karachi West-II				

Local government Election in 42 Cantonment Boards were held in September, 2021. Similarly, local government election in 17 districts of KP Province were also held on 19th December, 2021. For the conduct of aforesaid local government elections, electoral rolls with photographs and without photographs were also provided to the Returning Officers.

4. Political Finance

After the enactment of the Elections Act, 2017 and the Election Rules, 2017, ECP strengthened its Political Finance wing to effectively handle the subject of campaign finance by political parties, election expenses by returned candidates as well as all the contesting candidates (Form-C), scrutiny of financial statements (statement of assets and liabilities, Form-B) submitted by Parliamentarians and consolidated statements of accounts of a political party (Form-D) submitted by political parties.

4.1 Digitization of Statements of Assets & Liabilities

Total 1,180 Parliamentarians (Members of National Assembly, Senate & members of Provincial Assemblies) submitted their statements of assets and liabilities (form-B) for the financial year ending 30th June, 2020. These statements (Form-B) were digitized within 120 days after submission, for a comprehensive/ critical comparative analysis with nomination papers as well as previously submitted Form-B.

4.2 Scrutiny of Statement of Assets & Liabilities (Form-B)

ECP conducted the process of scrutiny of statements of assets and liabilities for the financial year ending 30th June, 2020 received in Election Commission of Pakistan from the Parliamentarians/members, in light of Section 137 (4) of Elections Act-2017. Scrutiny of such documents is carried out in accordance with the instructions / guidelines approved by the ECP. The main purpose of the scrutiny is to reconcile the previous financial statements given in the nomination papers submitted by parliamentarians as candidates for General Elections-2018 with the statements received for the financial year 2017-18 and subsequent financial years 2018-2019 & 2019-2020.

4.3 Scrutiny of statement of Assets and Liabilities and Election Expenses

In the light of Section 134 of the Elections Act, 2017, all contesting candidates other than returned candidates have to submit their respective return of election expenses on Form-C within 30 days of the publication of the name of returned candidates in the official gazette, whereas returned candidates have to do so within 10 days from the date of poll.

The process of scrutiny is a time bound activity. During the year 2021, the ECP scrutinized statements of Assets & Liabilities (Form-B) of all 1,180 parliamentarians for the financial year ending 30th June, 2020 within 120 days as per Section 137(4) of Act, ibid and

also digitized the same. Scrutiny of return of election expenses submitted by the contesting candidates in election to the Senate and bye-elections to National Assembly and Provincial Assemblies were also carried out within the required timeframe under Section 136(1) of the Elections Act 2017. Condonation requests of twenty two (22) contesting candidates were accepted by the Election Commission allowing them to file return of election expenses after stipulated time.

Upgrading of Political Finance Wing has been one of the priority areas of the ECP and it has been included in the 3rd Strategic Plan 2019-2023 whereby ECP has to develop Management Information System (MIS) for digitization of the financial statements submitted under the statutory requirements and other allied matters of enlisted political parties. Work on the same is actively under progress.

4.4 Enlistment of Political Parties

ECP is mandated to enlist political parties and allocate election symbols to eligible political parties as well as scrutinize financial statements submitted by political parties. It is also mandated to have a check on election campaign expenditure made by all contesting candidates and political parties. ECP carries out following activities for this purpose:

- a) Receive and maintain consolidated statements of Assets and Liabilities submitted annually by political parties for publication in the official gazette;
- b) Correspondence made with parliamentarians & political parties for timely submission of financial statements as per the statutory requirements.

Chapter-XI of the Elections Act, 2017 provides for procedure of enlistment of political parties with ECP. A political party that fulfils the criteria for enlistment given therein may apply for the same. During the year 2021, the following political parties were enlisted with ECP:-

Sr #	Name of Political Party
1.	Aam Log Ittehad
2.	First Democratic Front
3.	Kissan Ittehad
4.	Pakistan Aam Admi Movement
5.	Pakistan People's Alliance (A)
6.	National Democratic Movement

4.5 Consolidated Statement of Assets and Liabilities of Political Parties

In pursuance of Section 210 of the Elections Act, 2017, all enlisted political parties are under the obligation to submit their financial statements to the ECP on (Form-D). The total number of political parties enlisted with the ECP is 136. Out of the 136 enlisted political parties, the Form-D of 130 political parties were due for the Financial Year 2020-2021. Seventy Two (72) political parties submitted their financial statements for the Year 2020-2021 to ECP within due date i.e. 29th August, 2021 as required under Section 210 of the Elections Act, 2017. Show cause notices to 58 political were issued under Section 215(4) of the Elections Act, 2017. Forty-two political parties submitted (Form-D) after issuance of show cause notices.

4.6 Political Parties Symbols

The total number of political parties enlisted with the ECP are one hundred and thirty six and out of which 72 enlisted political parties submitted their financial statements to the ECP within due timeframe i.e. 29th August, 2021. Forty-two (42) political parties submitted their statements after the issuance of show cause notices by the ECP under Section 215(4). Consequently, 120 political parties retained their election symbols and remaining 16 enlisted political parties have not yet applied for allocation of symbols.

4.7 Scrutiny of Accounts of Political Parties by the Election Commission of Pakistan

Mr. Akber S. Babar moved a petition against Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) for scrutiny of its receipts especially from abroad. The petition remained pending for clarification as to whether ECP was the relevant forum for this level of accountability of political parties.

In the light of the Supreme Court Judgment, in Hanif Abbasi case, which explicitly entrusted the power and responsibility of scrutiny of accounts of political parties, the Election Commission decided in April, 2018 to constitute a three member Scrutiny Committee under Director General (Law) of Election Commission. The other members comprised of two senior officers nominated by the Auditor General of Pakistan.

The Commission framed TORs for the Committee which required scrutiny to be held in the presence of petitioner, respondent and their respective attorneys. The TORs required the Committee to scrutinize party accounts from the period 2008 to 2013.

The Committee was initially required to submit report in a limited time of 30 days.

However, later on taking cognizance of magnitude of work, the Committee was asked to complete the task at the earliest.

The Committee realized that this was a case of first expression with hardly any precedents in history of Pakistan.

In its proceedings, spread over two years, the Committee faced following challenges:-

- a) Authenticity, verifiability and genuineness of record produced by petitioner/respondent, as per specific direction in Supreme Court judgment *ibid*, to this effect.
- b) Time consumed by respondent in production of bank statements.
- c) Frequent change of Attorneys.
- d) Retirement of members of the Committee and time consumed in replacement.
- e) Forensic nature of TORs, read with the Supreme Court judgment *ibid*, requiring source-confirmation of figures.

With the approval of the Commission, the Committee obtained bank statements of the period (i.e. 2008-2013) as per its TORs from the State Bank of Pakistan and juxtaposed these figures with the data made available by petitioner and respondent.

The Committee developed a methodology based on standard accounting/auditing principles and proceeded to conclude its findings.

The Commission received Scrutiny Committee Report in PTI case from the Committee on 26.11.2021. The same is presently in the court of Election Commission for regular hearing.

During the period of scrutiny of PTI accounts case, the Commission received three applications of similar nature against accounts submitted by the political parties namely PML-N, PPP and PPPP. The Commission assigned the task of scrutiny to the same Committee under similar TORs, which is in progress.

The scrutiny of political parties accounts by the Election Commission will go a long way in bringing accountability in maintenance of party accounts, uniformity in accounting practices of all parties and rule of law with respect to source of funds, as given in the Elections Act, 2017.

5. Introduction of Technologies in the Electoral Processes

5.1 Special Initiatives using Enabling Technologies

The ECP took several steps to introduce the use of technologies in electoral processes and in its routine official tasks in the year 2021. Following projects have been accomplished and several others are in the pipeline to increase productivity and efficiency of the organization and to make its working even more efficient: -

- Improvement in Result Management System (RMS) and Result Transmission System (RTS)
- Online Recruitment System [up-gradation of features]
- Introduction of Optical Mark Recognition (OMR) Technology
- Video Conferencing System
- Establishment of fiber optic connectivity at regional offices [in progress]
- ECP's SMS Solution
- Website Management
- Complaint Management and Tracking System [up-gradation of features]
- Establishment of Project Management Unit (PMU)
- Electoral Rolls Printing Facility [in progress]
- Data Center [in progress]
- ECP's Mobile Application (Click ECP)
- Electoral Process Automation System (ePAS) [in progress]

5.2 Improvement in Result Management System (RMS) and Result Transmission System (RTS)

The sub-Sections (1) and (2) of Section 13 of the Elections Act, 2017 provide as under:

13. Establishment of Results Management System.- (1) The Commission shall establish a transparent results management system for expeditious counting, tabulation, compilation, transmission, dissemination and publication of results in the official Gazette and on the website of the Commission.

(2) The Presiding Officer shall immediately take snapshot of the Result of the Count and, as soon as connectivity is available and it is practicable, send it to the Commission and the Returning Officer before sending the original documents under Section 90.

In 2018 General Election, about 849 Returning Officers (ROs) used RMS across the

country on only one workstation to enter results (Forms-45) and generated Forms-47, 48 and 49 automatically. However, in the year 2021, RMS was upgraded in terms of its features and strategy enabling the ROs to use about 3 to 4 workstations instead of 1, to speed up the process of data entry and its accuracy. Similarly, in General Election-2018, ROs allowed data entry of those Forms-45 that were received only physically from Presiding Officers after poll. However, this aspect has now been improved by introducing “WhatsApp” in connection with specialized mobile App named as “CamSurvey” that allows Presiding Officer(s) to send digital copy of Form-45 from polling station to the office of the RO along with time and location (geo-coordinates) stamping. Further, special SOP was issued to ROs to electronically enter the received Forms-45 into RMS database immediately after verification. This activity saved considerable time for declaration of result in the format of Form-47 on the poll-night. By virtue of this, it was observed that the whole process become faster, more accurate and authentic besides saving time.

Special arrangements were made at each RO Office to display progressive results using RMS reporting system over multimedia screens for media, contesting candidates and other stakeholders by following the principles of transparency and accuracy. Resultantly, this initiative helped in making the whole process more trustworthy and acceptable to stakeholders.

5.3 Online Recruitment System (ORS)

Online Recruitment System (ORS) was launched in 2020 with the aim to automate the process of recruitment. During 2021, the Online Recruitment System was upgraded and ECP advertised 295 posts of 45 different categories/scales. In response to these advertisements, about 105,000 applications were received online. After receipt of the applications, various activities were performed like short listing, printing & publication of call letters on website and sending SMS notification to the candidates using ECP SMS Push Service etc. Online Recruitment System has been helpful in making the recruitment process efficient and transparent in accordance with the principles of merit.

5.4 Introduction of Optical Mark Recognition (OMR) Technology

As per International Standards and World’s best practices, ECP introduced state-of-the-art paper checking OMR technology to ensure the highest level of secrecy, transparency and accuracy in its recruitment process. The OMR technology was successfully used for approximately 56,000 candidates for the posts of Election Officers and around 900 candidates for the posts of Junior / Senior Assistants. These standards are followed for all types of screening tests within ECP to uphold the principles of merit, transparency and justice.

5.5 Video Conferencing System

State-of-the-art latest Video Conferencing System has been deployed and operationalized in ECP and all Provincial Headquarters are connected *via* secure and dedicated network. This facility enabled ECP to conduct virtual meetings with PECs and other relevant stakeholders on imported matters on need basis. In addition, the said system is being extended to RECs level as well.



Video Conference with Provincial Election Commissioners

5.6 Establishment of Fiber Optic Connectivity at Regional Offices

ECP's video conferencing facility is being extended to Regional Offices and to achieve this goal, the high-end telecom infrastructure is required at regional offices. The agreement between ECP and NTC is being finalized for the extension of fiber optic connectivity up to REC level across the country.

5.7 ECP's SMS Solution

ECP's SMS solution provides for the capability of sending (broadcasting) bulk SMS to all officers of the ECP in both languages (English & Urdu) using caption of "ECP SECTT". Hon'ble CEC office, Media Coordination & Outreach Wing, Law Wing and Establishment Branch are equipped with this service which can transmit bulk SMS to different groups as per need. Furthermore, the same service was utilized for informing about more than 105,000 candidates for posts of Election Officers (EOs) regarding various stages of requirement process and conduct of test. About more than 465,000 SMS were sent

successfully through application to the general public along with confirmation report.

5.8 Website Management

ECP made special arrangements to upload call letters for more than 105,000 candidates applying for the posts of Election Officers all over the country. By virtue of this, each and every candidate got his / her call letters instantly rather than to wait for days/weeks if sent through conventional postal system. This hi-tech strategy proved to be useful in addressing and delivering call letters for tests and interviews instead of using unconventional methodology which was duly acknowledged by stakeholders.

Website security features have been enhanced with the latest technology. Jobs and Complaint Management System portals have been integrated with ECP's website. The website has been visited by more than three million users during year 2021.



Graphical Representation of Website Hits / Visitors

Following information has been uploaded on the website regularly:

- i. Press Releases:
This Section contains all the Press Releases and Circulars.
- ii. Notifications:
This Section is updated regularly almost on daily basis, it contains all the Notifications like Schedule of Election/Bye-Election, Returned Candidates, any Notification related to General Elections, Bye-Elections, Senate Elections, local government Elections and Intra-Party Election etc. including postings / transfers Notifications.
- iii. Cause List / Orders of the Commission:
The cause list is uploaded on daily basis

- iv. News tickers for important information:
The ticker Section is placed on top of the website, these ticker contains information about all the latest information/development, latest press releases, latest notifications, or any other message.
- v. Electoral Rolls Section:
This Section is dedicated to Electoral Rolls (ER). It also contains public service messages, videos, information about Display Centers and Complaint Centers etc. Moreover, voter's statistics is also available in this Section.
- vi. Political Parties Section:
This Section contains list of political parties enlisted with ECP, list of election symbols allotted to the political parties and remaining election symbols for independent candidates

5.9 Complaint Management and Tracking System

Complaint Management and Tracking System (CMS) was developed and deployed in the year 2020 for upholding principles of transparency, openness, accuracy and stakeholder's satisfaction. It facilitates the general public and stakeholders in submitting and tracking complaints through online web portal. Through this system, complaints are addressed within 72 hours if there is no policy decision required. During 2021, total 4542 complaints were received out of which 4538 were disposed. Useful suggestions for improving electoral process are also shared through CMS. The system was further upgraded with multiple features and options (multi-lingual support, enhanced reporting, web hosting, up-gradation, etc.) to facilitate general public for launching online complaints in a speedy and reliable manner.

5.10 Establishment of Project Management Unit (PMU)

ECP reorganized the IT Department into two streams i.e. Development and Operational. The Development stream has been designated as Project Management Unit (PMU), for which the hiring of IT Consultant, Project Director (MP-I), Project Manager (MP-II), and Deputy Project Manager (MP-III) has been completed. The PMU has a dedicated team which will bring more efficiency and productivity in technology related tasks of the ECP by following the principles of software development life cycle and development standards. The PMU assists ECP in introduction of technology in electoral process i.e. EVM, Overseas Voting, establishment of Data Center and Printing Setup and ePAS under the provisions of the Elections Act, 2017.



The live demonstration of EVM by M/s Smartmatic before the Hon'ble Election Commission

5.11 Electoral Rolls Printing Facility

Printing of Electoral Rolls is a major pre-election activity which ECP has to undertake. Currently, ECP relies on NADRA for printing of Electoral Rolls. In order to be self-reliant in this area the ECP has planned to establish its own printing facility. In this regard, Request for Proposal (RFP) was prepared and tender was published in the newspapers.

5.12 Data Center

In order to safeguard the critical applications of ECP and infrastructure, the establishment of Data Center facility is being made. In this regard, Request for Proposal (RFP) has been prepared. In future, critical applications like CERS, ePAS and other Applications will be hosted in Data Center to safeguard the critical election infrastructure.

5.13 ECP's Mobile Application (Click ECP)

The new mobile app namely Click ECP has been developed and launched on Android and iOS (iPhone Operating System). All smartphone mobile users across the globe can access this application and get latest information from this application on real-time basis.

5.14 Electoral Processes Automation System (ePAS)

A system named as Electoral Processes Automation System (ePAS) is being designed for automation and integration of electoral processes that includes speedy data collection, dissemination, reporting, compilation of results and associated processes (like nomination record, Polling station information, polling staff appointment, help-desk, political finance information, monitoring and evaluation etc.), The proposed system will have an electronic/digital record of the electoral processes for enhancement in transparency and trust in the electoral system.

The system will also comply with Section 13 of the Elections Act, 2017 to facilitate the Returning Officer for speedy and credible result compilation and its dissemination. Following features/ functionalities are being made part of the ePAS:-

- a. Delimitation for National / Provincial Assemblies and local governments
- b. Election Management Module
- c. Polling Station Management System Module
- d. Polling Staff Module
- e. Nomination Process Module
- f. Result Management System Module
- g. Result Transmission Module
- h. Online Scrutiny System Module
- i. Help-desk ticket system
- j. Political Finance and Confidential Module
- k. Inventory / Warehouse / Election Material Management Module
- l. Election Monitoring and Evaluation

6. Training and Capacity Building

Training is one of the essential components of any activity as it enhances not only the capacity of individuals but also provides the requisite technical skills for efficient discharge of responsibilities. Capacity building of the ECP's permanent and temporary staff is an obligatory component of ECP under Section 12 (a) of the Elections Act, 2017 and Rule 6(1) of Election Rules-2017. The establishment of the Federal Election Academy (FEA) and Training Wing at ECP Secretariat level is to ensure capacity building of the ECP officers, staff and election officials. Since its inception, the Federal Election Academy has been playing a significant role in planning, designing and imparting trainings.

During the Calendar Year 2021, the ECP conducted a number of trainings and launched capacity building initiatives for the officers and officials of ECP in the following main areas.

- Trainings of Election Officials
- Trainings of ECP Officers and Officials
- Development of Training Module and Allied Contents

6.1 Trainings of Election Officials

6.1.1 Senate Elections

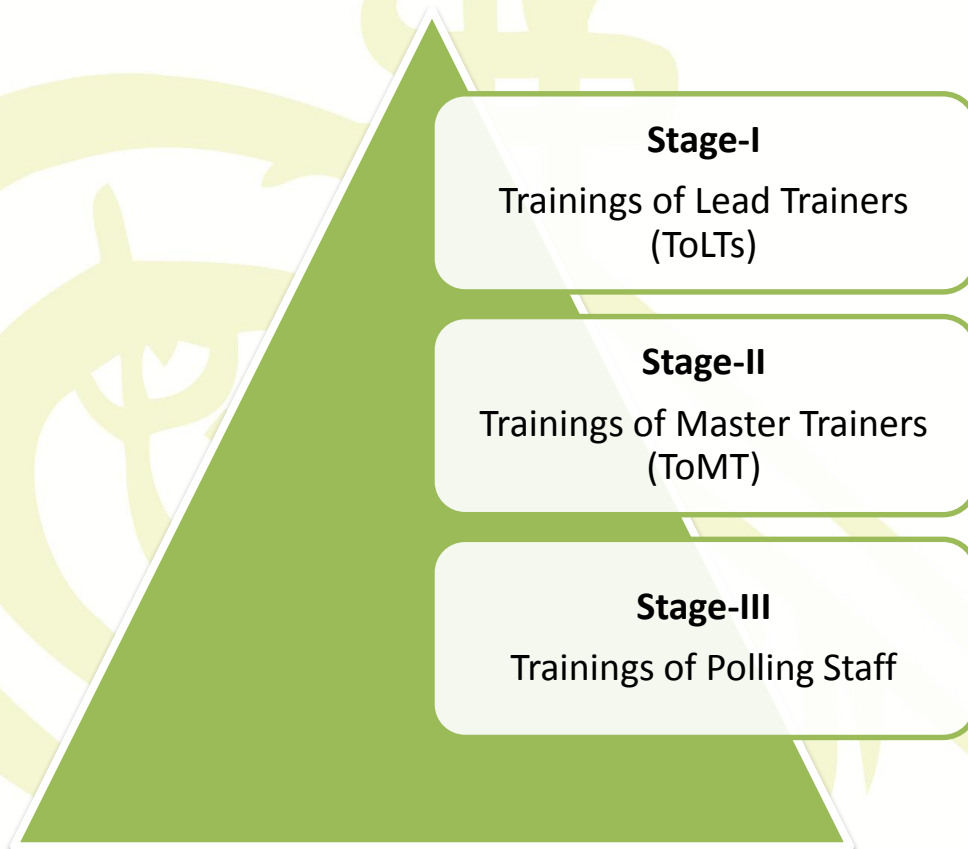
The elections to the Senate were held in March, 2021 where forty six election officials i.e. Returning Officers and Polling Officers, were trained. Electoral system for the elections to the Senate of Pakistan is based on Single Transferable Vote System. The training covered the legal framework for the Senate Elections along with single transferable vote system, mock exercise for the polling process and result preparation .Detail of the training sessions is as under:

Sr. No	Type of Training	Number of Trainings Conducted	Number of Persons Trained
01	Training of Polling Personnel	02	46
02	Refresher training for ROs and Polling Officers for Senate Elections	01	40

6.1.2 Local government Elections (LGE)

a. Local government Elections in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa –2021

Under Article 140A (2) of the Constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the ECP is mandated to hold local government Elections. ECP designed and organized a comprehensive training to equip the election officials with the skills required for holding free, fair and transparent elections. The training was designed on cascade model and was conducted in three different stages as given below.



Detail of the training sessions of Election Officials for the conduct of local

government Elections in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa – 2021 (Phase-I) is given as under:

Sr. No	Type of Training	Number of Persons Trained	Number of Trainings Conducted	Duration of Each Training
01	Training of Lead Trainers (ToLT) for the Trainings of DROs & ROs (LGE in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa – 2021) (First Phase)	12	01	02 Days
02	Training of District Returning Officers (LGE in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa – 2021) (First Phase)	17	01	01 Day
03	Training of Returning Officers (LGE in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa – 2021) (First Phase)	334	12	02 Days
04	TOLT for the Trainings of Master Trainers (LGE in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa – 2021) (First Phase)	16	01	03 Days
05	Training of Master Trainers (LGE in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa – 2021) (First Phase)	286	14	02 Days
06	Training of Presiding Officers & Sr. APOs (LGE in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa – 2021) (First Phase)	19638	786	02 Days
07	Orientation Sessions for APOs & POs (LGE in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa – 2021) (First Phase)	116608	2917	Half Day

6.1.3 Training Cantonment Boards Election – 2021

Local government elections in Cantonment Boards were held in September 2021. To impart training to the concerned election officials, a joint team of training experts and electoral professionals was constituted to develop training module and allied material. After its development, cascade training was designed and conducted prior to the conduct of elections in cantonment boards in all four provinces of the country. Detail of training sessions conducted in respect of local government elections in Cantonment Boards – 2021,

is as under:

Sr. No	Type of Training	Number of Persons Trained	Number of Trainings Conducted	Duration of Each Training
01	Training of Trainers (ToT) for the training of ROs in respect of Cantonment Boards	06	01	03 Days
02	Training of District Returning Officers (LGE in Cantonment Boards 2021)	29	01	01 Days
03	Training of Returning Officers (LGE in Cantonment Boards 2021)	51	03	02 Days
04	Training of Lead Trainers for Polling staff (LGE in Cantonment Boards 2021)	11	01	03 Days
05	Training of Master Trainers (ToMT) (LGE in Cantonment Boards 2021)	94	04	03 Days
06	Training of Presiding Officers & Sr. APOs (LGE in Cantonment Boards 2021)	3311	136	02 Days
07	Orientation Sessions for APOs & Polling Officers(LGE in Cantonment Boards 2021)	8621	229	Half Day

6.1.4 Training of Delimitation Committees

Delimitation of constituencies for General Elections and local government elections is one of the core areas mandated to ECP. To bring perfection in the exercise of Delimitation for local government, a two-day training was conducted in Federal Election Academy for Delimitation Committees and Delimitation Authorities of Islamabad, Balochistan and Sindh provinces. The training focused on the standards as per the Elections Act, 2017, Election Rules, 2017 and local government Acts of the respective province/area. The training was based on cascade model. Detail is given as under:

Sr. No	Province/ ICT	Type of Training	Number of Persons Trained	Number of Trainings Conducted
01	ICT	Training of Delimitation Committee and Delimitation Authority – ICT	04	01
02	Balochistan	Training of Master Trainers for the Trainings of Delimitation Committees and Delimitation Authorities	08	01
		Trainings of Delimitation Committees and Delimitation Authorities	110	05
03	Sindh	Training of Master Trainers for the Trainings of Delimitation Committees and Delimitation Authorities	09	01
		Trainings of Delimitation Committees and Delimitation Authorities	97	04



Training of Delimitation Committees

6.1.5 Training for Bye-Elections

Conduct of bye-elections to Provincial and National Assembly constituencies is also a duty of the Commission. During the year 2021, fifteen bye-elections were conducted. To equip election officials with the necessary skills, 213 training sessions were conducted for fifteen bye-elections.

6.2 Trainings of ECP Officers and Officials

A well trained human resource is not only an asset for the organization but also guarantees efficient and timely disposal of all assignments of an organization. Being a Constitutional body, ECP is assigned with a task of conducting free, fair and transparent elections. Therefore, it is extremely important that a highly skilled and professional work force, well versed with the latest relevant laws, rules and procedures is available at its disposal.

For the capacity building of ECP officers & officials, ECP planned, organized and conducted following trainings:

6.2.1 Pre Service Training (PST) for the newly recruited Election Officers

After completion of the recruitment process of Election Officers in June 2021, a comprehensive training of sixteen (16) weeks was specially designed to cater to the electoral and administrative needs of newly appointed Election Officers (BS-17). The aim of course was capacity building of ECP Officers on Legal Frame Work i.e. relevant provisions of the Constitution of Pakistan 1973, the Elections Act and Rules-2017 framed there under, Voter Registration, Boundary Delimitation Exercise, Conduct of Elections for National Assembly, Provincial Assemblies, Elections to the Senate of Pakistan and other components of the electoral process.

In addition to the electoral practices, the training was also enriched with components like ***“Training on Leadership & Management skills, “Office Management”, “Case Studies based on courts judgments” and “Book reviews”***. All 76 newly recruited election officers graduated the training. The training was conducted in three different groups. To add quality to the training, the services of professionals were also hired from other training institutes like “Secretariat Training Institute (STI)” “Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services (PIPS)”, NUST and an international training Organization **“BRIDGE”**.



Hon'ble Chief Election Commissioner addressing inauguration ceremony of Pre-Service training



Visit of Pre-Service training participants to National Assembly



Visit of Pre-Service training participants to National Assembly





"Pre-service Training (Leadership & Management) Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP)"

6.3 Development of Training Module and Allied Contents

Prior to the conduct of trainings, a team was constituted comprising of training experts and electoral professionals to identify needs of the prospective beneficiaries, design curriculum and develop modules and allied contents for the proposed training.

During the year 2021, various teams were constituted to identify needs for the capacity development of the prospective beneficiaries and election officials. A brief summary of the training modules and allied contents developed at Federal Election Academy is given as under:

- i. Handbook, Training Manual and allied material for District Returning Officers and Returning Officers for the Cantonment Board Elections.
- ii. Handbook, Training Manual and allied Material for District Returning Officers & Returning Officers for the local government Elections in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.
- iii. Handbook, Training Manual and allied material for Presiding Officers & Assistant Presiding Officers for the Cantonment Board Elections.
- iv. Handbook and Training Manual for Presiding Officers & Assistant Presiding Officers for the local government Elections in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.
- v. Guidelines in a booklet form for the Delimitation Committees notified for delimiting constituencies in;

- a) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
- b) Punjab
- c) Balochistan
- d) Sindh
- e) ICT (Islamabad Capital Territory)

6.4 Restructuring of Training Wing / Federal Election Academy

Keeping in view the importance of training, ECP laid down the foundation of Federal Election Academy (FEA) in 2004 and revived it in 2016 in a rented building to fulfill the requirements of availability of trained ECP staff including election officials, to conduct elections fairly, honestly and justly as envisaged in the Constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan. In the year 2021, the Hon'ble CEC undertook an extensive exercise of restructuring the training wing/FEA.

The Federal Election Academy has several objectives narrated as below:

- To create a center of excellence to equip HR with innovative skills and technological solutions for credible elections
- To enhance the professional capacity of ECP's officers and officials for ensuring inclusiveness, efficiency and innovation.
- Make FEA a sustainable Training Institute.
- Establishment of Resource Center (including physical & Digital Library).
- Build bridges, with the academia and experts for the research in relevant fields.

FEA will put together a yearly calendar of activities divided in four quarters to support its planning and allocation of resources on the basis of submission of Capacity Building Assessment or Training Need Assessment (TNA) report.

7. Human Resource Management

7.1 Review and Rationalization of Human Resource

The Election Commission is mandated to conduct free, fair and transparent elections of both the Houses (National Assembly and the Senate) and Provincial Assemblies. However, through 18th Constitutional Amendment, the task of conduct of local government elections in the Provinces was assigned to the Commission. Further, conduct of local government election in Cantonment Boards and Islamabad Capital Territory is also responsibility of the Commission in pursuance of relevant provisions of the Elections Act 2017. In addition, the number of voters have also increased exponentially during last one decade. The number of registered voters during General Elections 2013 were 86.6 Million whereas the existing number of registered voters is around 122 Million. This increased the workload of ECP, however, the human resource remained the same which posed a great challenge for the ECP in the performance of its functions. This situation warranted overall review of organizational structure of ECP.

In order to overcome the said challenging situation, the present management initiated review of existing human resource and rationalization thereof. During this rationalization process, multiple posts were created, abolished, upgraded or downgraded. The nomenclature of various posts was also changed to ensure uniformity. The future organizational needs were also kept in view during the process of rationalization. The rationalization exercise included the workload assessment of each wing of the Election Commission Secretariat as well as offices of the Provincial Election Commissioners and other Field Offices, in consultation with the respective Heads. The post-wise details of rationalized posts are as under:

Description	Number of posts
Newly Created	637
Abolished	161
Upgraded	03
Downgraded	19

7.2 Promotions

Promotions to the next higher grades is essential for maintaining continuous sense of commitment and belongingness to the organization. Recognizing this important aspect of Human Resource Management, a series of meetings of respective Departmental Promotion Boards and Departmental Promotion Committees were held wherein number of promotions in different grades were made on the basis of overall assessment of seniority-cum-fitness of the eligible employees. Details of promotions are as under:-

Sr. No.	Basic Scale	No. of officers promoted
1.	BS-21	04
2.	BS-20	11
3.	BS-19	11
4.	BS-18	25
5.	BS-17	50
Total:		101

7.3 Recruitment

Induction of fresh blood on continuous basis is a pre-requisite for the growth of any organization. ECP advertised posts for Election Officers in 2019; however, due to various reasons, the selection process could not be finalized.

The management of ECP took up the challenge by utilizing its own human and technical resources and successfully managed to carry out test of 1,04,568 candidates all over the country. The recruitment process included screening test, descriptive test and the qualified eligible candidates were interviewed. To ensure merit and transparency in the process of recruitment, the concept of modern technology like OMR was introduced. Human intervention was sufficiently reduced, during the process of recruitment, to ensure merit and transparency. Consequently, seventy-seven (77) Election Officers were selected by observing applicable provincial/regional quotas as per Federal Government's guidelines. The newly appointed Election Officers, after their recruitment, have also undergone first ever 16-week Pre-Service Training.

To enhance the organizational efficiency, following technical/professional posts were also created and filled through competitive process:

- 1 x Project Director (Development) (MP-I);
- 1 x Project Manager (Electoral Technologies) (MP-II);
- 1 x Director General (Political Finance) (BS-21);
- 1 x Additional Director General (HR) (BS-20);

- 1 x Additional Director General (Law) (BS-20);
- 1 x Director (Development) (BS-19);
- 1 x Legal Consultant (BS-18); &
- 14 x Law Officers (BS-17).

7.4 Deployment and Installation of HRMS

In line with the modern day requirement, a need for digitization of service record of officers and officials of ECP was essential. Therefore, a gigantic exercise of data entry of the service particulars of all the serving employees including their personal information, qualification, transfers/postings record, promotions, disciplinary proceedings, trainings, performance evaluation reports, advances, medical checkups, particulars of their dependents etc. was entered which is now available to the Authority/Authorized Officer on real time basis.

7.5 Service Rules

In order to regulate the terms and conditions of the service of employees of the Election Commission of Pakistan, the service rules were framed in 1989 which are being followed till date. A need was felt to review the existing Election Commission (Officers and Servants) Rules, 1989 and reframe the new rules to meet the existing requirements and future challenges. The Committee constituted for the purposes is already working on it and has completed the major task. The Service Rules are likely to be finalized shortly after approval of the Commission.

7.6 Disciplinary Proceedings

In order to eradicate corruption & corrupt practices and maintain discipline, the conduct of officers and officials of the Election Commission of Pakistan is being strictly monitored. Further, in order to ensure merit and transparency while processing the case, a number of officers and officials were proceeded against under the applicable laws and were penalized as well which has conveyed the message of zero tolerance and has also improved the overall discipline and smooth functioning of the Organization. During the period under consideration, 70 disciplinary cases were processed out of which 39 cases stand disposed off with imposition of major penalty upon 21 officers/officials and minor penalty in 14 cases with exoneration of 04 officials, 31 cases are presently under process. Significant inquiries pertain to the cases such as alleged disputed appointments in the office of PEC, KP and Sindh, unauthorized absenteeism, financial embezzlement/bogus TA/DA claims, loss of record, in-efficiency and misconduct. The progress status of ongoing disciplinary cases in the ECP, is being regularly presented in the meetings of the Hon'ble Election Commission on monthly basis.

8. Infrastructure Development

In order to enhance and upgrade the operational capacity of ECP, a Development Wing has been created. The organizational structure of Development Wing includes Director (Development) at ECP (HQ), while at PEC level the Development Wing is headed by Deputy Director (Development). Election Commission of Pakistan has 165 field offices across Pakistan which are accommodated in ECP's own buildings, Government's provided and hired buildings. To improve the infrastructure and to establish field offices in ECP own buildings, following steps have been taken.

During the year 2021, 03 DDWP meetings dated 12.02.2021, 14.04.2021 & 28.04.2021 were held. In these meetings, infrastructure development plan was presented and Nine (09) PCs-1 and One (01) PC-II were approved. The approved projects included PC-I for Modification/Up-gradation of office building at ECP Islamabad, construction of additional block (revised), construction of Hon'ble CEC house, construction of REC/DEC offices Sargodha and offices of DECs at Layyah, Okara, Jhelum and Attock, construction of two additional floors at new block at ECP Secretariat and PC-II for construction of ECP building in H-11/4.

To secure the possession of 10 plots in Punjab, an amount of Rs.62,874,900/- was allocated to respective RECs/DECs for construction of boundary walls through Pak PWD. Planning and Development Commission was approached to get funding for the approved projects in the PSDP 2021-22. In this regard, funds for PC-II amounting Rs.23.33 Million are being released for feasibility study for construction of office building of ECP at H-11/4. In order to provide appropriate human resource, twenty-five (25) new posts have been created.

9. LEGAL MATTERS

During the year 2021, 187 cases, complaints and appeals were filed before the Commission wherein 140 cases were disposed of. Moreover, fourteen permanent posts of Law Officers (BS-17) were created for proper assistance of the Commission and its due representation before the Hon'ble High Courts and its Benches in the provinces. Appointments have been made and the said Law Officers are performing their duties on their respective stations/benches.

The Commission conducted regular hearings regarding the conduct of local government Elections in the provinces of Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh, Balochistan and Islamabad Capital Territory. The Commission sensitized the Federal Government as well as the provinces of the sensitivity and importance of the delimitation process and holding of local governments elections as per its mandate in terms of Article 140 A of the Constitution and Section 219 (4) of the Elections Act, 2017. Due to the Commission's efforts, 1st phase of local government elections in 17 districts of the KPK was held on 19.12.2021.

The Election Commission after receiving complaints regarding untoward incidents in Bye-Election NA-75 Sialkot (Daska) declared the poll void in exercise of powers under Section 09 of the Elections Act, 2017. The August Supreme Court maintained the orders of the Commission where re-poll was held on 10-04-2021. Further, the Commission constituted two fact finding inquiry Committees to ascertain the facts of the aforementioned incidents. Pursuant to the order of the Election Commission, about 27 criminal complaints have been filed before the concerned Session Judge against the officers/officials involved in the corrupt practices during poll in NA-75 Sialkot (Daska).

9.1 Amendments proposed in the Election Laws

A Law Reforms Committee headed by the Director General (Law) is working in the Election Commission to propose changes in the relevant Election Laws and Rules to bring them in conformity with the Constitution and to make electoral process more transparent. ECP carried out review of the Elections Act, 2017 and thereafter 40 amendments in the Elections Act, 2017, have been sent to the Parliament for necessary legislation. The amendments proposed in this regard, inter alia, include the following:

- a. Amendment in Section 12 seeking establishment of Federal Election Academy in ECP for training of election officials;
- b. Amendment in Section 60 for use of an exclusive account as well as an existing bank account by a candidate for his campaign expenditure;

- c. Amendment in Section 66 requiring Returning Officer to accept latest ticket of same party produced before him by two candidates contesting election from same constituency;
- d. Omission of words namely “Federally Administered Tribal Areas” from the Elections Act 2017 wherever appearing.
- e. Amendment in Section 95 seeking recount of ballot papers by the Returning Officer if number of votes excluded from the count by the Presiding Officers are equal to or more than the margin of victory;
- f. Amendment in Section 140 seeking appointment of only sitting judge of a High Court as Election Tribunal;
- g. Amendment in Section 167 seeking canvassing on the basis of ‘gender’ to be deemed as corrupt practice;
- h. Insertion of new Section 190A for extending the scope of cognizable offence;
- i. Amendment in Section 193 seeking increase in number of offences to be tried summarily by the officers authorized by the Commission.

In the Election Rules, 2017, amendments in Rule 6 and 171 are being made whereas amendment in Rule 39 has already been made whereby NADRA is required to provide data of CNIC of voters to the Election Commission free of charge for which NADRA was charging a remarkable amount per CNIC earlier.

“ECP SMS Solution” is being utilized for sending intimation to the Advocates as well the parties concerned about fixation of their cases before the Commission.

In order to ensure the speedy trial and disposal of pending Election Petitions, number of letters and reminders have been issued to the Registrars of the High Courts. Till December, 2021, pendency of Election Petitions pertaining to the General Elections, 2018 is as follows:-

Province	No of Election Petitions filed	Decided/disposed of	Pendency
Punjab including ICT	139	138	1
Sindh	82	39	43
KPK including Merged FATA	39	31	8
Balochistan	56	56	0

10. Interaction with International and National Stakeholders

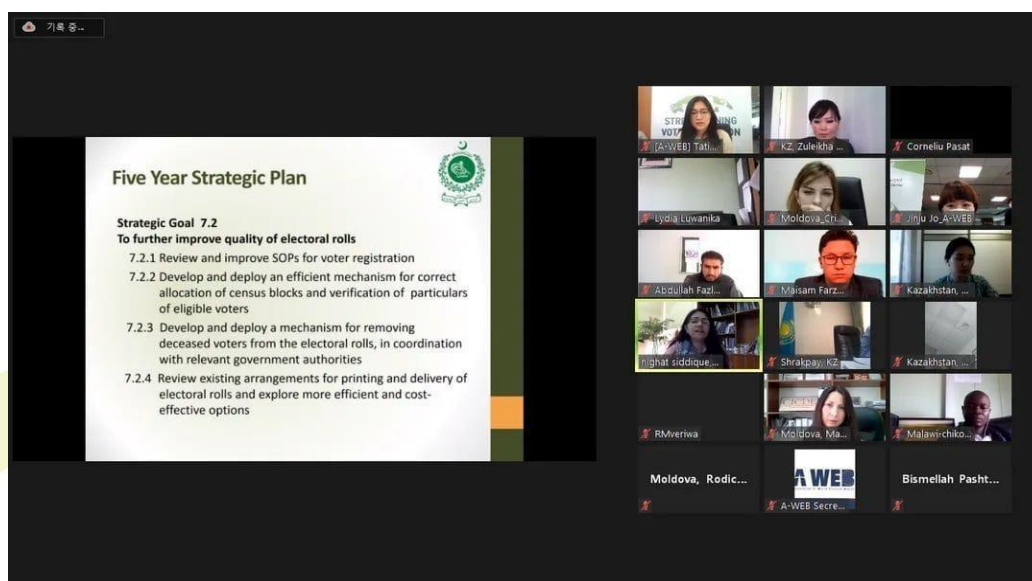
As part of its learning and outreach efforts, ECP interacts with international and national stakeholders to share first-hand knowledge and experiences regarding electoral matters with each other for mutual benefit. During the year 2021, following activities were performed:

10.1 Participation at International Electoral Forums

Officers from the Election Commission of Pakistan participated in following programs:

- Association of World Election Bodies (A-WEB), arranged an online session on 'Election Management Capacity Building Program' on 16th April, 2021. The officer from ECP also participated and delivered a lecture on "ECP Outreach program for women voters to raise their awareness about political rights and gender equality".
- A-WEB and International Centre for Parliamentary Studies (ICPS) jointly organized a Webinar on "Elections & Technology: How to Incorporate New Systems into Our Electoral Processes" on 30th June 2021. Four officers of ECP actively participated in the webinar.
- Cambridge Malaysian Education and Development Trust (CMEDT) and Malaysian Commonwealth Studies Centre (MCSC), organized (Virtual Program) "Cambridge Conference on Electoral Democracy" on 23rd September, 2021. Seminar focused on challenges of managing elections during the Covid-19 pandemic. Three officers of ECP actively participated in the virtual program.
- Asian Network for Free Elections (ANFREL) and A-WEB co-hosted the 5th Asian Electoral Stakeholder Forum (AESF) with the theme of "Lessons Learned: The Way Forward for Elections in Asia beyond the COVID-19 Pandemic" (Virtual Program) on 20th - 21st October, 2021. Before the program, AWEB & ANFREL created three thematic working groups on (i) "Fostering more inclusive and participatory elections", (ii) "Challenges to electoral integrity and possible solutions" and (iii) "Best practices for election management during the COVID-19 pandemic". Working groups drafted a joint document based on discussions and recommendations made in their sessions that was adopted by all attendees in the 5th AESF. Eight officers from the ECP actively participated in working groups and online program.
- Election Commission of India through A-WEB invited to participate in virtual program

on “Enhancing Electoral Participation of Women, Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) and Senior Citizens: Sharing Best Practices and New Initiatives” on 26th November, 2021. One ECP officer actively participated in the virtual program.



Virtual program participants

10.2 Election Observations

- Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Observer Mission invited Election Commission of Pakistan to observe the Elections to the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan as International Observer in Kazakhstan on 10th January, 2021. Embassy of Pakistan in Kazakhstan participated in SCO Observation Mission on behalf of ECP in Kazakhstan.
- Central Election Commission of Kyrgyz Republic through Association of World Election Bodies (A-WEB) invited ECP to Observe the Local Council Elections and Referendum of Kyrgyz Republic on 11th April, 2021. Embassy of Pakistan in Kyrgyz Republic participated in Election Observation on behalf of ECP.
- Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Observer Mission invited Election Commission of Pakistan to observe the Elections of Deputies of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation as International Observer in Russia on 16th - 20th September, 2021. Two officers from the ECP participated in SCO Observer Mission.
- Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Observer Mission and Chairperson of Central Election Commission of Republic of Uzbekistan invited ECP to observe the Presidential Elections in Uzbekistan as International Observer on 24th October, 2021. Embassy of Pakistan in Uzbekistan participated in SCO Observer Mission on behalf of ECP.

- Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Observer Mission and Chairperson of the Central Commission for Elections and Referenda of the Kyrgyz Republic invited ECP to observe the Elections of Deputies of Jogor ku Kenesh (Parliament) of the Kyrgyz Republic as International Observer on 28th November, 2021. Embassy of Pakistan in Kyrgyz Republic participated in election observation on behalf of ECP.

10.3 Interaction with National Stakeholders

- ECP as per its Strategic Goal of voter education, offered 7th Summer Internship Program 2021 to undergraduate and graduate students of different universities in twin cities. Forty six (46) students successfully completed 6-8 weeks internship at ECP Secretariat in August- September, 2021 where they were familiarized with election laws, gender and social inclusion, information technology, budgeting, political finance and office management.



- A briefing session was arranged at ECP Secretariat on 30th August, 2021, for 86th Pre-Service Course for 40 trainee officers of Pakistan Provincial Service Academy (PPSA), Peshawar. The objective of the briefing session was to apprise the participants about the roles and functions of the ECP.



Representative of PPSA presenting shield to Hon'ble CEC on study visit of trainee officers of 86th Pre-Service Course of Pakistan Provincial Service Academy (PPSA), Peshawar at ECP Secretariat on 30th August, 2021



A group photograph with Hon'ble CEC on study visit of ECP Secretariat of trainee officers of 86th Pre-Service Course of Pakistan Provincial Service Academy (PPSA), Peshawar on 30th August, 2021

- A briefing session was arranged at ECP Secretariat on 27th October, 2021 for students and faculty of Department of Governance & Public Policy of National University of Modern Languages (NUML), Islamabad. The objective of the briefing session was to apprise the participants about the role/functions of the ECP.



Students & faculty of NUML-Islamabad at ECP Secretariat on 27th October, 2021

- A briefing session was arranged at ECP Secretariat on 01st December, 2021 for students and faculty of Department of Management Science of COMSATS University, Islamabad. The objective of the briefing session was to apprise the participants about the roles and functions of the ECP.



Students & faculty of COMSATS Islamabad on study tour of ECP Secretariat on 1st December, 2021

11. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

During the year 2021, fifteen bye-elections were held which were properly monitored in the light of Section 234 of the Elections Act 2017. Apart from that special teams were also deputed to monitor Pre-Poll, Poll- day and Post-Poll activities.

DETAILS OF DISTRICT MONITORING OFFICERS (DMOs) AND MONITORING OFFICERS (MOs) TO MONITOR ELECTION CAMPAIGN DURING ELECTIONS CONDUCTED IN THE YEAR 2021

Sr. No.	Elections	District Monitoring Officers (DMOs)	Monitoring Officers (MOs)
1.	National/Provincial Bye-elections	15	30
2.	Cantonment Board local government Elections	29	164
3.	local government Elections Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (1 st Phase)	17	132
Total		61	326

SUMMARY OF VIOLATIONS, WARNINGS ISSUED AND FINE IMPOSED AND REMOVALS BY DISTRICT MONITORING OFFICERS

Sr. No.	Elections	Violations	Notices issued	Warnings issued	Fines imposed	No of banners, hoardings and flexes removed
1.	National/Provincial Bye-elections	310	179	32	23	15535
2.	Cantonment Board local government Elections	36	19	7	3	22300
3.	local government Elections Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (1 st Phase)	934	100	126	20	3844

The local government Elections in 42 Cantonment Boards of Pakistan were also monitored for the first time in the light of directions of Commission under Article 218(3) of the Constitution. Likewise, in order to make proper arrangements for monitoring of local

government Elections in 17 districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (1st Phase), a Provincial Monitoring Coordinator (PMC - BPS 20) was appointed in each Province to coordinate and monitor the activities. Seventeen District Monitoring Officers (DMOs) were appointed at district level to decide the complaints regarding violation of the Code of Conduct, While 132 Monitoring Teams were appointed to monitor Pre-Poll, Poll-day and Post -Poll Activities.

Debriefing sessions were also held immediately after the conclusion of each election. In response, thereof, SOPs for monitoring were updated, revised and improved and the role of the monitoring teams was enhanced upto the post poll activities. Similarly, instructions were issued to DMOs to be more vigilant and take strict actions across the board as per law on account of any violation. Notices were issued and fine were imposed to the violators of the code of conduct.

Keeping in view the importance of monitoring, the Commission has taken initiatives to restructure the Monitoring Wing to cater to the requirement of electoral cycle. It is now called the Monitoring and Evaluation Wing and will include qualified Human Resource and tools to monitor elections.

1. **Pre-Election Period**
Planning – Training –Voter Registration- Civic Education
2. **Election Period**
Nomination – Campaign – Voting – Results
3. **Post-Election Period**
Review –Revise -Reform

12. GENERAL SERVICES

During the year 2021, printing of ballot papers was arranged for the conduct of Senate election, Cantonment Boards elections, Bye-elections and local government elections in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province (1st Phase). The detail is as under:-

S.No.	Name of Constituencies	Poll Date / Election Day as per schedule issued by Coordination Branch of this Secretariat
1.	PS-52 Umerkot-II	18-01-2021
2.	NA-75 Sialkot-IV	16-02-2021
3.	PS-43 Sanghar-III	16-02-2021
4.	PS-88 Malir-II	16-02-2021
5.	PB-20 Pishin-III	16-02-2021
6.	PP-51 Gujranwala-I	19-02-2021
7.	NA-45 Kurram-I	19-02-2021
8.	PK-63 Nowshera-III	19-02-2021
9.	NA-221 Tharparkar-I	21-02-2021
10.	Senate Election 2021	03-03-2021
11.	Re-Poll NA-75 Sialkot-IV	18-03-2021
12.	NA-249 Karachi West-II	29-04-2021
13.	PP-84 Khushab-III	05-05-2021
14.	PS-70 Badin-I	20-05-2021
15.	PP-38 Sialkot-IV	28-07-2021
16.	Cantonment Board Elections	12-09-2021
17.	NA-133 Lahore-XI	05-12-2021
18.	PP-206 Khanewal-IV1	16-12-2021
19.	local government Elections in KPK Province (1 st Phase)	19-12-2021
20.	Senate Bye-Election in KPK Provincial Assembly	20-12-2021

It will not be out of place to mention here that as the 1st Phase of local government Elections-2021 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province was held on party basis on the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, pictures of contesting candidates of political parties on general category were inserted in Ballot Papers for the first time in history of Pakistan so that voters could identify the contesting candidates more easily.

13. GENDER AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

Article 25 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan states that “all citizens are equal before law and are entitled to equal protection of law and there shall be no discrimination on the basis of sex”. Election Commission of Pakistan firmly believes that elections can be made more inclusive if equal opportunities are provided to all segments of the society to participate in the electoral processes. During the year 2021, ECP took several initiatives to mainstream women, persons with disabilities, minorities and transgender persons in the electoral processes, the detail is as under:

- Pilot survey conducted to verify the gender gap and to identify the reasons thereof
- Female NIC/Voter Registration Campaign
- Training Need Assessment of female staff at ECP
- Draft of Gender mainstreaming and Social Inclusion Framework
- National Working Women’s Day
- International/National Rural Women’s Day
- Reconstitution of Harassment Committees
- International Day for Persons with Disabilities
- Synergies built with 11 universities to conduct researches on causes of low voter registration

13.1 Female NIC and Voter Registration Campaign

According to the 6th population Census (2017), women constitute 48.76% of the total population in Pakistan, hence, their participation as voters and candidates is essential in electoral processes. Section 47 of the Elections Act, 2017 provides that the Commission shall take special measures for enrolment of women voters where the variation in the disaggregated data of registered voters is more than ten percent in a constituency.

ECP commenced Women’s NIC and Voter Registration Campaign in 2017 and has completed its third phase across the country with the support of implementation partners and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs). Approximately 850,000 unregistered women were facilitated by bringing them to NADRA Registration Centers (NRCs). They were further facilitated through Mobile Registration Vans (MRVs) to register their NICs/votes. ECP conducted a pilot survey to verify the gender gap and to identify the reasons in 230 CBCs of 21 tehsils from 20 districts where the gender gap was more than 10%. The survey teams visited 32000 households during their door-to-door verification, met men and women of 18 years and above. The findings of the pilot survey show the reasons for low registration of females NICs as follows:

- Distance of NADRA's registration centers from the population
- Lack of knowledge about the documentation required for NIC registration
- Financial constraints
- Cultural barriers and social challenges

As a recommendation from the pilot survey, the Chief Election Commissioner launched Phase-IV of the Female NIC Registration Campaign with focus in areas with more than 10% of gender gap. The said Campaign was launched on 7th July, 2021 with the collaboration of implementation partners and CSOs in 73 districts across the country.

Management Information System (MIS) is in progress to be used for real-time updating of women NIC registration facilitated by implementing partners through the NIC/Voter Registration Campaign Phase-IV. The Commission issued directions to the Chief Secretaries and Education Ministers for formation of "Policy regarding possession of NICs at the time of admission in all educational institutions", where applicable.



13.2 Training Needs Assessment of Female Staff

The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) while developing the 3rd Strategic Plan 2019-2023 kept inclusiveness as one of the top priorities. To ascertain the training needs of female staff in its various cadres, the ECP conducted a Training Need Assessment (TNA) focused on female staff of the ECP. This was done in order to learn about training needs of these women and to design training program related with training and continuous professional development of the ECP's female staff and to help optimize their performance. A questionnaire was used to conduct training needs assessment covering all aspects of the

proposed training areas and was sent to ECP female staff. Manual for male allies and manual for capacity building of female staff has been prepared along with training plan and TNA Report.

13.3 Gender Mainstreaming and Social Inclusion Framework (GMSIF)

ECP is mindful about the importance of gender mainstreaming. Pillar 10 of ECP's Third Strategic Plan (2019-2023) highlights the significance of developing a Gender Mainstreaming and Social Inclusion Framework (GMSIF). A draft of Gender Mainstreaming and Social Inclusion Framework (GMSIF) is prepared in consultation with the Committee formed for the said framework.

13.4 National Working Women's Day

22nd December was declared as the National Working Women's Day in 2010 by the Prime Minister of Pakistan in recognition of the struggle of working women to secure a dignified and respectful working environment. This day is also marked to acknowledge the economic contributions made by women. ECP commemorated this event on 22nd December, 2021 at Secretariat. The event was graced by the Chief Election Commissioner, Secretary ECP, Special Secretary ECP and other senior male and female officers of the Secretariat.





13.5 International/National Rural Women's Day

In order to raise awareness among rural women about the electoral process and polling day activities, ECP participated in 14th Annual Conference on Rural Women organized by Potohar Organization for Development Advocacy (PODA) which is a member of Gender and Disability Electoral Working Group (GDEWG) of ECP. The conference was held on 15th October, 2021 at Lok Virsa, Islamabad, with the theme "The Game Changers: Rural Women Rising for Equity, Ecology, Democracy & Economic Development Leadership in Pakistan". ECP collaborated in the following areas for the event:

- i. Shared a solidarity message by the Chief Election Commissioner for PODA's 14th annual conference booklet
- ii. Special Secretary ECP chaired the session and addressed the rural women on 15th October, 2021
- iii. Director (local government) ECP gave a presentation on local government System with gender perspective
- iv. IEC material was prepared for the event covering rural women, rural women with disabilities, rural women from minorities and rural transgender, etc.

13.6 Reconstitution of Harassment Committee

The ECP is committed to make efforts for creating an enabling working environment for all staff members. Harassment Committees are constituted in the Secretariat and also in Provincial Headquarters. Manuals were prepared on training of Inquiry Committee on

Harassment Act, 2010 and different orientation sessions were conducted to sensitize the staff of the Commission.

13.7 International Day for Persons With Disabilities

ECP commemorates the PWDs day annually. A ceremony was held on 2nd December 2021 at the ECP Secretariat to express solidarity with the person with disabilities (PWDs) and to identify the challenges and barriers faced by them regarding their representation and participation in the electoral process so that concrete steps could be taken accordingly. The theme for 2021 was **“Leadership and participation of Persons with Disabilities towards an inclusive, accessible and sustainable post-COVID-19 world”**. Chairman NADRA and Director Social Welfare, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa also attended the event. Director Social welfare gave a presentation on their **“One window operation for PWDs Registration”** so that the same may be followed in Islamabad.

13.8 Synergies Built with Eleven Universities to Conduct Research on Causes of Low Voter Registration

The analysis of General Election 2018 reflected 55.8% voter turnout with 60.3% male and 39.7% female voter turnout. In order to find out the causes of low female voter registration and low voter turnout, Vice Chancellors of eleven universities across Pakistan have been requested through official correspondence regarding **“Research on causes of low voter registration and turn out of women, PWDs and transgender”**.

14. MEDIA COORDINATION AND OUTREACH

ECP Public Relations Wing has been restructured with a new nomenclature “**Media Coordination and Outreach wing**” considering the ever-changing media dynamics, to keep pace with challenging digital media milieu, to strengthen bond between ECP and public and to present optimized image of the organization by extending public outreach.



Briefing to Hon'ble Commission on re-structuring of Media wing

Hierarchical set up of MCO has been revamped by adding 5 new technical posts of different categories with the creation of digital media monitoring team and establishment of a well-equipped and state-of-the-art monitoring room.

14.1 Mass Awareness and Public Outreach Campaign

The ECP launched door-to-door voter verification drive to revise electoral rolls under Section 36 of Elections Act, 2017 and issued a comprehensive plan for Periodical Revision of Electoral Rolls, 2021-22 in respect of all the provinces. In order to make this drive successful, an extensive media campaign as well as public outreach campaign was initiated by the ECP.

14.2 Periodical Revision of Electoral Rolls 2021-22 and Door-to-Door Voter Verification Drive

ECP aims at making this activity more progressive and effective by equipping people with basic knowledge about Pakistan's electoral system and importance of casting vote for strengthening democratic process. Awareness raising program in respect of Periodical

Revision of Electoral Rolls 2021-22 was initiated by all Provincial Election Commissioners at Provincial, Regional and District level with the coordination of MCO Wing. First phase of door-to-door verification of draft Electoral Rolls was concluded on 31st December, 2021.

14.3 ECP Students' Voter Education & Awareness Program 2021-22

As per 7th strategic Pillar of 3rd strategic Plan 2019-23, ECP aims to enhance voter education and participation. For this purpose, voters' education and awareness amongst masses especially the participation of youth in electoral process, and to equip them with basic knowledge about Pakistan's electoral process is very important.

ECP students' voter education & awareness program 2021-2022 is in full swing across the country. 145 universities and colleges would be sensitized in a span of 6 months. In addition to this, ECP Students' Voter Education and Awareness program has been started at grass-roots level by all District Elections Commissioners in their respective areas and consolidated weekly reports of their activities are shared with the Commission on weekly basis.



Youth Awareness Campaign of ECP with Students of COMSAT University 1st December, 2021

14.4 Electronic and Print Media strategy

Total 18 advertising agencies submitted their proposals for mass awareness and public outreach campaign regarding door-to-door verification of Electoral Rolls 2021-2022, out of which 5 were selected through a rigorous selection process. A brief description of aforesaid campaign is as under:

- Print media advertisement was published in 37 regional and national dailies reinforcing the message of Revision of E/Rolls.
- Teaser and TVCs were aired from 06th November to 31st December, 2021 on 18 national as well as regional TV channels highlighting the importance of door-to-door voter verification campaign.
- 150 press releases were issued across the country on weekly basis and consolidated weekly reports of the same were received from Provincial Election Commissioners.
- You Tubers/ Bloggers were also engaged to create mass awareness.
- Youth especially Students were engaged through Orientation sessions.
- Public service messages were aired by 450 cable operators throughout the country.
- Pamphlets and flyers on voter education were distributed among students and general masses.
- Public service messages were aired on Radio Pakistan and different FM channels across the country.
- Public Service Messages were aired on Satellite channels through PEMRA.
- TV tickers were also aired from time to time on different TV channels.

انتخابی فہرستوں پر نظر ثانی 2021-22
گھر گھر ووٹرز کی تصدیق کا آغاز
7 نومبر تا 6 دسمبر 2021

ایکشن کمیشن آف پاکستان نے انتخابات 2023 کیلئے انتخابی فہرستوں کو اپ ڈیٹ کرنے کیلئے گھر گھر ووٹرز کی تصدیق کا عمل شروع کر دیا ہے۔
ووٹ کا اندراج / منتقلی صرف شناختی کارڈ پر درج مستقل یا عارضی پتہ پر کیا جائے گا۔

انتخابی فہرستوں پر نظر ثانی کا عمل

- ✓ مقامی کارڈ کے مطابق ووٹ کا اندراج
- ✓ دفات پانچ افراد کے گھروں کا اعراج
- ✓ مقامی کارڈ کے کوائف کے مطابق فہرست میں درجی

صرف سرکاری اداروں اور اہل خانہ میں، ہائی پے ایسے دست کا اندراج / منتقلی کرنا سکتے ہیں

تصدیق عملہ سے تمہارا آپ کا فرض اور ذمہ داری

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14.5 Reactivation of District Voter Education Committees (DVECs)

The already established District Voter Education Committees (DVECs) are instrumental in expanding the ECP's outreach with citizens and voters at the grassroots level. These Committees are convened by District Election Commissioners and attended by civil society, political and media representatives to lead and implement voter education activities at the grassroots level in their respective districts. This time ECP took initiative of reviewing and improving structure, mandate and performance of DVECs to facilitate voter participation by reactivating DVECs in unconventional way by utilizing this platform for youth sensitization and political participation drive in electoral process keeping in view the recent voter age-wise statistics published on 4th November, 2021. Youth constitutes more than 50 Million voters between the age brackets of 18-36 years. In order to maximize youth involvement in electoral process, all DEVCS were asked to conduct 2 orientation sessions each month at their respective district universities, colleges and higher secondary schools along with other civic voter education activities.



Voter Education Programs in Educational Institutions



Voter Education Programs in Educational Institutions



Youth Voters awareness Programs

14.6 Celebration of 6th National Voters' Day 2021

Election Commission of Pakistan celebrates National Voters' day (NVD) on 7th of December annually.



Election Commission of Pakistan celebrated 6th Voters' day (NVD) on 7th of December 2021. The main event was held at ECP Secretariat, Islamabad.

The Hon'ble CEC graced the occasion which was attended by chairman NADRA, development partners, representatives of media and civil society organizations.



The Hon'ble Chief Election Commissioner of Pakistan is presenting the souvenir to Mr. Shahid Fiaz, CEO, TDEA



Hon'ble CEC addressing National voters day on 7th December 2021 at ECP Secretariat Islamabad

NVD was also celebrated at provincial, regional and district level with full zeal and enthusiasm. RECs and DECs also arranged several awareness activities such as walks, seminars and orientation session at colleges/schools. ECP organized the main event and coordinated with offices of Provincial Election Commissioners regarding arrangements and distribution of IEC material of NVD-2021. Print media campaign was initiated and advertisement of NVD was published in 35 national and regional dailies highlighting the importance of National Voters' Day. ECP arranged the installment of banners, standees, streamers with the collaboration of UNDP and coordinated with banks for displaying Public Service Messages on ATM Screens.



6th National Voters Day celebrated at ECP Secretariat, Islamabad on 7th December, 2021.

14.7 Digital Media Content Monitoring Team

A vibrant and vigilant social media monitoring team has been constituted with the responsibility to monitor social media content related to ECP. The main aim of constituting the team is to enhance public outreach and dispel mis-information. Digital Media content monitoring team is headed by Additional Director General (MCO).

Annex-I

Sr. No.	No. & Name of Constituency	Reason of Bye-Elections	Date of Poll
National Assembly			
1	NA-45 Kurram-I	Due to death of Mr. Munir Khan Orakzai, MNA	19-02-2021
2	NA-221 Tharparkar-I	Due to death of Pir Noor Muhammad Shah Jeelani, MNA.	21-02-2021
3	NA-75 Sialkot-IV(Re-Poll)	Due to death of Syed Iftikhar-ul-Hassan, MNA	10-04-2021
4	NA-249 Karachi West-II	Due to resignation tendered by Muhammad Faisal Vawda, MNA	29-04-2021
5	NA-133 Lahore-XI	Due to death of Mr. Muhammad Pervaiz Malik, MNA	05-12-2021
Provincial Assembly of Punjab			
1	PP-51 Gujranwala-I	Due to death of Shoukat Manzoor Cheema, MPA	19-02-2021
2	PP-84 Khushab-III	Due to death of Muhammad Waris Shad, MPA	05-05-2021
3	PP-38 Sialkot-IV	Due to death of Choudhary Khush Akhtar Subhani, MPA	28-07-2021
4	PP-206 Khanewal-IV	Due to death of Mr. Nishat Ahmed Khan, MPA	16-12-2021
Provincial Assembly of Sindh			
1	PS-52 Umerkot-II	Due to death of Syed Ali Mardan Shah, MPA	18-01-2021
2	PS-43 Sanghar-III	Due to death of Jam Madad Ali Khan, MPA	16-02-2021
3	PS- 88 Malir-II	Due to death of Mr. Ghulam Murtaza Baloch, MPA	16-02-2021
4	PS-70 Badin-I	Due to death of Mr. Bashir Ahmed, MPA	20-05-2021
Provincial Assembly of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa			
1	PK-63 Nowshera-III	Due to death of Mr. Jamshaid-ud-Din, MPA	19-02-2021
Provincial Assembly of Balochistan			
1	PB-20 Pishin	Due to death of Syed Muhammad Fazal Agha, MPA	16-02-2021

1. As a result of bye-elections, following candidates were declared returned from the constituencies mentioned against their names:-

Sr. No.	No. & Name of Constituency	Name of returned candidate	Party Affiliation
National Assembly of Pakistan			
1	NA-45 Kurram-I	Fakhar Zaman Khan	PTI
2	NA-221 Tharparkar-I	Pir Ameer Ali Shah Jeelani	PPPP
3	NA-75 Sialkot-IV	Nosheen Iftikhar	PML(N)
4	NA-249 Karachi West-II	Qadir Khan Mandokhail	PPPP
5	NA-133 Lahore-XI	Shaista Pervaiz	PML(N)
Provincial Assembly of Punjab			
1	PP-51 Gujranwala-I	Tallat Mehmood	PML(N)
2	PP-84 Khushab-III	Muhammad Moazzam Sher	PML(N)
3	PP-38 Sialkot-IV	Ahsan Saleem	PTI
4	PP-206 Khanewal-IV	Rana Muhammad Saleem	PML(N)
Provincial Assembly of Sindh			
1	PS-52 Umerkot-II	Syed Ameer Ali Shaj	PPPP
2	PS-43 Sanghar-III	Jam Shabbir Ali Khan	PPPP
3	PS- 88 Malir-II	Muhammad Yousuf Baloch	PPPP
4	PS-70 Badin-I	Mohammad Halepota	PPPP
Provincial Assembly of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa			
1	PK-63 Nowshera-III	Ikhtiar Wali	PML(N)
Provincial Assembly of Balochistan			
1	PB-20 Pishin	Syed Azeezullah	JUIP

Annex-II

SENATE ELECTIONS-2021					
Sr No	Name of Returned Candidate	Father's/Husband's Name	Party affiliation	Address	Category
FEDERAL CAPITAL					
1	Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani	Makhdoom Syed Alamdar Hussain Gillani	PPPP	House No.1, Street No.32, Sector F-8/1, Islamabad.	General Seat
2	Fawzia Arshad	w/o Raja Raza Arshad	PTI	LG-10, Hamza Tower, Street No.73, F-11/1, Islamabad.	Women
PUNJAB					
3	Kamil Ali Agha	Agha Ahmed Ali Khan	PML	H.No. 10-Humanyoun Street No.1, BilalGunj, Lahore.	General Seat
4	Saifullah Sarwar Khan Nyazee	Imran Ahsan Khan Nyazee	PTI	H.No. 11, Millat Colony, Rawalpindi.	
5	Afnan Ullah Khan	Mushahid Ullah Khan	PML(N)	H.No.44, St. No.20-A,Chaklala Scheme No.3, Rawalpindi.	
6	Aon Abbas	Muhammad Abbas	PTI	H.No.217, Block-A, Wapda Town, Multan.	
7	Ejaz Ahmad Chaudhary	Chaudhary Mukhtar Ahmad	PTI	H.No.29-A-1, Block-P, Model Town (Ext), Lahore.	
8	Sajid Mir	Abdul Qayyum Mir	PML(N)	H.No.31/190, Mohallah Mianapura, Sialkot.	
9	Irfan-ul-Haque Siddiqui	Abdul Haq	PML(N)	H.No.82, St. No.3, Sector G-10/3, Islamabad.	
10	Zarqa Suharwardy Taimur	w/o Taimur Tashkeen	PTI	House No.30, Link 12 Sarwar Road, Near Rahat Bakery Cantt. Lahore.	Women
11	Saadia Abbasi	w/o Abid Riaz	PML(N)	H.No.216, St.No.12, E-7,Islamabad.	General Seat
12	Azam Nazeer Tarar	Fazal Ahmad	PML(N)	H.No.34, Mohallah AOHS Survey 170, Tufail Road, Lahore Cantt. Lahore.	
13	Syed Ali Zafar	Syed Muhammad Zafar	PTI	H.No.9-A, Block-J, Johar Town, Kanal Bank, Lahore.	
SINDH					
14	Sheher Bano Sherry Rehman	w/o Syed Nadeem Hussain	PPPP	House No.F-49, Old Clifton Karachi South.	General Seat
15	Syed Faisal Ali Subzwari	Syed Ehtram Ali Subzwari	MQM(P)	C-166/1, Block 10, F.B.Area, Karachi Central.	
16	Saleem Mandviwalla	Hakeem Mandviwalla	PPPP	H-106, Street 29 th , DHA- Phase-VI, Karachi.	
17	Taj Haider	Prof. Karrar Hussain	PPPP	C-90, Commercial Street 10, Phase-4, DHA Karachi.	
18	Muhammad Fesal Vawda	Muhammad Umer Vawda	PTI	H.No.A-21, St.07,Muhallah Bath Island, Gulshan-e-Faisal, Clifton, Karachi.	
19	Shahadat Awan	Hafiz Ghulam Muhammad	PPPP	18-A, 3 rd Gizri Street- Phase-IV DHA, Karachi South.	
20	Jam Mahtab Hussain Dahar	Jam Mumtaz Hussain Khan Dahar	PPPP	Village Bashirabad Taluka Ubauro, District Ghotki.	
21	Palwasha Mohammed Zai Khan	Zaka Ullah Khan	PPPP	Banglow Block R-82/3/2- A Street Number 5 Block- 3, Gulistan-e-Johar, Karachi East.	Women
22	Khalida Ateeb	w/o Syed Ateeb Ahmed	MQM(P)	House No.A-316, Rafa-e-Aam Co. Society, District Korangi,Karachi.	

23	Farooq Hamid Naek	Abdul Hamid Naek	PPPP	60/A/1, 3 rd Sunset Street, Phase-II Ext, DHA, Karachi South.	Technocrats / Ulema
24	Saifullah Abro	Qalandar Bux Abro	PTI	Village Agham No.2 P.O. Bangal Dero Mulan Kalhoro Taluka Ratodero District Larkana.	
KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA					
25	Mohsin Aziz	Haji Aziz ur Rehman	PTI	Gulshane Aziz, Kababyan, Warsak Road, Peshawar.	General Seats
26	Liaqat Khan Tarakai	Haji Munir Khan	PTI	Village Tarakai, Tehsil Razar, Swabi.	
27	Syed Shibli Faraz	Syed Ahmad Faraz	PTI	H.No.56, Sialbaz Road, Kohat Cantt.	
28	Hidayatullah Khan	Pir Muhammad Khan	ANP	H.No.T-278, Din Bahar Colony, Charsadda Road, Peshawar.	
29	Faisal Saleem Rehman	Saleem ur Rehman	PTI	H.No.20, Mohallah Defence Colony, Mardan.	
30	Atta-ur-Rehman	Moulana Mufti Mehmood	JUIP	Shahbaz Khel, P/O Khas Abdul Khail, Tehsil Paharpur, District D.I.Khan.	
31	Zeeshan Khan Zada	Khanzada Khan	PTI	172-A, Sheikh Maltoon Town, Mardan.	Women
32	Sania Nishtar	W/o Muhammad Ghalib Nishtar	PTI	Shami Road, H.No.48, Street No.2, Peshawar Cantt. Tehsil & District Peshawar.	
33	FalakNaz	W/o Tariq Masood	PTI	H.No.40, St # 7, Sector F-4, Phase-6 Hayatabad, Peshawar.	
34	Dost Muhammad Khan	Gawan Khan	PTI	H.No.77/A-1177, Mohallah Dost Muhammad, Tank.	
35	Mohammad Humayun Mohmand	Abdul Sattar	PTI	Damaan Afghani, P.O. Khas, Peshawar.	
36	Gurdeep Singh	Bagat Ram	PTI	KozaHujraChakesar, District Shangla.	
BALUCHISTAN					
37	Mohammad Abdul Qadir	Mohammad Ayub	IND	H # 5-11/124 Mohallah Multani, Kaiqabad Road, Quetta.	General Seats
38	Muhammad Qasim	Muhammad Hashim	BNP	r/o Roonjha House, Mehtag, Bela, Lasbela.	
39	Molana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri	Muhammad Azeem	JUIP	R/o MohallahKohang, Kalat.	
40	Prince Ahmed Umer Ahmedzai	His Highness Mir Muhammad Dawood Khan	BAP	Sariab-1, Awan-e-KalatAhmedzai Colony, Quetta.	
41	Umer Farooq	Abdul Zahir Kasi	ANP	Arbab House, Khudaidad Road, Quetta.	
42	Manzoor Ahmed	Bashir Ahmed	BAP	H # 8-17/9 Balochi Street, Khan Tama Khan, Quetta.	
43	Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti	Mir Ghulam Qadir Bugti	BAP	Nazar-ul-Islam Road, H.No.2- DA, Quetta Cantt.	Women
44	Samina Mumtaz	w/o Ali Hassan Zehri	BAP	H # 5, Street-1, Komal City, Hub, Lasbela.	
45	Naseema Ehsan	w/o Syed Ehsan Shah	IND	r/o MohallahZor Bazar, Kech.	
46	Kamran Murtaza	Sheikh Muhammad Ejaz	JUIP	H # 70-D, Mohallah Samungli House Scheme, Quetta.	
47	Saeed Ahmed Hashmi	Syed Iqbal Shah Hashmi	BAP	H.No.95/A, Club Road, Quetta Cantt.	
48	Danesh Kumar	Kalena Ram	BAP	r/o Pathra, Mohallah Zehri Street, Hub, District Lasbela.	



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