



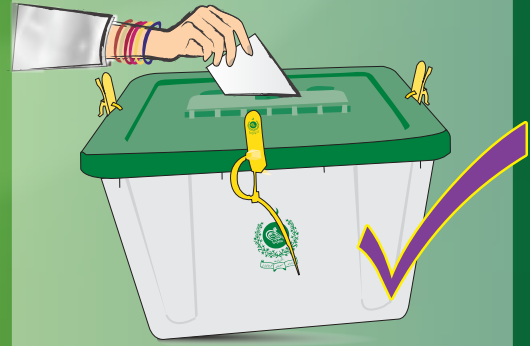
الیکشن کمیشن آف پاکستان

ECP Newsletter

Issue-I



ووٹ کا اندراج
کل نہیں آج!



“Elections are vital. Be a voter. It is your duty and obligation to get registered as a voter. Change the future of your country through the ballot.”

Mr. Justice (Retd.) Fakhruddin G. Ebrahim,
Honourable Chief Election Commissioner of Pakistan

ابھی **8300** پر اپنا شناختی کارڈ نمبر
کر کے حتمی انتخابی فہرست میں اپنی معلومات کی تصدیق کریں۔



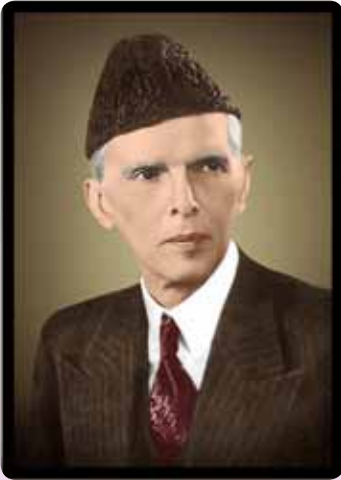
Mr. Justice (Retd.)
Shahzad Akbar Khan
Honourable Member
(Khyber Pakhtunkhwa)

Mr. Justice (Retd.)
Muhammad Roshan Essani
Honourable Member
(Sindh)

Mr. Justice (Retd.)
Fakhruddin G. Ebrahim,
Honourable Chief Election
Commissioner of Pakistan

Mr. Justice (Retd.)
Riaz Kiyani
Honourable Member
(Punjab)

Mr. Justice (Retd.) Fazal-ur-
Rehman
Honourable Member
(Balochistan)



Quote from the Quaid

Remember, now it is in your hands to put the government in power or remove the government from power; but you must not do it by mob methods. You have the power, you must learn the art to use it; you must try and understand the machinery..... therefore, the whole thing is in your hands.”

Speech at a Public Meeting, Dhaka
21st March 1948

Our Vision and Mission

Vision

To fulfill its Constitutional obligation of holding free, fair and impartial elections in an effective, credible, transparent and independent manner; providing equal opportunity and accessibility to all and meeting the aspirations of the nation for a strong democracy in Pakistan.

Mission

To organise and conduct free, fair and impartial elections through enhancing its organisational capacity; preparing and maintaining credible electoral rolls; delimiting constituencies in a transparent manner; encouraging voters' participation; monitoring electoral processes diligently; building constructive relationships with all stakeholders; and introducing comprehensive electoral reforms in Pakistan.

Patron-in-Chief: Mr. Justice (Retd.) Fakhruddin G. Ebrahim, Hon'ble Chief Election Commissioner of Pakistan;
Chairman Editorial Board: Mr. Ishtiaq Ahmad Khan, Secretary ECP; **Managing Editor:** Mr. Muhammad Afzal Khan, Additional Secretary ECP; **Editor:** Mr. Muhammad Iftikhar Raja, Additional Director General (PR); **Deputy Editor:** Mr. Altaf Ahmad, Director (PR); **Assistant Editor & Coordinator:** Mr. Khurshid Alam, Deputy Director (PR)

Message from the Chief Election Commissioner of Pakistan, Honourable Justice (Retd.) Fakhruddin G. Ebrahim

I am delighted to see the first issue of Election Commission of Pakistan's Newsletter. It is a new initiative which will certainly contribute towards creating awareness amongst voters which is imperative to increase their understanding of electoral processes.

It is a matter of satisfaction that the ECP is continuously communicating and interacting with political parties, civil society organisations, related government organisations and media. This process of interaction, communication and information sharing is the best tool to build confidence. The ECP is fully committed to ensure free, fair, transparent and credible polls in the country. The ECP will ensure that all segments of society including women, minorities and

persons with disabilities must be able to fully participate in this process.

No doubt, it is an uphill task which is challenging and demanding as well but the ECP is fully prepared and devoted to meet all these challenges.

Elections are an important tool for strengthening democracy—the more effective they are, the better the chances are that democracy will flourish.

I urge the people of my beloved country to come forward and give a truly democratic Pakistan to our next generation by exercising the right of franchise.



Honourable Members of the Election Commission of Pakistan



Mr. Justice (Retd.)
Muhammad Roshan Essani
Member
(Sindh)



Mr. Justice (Retd.)
Riaz Kiyani
Member
(Punjab)



Mr. Justice (Retd.)
Shahzad Akbar Khan
Member
(Khyber Pakhtunkhwa)



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Excerpts From Secretary ECP, Mr. Ishtiaq Ahmad Khan's Letter to Political Parties

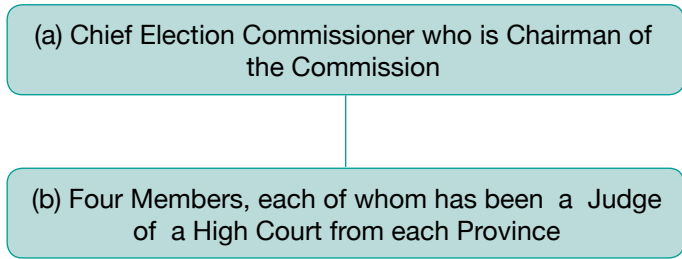
"You are well aware that the country is passing through a crucial phase of its history and, therefore, a great responsibility has fallen on our shoulders to ensure that fair and credible elections are held in a peaceful atmosphere so that smooth transition of power could take place. We all have to understand the truths and realities that the march of history is unfolding before our eyes, the various forces at play, the demands of our times and then rise above all other considerations to join hands to ensure fair, credible and peaceful elections at all costs to serve the best national interests, which take precedence over everything else. In this regard while the Election Commission will take

all possible steps, use all State resources through the Provincial Governments and the Federal Government under Article 220 of the Constitution, equal responsibility has to be shared by political parties as well to play their role which the nation expects of them. And, in this context, it is also pertinent to mention that 'History does have its own momentum...But when leaders who do have a clear vision of the future... they will change the course of history'."



Constitutional Status of ECP under 1973 Constitution

Election Commission of Pakistan is a permanent & independent constitutional body. It enjoys financial autonomy. It comprises:



Functions & Responsibilities

It is the duty of ECP to organise and conduct an election and to make such arrangements as are necessary to ensure that election is conducted honestly, justly, fairly and in accordance with law. And that corrupt practices are guarded against.

To prepare Electoral Rolls for conduct of various elections and revising such Rolls annually.

To organise and conduct election to the Senate & to fill casual vacancies in a house or a Provincial Assembly.

To appoint Election Tribunals.

To hold elections to the National Assembly, Provincial Assemblies and Local Government Elections.

To delimit constituencies.

For the purpose of Election to the office of President of Pakistan, the Chief Election Commissioner acts as Returning Officer.

STRATEGIC PLAN 2010-14

For the five years (January 2010-December 2014), under the Strategic Plan 15 goals and objectives have been set by the ECP.

The Strategic Goals are multi-faceted and complex, and will require a high degree of commitment to materialise them. The ECP will deploy all possible efforts to achieve these goals.

GOAL NO. 1 A Legal Framework

To ensure that the laws governing functions of the ECP and conduct of elections meet international standards and are complete, clear and understandable, and are put together in a way that their usage becomes easier and productive.

GOAL NO. 2 Registration of Voters & Electoral Rolls

To ensure that there is comprehensive voter registration and the electoral rolls are credible, accurate, fairly prepared and updated through annual revision according to the law by using modern technologies and other

appropriate methods, and that the rolls are accessible to all stakeholders.

GOAL NO. 3 Election Operations

To enhance institutional capacity for managing election operations smoothly and efficiently, making them voter friendly, and reducing the number of complaints and disputes by increasing the level of credibility of the electoral process.

GOAL NO. 4 Election Complaints & Disputes Resolution

To establish an effective and transparent election complaints and disputes resolution mechanism that contributes towards strengthening the overall electoral system.

GOAL NO. 5 Restructuring ECP

To reorganise the ECP structure in technical, legal, operational, administrative, and financial domains to

enhance its effectiveness, ensure smooth operations and strengthen its professional capacity.

GOAL NO. 6

Infrastructure, Logistics and Equipment for ECP Offices

To improve the working environment for staff and provide relevant and needed support in terms of equipment and accommodation to support ECP's efficient conduct of the electoral process, including its outreach to the public.

GOAL NO. 7

Human Resources Staffing and Compensation

To have a modern human resource management system for meeting current and future challenges, ensuring that staff are hired according to established policy, are well-compensated, are promoted on the basis of merit, and that staff composition is diverse and representative of the nation that the ECP serves.

GOAL NO. 8

Finance and Budget

To attain complete financial autonomy for the ECP and ensure sufficient funds on a regular basis to manage its functions effectively.

GOAL NO. 9

Training, Research and Evaluation

To institutionalise training, research and evaluation in order to strengthen the ECP's policy-making processes and build the capacity of the officers and staff leading to enhanced level of performance.

GOAL NO. 10

Information Technology

To strengthen information technology as a strategic resource in ECP's planning and decision-making functions with a view to improving efficiency and productivity in the electoral processes and also ensuring that public has access to the relevant electoral information.

GOAL NO. 11

Public Outreach and Interaction with Political Parties, CSOs and Media

To reach out to key stakeholders including political parties, candidates, civil society organisations, the media and general public in order to strengthen their trust in the electoral processes and to increase their participation in electoral matters through regular consultations.

GOAL NO. 12

Political Parties and Candidates

To strengthen the informed and lawful participation of political parties and candidates in electoral processes.

GOAL NO. 13

Participation of Voters/Civic and Voter Education

To create awareness amongst voters of all ages and all sections of society in order to increase their full participation in the electoral process by undertaking civic and voter education.

GOAL NO. 14

Marginalised Groups including Women, Minorities and Persons with Disabilities

To formulate laws and strictly implement them to ensure that marginalised groups including women, minorities and persons with disabilities are able to participate in political and electoral processes.

GOAL NO. 15

Branding of ECP

To create a refreshing and dynamic identity of the ECP leading to a change in the perception of the common people and public functionaries at all levels.

More than 60% of the goals have already been achieved.

ECP and NADRA to Continue Collaboration on Updating of Electoral Rolls

The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has signed a document with National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) agreeing to further terms and conditions to the contract already entered into between the two organisations on 27th June 2011 regarding preparation and updating of computerised Electoral Rolls-2012.

The ceremony was attended by the Honourable Members Election Commission of Pakistan, Justice (Retd.) Muhammad Roshan Essani, Justice (Retd.) Riaz Kayani, Justice (Retd.) Shahzad Akbar Khan and Justice (Retd.)

Fazal-ur-Rehman. The document was signed by Mr. Ishtiaq Ahmad Khan, Secretary ECP and Mr. Muhammad Tariq Malik, Chairman NADRA. Mr. Muhammad Afzal Khan, Additional Secretary, ECP, senior officers of the ECP and NADRA also attended the ceremony.



ECP Holds Consultation with CSOs

On 24th October 2012, the Election Commission of Pakistan held a consultative dialogue with numerous civil society organisations. It was chaired by Secretary ECP, Mr. Ishtiaq Ahmad Khan, and attended by other senior officers of the ECP. The agenda of the consultation covered the ECP's voter education (VE) initiatives and special efforts undertaken to include women, minorities and people with disabilities in electoral processes. Participants were also encouraged to share information on their VE activities for better coordination and impact in the future.

In his opening remarks, Secretary ECP said that the Election Commission has been in regular consultation with all stakeholders to ensure transparency and credibility in elections and the dialogue was a continuation of that effort. He encouraged participants to collaborate with District/Agency Election Commissioners and inform them of their areas of operation and focus target groups, to achieve synergies. Additional Secretary, Mr. Muhammad



Afzal Khan, also shared the ECP's Voter Education Plan with participants and asked them to mobilise the public to register to vote, to check their details on the Electoral Rolls 2012 by sending their CNIC number through SMS to 8300 and if needed to contact the offices of the nearest District/Agency Election Commissioners for corrections.

Secretary ECP Briefs Baroness Sayeeda Warsi on Measures taken by ECP to Ensure Free, Fair and Transparent Elections

"The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), under the dynamic leadership of Mr. Justice (Retd.) Fakhruddin G. Ebrahim, has made all necessary arrangements to ensure free, fair and transparent elections in the country," stated Mr. Ishtiaq Ahmad Khan, Secretary, ECP while talking to Baroness Sayeeda Warsi, UK Senior Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs who met him at the ECP Secretariat, Islamabad, on 6th November 2012. Additional Secretary, Mr. Muhammad Afzal Khan and senior officers of the ECP were also present during the meeting.

Baroness Warsi highly appreciated the sincere endeavours of the ECP to ensure credible, honest and transparent elections.



Secretary ECP meets with Participants of the 97th National Management Course



“The Election Commission has taken several concrete initiatives to ensure fair, impartial and transparent elections in the country,” stated Mr. Ishtiaq Ahmad Khan, Secretary ECP, while briefing the participants of the 97th National Management Course (NMC) who visited the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on their inland study tour. He said these initiatives include: Electoral Rolls bearing photographs of voters, obtaining thumb impression of each voter casting his/her vote to avoid impersonation, preparation of non-market ballot papers with special

security features, results management system to make the result compilation process fast, preparation and implementation of Code of Conduct for political parties, establishment of permanent polling stations and placement of the details on the ECP’s website, a comprehensive voter awareness campaign, establishment of District Outreach and Security Committees, and setting up a permanent Election Tribunal for the quick disposal of election disputes through day to day hearings.



ECP will Provide a Level Playing Ground to all Political Parties and Contesting Candidates to Ensure Fair, Transparent and Credible Elections

“The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) will provide a level playing ground to all political parties and contesting candidates to ensure fair, transparent and credible elections as elections are vital for democracy and the stability of the country,” this was stated by Mr. Ishtiaq Ahmad Khan, Secretary ECP, in a meeting with the participants of the 12th Senior Management Course (SMC) of National Institute of Management, Karachi, who visited the ECP on their inland study tour on 14th November 2012.

“For the upcoming elections, several steps have been taken to ensure honest and credible elections, including: a results management system to make the result compilation process fast, a comprehensive voter awareness campaign, establishment of District Outreach and Security Committees, setting up a permanent Election Tribunal for the quick disposal of election disputes through day to day



hearings within a maximum of 120 days and the delegation of magisterial powers to presiding officers for three days,” he informed.

Federal Law Minister, Farooq H. Naik, Meets Honourable CEC

Federal Law Minister, Mr. Farooq H. Naik called on Mr. Justice (Retd.) Fakhruddin G. Ebrahim, Honourable Chief Election Commissioner of Pakistan, at the ECP Secretariat, Islamabad, on 14th November 2012. Honourable Members of the ECP and Secretary ECP, Mr. Ishtiaq Ahmad Khan, were present at the occasion.

The CEC briefed him about the steps and new initiatives taken by the ECP regarding upcoming general elections. The Federal Law Minister appreciated the ECP for ensuring free, fair and transparent elections adding that the next general polls will be held according to law and the Constitution in accordance with the scheduled time.

Senate Special Committee on Election Issues Visits ECP Secretariat

A meeting of the Senate’s Special Committee on Election issues was held under the chairmanship of Leader of the House in Senate, Senator Muhammad Jehangir Badr, at the Election Commission of Pakistan Secretariat in

Islamabad on 16th November 2012. Honourable Member ECP, Mr. Justice (Retd.) Fazal-ur-Rehman, Secretary ECP, Mr. Ishtiaq Ahmad Khan and other senior officers of the ECP attended the meeting.



ECP Reviews Preparations for Next Polls

A meeting of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) was held under the chairmanship of Mr. Justice Fakhruddin G. Ebrahim, Honourable Chief Election Commissioner of Pakistan on 12th November 2012 to review preparations for the next general election. Hon'ble Members of the ECP, Secretary ECP, Provincial Election Commissioners (PECs) of all the four provinces, Chairman NADRA, Census Commissioner and senior officers of the ECP attended the meeting.

The PECs gave the Commission a briefing on various aspects of the election arrangements and it was decided that fool-proof arrangements would be made to ensure free, fair and transparent elections.

Mr. Ishtiaq Ahmad Khan, Secretary ECP asked the PECs to ensure completion of all election related arrangements well before 31st December 2012.



Biggest Voter SMS Service - 84 Million Voters, 120 Million Mobile Phone Users!

The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has launched a Voters SMS Service of over 84 million data density and for more than 120 million mobile users in Pakistan. ECP's capacity to use state-of-the-art wireless technologies to facilitate the general public and provide them with their details on the Electoral Rolls within a few seconds, is an honour and a source of pride for the country. All mobile companies operating in Pakistan are cooperating in providing this service.

Eligible voters may avail the facility to obtain details such as

their Electoral Area Code & Name, Serial Number and Tehsil/District. In order to protect the privacy of a voter, the SMS does not include voters' names and home addresses. Since it was launched on 29th February 2012, the Voters SMS Service has been appreciated by all stakeholders of the ECP, including political parties, NGOs, CSOs and the general public. The service was inaugurated by the Honourable Members, ECP. It now has the potential to replace completely the manual slip/parchee system that was used in previous elections, thus using technology to help reduce costs substantially.



Honourable Chief Justice of Pakistan, Mr. Justice Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry being briefed by Mr. Afzal Khan, Additional Secretary, ECP about the confirmation of Vote Registration through 8300 SMS. The Acting Chief of ECP, Honourable Mr. Justice Tassaduq Hussain Jillani and other members of ECP are also present. (Supreme Court Building, Islamabad, 17-10-2012.)

National Voters Day 17th October 2012



On 17th October 2012, the ECP reached out to citizens all over Pakistan during the country's first ever National Voters Day (NVD) celebrations. Hence forth, NVD will be observed every year, highlighting the Commission's dedication to ensure the universal participation of eligible voters. NVD also marked the launch of the ECP's first district-centred Voter Education (VE) Plan.

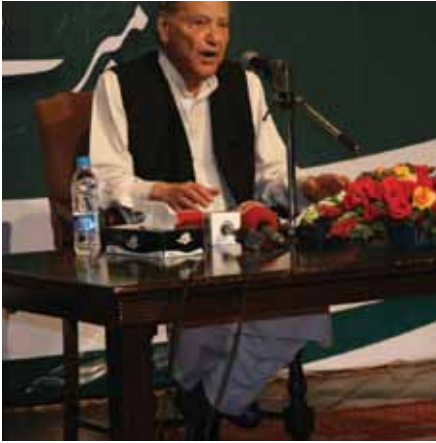
In a unique attempt to collaborate with a variety of stakeholders, the Commission invited over 200 institutions from the public and private sectors to be a part of its voter awareness campaign. Voter awareness materials were also sent to each District/Agency Election Commissioner to be distributed amongst educational institutions, the media, local organisations, religious leaders, key influentials,

women, law enforcement officials and other members of the general public.

A seminar was held at the ECP Secretariat, where representatives from government departments, the media, NGOs, political parties, and others, participated enthusiastically. A variety of events, such as awareness raising walks, consultations and workshops were also conducted in almost each district by the respective DEC's. Chief Justice Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry also generated awareness on the cause by publicly checking his details on the Electoral Rolls via the 8300 SMS service, confirming his registration status in Quetta. Over the next few months, VE efforts will continue to intensify, culminating on Election Day.



Glimpse – National Voters Day



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ملکی بقاء اور استحکام کا ضامن

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گھریٹھے ووٹ کی تصدیق کریں

ابھی

ایکشن کمیشن آف پاکستان
www.ecp.gov.pk

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ELECTION COMMISSION OF PAKISTAN SECRETARIAT**

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