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Challenges to local bodies

Democracy cannot function efficiently with the absence of effective local bodies. Therefore, it is wonderful news that the first round of local government elections in Punjab and Sindh were held on October 31. Interestingly, it was the first time that the local government elections were held on a party basis, resulting in more political canvassing.

It took a long time for the provincial govern-

ments to agree on LG elections, and that too on the order of the Supreme Court. If other rounds of these local elections continue successfully, the whole of Pakistan will have a functional local government apparatus by the end of December 2015.

Two more rounds will be held on November 19 and December 5. These will be followed by the election to the reserved seats as well as of may-

ors, deputy mayors, chairmen and deputy chairmen of district councils. Islamabad will have local government elections on November 30. Balochistan held local government polls in December 2013, but it was in January 2015 that the entire electoral process was completed. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa held the same elections in May 2015.

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How the local government elections are strengthening democracy in Pakistan

My cousin is contesting a Union Council election in a rural constituency in southern Punjab — my family's first foray into any kind of electoral politics.

Over the years, I have encountered deep cynicism about the viability

of electoral democracy in South Asia. You know the mantra:

Who needs the right to vote when people do not even have enough to eat.

The illiterate masses opt for venal politicians

to make a fortune for themselves. Elections do not do much for the poor and at its worst, it may reinforce the hold of the already powerful.

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Informed voters: Learn more about LG candidates: speakers at IBA



Students discover the ins and outs of the upcoming polls

KARACHI: When social activist Jibran Nasir asked the students of the Institute of Business Administration (IBA) how many of them personally knew or have met candidates contesting in the local government (LG) elections in their constituencies, only four hands were raised.

He was speaking on Wednesday at a panel discussion on LG elections arranged by IBA's social sciences club, in light of the local upcoming elections. He insisted the young crowd go and grill the contestants contesting elections in their wards and union committees.

"Go and talk to them, hear their manifestos, it's necessary for you [to know this]," he said. He was of the opinion that since the Constitution of Pakistan was not part of their curriculum, students do not know about their rights.

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Grassroots representation: Stage set for third phase local government polls

LAHORE: More than 5,200 candidates are vying for chairman and vice chairman and around 32,000 for general councillor seats in the third phase of local government elections in 12 districts, according to the Election Commission

of Pakistan (ECP).

The elections will be held on December 5 in Rawalpindi, Multan, Bahawalpur, Sialkot, Narowal, Khushab, Jhang, Rajanpur, Muzaffargarh, Layyah, Dera Ghazi Khan and Rahim Yar Khan.



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Point to ponder

"People are the ultimate power."

PakVoter Awareness Activity

Date of Event:-
20.11.12 and 21.11.12

Venue:-FAST/NUCES,
A.K.Brohi Road H-11/4
Islamabad

Type of Event:-
Awareness Stall
(Publications)/Visual

Presentations.

On the first day of event, 20th November, 2015 Video presentations of PakVoter were run along with other sponsors and marketing companies in the Auditorium of National Uni-

versity of Computer Sciences and Emerging Sciences (NUCES/FAST).



PakVoter Activity



Distributing flyers among students

The presentations were prepared and presented by PakVoter project team and

CPDI staff. President of students Council Ms. Areeba Shahzad managed the event activities along with PakVoter team.

On the second day of event awareness stall of PakVoter was established at university premises with the help of organizing team of event from

university students. The banner of PakVoter was displayed in back ground while the team members distributed PakVoter flyers and publications among the guests. University student's management team played the introductory visual presentation at auditorium as well.

*"LG Elections
2015 to be held in
Islamabad on
30th Nov."*

Media briefing on need and importance of electoral reforms in Pakistan

Centre for Peace and Development Initiatives (CPDI) held a media briefing in Lahore on 26th November regarding the need and importance of Electoral Reforms in Pakistan. CPDI has initiated district level citizens group for this purpose.

CPDI held trainings in various Districts of Punjab for potential

candidates for Local Government Elections. The candidates were trained properly with the new system of Local Government and the functions and duties of LG elected representatives.

The candidates were trained about the do's and don'ts according to their positions as public representatives.



Violence, bar on observation mark Sindh LG Elections Phase 1

Although relatively better organized, the local government elections were not free from procedural irregularities and tainted by the afternoon clash in Khairpur district that claimed lives of 11 political workers. In addition, the incidents of restrictions on

FAFEN observers for the observation of the voting process as well as counting of votes raised questions about the transparency of the process, says FAFEN on Sunday.

Voters turned out in considerable numbers to vote for their

local representatives during the first phase of election that was held in eight districts of Sindh on Saturday.

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