



ANNUAL REPORT 2019



ELECTION COMMISSION OF PAKISTAN

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CONTENTS

FOREWORD	03
PREFACE	04
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	05
INTRODUCTION	06
1. ELECTION COMMISSION OF PAKISTAN	07
a. Constitution of Pakistan and the Election Commission	07
b. Duties of the Commission	07
c. Organizational Structure of the Election Commission	08
(i) ECP Secretariat	08
(ii) Provincial Election Commissioners' offices	08
(iii) Regional Election Commissioners' offices	09
(iv) District Election Commissioners' offices	09
d. Assistance to the Parliament	09
2. ELECTORAL ROLLS	10
3. CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS IN TRIBAL DISTRICTS	12
a. Delimitation of Constituencies	12
b. Electoral Rolls	13
c. Appointment of District Returning Officer and Returning Officers	14
d. Conduct of Election	14
e. Declaration of Results	14
Reserved seats for Women	16
Reserved seat for Non-Muslims	16
4. BYE-ELECTIONS TO THE SENATE AND ASSEMBLIES	17
a. Senate	17
b. National Assembly / Provincial Assemblies	17
5. MONITORING OF ELECTION CAMPAIGNS	18
6. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS	19
a. Conduct of Local Government Elections	19
b. Local Government Bye-elections	20
(i) Islamabad Capital Territory	20
(ii) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	21
(iii) Punjab	21
(iv) Sindh	22

CONTENTS

7. POLITICAL FINANCE	23
8. INFORMATION AND ELECTORAL TECHNOLOGY	28
a. 8300 SMS Service (Voter Information)	28
b. Electronic Transmission of Results	28
c. Geographical Information System – Polling Scheme Management System:	28
d. Computerized Electoral Roll System & Network Connectivity	28
e. ECP's Official Website	28
f. Result Management System	28
9. GENDER AFFAIRS	29
a. Female NIC and Voter Registration Campaign	29
b. Gender and Disability Electoral Working Group (GDEWG)	30
c. Gender Mainstreaming	30
10. ELECTION DISPUTE RESOLUTION	31
11. CAPACITY BUILDING	32
a. Training of ECP Officers and Officials	33
b. BRIDGE Trainings	33
c. Management Skills Training at LUMS	34
d. Capacity Building Program for ECP Officials	34
e. Training of Election Officials	34
(i) Trainings in Elections held in Merged Districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	34
(ii) Training in Bye-elections	35
(iii) Delimitation Trainings	35
12. VOTER EDUCATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS	36
a. Voter Education Campaign	36
b. Celebration of National Voters' Day, 2019	38
13. INTERACTION WITH INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL STAKEHOLDERS	40
a. Participation at International Electoral Forums	40
b. Election Observation	40
c. Interaction with National Stakeholders	40
14. STRATEGIC PLAN 2019-2023	41

FOREWORD

The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) is a constitutional body mandated to conduct credible elections for the office of the President, Senate, National Assembly, Provincial Assemblies and local governments. Among these tasks, conduct of general elections for the national and provincial assemblies is the most challenging in view of its size, required resources and the fact that these elections must be held on a single day across the country.

The Commission always remains committed to further improve its institutional and election management capacity. With each election, Pakistan's political system grows stronger and ECP strives to provide level playing field to political parties and candidates. The ECP has continued to support democracy by delivering elections that meet the expectation and aspiration of citizens across the country.

In the year 2019, the Election Commission, under section 16 of the Elections Act, 2017, prepared first ever Annual Report 2018 along with Post Election Review of General Election 2018 and sent it to the Federal and Provincial Governments for laying before the Parliament and the Provincial Assemblies. ECP after merging of FATAs in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province conducted elections on sixteen general seats, four seats reserved for women and one seat reserved for Non-Muslims in Provincial Assembly of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa allocated to newly merged districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The ECP also conducted bye-elections to fill casual vacancies in the Senate of Pakistan, the National Assembly, Provincial Assemblies and Local Government Institutions. Apart from that, periodical revision of electoral rolls was carried out nationwide, Federal Election Academy was inaugurated at the ECP Secretariat, 8th batch of Electoral Management Course for ECP Officers as well as trainings of ECP staff were arranged. Women NIC and voter registration campaign in collaboration with NADRA was also carried out to reduce the gender gap between male and female voters.

ECP developed its 3rd five year strategic plan 2019-2023 based on the Post Election Review Report of General Election, 2018 and recommendations of international and domestic observers. The strategic plan has 11 strategic pillars, 30 strategic goals and 92 strategic actions that provide a road map for institutional development and conduct of more credible and inclusive future elections.

We would appreciate input and feedback of political parties, media and civil society organizations in implementation of 3rd strategic plan. We would also like to acknowledge services rendered by the UNDP and DAI-Tabeer, as development partners who provided valuable technical assistance in multiple areas including conduct of Post Election Review, development of strategic plan, institutional capacity building, gender mainstreaming and inclusion, communication and public outreach, integration of technologies in electoral processes and administration.

Last but not the least, we appreciate the commitment and hard work of the ECP officers and staff who worked dedicatedly throughout the year for ensuring timely completion of assigned tasks.

Mr. M. J. Sikandar Sultan Raja
Chief Election Commissioner

Justice Altaf Ibrahim Qureshi
Hon'ble Member

Justice Ms. Irshad Qaiser
Hon'ble Member

Mr. Nisar Ahmed Durrani
Hon'ble Member

Mr. Shah Muhammad Jatoi
Hon'ble Member

PREFACE

Conduct of free, fair and credible election is the prime responsibility of the Election Commission of Pakistan. After the conclusion of General Elections – 2018, the ECP continued its efforts to carry out various electoral activities during the year 2019. Hallmark of the year was conduct of first ever elections on 16 general seats of the Provincial Assembly of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa allocated to Tribal districts through 25th constitutional amendment. A gist of the electoral activities carried out by the ECP is as under:

a. Preparation of Annual Report 2018

As required under section 16 of the Elections Act – 2017 read with section 14 ibid, the Election Commission conducted a post election review of General Elections – 2018 and made it a part of annual report 2018. The Commission published and sent its annual report 2018 to the Federal Government and each Provincial Governments for laying the same before the Parliament and Provincial Assemblies. The report contained analytical review of various activities along with recommendations for improving electoral processes for future elections.

b. Delimitation of Constituencies for Tribal Districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

After the merger of Federally Administered Tribal Areas in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, delimitation of constituencies was a prerequisite to conduct elections on 16 general seats of provincial assembly in merged districts. The ECP constituted a delimitation committee to carry out the delimitation. The committee prepared its proposals and submitted them to the Commission. The Commission finalized the constituencies after disposal of representations filed by the stakeholders.

c. Revision of Electoral Rolls

Revision of electoral rolls continued throughout the year providing opportunity to all eligible persons to get themselves registered as voters in the electoral rolls to make the electoral processes more inclusive during bye-elections and local government elections.

d. Conduct of Elections in Tribal districts of KP

After delimitation of constituencies, election program for conduct of elections in Tribal districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was issued by the Election Commission and elections were held on 20th July, 2019 on 16 general seats for Provincial Assembly. In view of prevailing law and order situation in the area, ECP made foolproof security arrangements to provide conducive environment to the voters to cast their vote in a peaceful manner.

e. Conduct of Bye-elections

Article 224 of the constitution requires the ECP to conduct bye-elections to fill casual vacancies in the Senate, National Assembly and Provincial Assemblies. During the year various bye-elections to the Senate, National Assembly and Provincial Assemblies were conducted by the ECP. Besides, casual vacancies in Local Government institutions were also filled through bye-elections in compliance with the relevant local government laws and rules.

f. In-house accommodation of Federal Election Academy

The Federal Election Academy was housed in a rented building for many years. The Election Commission constructed a pre-fabricated structure at the rooftop of its building and housed the Federal Election Academy at the ECP Secretariat, Islamabad.

g. Development of 3rd Strategic Plan 2019-2023

After successful implementation of two strategic plans, the Election Commission developed and launched its 3rd five year strategic plan 2019-2023 on the basis of recommendations emerged from the reports of International and National observers as well as post-election review of General Elections – 2018.

h. Celebration of National Voters' day

ECP continued to celebrate National Voters' Day on 7th December, 2019 to create awareness amongst the stakeholders on the importance of vote and their participation in the electoral processes.

The report in hand contains various electoral activities undertaken by the Commission during the year 2019 which will be dilated upon in succeeding pages. The present report has been prepared in compliance with section 16 of the Elections Act, 2017.

I would like to thank the stakeholders and executive authorities for their assistance and support to ECP in discharge of its legal and constitutional obligations and hope that they shall also continue the same in future.

At the end, I would assure that the Commission, Officers and Staff of ECP are committed to perform their duty of conducting free, fair and transparent elections as enshrined in the Constitution.

Zafar Iqbal Hussain
Secretary ECP
March 2020

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

S. No.	Abbreviation	Full Name
01	ADG	Additional Director General
02	ARO	Assistant Returning Officer
03	BRIDGE	Building Resources in Democracy, Governance and Elections
04	BVM	Biometric Verification Machine
05	CEC	Chief Election Commissioner
06	CERS	Computerized Electoral Rolls System
07	CSO	Civil Society Organization
08	DAI	Development Alternatives Incorporated
09	DEC	District Election Commissioner
10	DG	Director General
11	DMO	District Monitoring Officer
12	DRO	District Returning Officer
13	DVECs	District Voters' Education Committees
14	ECP	Election Commission of Pakistan
15	EVM	Electronic Voting Machine
16	FATA	Federally Administered Tribal Areas
17	FEA	Federal Election Academy
18	GDEWG	Gender and Disability Electoral Working Group
19	GIS	Geographical Information System
20	IEC	Information, Education and Communication
21	KP	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
22	LUMS	Lahore University of Management Sciences
23	NADRA	National Database and Registration Authority
24	NCSW	National Commission on Status of Women
25	NIC	National Identity Card
26	PEC	Provincial Election Commissioner
27	PILDAT	Pakistan Institute of Legislative Development and Transparency
28	PWDs	Persons with Disabilities
29	REC	Regional Election Commissioner
30	RMS	Results Management System
31	RO	Returning Officer
32	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme

INTRODUCTION

Transparent electoral process is an indicator of functioning democracy that strengthens democratic institutions in a country. Article 218 of the Constitution defines the Election Commission as a permanent body responsible to organize and conduct elections in Pakistan. It also mandates the Commission to make such arrangements as are necessary to ensure that the election is conducted honestly, justly, fairly and in accordance with law, and that corrupt practices are guarded against. The Elections Act, 2017 and the Election Rules, 2017 provide necessary legal framework for conduct of elections.

During the year 2019, the Commission remained busy for the accomplishment of multifarious electoral events which, inter alia, included:

- a. Delimitation of constituencies and conduct of elections on sixteen general seats, four seats reserved for women and one reserved for non-Muslims in the newly merged Districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa;
- b. Conduct of bye-elections to fill casual vacancies in the Senate of Pakistan, the National Assembly, Provincial Assemblies and Local Government Institutions;
- c. Periodic revision of electoral rolls;
- d. Training activities under the umbrella of Federal Election Academy;
- e. Public awareness through activities of DVECs;
- f. Increased coordination with all the stakeholders to make the electoral process more inclusive; and
- g. Celebration of National Voters' Day and International Days for women and persons with disabilities, etc.

Section 16 of the Act requires the Commission to publish an "Annual Report" of its activities for the year within ninety days after the end of every calendar year and send the report to the Federal Government and each Provincial Government. This report is an effort to consolidate the activities undertaken by the ECP during the year 2019.

1. ELECTION COMMISSION OF PAKISTAN

a. Constitution of Pakistan and the Election Commission

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

Likewise, the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan promulgated in 1973 also provides for the Election Commission. Originally, the Election Commission was required to be constituted for each general election and the Commission comprising two members only. Article 218 in its original form was as below:

“For the purpose of each general election to the national assembly and to a provincial assembly, an Election Commission shall be constituted in accordance with this Article.

The Election Commission shall consist of:

- a. the Commissioner who shall be the Chairman of the Commission;
- b. two members, each of whom shall be a judge of a High Court, appointed by the President after consultation with the Chief Justice of the High Court concerned and with the Commissioner.

It shall be the duty of the Election Commission constituted in relation to an election to organize and conduct the election and to make such arrangements as are necessary to ensure that the election is conducted honestly, justly, fairly and in accordance with law, and that corrupt practices are guarded against.”

Presently, Article 218 provides that the Election Commission shall consist of the Chief Election Commissioner who shall be 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 65 years of age. As per qualification contained in Article 213 of the Constitution, the Chief Election Commissioner shall be a person who has been a Judge of the Supreme Court or has been a senior civil servant or is a technocrat and is not more than 68 years of age. The Commissioner and members shall hold office for a term of five years and two of the members shall after completion of their five years term, retire by rotation after two and a half years.

Under Article 218(3) of the Constitution, the Commission is charged with the duty of “organizing and conducting elections and making such arrangements as are necessary to ensure that the election is conducted honestly, justly, fairly and in accordance with law and that corrupt practices are guarded against”.

b. Duties of the Commission

Under Article 219 of the Constitution, the Commission is charged with the duties of:

- a. 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;
- b. organizing and conducting election to the Senate or to fill casual vacancies in a House or a Provincial Assembly;
- c. appointing Election Tribunals;
- d. the holding of general elections to the National Assembly, Provincial Assemblies and the local governments; and
- e. such other functions as may be specified by an Act of Majlis-e-Shoora (Parliament).

The Commission is also charged with the duty of delimitation of 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 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.

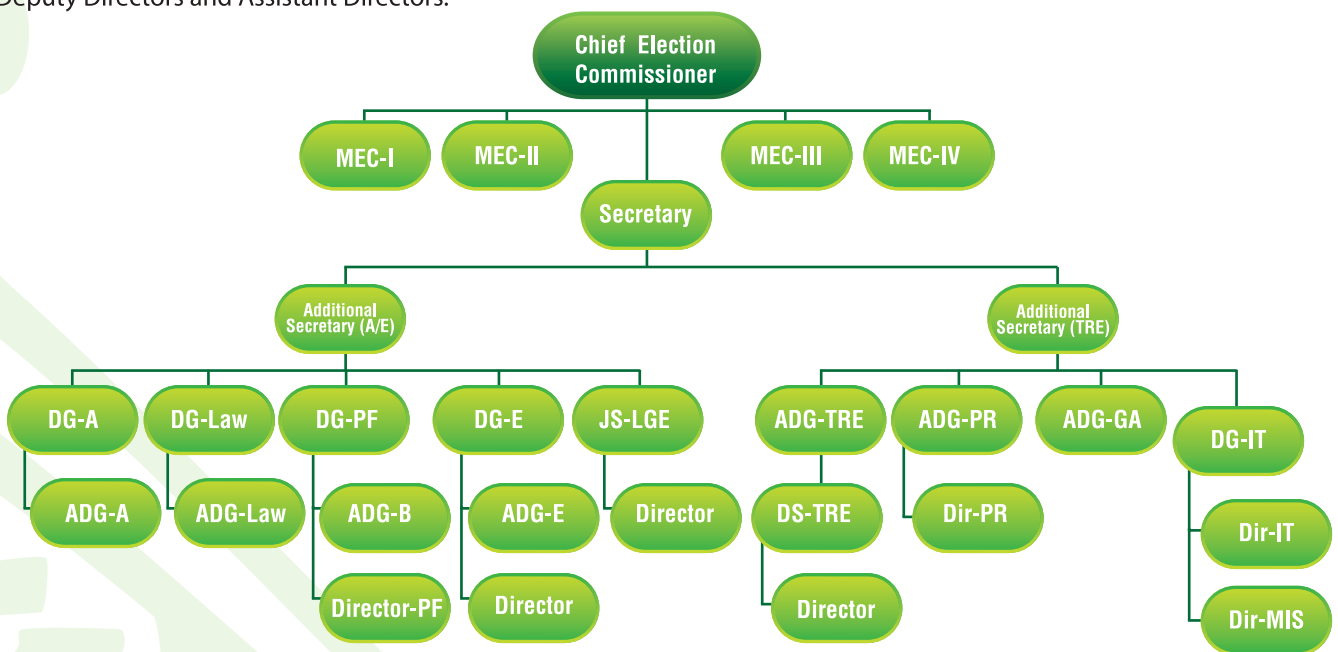
Article 221 of the Constitution read with section 6 of the Elections Act 2017 provides that the Commissioner shall exercise powers relating to the appointment of officers and staff to be employed in connection with the functions of the Commission and determine their terms and conditions of employment in accordance with the Rules.

c. Organizational Structure of the Election Commission

In order to organize and conduct free and fair elections, the Commission is supported by its Secretariat and the countrywide network of offices led by the Secretary ECP. The Secretary is assisted by two Additional Secretaries, Director Generals (DGs), Provincial Election Commissioners (PECs), Additional Director Generals (ADGs), and other officers. The Commission has more than 2400 staff members across the country. The current organizational structure of the Commission at the Secretariat, provincial, divisional and district level is elaborated hereunder:

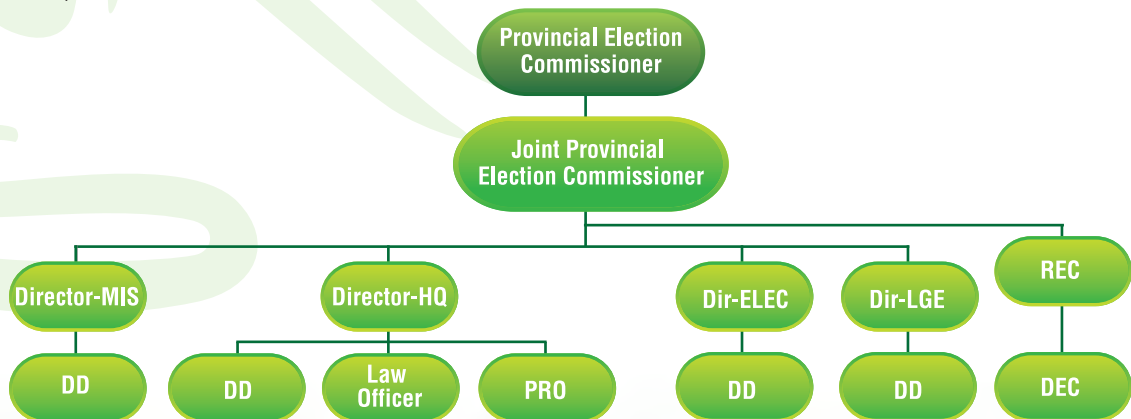
(i) ECP Secretariat

The Secretariat of the Commission is located in Islamabad and is headed by a Secretary who manages the functions of the organization throughout the country. The Secretariat consists of various wings and units: Election wing, Budget wing, Administration wing, Local Government wing, Information Technology wing, Training wing, Law wing, Gender wing and Public Relations wing. Each of the wings is headed either by a DG or an ADG. The DGs are assisted by ADGs, Directors, Deputy Directors and Assistant Directors.



(ii) Provincial Election Commissioners' offices

The provincial set-up of the Commission is headed by a PEC whose offices are situated at the four provincial capitals: Lahore, Karachi, Peshawar and Quetta. The PECs are supported by Joint Provincial Election Commissioners, Directors, Deputy Directors, Assistant Directors and other staff.



(iii) Regional Election Commissioners' offices

ECP has 29 Regional Election Commissioners (RECs) offices at divisional level. REC plays a vital role as a coordinator between the PEC offices and DEC offices. REC also performs the following:

- a. liaises with the divisional and district administration and other stakeholders in their respective divisions;
- b. appointed as Revising Authorities during revision of electoral rolls;
- c. duties as Delimitation Authority for local government institutions;
- d. duties as District Returning Officers during bye-elections;
- e. appointed as Regional Monitoring Officers during elections;
- f. in-charge of strong rooms established at Divisional Headquarters.

(iv) District Election Commissioners' offices

The lowest tier of the ECP's organizational set-up is at the district level, headed by a District Election Commissioner (DEC). There are 131 district offices throughout the country. The DEC performs duties of:

- a. administrative tasks;
- b. drawing and disbursing officer;
- c. Liaison Officer with district administration and other stakeholders;
- d. Registration Officer;
- e. maintenance and updating the electoral rolls;
- f. convener of Delimitation Committee for local government institutions;
- g. coordinator for all types of elections/bye-elections; and
- h. Returning Officer to fill casual vacancies in the Assemblies.

d. Assistance to the Parliament

Parliament performs a vital role in the democracy, in shaping the public expectations and attitude towards democracy. Parliament is an important institution in overseeing government activities, scrutinizing legislation and representing the public concerns to those in power. During the current calendar year, the Election Commission of Pakistan assisted Parliament in different ways i.e in drafting amendments in the Elections Act 2017 and Constitutional provisions relating to Election Commission, in representing Parliamentary Committees and addressing the Senate / National Assembly questions. In 2019, nine Senate / National Assembly Starred Questions were asked by Senators or Members National Assembly regarding matters pertaining to the Election Commission of Pakistan which were responded accordingly. In addition to the starred questions the Election Commission also ensured its presence in meetings of the parliamentary committees and provided input / comments regarding proposed amendment bills during the year.

2. ELECTORAL ROLLS

Article 219 (a) of the Constitution provides that it is the duty of the Commission to prepare electoral rolls for election to the National Assembly, Provincial Assemblies and local governments, and revise such rolls periodically to keep them up-to-date. Section 27 of the Elections Act, 2017 allows voter registration only on an address given in the NIC i.e. either on permanent or temporary address. However, persons in service of Pakistan, their spouse and children may apply to the Registration Officer for enrollment in the electoral area in which they temporarily reside for being in service of Pakistan. Section 27 provided an opportunity to those voters registered on an address other than NIC to either get their vote enrolled according to their NIC or get the address on the NIC modified by 31st December, 2018. An overview of registered voters during the year 2019 is as below:

Province/Area	Male Voters	Female Voters	Transgenders	Total Voters
Punjab	35,542,529	28,808,573	1,851	64,352,953
Sindh	13,104,422	10,543,158	421	23,648,001
KP	10,817,833	8,132,940	127	18,950,900
Balochistan	2,667,708	1,967,755	83	4,635,546
Federal Area	422,639	380,892	07	803,538
Total	62,555,131	49,833,318	2,489	112,390,938

During the year 2019, the Commission in order to implement Section 27 of the Elections Act 2017, undertook an exercise of revision / updation of electoral rolls with following steps:

- Public awareness campaign through print and electronic media to inform all voters about registration of votes according to addresses of NIC, procedure of filing of claims, objections and applications for correction of votes;
- Provision of voters' details including location of display centers through 8300 SMS.
- Issuance of Public Notices to voters for ensuring vote registration either on permanent or temporary address of NIC.
- Elected representatives were apprised about implementation of Section 27 through Secretaries of National and Provincial Assemblies,
- Government employees also apprised through Chief Secretaries and Ministries / Divisions / Departments.
- Display Centers established at prominent places in each district including offices of Registration Officers and Assistant Registration Officers to facilitate voters for filing of claims, objections and applications for correction of voting particulars.
- Carried out awareness activities through DVECs in each district;
- Briefings with regard to revision process to Parliamentary Committees.

Preliminary Electoral Rolls were published and displayed at 23413 Display Centers across Pakistan for inviting claims, objections and applications for correction of votes till 15th February, 2020. The province wise statistics of display centers established in districts are as under:

Province/Area	Total Display Centers
Punjab	11,856
Sindh	3,791
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	5,912
Balochistan	1,665
Federal Area	189
Total	23,413

To facilitate a voter, the ECP's Short Message Service – 8300 was configured to provide display centre, location, help line and ECP's website link for downloading forms and more information relating to display process. In addition, Public Service message with ECP's caption were broadcasted to all mobile phone subscribers (approx 90 million) through Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) and Telecom Service Providers.

District Election Commissioners held meetings of District Voters Education Committees (DVECs) to inform and disseminate information about display process to all the stakeholders in each district.



3. CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS IN TRIBAL DISTRICTS

25th Constitutional amendment was passed by the Parliament in May 2018 that paved the way for merger of Federally Administered Tribal Areas in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province. This Constitutional Amendment provides 16 additional general seats for the merged districts; four reserved seats for women and one reserved seat for non-Muslims in the Provincial Assembly, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The Election Commission of Pakistan was mandated to conduct election in these constituencies within one year of General Elections 2018 i.e. before 25th July, 2019.

a. Delimitation of Constituencies

The first and the foremost task towards conduct of elections in merged districts was to carry out delimitation of constituencies against 16 general seats. A delimitation committee comprising six officers from Election Commission of Pakistan was constituted on 28th August, 2018. The Committee carried out the delimitation exercise as per the schedule given below:

T I M E L I N E S	
Initial preparations/procurement of documents	28 th August to 10 th September, 2018
Preparation of draft list of constituencies	11 th September to 4 th October, 2018
Preliminary publication of draft list of constituencies	05 th October, 2018
Filing of objections/representations	06 th October to 04 th November, 2018
Hearing/decision on Representations	05 th November to 30 th November, 2018
Final Publication	04 th December, 2018

As per initial timelines, the preliminary list of constituencies was required to be published by 5th October, 2018 whereas the final publication was scheduled for 4th December, 2018. However due to a legal lacuna as to how erstwhile Frontier Regions (FRs) could be delimited following the provisions of section 20(3) of the Elections Act 2017, an amendment was required to be made in the Act, therefore, the timelines was extended thrice for want of said amendment. An Ordinance to that effect was promulgated on 1st January, 2019 that enabled the Commission to finalize the work pertaining to the preliminary list of constituencies.

The Commission notified the preliminary report and list of constituencies on 2nd January, 2019. The preliminary report and list of constituencies along with constituency-wise marked maps were made available on ECP website to facilitate the general public. A Facilitation Center was also set up at ECP Secretariat Islamabad to provide copies of marked as well as unmarked maps of the district and to receive representations from the voters.

In order to make the process of delimitation transparent, fair and just and to meet the requirements of section 21 of the Act, representations were invited from voters of respective constituencies. Detail of constituencies and procedure for filing of representations against the preliminary lists of constituencies were given due publicity through electronic and print media. Eleven representations were received against preliminary list of constituencies.

During the hearing of representations, necessary equipment was made available for juxtaposed display of the maps of the preliminary constituencies published by the Commission and the proposed maps of the petitioners. This state-of-the-art arrangement enabled the petitioners and their counsels to express their grievances and present their alternate proposals to the Commission with more elaborative manner and with high level of convenience.

The hearing process of the representations commenced on 13th February, 2019 and culminated on 21st February, 2019. After incorporation of the decisions of the Election Commission, final list of constituencies was published on 4th March 2019 for information of general public. Final share of seats allocated to each district / area is as under:

S. No.	District	Population as 2017 Census	Share of PA seat District Population PA Quota i.e. 312621	Share of PA Seats
01	Bajaur	1,093,684	3.49843	03
02	Mohmand	472,357	1.51096	02
03	Khyber	986,973	3.15709	03
04	Kurram	619,553	1.98180	02
05	Orakzai	254,356	0.81362	01
06	North Waziristan	543,254	1.73774	02
07	South Waziristan	674,065	2.15617	02
08	Frontier Regions	357,687	1.14416	01

b. Electoral Rolls

The Revision of electoral rolls for all districts of erstwhile FATA was expedited and on completion of said revision exercise updated electoral rolls were provided to all DEC offices for conduct of Elections, Statistics of voters are as under:

Constituency		Male	Female	Total Voters
PK-100	Bajaur	94,937	61,300	156,237
PK-101		94,349	66,698	161,047
PK-102		125,358	91,361	216,719
PK-103	Mohmand	68,469	42,008	110,477
PK-104		106,749	63,273	170,022
PK-105	Khyber	94,514	72,970	167,484
PK-106		82,818	65,652	148,470
PK-107		123,683	92,450	216,133
PK-108	Kurram	99,534	73,363	172,897
PK-109		105,284	82,560	187,844
PK-110	Orakzai	110,741	85,695	196,436
PK-111	North Waziristan	92,845	48,208	141,053
PK-112		117,811	61,313	179,124
PK-113	South Waziristan	122,197	96,638	218,835
PK-114		115,572	52,422	167,994
PK-115	Ex-F.R. Peshawar, Ex-F.R. Kohat, Ex-F.R. Lakki Marwat, Ex-F.R. Bannu, Ex-F.R. Tank Ex-F.R. D. I. Khan	116,444	74,618	191,062
	Total (PK-100-115)	1,671,305	1,130,529	2,801,834

c. Appointment of District Returning Officer and Returning Officers

After delimitation of constituencies and revision of electoral rolls, the ECP headed towards the conduct of election and appointed 8 District Returning Officers and 16 Returning Officers from amongst its own officers for conducting election to 16 general seats whereas the Provincial Election Commissioner, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was appointed as Returning Officer for four reserved seats for women and one seat for non-Muslims of Provincial Assembly of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

d. Conduct of Election

On 6th May 2019, the election programme for aforesaid seats was issued. The date of poll was fixed as 2nd July, 2019. However, due to law and order situation, the date of poll was extended and fixed as 20th July, 2019.

S. No.	Events	Date
01	Public Notice to be issued by the Returning Officers on	07.05.2019
02	Dates for filing of nomination papers with the Returning Officers by the candidates	09.05.2019 to 11.05.2019
03	Publication of names of the nominated candidates	12.05.2019
04	Last date for Scrutiny of nomination papers by Returning Officers	18.05.2019
05	Last date for filing of appeals against decisions of the Returning Officers rejecting/accepting the nomination papers	22.05.2019
06	Last date for deciding of appeals by the Appellate Tribunal	27.05.2019
07	Publication of revised list of candidates	28.05.2019
08	Last date for withdrawal of candidature and Publication of revised list of candidates	29.05.2019
09	Allotment of Election Symbol to contesting candidates	30.05.2019
10	Polling day	02.07.2019

A total of 476 nomination papers were filed against 16 general seats, 4 seats reserved for women and 1 seat reserved for non-Muslims. The detail of total nomination papers filed, rejected and accepted by the Returning Officers for Provincial Assembly of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is as under:

S. No.	Category of seats	No. of Nomination Papers		
		Filed	Accepted	Rejected
01	General Seats	437	414	23
02	Seats Reserved for Women	30	08	22
03	Seat Reserved for Non-Muslim	09	03	06
	Total	476	425	51

For disposal of appeals against decisions of Returning Officers regarding rejection or acceptance of nomination papers, ECP appointed four Appellate Tribunals under section 63(1) of the Elections Act, 2017 from amongst the Judges of Hon'ble Peshawar High Court. After disposal of appeals by the Appellate Tribunals, withdrawal of candidature and retirement from contest, 296 candidates remained in the contest.

The polling against 16 general seats was held on 20th July, 2019. The ECP, with the assistance of all stakeholders including Armed / Civil Armed Forces and district administrations, made foolproof security arrangements for smooth and peaceful conduct of poll.

e. Declaration of Results

Names of returned candidates were published in the official gazette on 1st August, 2019. Details of returned candidates along with their party affiliation are given below:

No. and Name of Constituency	Name of returned candidate	Party Affiliation
01	02	03
PK-100 Bajaur-I	Anwar Zeb Khan	Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf
PK-101 Bajaur-II	Ajmal Khan	Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf
PK-102 Bajaur-III	Siraj-uddin	Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan
PK-103 Mohmand-I	Nisar Ahmad	Awami National Party
PK-104 Mohmand-II	Abbas-ur-Rehman	Independent
PK-105 Khyber-I	Shafiq Afridi	Independent
PK-106 Khyber-II	Bilawal Afridi	Independent
PK-107 Khyber-III	Muhammad Shafique	Independent
PK-108 Kurram-I	Muhammad Riaz	Jamiat-Ulama-e-Islam (F)
PK-109 Kurram-II	Syed Iqbal Mian	Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf
PK-110 Orakzai	Syed Ghazi Ghazan Jamal	Independent
PK-111 North Waziristan-I	Muhammad Iqbal Khan	Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf
PK-112 North Waziristan-II	Mir Kalam Khan	Independent
PK-113 South Waziristan-I	Hafiz Isam-ud-Din	Jamiat-Ulama-e-Islam (F)
PK-114 South Waziristan-II	Naseer Ullah Khan	Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf
PK-115 Ex-Frontier Regions	Muhammad Shoab	Jamiat-Ulama-e-Islam (F)

After issuance of notification of returned candidates, independent candidates were required to either join any political party or otherwise within three days. Three independent candidates joined Balochistan Awami Party whereas two independent candidates joined Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf. The quota against four seats reserved for women and one seat reserved for non-Muslims was determined as per details given below:

Provincial Assembly							
Province				Khyber Pakhtunkhwa			
Category				Women			
No. of Seats				04			
Quota				15/4 = 3.75		3.75	
S. No.	Name of Political Party	General Seats Won	No of Independents Who Joined	Number of Seats after Joining Independents	Formula (Seats/Quota)	Share	Number of Reserved Seats obtained by each Political Party
01	PTI	05	02	07	7/3.75	1.87	02
02	JUI (F)	03	0	03	3/3.75	0.80	01
03	ANP	01	0	01	1/3.75	0.27	0
04	JIP	01	0	01	1/3.75	0.27	0
05	BAP	0	03	03	3/3.75	0.80	01
Total		10	05	15			04
IND		06		01			
G. Total		16		16			

Province				Khyber Pakhtunkhwa			
Category				Non-Muslim			
No. of Seats				1			
Quota				15/1 = 15		15	
S. No.	Name of Political Party	General Seats Won	No of Independents Who Joined	Number of Seats after Joining Independents	Formula (Seats/Quota)	Share	Number of Reserved Seats obtained by each Political Party
01	PTI	05	02	07	7/15	0.47	01
02	JUI (F)	03	0	03	3/15	0.20	0
03	ANP	01	0	01	1/15	0.07	0
04	JIP	01	0	01	1/15	0.07	0
05	BAP	0	03	03	3/15	0.20	0
Total		10	05	15			01
IND		06		01			
G. Total		16		16			

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf secured 2 reserved seats for women. However the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf provided only one name for women reserved seat in its priority list submitted for the election. Similarly, Balochistan Awami Party did not submit its priority list. Therefore, after issuance of Notification of returned candidates for reserved seats of women, new election programme for filling up two remaining reserved seats was issued and after completion of all stages, the two women were notified as returned candidates to fill the vacant seats. Detail of candidates declared returned from four reserved seats for women and one seat reserved for non-Muslims is given under:

Reserved seats for Women

S. No.	Name of Returned Candidates	Party Affiliation
01	Anita Mahsud	PTI
02	Aisha Bibi	PTI
03	Naeema Kishwar Khan	JUI(F)
04	Baserat Khan	BAP

Reserved seat for Non-Muslims

S. No.	Name of Returned Candidates	Party Affiliation
01	Wilson Wazir	PTI

4. BYE-ELECTIONS TO THE SENATE AND ASSEMBLIES

a. Senate

Conduct of the Senate elections/bye-elections is one of the core responsibilities of the Election Commission of Pakistan under the Constitution in terms of Article 219(b). Under Article 224(5) of the Constitution, a bye-election, to fill a vacant seat in the Senate of Pakistan, is required to be held within thirty days of occurrence of vacancy. During this year, a general seat from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province in the Senate of Pakistan fell vacant in October, 2019 due to resignation of Mr. Khanzada Khan, Member Senate of Pakistan. Mr. Khanzada Khan, affiliated with PPPP was elected on quota of a general seat in the Senate from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province during the Senate Elections, 2015 and his term of office was due to expire on 11th March, 2021. The Senate of Pakistan notified this vacancy on 30th October, 2019. A bye-election to fill the vacant seat in the Senate of Pakistan was required to be conducted before 28th November, 2019.

The election programme for holding bye-election to fill resultant vacancy was notified in the official gazette on 31st October, 2019 and poll was held on 26th November, 2019. The election programme issued by ECP is given below:

(a)	Public Notice by Returning Officer inviting nomination papers	06.11.2019
(b)	Last date for filing of nomination papers by the candidates with the Returning Officer	08.11.2019
(c)	Date for publication of names of the nominated candidates	09.11.2019
(d)	Last date for scrutiny of nomination papers	12.11.2019
(e)	Last date for filing of appeals against acceptance or rejection of nominations	14.11.2019
(f)	Last date for disposal of appeals by the Tribunal	16.11.2019
(g)	Last date for publication of revised list of candidates	18.11.2019
(h)	Last date for withdrawal of candidature	19.11.2019
(i)	Polling day	26.11.2019
(j)	Place of Poll	Provincial Assembly Building, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

ECP in pursuance of sub-section (1) of Section 113 of the Elections Act, 2017, also appointed Hon'ble Judge of Peshawar High Court as Tribunal for the said bye election for disposal of appeals against the decisions of the Returning Officer regarding rejection or acceptance of the nomination papers. After the bye-election, in pursuance of section 124 of the Elections Act, 2017, the ECP notified the name of Mr. Zeeshan Khanzada of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf as a returned candidate against the said seat on 29th November, 2019.

b. National Assembl/Provincial Assemblies

As per Article 219(b) of the Constitution, it is the duty of Election Commission to conduct election to fill casual vacancies in Assemblies and the Senate and Article 224(4) provides a timeframe for the conduct of bye-election. During the year 2019, six bye-elections and re-poll in two constituencies were held as per detail hereunder:

S. No.	No. and Name of Constituency	Reason of Vacancy	Poll Date
A. BYE-ELECTIONS			
01	PS-94 Korangi Karachi-III	Death	27.01.2019
02	PK-30 Mansehra-I	Disqualification	26.02.2019
03	PP-218 Multan-VIII	Death	31.03.2019
04	NA-205 Ghotki-II	Death	23.07.2019
05	PS-11 Larkana-II	Disqualification	17.10.2019
06	PS-86 Dadu-IV	Death	07.11.2019
B. REPOLL			
01	NA-259 Dera Bugti-cum-Kohlu-Barkhan-cum-Sibi-cum-Lehri	Decision of Hon'ble Supreme Court for holding re-poll in 29 polling stations	17.11.2019
02	NA-91 Sargodha-IV	Decision of ECP for re-poll in 20 polling stations	02.02.2019

5. MONITORING OF ELECTION CAMPAIGNS

Section 234 of the Elections Act 2017 provides for monitoring of election campaign of political parties and candidates. ECP appoints a District Monitoring Officer for each district and Monitoring Teams comprising monitors for each constituency to monitor election campaign. Monitoring teams report any violation committed in election campaign to the DMO. During the conduct of elections in merged districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, each Deputy Commissioner of Tribal District was appointed as District Monitoring Officer (DMO) for monitoring of election campaign of candidates and political parties. Besides monitoring teams comprising two members were appointed to monitor election campaign in each constituency. The detail is as under:

S. No.	Description	No. & Name of Constituency	Number of	
			DMOs	Monitoring Teams
01	Bye-Election	PS-24 Korangi-Karachi-III	01	01
02	Bye-Election	PP-218 Multan-VIII	01	01
03	Provincial Assembly Elections	PK-100 to PK-115 Tribal Districts	08	16
04	Bye-Election	NA-205 Ghotki-II	01	01
05	Bye-Election	PS-11 Larkana-II	01	01
06	Bye-Election	PS-86 Dadu-IV	01	01
07	Re-poll	NA-259 Dera Bugti-cum-Kohlu-cum-Barkhan-cum-Sibi-cum-Lehri (29 PSs)	01	01

The Code of Conduct issued by the ECP was implemented in letter and spirit to ensure free, fair and transparent elections and bye-elections. Following actions were taken against the violations of the provisions of the Elections Act 2017, the Election Rules, 2017 and Code of Conduct for political parties and contesting candidates:

S. No.	Description	No. of Violations	No. of Banners, hoardings and flexes removed	No. of Warnings issued
01	PP-218 Multan-VIII	20	88	0
02	PK-100 to PK-115	115	111	26
03	NA-205 Ghotki-II	26	227	09
04	PS-11 Larkana-II	51	90	23
05	PS-86 Dadu-IV	06	03	02
06	NA-259 Dera Bugti-cum-Kohlu-cum-Brakhan-cum-Sibi-cum-Lehri (29 PSs)	04	0	04

6. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

Local Government is the basic tier of democracy that empowers masses at grass-root level through devolving powers & authority to promote good governance contributing towards socio-economic development of a country. Article 32 of the Constitution provides that the State shall encourage local government institutions composed of elected representatives of the areas concerned and in such institutions special representation will be given to peasants, workers and women.

a. Conduct of Local Government Elections

Article 140A(1) of the Constitution provides that each Province shall, by law establish a local government system and devolve political, administrative and financial responsibility and authority to the elected representative of the local governments. Articles 140A(2) and 219(d) mandate the ECP to hold local government elections in Provinces. Section 219(1) of the Elections Act 2017, inter alia, provides that election to local governments in ICT and Cantonments shall also be conducted by the ECP.

During the year 2019, election to the local government institutions were due as per the details given hereunder:

Description	Province		
	Balochistan	KP	Punjab
Date of poll	07.12.2013	30.05.2015	31.10.2015, 19.11.2015 & 05.12.2015
Expiry of term	27.01.2019	28.08.2019	01.01.2022 (Dissolved on 04.05.2019)
Due date for next election	26.05.2019	27.12.2019	03.05.2020 (As per new LG law, election to be held within one year after dissolution of local governments).

Term of the Local Government Institutions of Balochistan Province expired on 27.01.2019. In order to conduct the local government elections within stipulated time of 120 days, ECP started delimitation process and issued a notification appointing Delimitation Committees for carrying out the delimitation of local government constituencies and fixed timelines as under:

S.No.	Activity	Date
01	Notification regarding appointment of Delimitation Committee was issued	17.01.2019
02	Timelines for delimitation of constituencies was issued	21.01.2019
03	Directive regarding ban on Posting Transfer was issued	21.01.2019
04	Meeting was held in this Secretariat regarding conduct of LGE-B Elections (2019) under the Chairmanship of Worthy Secretary	31.01.2019
05	Minutes of the Meeting was issued	01.02.2019
06	Meeting was held in this Secretariat regarding conduct of LGE-B Elections (2019) under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble CEC	08.02.2019
07	Minutes of the meeting was issued	11.02.2019
08	Notification regarding appointment of Delimitation Authorities.	11.02.2019
09	Hon'ble High Court Balochistan was suspended the Delimitation Committees.	12.02.2019
10	Notification regarding suspend the Delimitation Committee & Timeline was issued	13.02.2019

The Government of the Punjab promulgated Punjab Local Government Act, 2019 (PLGA-2019) and "The Punjab Village Panchayats and Neighbourhood Councils Act 2019" (PVPNCA-2019) on 4th May 2019. Consequently, the local government institutions of the Punjab Province established under the Punjab Local Government Act 2013 stood dissolved in pursuance of section 3 of PLGA-2019. Both the new Local Government Acts were challenged before the Hon'ble Lahore High Court and the matter is still subjudice. Further, due to non-fulfillment of certain legal requirements and other pre-requisites on part of Government of the Punjab, ECP could not start the process of holding of local government elections in the Province.

The local government elections in the province of KP was conducted in May, 2015 and its term expired on 28th August, 2019 and in the meantime, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Local Government (Amendment) Act, 2019 was promulgated on 29th April, 2019 abolishing the tier of District Government & District Council as well as changing the mode of election for City / Tehsil, Chairman from Indirect to direct. Similarly the mode of constitution of City Tehsil Council was also changed whereby the Chairman of Village Council/Neighbourhood Council shall be member of the Council.

ECP started preparations for the conduct of local government elections in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. The publication of provisional results of National Population Census-2017 and change in criteria of population as required under section 6 of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Local Government (Amendment) Act, 2019 necessitated fresh delimitation. Therefore, on 23rd July, 2019, ECP constituted delimitation committees for delimitation of Village/Neighbourhood Councils in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was asked to provide certain documents i.e. Official notifications of the number of village councils/neighbourhood councils in each tehsil, official notification of the limits of Tehsil Councils along with category-wise number of reserved seats, limits of City Local Councils along with category-wise number of reserved seats, and finalization of delimitation rules. However, the Government has not yet provided the above said documents/information. Moreover, enforcement of certain sections relating to conduct of elections as required under section 1(2) of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Local Government (Amendment) Act, 2019 is still pending on the part of Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, as such, activities relating to delimitation and conduct of local government elections in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has come to a halt and Election Commission has no other way to proceed further until the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provides the aforesaid documents/information.

The term of Local Government Cantonment Board Institutions expired on 9th December 2019 and ECP has commenced delimitation process in Cantonment Boards for timely conduct of elections. The local government institutions in Sindh Province and ICT are intact and their term shall expire on 30th August, 2020 and 04th March, 2021, respectively.

b. Local Government Bye-elections

Section 228 of the Elections Act, 2017 provides for conduct of bye-elections for local government institutions. Every vacancy in local government institutions is required to be filled under the applicable local government laws. During the year 2019, ECP conducted bye-elections to fill casual vacancies in the local government institutions as per details given below:

(i) Islamabad Capital Territory

S. No.	Name of District	Category of Seats	No. of Seats	Poll Date
01	Islamabad	Vice Chairman	01	Declared as un-opposed on 22.10.2019

(ii) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

S. No.	Name of District	Category of Seat	No. of Seats	Poll Date / Notification date
01	Swat, Shangla, Buner, Battagram	General	06	05.03.2019
		Peasant/ Worker	01	
		Youth	01	
02	Battagram	Youth	01	25.04.2019
03	Hangu, Buner, Chitral, Lower Dir, Karak	Naib Nazim	05	10.01.2019
04	Peshawar, Nowshera, Swabi, Kohat, Hangu, Bannu, D.I.Khan, Tank, Abbottabad, Mansehra, Torghar, Swat, Malakand, Chitral, Shangla, Charsadda, Battagram, Buner, Mardan	Nazim	48	21.01.2019
		Naib Nazim	32	
05	Mardan	Naib Nazim	01	28.01.2019
06	Peshawar	Naib Nazim	01	30.01.2019
07	Lower Dir	Naib Nazim	01	15.02.2019
08	Swabi	Women	01	20.02.2019
09	Mardan	Women	02	07.03.2019
			01	09.04.2019
10	Swat	Peasant/ Worker	01	23.04.2019
11	Buner	Youth	01	08.05.2019
12	Peshawar			
13	Charsadda, D.I.Khan, Peshawar, Nowshera, Mardan, Swabi, Kohat, Karak, Hangu, D.I.Khan, Abbottabad, Mansehra, Torghar, Battagram, Swat, Shangla, Buner, Chitral, Haripur	Nazim	20	26.02.2019
		Naib Nazim	15	
14	Peshawar	Nazim	01	20.03.2019
15	Charsadda, Nowshera, Hangu, Haripur, Peshawar, Mardan, Swabi, D.I.Khan, Torghar, Shangla, Kohat, Abbottabad, Battagram, Chitral, Bannu, Karak Lower Dir, Swat	Nazim	17	04.04.2019
		Naib Nazim	17	
16	Charsadda, Mansehra, Peshawar, Mardan	Nazim	03	23.04.2019
		Naib Nazim	02	
17	Peshawar, Abbottabad, Hangu, Battagram, Shangla, Chitral, Mardan	Nazim	10	15.05.2019
		Naib Nazim	05	

(iii) Punjab

S. No.	Name of District	Category of Seat	No. of Seats	Poll Date / Notification date
01	Sialkot	Chairman, Municipal Committee Pasrur	01	19.02.2019
		Vice Chairman, Municipal Committee Pasrur	01	
02	Chakwal	Chairman, Municipal Committee Choa Saidan Shah	01	17.04.2019
	Gujrat	Mayor, Municipal Corporation	01	
	D.G. Khan	Deputy Mayor, Municipal Corporation	01	
	Faisalabad	Chairman, Municipal Committee Jaranwala	01	
	Jhang	Chairman, Municipal Committee Shorkot	01	
	Khanewal	Chairman, Municipal Committee Jahanian	01	
Jhelum	Vice Chairman, Municipal Committee Pind Dadan Khan	01		

S. No.	Name of District	Category of Seat	No. of Seats	Poll Date / Notification date
	Rajanpur	Vice Chairman, Municipal Committee Kot Mithan	01	
	Muzaffargarh	Vice Chairman, Municipal Committee Khangarh	01	
	Multan	Peasant/Worker, Municipal Committee Jalalpur Pirwala	01	
	Bahawalnagar	Women Member, Municipal Committee Fortabbas	01	

(iv) Sindh

S. No.	Name of District	Category of Seat	No. of Seats	Poll Date / Notification date
01	Sukkur	Chairman	01	16.09.2019
02	Naushehro Feroze, Khairpur, Tando Allahyar	Chairman	03	14.02.2019
		Vice-Chairman	02	
03	Naushehro Feroze	Chairman	01	04.03.2019
		Vice-Chairman	01	
04	Mirpurkhas	Chairman	01	07.03.2019
05	Jamshoro	Chairman	01	20.03.2019
06	Karachi	Mayor	01	18.04.2019
07	Sukkur	Chairman	01	02.05.2019
08	Mirpurkhas, Shikarpur and Kamber @ Shahdadkot	Chairman	04	13.06.2019
		Vice-Chairman	01	
		Mayor	01	
09	Larkana, Sujawal and Umerkot	Chairman	03	10.07.2019
		Vice-Chairman	01	
10	Shikarpur	Chairman	01	16.09.2019
11	Ghotki	Chairman	01	07.10.2019

7. POLITICAL FINANCE

Under the Elections Act, 2017, 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 and members of Assemblies and the Senate. It is also mandated to have a check on election campaign expenditure made by all contesting candidates and political parties. For the purpose, ECP carries out following activities:

- a. Receive and maintain consolidated statements of accounts submitted annually by political parties and publish in the official gazette;
- b. Receive and maintain data of campaign finance (details of election expenses) of a political party during a general election.
- c. Receive, maintain, scrutinize and publish statements of assets and liabilities submitted annually by Members of an Assembly and Senate.
- d. Receive, maintain and scrutinize return of election expenses submitted by each contesting candidate after culmination of an election.

a. Enlistment of political parties

Chapter-XI of the Elections Act, 2017 provides procedure for enlistment of political parties with the ECP. A political party that fulfils the criteria for enlistment given therein may apply for its enlistment. During the year 2019, three political parties namely "Pak Muslim Alliance (Dewan)", "Nazria Pakistan Council" and "Pakistan National Party" got enlisted with ECP. With this enlistment, total number of political parties enlisted with the ECP has become 125. Details of enlisted political parties are given as under;

S. No.	Name of Political Party
01	Aam Admi Tehreek Pakistan
02	Aam Awam Party
03	Aam Loeg Ittehad
04	Aam Log Party Pakistan
05	All Pakistan Minorities Alliance.
06	All Pakistan Minority Movement.
07	All Pakistan Muslim League
08	All Pakistan Muslim League (Jinnah)
09	All Pakistan Tehreek.
10	Allah-o-Akbar Tehreek
11	Amun Taraqqi Party
12	Awam League
13	Awami Justice Party Pakistan
14	Awami Muslim League Pakistan
15	Awami National Party
16	Awami Party Pakistan-S
17	Awami Workers Party
18	Bahawalpur National Awami Party
19	Balochistan Awami Party
20	Balochistan National Movement
21	Balochistan National Party
22	Balochistan National Party (Awami)
23	Barabri Party Pakistan
24	Front National (Pakistan)
25	Hazara Democratic Party

S. No.	Name of Political Party
26	Humdardan-e-Watan Pakistan
27	Islami Jamhoori Ittehad Pakistan
28	Islami Tehreek Pakistan
29	Ittehad-e-Ummat Pakistan
30	Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan
31	Jamhoori Wattan Party
32	Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam Pakistan (F)
33	Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam Pakistan (S)
34	Jamiat Ulama-e-Pakistan (Imam Noorani)
35	Jamiat Ulama-e-Pakistan (Noorani)
36	Jamiat Ulma-e-Islam Nazryati Pakistan
37	Jamote Qaumi Movement
38	Jannat Pakistan Party
39	Majlis Wahdat-e-Muslimeen Pakistan
40	Markazi Jamiat Al- Hadith Pakistan
41	Masih Awami Party
42	Mohajir Qaumi Movement Pakistan
43	Mohib-e-Wattan Nowjawan Inqilabion Ki Anjuman (MNAKA)
44	Move on Pakistan
45	Mustaqbil Pakistan
46	Mutahidda Qabail Party
47	Muttahida League
48	Muttahida Qaumi Movement Pakistan
49	Muttahidda Ulema-e-Mashaikh Council of Pakistan
50	National Party
51	National Peace Council Party
52	National Peoples Party
53	Nazria Pakistan Council
54	Nizam-e-Mustafa Party
55	Pak Muslim Alliance (Dewan)
56	Pak Sarzameen Party
57	Pakistan Aman Party
58	Pakistan Aman Tehreek.
59	Pakistan Awami Inqelabi League
60	Pakistan Awami Jamhuri Ittehad
61	Pakistan Awami League
62	Pakistan Awami Raj
63	Pakistan Awami Tehreek
64	Pakistan Barabri Party.
65	Pakistan Citizen Movement
66	Pakistan Conservative Party

S. No.	Name of Political Party
67	Pakistan Falah Party
68	Pakistan Falahi Tehreek
69	Pakistan Freedom Movement
70	Pakistan Human Party
71	Pakistan Human Rights Party
72	Pakistan Islamic Republican Party
73	Pakistan Justice & Democratic Party
74	Pakistan Kissan Ittehad(Ch. Anwar)
75	Pakistan Masiha Party.
76	Pakistan Muhafiz Watan Party
77	Pakistan Muslim Alliance
78	Pakistan Muslim League
79	Pakistan Muslim League (F)
80	Pakistan Muslim League (J)
81	Pakistan Muslim League (N)
82	Pakistan Muslim League (Sher-e-Bangal)
83	Pakistan Muslim League Council
84	Pakistan Muslim League Organization
85	Pakistan Muslim League(Z)
86	Pakistan National Muslim League
87	Pakistan National Party
88	Pakistan Peoples Party
89	Pakistan Peoples Party (Shaheed Bhutto)
90	Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians
91	Pakistan Peoples Party Workers
92	Pakistan Quami Yakjehti Party
93	Pakistan Rah-e-Haq Party
94	Pakistan Siraiki Party(T)
95	Pakistan Sunni Tehreek
96	Pakistan Supreme Democratic Party
97	Pakistan Tehreek-e-Ijtihad(PTI)
98	Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf
99	Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Nazriati
100	Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf-Gulalai
101	Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaniat
102	Pakistan Welfare Party.
103	Pakistan Yaqeen Party
104	Pasban Pakistan.
105	Pashtoonkhwa Milli Awami Party
106	Peoples Movement of Pakistan(PMP)
107	Peoples Muslim League (Pakistan)

S. No.	Name of Political Party
108	Qaumi Watan Party
109	Roshan Pakistan League
110	Saraikistan Democratic Party
111	Sindh United Party
112	Sub Ka Pakistan
113	Sunni Ittehad Council
114	Sunni Tehreek.
115	Tabdeeli Pasand Party Pakistan
116	Tehreek Ahle-e-Sunnat Pakistan
117	Tehreek Jawanan Pakistan.
118	Tehreek Labbaik Pakistan
119	Tehreek Tabdili Nizam Pakistan
120	Tehreek-e-Difa-e-Pakistan
121	Tehreek-e-Ehsas-e-Pakistan
122	Tehreek-e-Labbaiq Islam
123	Tehreek-e-Suba Hazara Pakistan
124	Tehreek-e-Tahafuze Pakistan
125	Tehreek-e-Tameer-e-Pakistan

Out of enlisted political parties, only 42 political parties submitted their financial statements with the ECP within due timeframe i.e. 29th August, 2019 as required under section 210 of the Elections Act 2017. Moreover, 17 political parties submitted their statements before issuance of show cause notice. However, 26 political parties filed their statements after the issuance of show cause notice by ECP under section 215(4) ibid. As a result, 85 political parties retained their election symbols whereas 25 political parties' symbols have been withheld by ECP till the time they submit their financial statements and remaining 15 enlisted political parties have not yet applied for allocation of symbol.

In pursuance to section 137(2) ibid, ECP published on 1st January 2019, the names of 689 members of Assemblies and the Senate who failed to submit their statements of assets and liabilities for the financial year 2017-2018 by due date i.e. 31st December, 2018. ECP suspended, on 16th January 2019, the memberships of 332 Members who could not submit their statement of assets and liabilities even after availing grace period till 15th January, 2019. Details are given in the following table:

S. No.	Name of Assembly	Membership	Received till 31 st Dec	Pending	Received from 1 st to 15 th Jan	Membership Suspended
01	02	03	04	05	06	07
01	Senate	104	61	43	23	20
02	National Assembly	342	155	187	115	72
03	Punjab	371	113	258	143	115
04	Sindh	168	80	87	35	52
05	KPK	124	43	80	26	54
06	Balochistan	65	30	34	15	19
	TOTAL	1174	482	689	357	332

b. Return of election expenses

In light of Section 134 of the Election Act, 2017 all contesting candidate other than returned candidate has to submit the return of election expenses on Form-C within 30 days of the publication of the name of returned candidate in official gazette. Section 98(3) contemplates that all the returned candidates shall submit to the ECP their return of election expenses within 10 days from the date of poll.

Following table will elaborate the progress made so far in this regard:

Total No. of Contesting candidates who contested GE-2018	Total No. of Returned Candidates including reserved seat for women, non-Muslim and technocrat.	Total No. of contesting candidates(other than returned candidates
11,797	1,070	10,727

As many as 4,394 contesting candidates other than returned candidates failed to submit their election expenses return and their cases were referred to the court for initiating judicial proceedings against them in accordance with the law.

The political parties are required to furnish to the Commission, a list of contributors who have donated or contributed an amount equal to or more than one hundred thousand rupees to the political party for its election campaign expenses during the general election. 95 political parties had contested general elections 2018 whereas 82 political parties have submitted to the ECP details of their election-campaign expenses. Those political parties who have not yet complied with this legal provision, their election symbols have been withheld by the ECP till the time such details are submitted by them.

8. INFORMATION AND ELECTORAL TECHNOLOGY

Election Management Bodies (EMB) around the world are integrating various technologies to improve and automate electoral processes. ECP is a technology progressive organization striving to introduce various technologies in electoral processes to make the electoral process more transparent and inclusive, and is currently working on the following:

- a. 8300 SMS Service (Voter Information)
- b. Electronic Transmission of Results
- c. Geographical Information System – Polling Scheme Management System
- d. Computerized Electoral Roll System & Network Connectivity
- e. ECP's Official Website
- f. Results Management System

a. 8300 SMS Service (Voter Information)

Since February, 2012, ECP has been facilitating voters through 8300 SMS. Voters can become aware of their voting particulars such as name of electoral area, census block code, serial number in the electoral roll, name & address of display center, number & name of polling station, number and name of constituency by sending NIC number to 8300 via SMS. Since its inception, approximately 160 million voters checked their voting details by using this service and during the year 2019, about 4.5 million voters checked their voting details.

b. Electronic Transmission of Results

To comply with the provisions of section 13(2) of the Elections Act 2017, the ECP issued directions to the presiding officers during elections in merged districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province as well as in bye-elections held in 2019 to transmit Form-45 by using WhatsApp from polling stations to Returning Officers.

c. Geographical Information System – Polling Scheme Management System

Geographical information System (GIS) was used for geo-tagging of polling stations in bye-elections held in 2019 to facilitate voters in finding location of their polling stations on Google Maps on ECP's official website. The features of geo-tagging software includes number and name of constituency, polling stations, polling booths, registered voters, category of polling stations (male, female or combined with color marker) and photograph of the building.

d. Computerized Electoral Roll System & Network Connectivity

During the year 2019, ECP continued to use the Computerized Electoral Roll System (CERS) & Network Connectivity throughout the country to update electoral rolls at District level through secure private Wide Area Networks (WAN). It is vital to mention that the exercise of revision of electoral rolls for elections in merged districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province and bye-elections in several other constituencies was timely accomplished.

e. ECP's Official Website

During the year 2019 website security features have been upgraded with the latest technology. ECP ensured the availability of updated information for the general public. To maintain transparency and public convenience, the ECP's website was continuously updated with information regarding delimitation of constituencies, election program, list of contesting candidates, list of polling stations, voter education material, electoral roll statistics, notifications, press releases, results, and information regarding other ongoing activities.

f. Result Management System

ECP developed Result Management System (RMS) in 2013 to facilitate the Returning Officers to prepare list of polling stations, list of contesting candidates and tabulate, generate and transmit election results to ECP. RMS was also used in election in merged districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province and bye-elections held in 2019.

9. GENDER AFFAIRS

Article 25 of the Constitution guarantees that all citizens are equal before law, and entitled to equal protection of law and there shall be no discrimination on the basis of sex. ECP believes that elections can be made more inclusive if equal opportunities are provided to all segments of the society to participate in electoral processes. During the year 2019, ECP took following key initiatives to mainstream women, persons with disabilities, minorities and transgender in the electoral processes:

a. Female NIC and Voter Registration Campaign

According to the provisional report of 6th population census, 2017 women constitute 48.76% of the total population in Pakistan and their participation as voters and candidates is essential in electoral processes. Section 47 of the Elections Act, 2017 provides that ECP 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.

The analysis of Electoral Rolls reflected a gap between male and female registered voters, due to gap between men and women NIC registration with NADRA. ECP strategized to mitigate and minimize the gender gap by taking following initiatives:

- Coordinated with NADRA for NIC/ voter registration campaign;
- Engaged CSOs as implementing partners and held consultative meetings with them;
- Gender and Disability Electoral Working Group for awareness raising and mobilization campaigns at grassroots level;
- District Voter Education Committee (DVEC) coordination with stakeholders and mobilization of local communities specially women, PWDs, transgender and minorities.

ECP commenced Women's NIC and Voter Registration Campaign in 2017 and continued its Phase-III during this year across the country with the support of Civil Society Organizations as implementation partners. Approximately 850,000 unregistered women were facilitated, bringing them to NADRA Registration Centers (NRCs) and Mobile Registration Vans (MRVs) across the country to register their NICs/vote. The detail of region-wise districts that were covered during the campaign is tabulated hereunder:

S. No.	Region	Number of Districts	Names of Districts
01	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	33	Abbotabad, North Waziristan, Bajaur, South Waziristan, Khyber, Mohmand, Kurram, Orakzai, Tor Ghar, Batagram, Buner, Charsada, Chitral, Haripur, Karak, Kohat, Kohistan, Lakki Marwat, Malakand, Shangla, Swabi, Tank, Dera Ismail Khan, Hangu, Mardan, Nowshera, Swat, Peshawar, Kohat, Banu, Mansehra, Upper Dir and Lower Dir
02	ICT	01	Islamabad
03	Punjab	32	Dera Ghazi Khan, Bakhar, Hafizabad, Jhang, Kasur, Khanewal, Layyah, Lodhran, Mandi Bahauddin, Muzaffargarh, Nankana Sahib, Okara, Pakpattan, Sahiwal, Sargodha, Sheikhupura, Sialkot, Vehari, Bahawalpur, Bahawalnagar, Faisalabad, Gujranwala, Lahore, Narowal, Rahim Yar Khan, Rajanpur, Toba Tek Singh, Attock, Khushab, Rawalpindi, Mianwali and Multan
04	Sindh	15	Dadu, Ghotki, Hyderabad, Kashmore, Khairpur, Korangi, Malir, Naushero Feroz, Sukkur, Tharparkar, Kamber Shahdadt, Karachi Central and Karachi South, Tandu Muhammad Khan and Umerkot
05	Balochistan	20	Awaran, Chagai, Kharan, Ziarat, Jhalmagsi, Panjgur, Sherani, Harani, Washuk, Musakhel, Gwadar, Kech, Kachi, Lasbela, Loralai, Nasirabad, Nushki, Zhob, Killa Abdullah and Quetta
	Overall	101	101 Districts

b. Gender and Disability Electoral Working Group (GDEWG)

ECP formed a Gender and Disability Electoral Working Group (GDEWG) in 2016 in Islamabad and later on in all Provincial capitals to decrease barriers and enhance electoral participation of women, persons with disabilities (PWDs) and other socially excluded groups. Around 100 civil society organizations are members of this group in Islamabad as well as in all four provinces. These civil society organizations are mandated to map their activities and share information and lessons learnt from the NIC Voter Registration campaigns between NADRA, ECP and civil society organizations for better coordination. The group also works on development and utilization of civic and voter education materials and awareness raising campaigns for increasing women voters' registration and voter turnout.

Some of the major achievements of ECP through its GDEWG are as follows:

- a. Ensured free of cost NIC for first time registration;
- b. Additional MRVs deployed for women only registration during ECP's NIC /Voter registration campaign;
- c. Dedicated desk for the first time women registrants;
- d. Saturdays allotted as additional day for only women registration;
- e. Female staff at NADRA registration centers increased during ECP campaign; and
- f. Voter registration and education awareness messages run through electronic media to facilitate the general public.

c. Gender Mainstreaming

ECP is mindful about the importance of gender mainstreaming and has undertaken several activities during the year. Some highlights in this behalf are as under:

- a. ECP celebrated different National and International Days with a focus on persons with disabilities, women and other marginalized groups. International women's day is celebrated on 8th March every year. Like other parts of the world, in Pakistan the day is celebrated, acknowledging the contribution of women in different walks of life. This year ECP followed global theme "Think Equal, Build Smart and Innovate for Change". During the event, Members of the Gender and Disability Electoral Working Group (GDEWG) highlighted ECP's contribution for enhancing women's electoral participation in the country.
- b. A seminar on mainstreaming and participation of minorities in electoral process was held on 20th December, 2019 at Peshawar. Representatives of minorities' communities participated in the seminar and discussed the issues and challenges faced by them in participation and representation in elections.
- c. Two Workshops about gender sensitive reporting during elections in merged districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for Beat Reporters from print and electronic media, radio presenters and camera persons were held from 30th April to 4th May 2019 in Peshawar in collaboration with National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW).
- d. ECP also engaged young people in civic and voter education through academic institutions and a robust voter registration and voter education campaign was launched which resulted in significant increase in female registration and female voter turnout during elections in merged districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province.
- e. To provide awareness to rural women about the electoral process and polling day activities, ECP participated in 12th Annual Conference on International Day of 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 from 15th to 17th October, 2019 at Lok Virsa, Islamabad. Through various activities including mock poll exercise and panel discussion, rural women were provided awareness on the electoral process and importance of their participation in the electoral processes.

10. ELECTION DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Section 6 of the Elections Act, 2017 provides that the ECP shall hear and decide complaints, applications, petitions or appeals filed before it. Besides section 140 of the Act provides that ECP shall appoint Election Tribunals for trial and disposal of elections petitions. During the year 2019, 59 complaints/applications were filed before the Election Commission for hearing and disposal in accordance with law.

In pursuance of 25th Constitutional amendment, ECP conducted elections in 16 general seats in merged districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province on 20th July, 2019. In order to resolve election disputes in these constituencies, ECP appointed three Hon'ble Judges of the Peshawar High Court as Election Tribunal. Four election petitions pertaining to above elections were filed before these Election Tribunals which are still pending adjudication.

After the conduct of General Elections-2018, 303 election petitions were filed before Election Tribunals for trial and disposal. Eleven more petitions were filed in respect of bye-elections held in the year 2019, so a total of 314 election petitions were filed before the Tribunals. Out of these petitions 213 petitions have been disposed of whereas 101 petitions are still pending adjudication before Election Tribunals. In view of the pendency and to ensure early disposal of election petitions, ECP sensitized respective Election Tribunals / authorities to dispose of election petitions as early as possible. Election petitions from one Election Tribunal to another were also transferred on various legal and administrative grounds for expeditious disposal of petitions.

11. CAPACITY BUILDING

Capacity Building of ECP's own employees as well as election officials entrusted with duties in connection with election is the legal responsibility of ECP as per section 12 (a) of the Elections Act, 2017. In order to impart such trainings, ECP has established a Federal Election Academy (FEA) at ECP Secretariat Islamabad to carry out the capacity building trainings. FEA is playing a significant role in planning, designing and imparting training. To rollout the trainings, a pool of Trainers is available with the FEA.

An in-house state-of-the-art facility of Federal Election Academy was inaugurated on 27th August, 2019 wherein all modern day facilities for conduct of training workshops, seminars, symposia etc. including training hall, computer lab, syndicate rooms etc. are available.



Sardar Muhammad Raza, CEC Inaugurating the facility of Federal Election Academy on 27-08-2019



Figure 2 Inauguration ceremony of the facility of Federal Election Academy on 27-08-2019

During the calendar year, ECP conducted trainings for District Returning Officers (DROs), Returning Officers (ROs) and election officials engaged in connection with elections held in sixteen constituencies of merged districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and various bye-elections, across the country.

a. Training of ECP Officers and Officials

It is extremely important that a highly skilled and professional work force, well versed with the relevant laws, rules and procedures is available with the ECP. For capacity building of ECP officers & officials, ECP planned, organized and conducted a six week long Electoral Management Course (EMC), designed to cater the electoral needs of ECP Officers (BPS 17-19). The course aimed at building the capacity of ECP officers on legal framework (Elections Act and Election Rules) and developing their skills necessary for conducting elections and managing offices at all levels of ECP hierarchy. During this year, the training of 8th batch of EMC was conducted from 27th August, 2019 to 4th October, 2019 comprising 30 participants.

b. BRIDGE Trainings

The training of 8th batch of EMC was followed by two week long “Building Resources in Democracy Governance and Elections (BRIDGE)” training on different modules. The BRIDGE trainings were conducted on international pattern of adult learning techniques under the supervision of an International Training Expert.



BRIDGE training workshop activities



BRIDGE training workshop on Gender and Elections

This year the BRIDGE trainings were conducted on different modules as per following details:

Modules	Participants	Duration	Dates
Bridge Training on Legal Frame Work	29	04 Days	October 07-10, 2019
Bridge Training on Gender & Elections		03 Days	October 12-14, 2019
Bridge Training on Political Finance		03 Days	October 16-18, 2019

c. Management Skills Training at LUMS

ECP arranged a week long “Management Skills Building Course” for senior officers of ECP at Lahore University of Management Sciences from 16th to 21st December, 2020. The course covered an array of subjects including leadership, result based management, negotiations skills, strategic planning and team building. A group of 23 officers of ECP participated in this training.



Management Excellence Programme for ECP held at LUMS, Lahore

d. Capacity Building Programme for ECP Officials

The staff working in BPS 9 - 16 is an important workforce of ECP. Five-Days training with the name “Capacity Building Program” to four batches of ECP Officials (BPS 9-16) was conducted from 10th December, 2019 to 31st December, 2019 in which 340 officials were imparted training. The curriculum of this training focused on office procedure, conduct of elections and behavioral aspects of trainees.

e. Training of Election Officials

(i) Trainings in Elections held in Merged Districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

For election in merged districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, ECP conducted trainings for Election Officials engaged in this election. Besides conducting trainings for DRO, ROs, AROs and Polling Personnel, training of Monitoring Teams was also conducted for the first time. The details of trainings conducted in this respect are as under:

Training	Total No. of Participants	Duration	Dates
Training of DROs, ROs & AROs	60	02 Day	19 – 26 April, 2019
Training of Master Trainers	74	02 Day	23 – 30 April, 2019
Training of Monitoring Teams	44	01 Day	02 – 04 May, 2019
Training of Presiding Officers & S.APOs	3969	01 Day	10 – 16 June, 2019
Training of APOs and Polling Officers	9769	Half Day	17 – 23 June, 2019



Oath Taking ceremony where DRO taking Oath from ROs Two-day Training of DROs, ROs and AROs

(ii) Training in Bye-Elections

During the year, before the conduct of each bye-election, Election Officials were trained on their roles and responsibilities during the conduct of election. A total of 669 election officials were imparted training for smooth conduct of bye-elections.

(iii) Delimitation Trainings

Three days training was imparted to Delimitation Committees constituted with a view to delimit constituencies for Local Government elections in Balochistan. The training was conducted within the purview of the Elections Act and Rules, 2017, and Balochistan Local Government Elections Act and Rules, 2013. Ninety-nine Committee Members were imparted training from 21st to 26th January, 2019.

12. VOTER EDUCATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS

Section 12(c) of the Elections Act 2017 requires the ECP to take measures to conduct public awareness programs and media campaigns, regarding the importance of maximum voter enrolment and participation in elections, especially women, dissemination of information regarding procedure of casting vote, and the importance of maintaining the integrity of the electoral process. ECP is taking steps to provide information and education to citizens about their electoral rights and obligations. It has always been the effort of ECP to make the electoral process more credible and transparent through effective voters participation.

a. Voter Education Campaign

During the year 2019, ECP conducted election to sixteen seats of the Provincial Assembly in merged districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and bye-elections to the Parliament / Provincial Assemblies and Local Governments. In addition, the revision of Electoral Rolls in preview of Section 27 of the Elections Act – 2017 was carried out across the country.

ECP prepared an outreach plan for activities so as to enhance voter participation to make the process more inclusive. District Voters' Education Committees (DVECs) played a vital role in public awareness campaign and were made more activated for undertaking awareness campaign before elections in newly merged districts of Khyber Pukhtunkhwa and for revision of Electoral Rolls. Awareness activities such as walks, seminars, speech contest in local colleges / schools and open theatres were carried out. As much as 449 events were conducted throughout the country.



Conventional voter education programs comprising brochures, documentaries and messages, electronic short messages, text messages to cellular phone users and outdoor publicity by placing banners and billboards carrying voter education messages at prominent spot of cities across the country were part of awareness campaign during the year.

MOCK-POLL EXERCISES

Mock-poll exercises to aware the voters on voting procedures in merged districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa were another feature of the voter education programme.



Public awareness campaign through print and electronic media was launched at all news channels and leading newspapers at provincial as well as regional levels so as to take voter awareness messages on grassroot level.

Some major campaigns undertook in print / electronic media are as under:

- a. Establishment of display centers in respect of revision of electoral rolls (Electronic media / Radio);
- b. Voter education process and facility of 8300 SMS (Electronic media/ mobile users);
- c. Instruction to the voters; and
- d. Public notice for voters' education on electoral rolls

The partner organizations, i.e. UNDP and DAI-Tabeer assisted the ECP in public awareness programme. In addition, Information, Educational and Communication (IEC) and other publicity material was developed and disseminated among the masses. Civic and voter education is an ongoing activity with an aim to encourage and motivate citizens to participate in electoral processes.

b. Celebration of National Voters' Day, 2019

The Commission commemorates and celebrates National Voter's Day on 7th December each year to create awareness among the masses about their electoral rights and obligations. The aim to celebrate the day is to make the electoral process more inclusive including women, minorities, transgender, persons with disabilities and youth.



National voters' Day 2019 at ECP Secretariat, Islamabad.

The main function was held at ECP Secretariat, Islamabad. The theme this year for celebrating the day was to create awareness amongst general public to "register or transfer their votes as per addresses on their NICs".



Group photo during the National voters' Day 2019 at ECP Secretariat, Islamabad.

The Chief Election Commissioner in his address, urged such persons who possess NICs but are not registered voters to register themselves at their earliest. He referred to section 27 of the Elections Act, 2017 which requires voters to register only on permanent or temporary address mentioned in their NICs and thus, emphasized the voters to check their vote particulars by sending their NIC number on 8300. If any voter is registered on an address other than the addresses on his NIC, he must transfer his vote to either permanent or temporary address as per NIC.

The Chief Election Commissioner further added, while emphasizing on voter education that to inculcate mass awareness about electoral process, the Commission needs to work on young generation and therefore the subject on importance of vote should be included in curriculum.

Similar events were also held at the provincial headquarters where Members of the Commission and Provincial Election Commissioners highlighted the importance of registration and casting of vote. The RECs and DECs also arranged several awareness activities such as awareness walks, seminars and speech contests at colleges/ schools etc.



National Voters' Day being celebrated at ECP Secretariat

13. INTERACTION WITH INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL STAKEHOLDERS

a. Participation at International Electoral Forums

On an invitation from Cambridge Malaysian Education & Development Trust, a representative of ECP participated in the 18th Cambridge Conference on “Electoral Democracy” held on 25th – 26th July, 2019 in Cambridge, United Kingdom.

A representative from the ECP attended a meeting organized by Commonwealth Secretariat, UK on “Commonwealth Elections Cybersecurity Guide” from 30th – 31st July, 2019 at Marlborough House, UK. The purpose of the meeting was to further exchange experiences in the area of elections Cybersecurity, to obtain comments, feedback and to discuss the recommendations of the draft Commonwealth Elections Cybersecurity Guide. Sequel to the meeting, a Regional Training Workshop on Cybersecurity was also held from 20th – 21st November, 2019 in Sydney, Australia which was also attended by a representative of the ECP. The aim of regional training workshops was to strengthen practical skills and knowledge of officials of Election Management Bodies on elections cybersecurity through scenario-planning and group discussion.

A group of officers attended an initiative training event for Asia region from 25th – 29th November, 2019 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia organized by Commonwealth Secretariat, UK and the Election Commission of Malaysia. The training program was focused on electoral issues relevant to regional Commonwealth EMBs that included Electoral Systems; Voter Registration; Gender and Elections; Voter Education and Awareness; and Social Media and EMB.

b. Election Observation

A representative of ECP observed Indonesian Concurrent Elections 2019 from 15th - 18th April, 2019 in Jakarta, Indonesia. Besides observing elections, the representative also participated in the discussions relating to accurate voters data, managing logistics of the elections, transparency and accountability in implementation process of elections through the use of technology.

A representative of ECP participated in Australian Government’s Election Visitor Program (EVP) from 16th – 19th May, 2019 in Canberra, Australia on the invitation from Australian Electoral Commission. The EVP facilitated discussion on best-practices on electoral administration and governance.

c. Interaction with National Stakeholders

- (i) ECP arranged briefing sessions for fellows of Young Politicians Fellowship Program 2019 of PILDAT on 26th March, 2019 and 25th November, 2019. The objective of briefings was to aware participants about the roles and responsibilities of Election Commission of Pakistan.
- (ii) A briefing session was arranged for 36 Officers of Pakistan Management Services and Faculty of Pakistan Provincial Services Academy, Peshawar, KP on 15th April, 2019.
- (iii) A briefing session was arranged for the faculty members and 25 students from various academic departments from the platform of “Leader Shift Program” of COMSATS University Islamabad on 22nd July, 2019.

14. STRATEGIC PLAN 2019-2023

In 2010, the ECP became one of the few public-sector organizations in Pakistan that developed a Strategic Plan for the period 2010-2014. In 2014, after successful implementation of first Strategic Plan, ECP chose to follow up with a second five-year Strategic Plan 2014-2018. The successful implementation of the first and second Strategic Plans had a positive impact on the capacity and work culture of the ECP and, to continue the reform process, it was decided that a 3rd Strategic Plan should also be formulated. This comprehensive document builds upon the progress made during the last two strategic planning cycles and focuses on addressing the identified challenges.

During the formulation of third Strategic Plan, the ECP obtained input from internal and external stakeholders. The stakeholders' feedback was thoroughly analyzed with technical inputs by development partners and in the light of international best practices.



External consultation session with members of political parties on Strategic Plan 2019-2023 at Lahore



External consultation session with members of political parties on Strategic Plan 2019-2023 at Quetta

This exercise led to identification of priority areas for the third Strategic Plan and the strategic actions required to be achieved in light of the strategic goals. Third Strategic Plan 2019-2023 intends to:

- a. enable compliance, in letter and spirit, of the Elections Act 2017 and the Election Rules, 2017;
- b. facilitate the participation of stakeholders in the electoral processes to deliver inclusive elections that people trust;

- c. acquaint officers and staff across the organization to develop a common understanding of where the ECP currently stands, a shared vision of where it plans to be over the next five years and what strategies it will employ to attain its strategic goals within the given timelines;
- d. assist ECP leadership to monitor progress against set targets and adopt timely measures to address any hurdles that may be impeding or delaying progress;
- e. facilitate the ECP in assessing resource needs, rationalize and prioritize resource allocation for greater efficiency and strengthen the case for mobilizing additional resources (human, financial and infrastructure);
- f. identify and prioritize entry-points for assistance and support from international development partners; and
- g. position the ECP as a modern, professional and reputable EMB that is abreast of global trends, innovations and best practices in electoral management.



Interaction with donors on Strategic Plan 2019-2023

The strategic Pillars and Strategic Goals in respect of Strategic Plan 2019-2023 are given under:

Strategic Pillar	Strategic Goals
01. Legal Framework	1.1 To contribute towards improved electoral laws for National and Local elections
	1.2 To improve the Election Rules, 2017
02. Electoral integrity and public perception	2.1 To enhance stakeholders' engagement in the electoral process
	2.2 To institutionalize transparency and enhance public access to information in electoral management
	2.3 To ensure compliance with electoral laws by all stakeholders
	2.4 To Improve public perception through social media
03. Institutional Development	3.1 To strengthen ECP's offices infrastructure for a more conducive working environment
	3.2 To rationalize human resource strength, improve recruitment processes and promote performance-based human resource management
	3.3 To improve record management procedures and systems
	3.4 To enhance internal communication and coordination
	3.5 To promote experience and knowledge sharing at national and international levels
04. Training and capacity development	4.1 To strengthen the capacity of ECP employees by providing quality trainings and learning opportunities at the national and international level
	4.2 To provide efficient and quality training to election officials and improve awareness of other relevant stakeholders
05. Election Operations	5.1 To improve political parties' enlistment process and scrutiny of campaign expenditures, election expenses and statements of assets and liabilities
	5.2 To improve electoral procedures and access to polling stations
	5.3 To improve planning and ensure efficient management of election logistics and election officials
06. Budget, Finance and Procurement	6.1 To improve planning, implementation, transparency and quality assurance in the management of procurements, budget and finance
	6.2 To ensure financial autonomy and improve the ECP's financial management system
	6.3 To optimize resource mobilization for improving ECP's infrastructure, institutional capacity and operations
07. Voter registration and participation	7.1 To ensure that eligible citizens, especially women and socially excluded groups, get NICs and are registered as voters
	7.2 To further improve quality of electoral rolls
	7.3 To facilitate and improve voters' participation and turnout in electoral process

Strategic Pillar	Strategic Goals
08. Information, communication and electoral technologies	8.1 To improve electoral technologies used during past elections to enhance transparency, awareness and efficiency in electoral processes
	8.2 To identify, develop and pilot new electoral technologies to facilitate and increase voters' participation and awareness, and improve public trust in the process
	8.3 To improve the use of technology for efficient performance of ECP offices
09. Electoral complaints and dispute resolution	9.1 To ensure timely disposal of electoral complaints and adjudication of electoral disputes
10. Gender mainstreaming and social inclusion	10.1 To ensure that the office environment is secure and conducive for women and socially excluded groups
	10.2 To ensure gender mainstreaming and social inclusion in election administration and electoral process
11. Monitoring, evaluation and research	11.1 To expand ECP's monitoring & evaluation scope and strengthen the monitoring system
	11.2 To strengthen research and development capacity to inform ECP's policies, procedures and decision making



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