

GENERAL ELECTION 2018

Update-I

January - March 2018



1. BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION

Free and Fair Election Network (FAFEN) initiated its assessment of the political environment and implementation of election-related laws, rules and regulations in January 2018 as part of its multi-phase observation of General Election (GE) 2018. The purpose of the observation is to contribute to the evolution of an election process that is free, fair, transparent and accountable, in accordance with the requirements laid out in the Elections Act, 2017. Based on its observation, FAFEN will produce periodic updates, information briefs and reports in an effort to provide objective, unbiased and evidence-based information about the quality of electoral and political processes to the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), political parties, media, civil society organizations and citizens.

General Election 2018 Update-I is based on information gathered systematically in 130 districts by 130 trained and non-partisan district coordinators through 2,001 interviews¹ of 41 political parties, 380 interviews of 33 political parties in 95 districts, and direct observation of 629 political gatherings including 62 political rallies, 294 *jalsas*, 265 corner meetings, and eight *dharnas* (or sit-ins). Moreover, FAFEN documented the formation of 169 political alliances, party-switching by political figures, and emerging alliances among ethnic, tribal and professional groups. The following sections include FAFEN's detailed findings and analysis:

2. LARGELY FREE ENVIRONMENT FOR CAMPAIGNING

Interviews with political party representatives and potential candidates reveal that the majority (94%) of parties and candidates are able to campaign in a political environment free of intimidation and threats from the state or other politically influential groups. Only 106 (5%) of the 2,001 individuals interviewed claimed that their party's leaders or workers were being intimidated by police or put under pressure to support a specific party or group. Incidentally, more than half of the individuals in this group (58) belong to Sindh followed by Punjab. Table-1 shows the party affiliations and regional distribution of the 106 individuals who claimed that their respective parties were being intimidated:

TABLE 1 PROVINCE-WISE ANALYSIS OF POLITICAL PARTIES' BEING INTIMIDATED

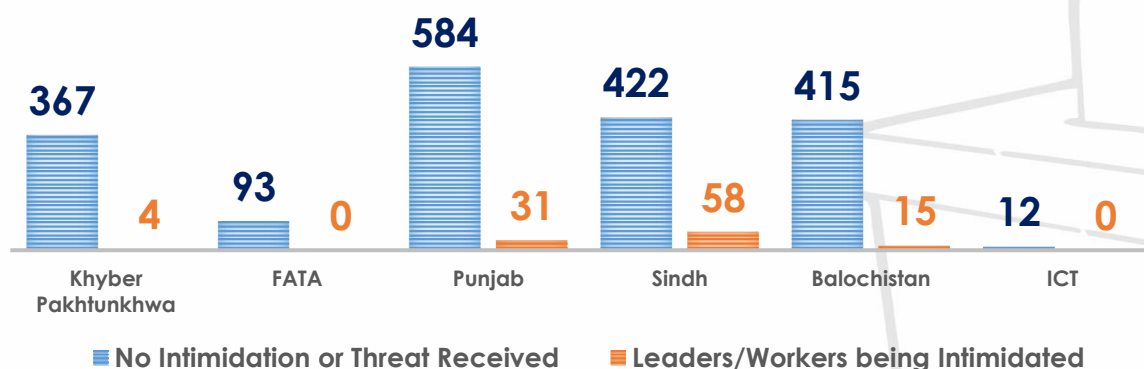
Political Parties	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	Punjab	Sindh	Balochistan	Grand Total
Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf	1	9	6	3	19

¹ See Annexure-1 for the list of political parties interviewed during January to March 2018 by FAFEN's District Coordinators in 130 Districts.

Political Parties	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	Punjab	Sindh	Balochistan	Grand Total
Pakistan Muslim League (F)			12		12
Pakistan Muslim League (N)		1	10	1	12
Tehreek Labbaik Pakistan	2	8			10
Sindh United Party			8		8
Awami Workers Party			6		6
Pakistan Muslim League		5			5
Pakistan People's Party	0	4	1	3	8
Muttahida Qaumi Movement Pakistan			4		4
Pakistan Peoples Party (Shaheed Bhutto)			4		4
Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam (F)				3	3
National Party				3	3
Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan		2			2
Mohajir Qaumi Movement Pakistan			2		2
Awami National Party	1				1
Balochistan National Party				1	1
Pakistan Awami Tehreek		1			1
Pashtoonkhwa Milli Awami Party				1	1
Other Political Parties (Not Listed with the ECP)	0	0	4	0	4
Total	4	30	57	15	106

Of the alleged intimidation tactics used, the majority included the police registering fake cases or reopening old cases against party leaders and representatives. A few district party presidents or secretaries alleged that their workers were detained by security officials. Figure-1 below shows the regional distribution of responses by the individuals interviewed.

FIGURE 1: POLITICAL PARTIES' RESPONSES ON INTIMIDATION/THREATS TO THEIR LEADERS AND WORKERS



3. COMPETITIVE ELECTION CAMPAIGN

FAFEN observed a total of 629 public gatherings of 26 political parties (and 14 political groups which have not been registered by ECP) during January-March 2018. More than half of the observed gatherings by parties registered with the ECP were arranged in Punjab (290), followed by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and Sindh (86 each), Balochistan (69) and FATA (37). FAFEN also observed 60 political gatherings of 14 other political groups² whose registration status is currently pending with the ECP.

Major political parties, including the Pakistan Muslim League – Nawaz (PML-N), Pakistan People’s Party (PPP) and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) reportedly held the most number of public gatherings, indicating a competitive election campaign environment. Table-2 shows a regional breakdown of political gatherings held by various parties.

TABLE 2 REGION-WISE NUMBER OF POLITICAL GATHERINGS BY POLITICAL PARTIES

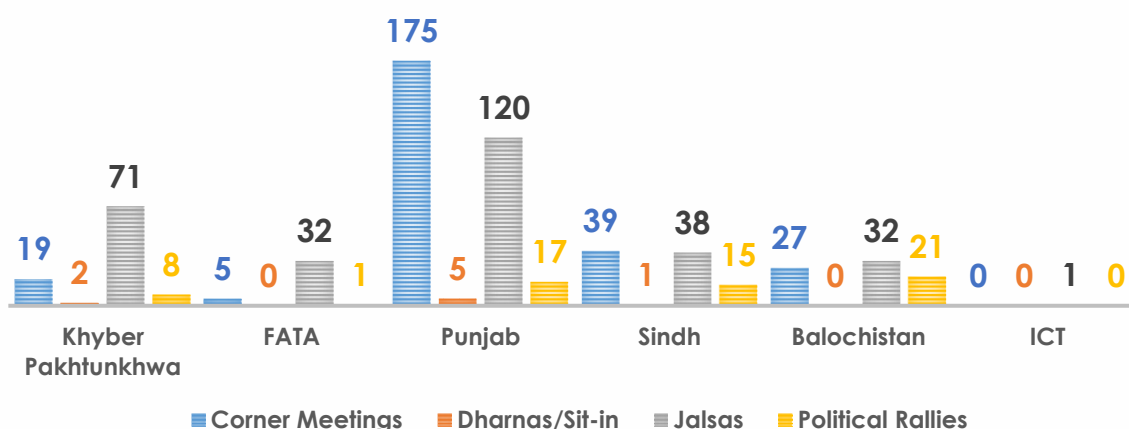
Political Parties	KP	FATA	Punjab	Sindh	Balochistan	ICT	Total
Pakistan Muslim League (N)	9	2	112	2	2		127
Pakistan People’s Party	6	3	60	45	12	0	126
Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf	19	18	64	17	5		123
Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam (F)	19		9	5	13		46
Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan	12	9	17				38
Awami National Party	19	4			3		26
Tehreek Labbaik Pakistan			13	1	2		16
Pashtoonkhwa Milli Awami Party		1			10		11
Balochistan National Party (Awami)					10		10
Balochistan National Party					9		9
Pakistan Muslim League (F)				7			7
Pakistan Muslim League			6				6
Pak Sarzameen Party				4			4
Pakistan Awami Raj			3				3
Jamiat Ulama-e-Pakistan (Noorani)			2				2
National Party					2		2
National Peoples Party				2			2

² FAFEN observed political gatherings of the following political groups which have not been formally notified by ECP (see at: <https://www.ecp.gov.pk/frnGenericPage.aspx?PageID=3089>). These groups include: Jamiat Ulema-e-Pakistan, Saikistan Qaumi Ittehad, Aam Admi Justice Party, Awami Ittehad Party, Awami Jamhoori Party, Jamaat Ahle-Hadith Pakistan (Elahi Zaheer), Markazi Jamaat Ahle Hadieth (Zubair), Pak Islam Party, Pakistan Mazdoor Kissan Party, Pakistan Muslim League (Nazaryati), Pakistan Sariaki Party, Pakistan Ulema Council, Pashtoon Quomi Tehreek and Sindh Taraqi Passand Party (STP).

Political Parties	KP	FATA	Punjab	Sindh	Balochistan	ICT	Total
Pakistan Sunni Tehreek			2				2
Qaumi Watan Party	2						2
All Pakistan Muslim League						1	1
Jamhoori Wattan Party					1		1
Majlis-e-Wahdat-e-Muslimeen Pakistan			1				1
Mohajir Qaumi Movement Pakistan				1			1
Muttahida Qaumi Movement Pakistan				1			1
Nizam-e-Mustafa Party			1				1
Sindh United Party				1			1
Other Parties (Not Registered with the ECP)	14	1	27	7	11	0	60
Total	100	38	317	93	80	1	629

Parties mostly arranged corner meetings and *jalsas*, while occasionally taking out rallies and holding sit-ins. Figure-2 illustrates the regional distribution of the various types of political gatherings observed by FAFEN:

FIGURE-2: TYPE OF POLITICAL GATHERING



3.1 Objective/s of political gatherings

A majority of the observed political gatherings (439 of 629) were held to either gain support or mobilize voters for GE 2018. A total of 72 gatherings were held by party figures to announce their support for another political party. As many as 53 gatherings were held in protest of the federal and provincial governments, while 52 involved either the inauguration or announcement of new development schemes in districts.

According to FAFEN observers, the speakers at 30 of the 629 public gatherings commented on the personal lives of their opponents, while speakers were observed

to incite violence against their political opponents on at least three occasions. Table-2 illustrates a regional breakdown of the objectives or purposes of observed political gatherings:

TABLE 3		REGION-WISE OBJECTIVES OF POLITICAL GATHERINGS					
Reasons for Political Gatherings	KP	FATA	Punjab	Sindh	Balochistan	ICT	Total
Voter Mobilization/Support	48	22	244	71	53	1	439
Announcements made by Political Figures to join another political party/group	27	14	17	9	5		72
Protest against government	10	2	18	4	19		53
Inauguration of Development Schemes	10		32	7			49
Kashmir Solidarity Day	3		4		3		10
Announcement of Development Scheme	2		1				3
Demand for Separate Constituency/Province			1	2			3
Total	100	38	317	93	80	1	629

4. LEVEL OF SATISFACTION OF POLITICAL PARTIES WITH VOTER REGISTRATION PROCESS

FAFEN's District Coordinators asked political parties about the ECP's support in voter registration. Of the 2,001 party representatives interviewed during January-March 2018, a majority of the representatives (1,397 or 79%) were satisfied with the ECP's voter registration efforts, while 375 (19%) expressed dissatisfaction.

Of the 375 dissatisfied party representatives, the majority alleged the ECP of favouring another political party or an influential group. A number of respondents also opined that the ECP was working in isolation and lacked coordination with local political parties.

A few party representatives also expressed reservations regarding the preliminary results of the 6th Housing and Population Census, arguing that the reported populations of their districts were unrealistic. Other complaints included the registration voters on incorrect addresses and lack of attention given to remote areas. Table-4 shows region-wise detail of the political parties' feedback on the ECP's efforts to register women as voters:

TABLE 4		REGION-WISE FEEDBACK OF POLITICAL PARTIES ON THE ECP'S EFFORTS FOR WOMEN'S REGISTRATION AS VOTERS		
Region	Satisfied with ECP's Efforts for Women's Voter Registration	Dissatisfied with ECP's Efforts for Women's Voter Registration	Other Responses	
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	293	66	12	
FATA	69	22	2	

Region	Satisfied with ECP's Efforts for Women's Voter Registration	Dissatisfied with ECP's Efforts for Women's Voter Registration	Other Responses
Punjab	401	118	96
Sindh	331	94	55
Balochistan	294	73	63
ICT	9	2	1
Total	1,397	375	229

5. LEVEL OF SATISFACTION OF POLITICAL PARTIES WITH NIC REGISTRATION PROCESS

FAFEN's District Coordinators asked political parties about the National Database and Registration Authority's (NADRA) support in registering National Identity Cards (NIC). A total of 850 (42%) of the 2,001 interviewed party representatives said that they faced difficulties in acquiring NADRA mobile registration vans (MRVs) for facilitating NIC registration in their respective areas. The majority of these party representatives belong to Balochistan, FATA and KP. Notably, of those belonging to FATA, almost 83% suggested that NADRA was not responsive to requests for MRVs.

Conversely, a total of 778 representatives mentioned that NADRA provided MRVs on request. Table-5 shows a regional breakdown of opinions regarding NADRA's support to political parties in voter registration efforts:

TABLE 5 REGION-WISE OPINION OF PARTY REPRESENTATIVES ABOUT PROVISION OF MRVS BY NADRA

Region	NADRA is providing MRVs	NADRA is not providing MRVs	Never asked for MRV
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	146	168	57
FATA	8	77	8
Punjab	269	215	131
Sindh	185	172	123
Balochistan	162	217	51
ICT	8	1	3
Overall	778	850	373

6. LEVEL OF SATISFACTION OF POLITICAL PARTIES WITH DELIMITATION PROCESS

In order to ascertain the views of political parties about the ECP's delimitation exercise, FAFEN interviewed 380 office bearers of 33 political parties (and five political

groups³ which have not been registered with ECP) from across the country. The individuals interviewed were asked about the ECP's adherence to delimitation principles, transparency and impartiality during the delimitation exercise. As many as 165 interviews with 20 parties were conducted in Punjab, 89 interviews with 18 parties in Sindh, 75 interviews with 10 parties in KP, 31 interviews with 16 parties in Balochistan, 16 interviews with seven parties in FATA, and four interviews with four parties in the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT). Table-6 illustrates the regional distribution of parties interviewed by FAFEN's District Coordinators during January-March, 2018:

TABLE 6 POLITICAL PARTIES INTERVIEWED BY FAFEN OBSERVERS

Political Parties	Balochistan	FATA	ICT	KP	Punjab	Sindh	Total
Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf	2	3	1	12	27	14	59
Pakistan Muslim League (N)	5	3		8	28	11	55
Pakistan People's Party	3	3	1	7	25	13	52
Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan	1	2	1	14	26	5	49
Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam (F)	5		1	12	6	6	30
Tehreek-e-Labbaik Ya Rasool Allah				1	22		23
Pakistan Muslim League	1				16	1	18
Awami National Party	1	3		12			16
Pakistan Muslim League (F)						9	9
Muttahida Qaumi Movement					2	6	8
Sunni Tehreek Pakistan						7	7
Qaumi Watan Party				7			7
Pashtunkhwa Milli Awami Party	6						6
Sindh United Party						4	4
Mohajir Qaumi Movement Pakistan						3	3
Pakistan Sunni Tehreek					1	2	3
Pakistan People's Party (Shaheed Bhutto)					1	2	3
All Pakistan Muslim League				1	1	1	3
Pakistan Awami Tehreek					2		2
Balochistan National Party	2						2
Pak Sarzameen Party						2	2

³ FAFEN also interviewed political groups which have not been formally notified by ECP (see at: <https://www.ecp.gov.pk/fmGenericPage.aspx?PageID=3089>), These groups include: Awami National Party (Sherani), Mirza Group Badin, Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal, Nizam e Mustafa Party and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (Sherani)

Political Parties	Balochistan	FATA	ICT	KP	Punjab	Sindh	Total
Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam (S)	1						1
Jamiat Ulama-e-Pakistan (Noorani)					1		1
Bahawalpur National Awami Party					1		1
Hazara Democratic Party	1						1
Pakistan Tehreek-e-Ijtihad (PTI)				1			1
Pakistan Muslim League (Z)					1		1
Sunni Ittehad Council					1		1
National Party	1						1
Awami Muslim League Pakistan					1		1
Awami Workers Party						1	1
Pakistan Awami Raj					1		1
National Peoples Party						1	1
Other Parties (Not Registered with ECP)	2	2	0	0	2	1	7
Total	31	16	4	75	165	89	380

Interview data reveals that around 45% or 170 of the interviewed party representatives were satisfied with the way the delimitation exercise was being carried out. However, almost 44% or 168 representatives (of the total 380) expressed that the ECP disregarded the legal principles during the demarcation of electoral constituencies, while 47% or 178 (of the total 378) expressed reservations regarding the transparency of the exercise. Around 11% or 40 party representatives remained indifferent towards the exercise. Figures 3A and 3B illustrate the regional distribution of party representatives with concerns over the legality and transparency of the delimitation process.

Surprisingly, despite a large number of party representatives expressing concerns over the delimitation exercise, only 35% said that they or their parties were preparing to file a representation on delimitation proposals.

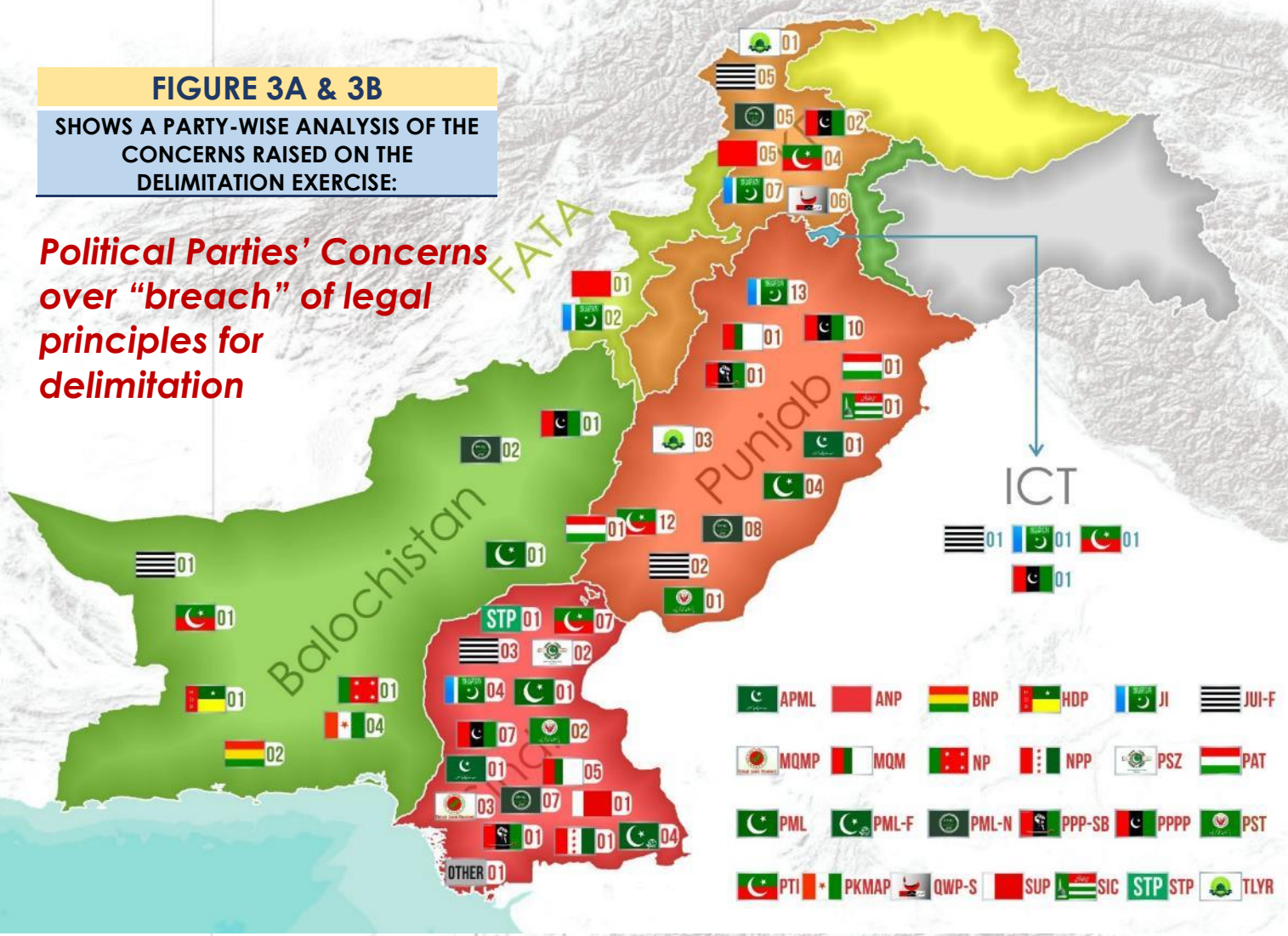
The ECP has received a total of 1,312 representations⁴ on the preliminary delimitation of constituencies in 111 of the 130 districts/FATA agencies in the country. As many as 706 representations were filed in Punjab, 287 in Sindh, 197 in KP, 93 in Balochistan, 18 in ICT and 11 in FATA. The ECP has so far decided 456 representations in 37 districts, while the remaining representations will be decided before the deadline of May 15, 2018.

⁴ According to ECP, a total of 1,285 representations were filled in connection with delimitation of constituencies. However, a district-wise analysis of this information shows that the actual number of representations filled is: 1,312. Access at: <https://ecp.gov.pk/frnGenericPage.aspx?PageID=3119>

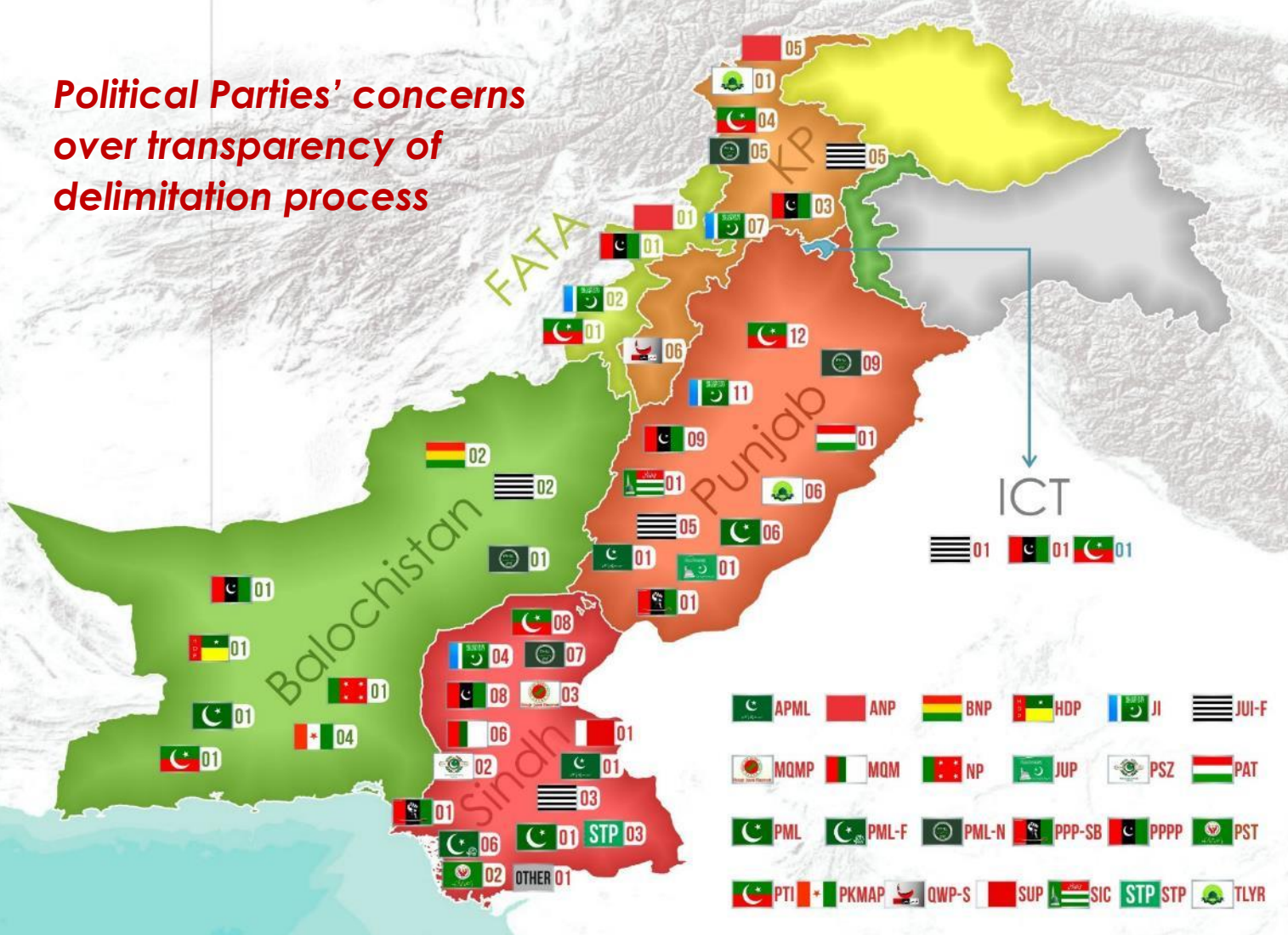
FIGURE 3A & 3B

SHOWS A PARTY-WISE ANALYSIS OF THE CONCERNS RAISED ON THE DELIMITATION EXERCISE:

Political Parties' Concerns over "breach" of legal principles for delimitation



Political Parties' concerns over transparency of delimitation process



7. POLITICAL ALIGNMENTS AND ALLIANCES AT DISTRICT LEVEL

According to FAFEN's observation, more political alliances were formed in KP than in other provinces or regions. District Coordinators reported a total of 74 alliance formations in the province, followed by Punjab (58), Balochistan and Sindh (13 each), and FATA (11). It is important to mention that there may be more political alliances or political movements between parties/groups in provinces than the instances reported by FAFEN's District Coordinators.

Prominent local political figures are changing their party loyalties in anticipation that their parties would not nominate them in GE 2018 or the sitting representatives of their parties have not served their interests well. A majority of the groups were breaking away from their former party affiliations to join the ruling party or the major opposition parties in their respective provinces.

A province-wise analysis of the change in political loyalties shows that the majority of political figures in KP are either joining Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) or Awami National Party (ANP). Similarly, in Punjab, such individuals are either joining the Pakistan Muslim League – Nawaz (PML-N) or PTI, while in Sindh, these political figures are announcing their alignment with Pakistan People's Party (PPP) or Pakistan Muslim League – Functional (PML-F). In Balochistan, such trends were difficult to examine.

In KP, 15 political groups or individuals announced their support to the PTI during January-March 2018, while 21 groups or individuals joined the ANP. The majority of the groups or individuals joining the PTI formerly belonged to the PPP, PML-N and ANP; while the majority of those joining the ANP formerly belonged to the *Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam – Fazal-ur-Rehman* (JUI-F), PPPP and *Jamaat-e-Islami* Pakistan (JI).

In Punjab, 19 groups or individuals formerly affiliated with the PTI, PPPP and Pakistan Muslim League (PML) announced their support for the PML-N. Similarly, nine groups or individuals shifted their loyalties from the PML-N, PML and PPPP to the PTI. In Sindh, eight groups or individuals joined PPP, while two each moved to PTI and PML-F. In Balochistan, mostly tribal or ethnic groups formed alliances.

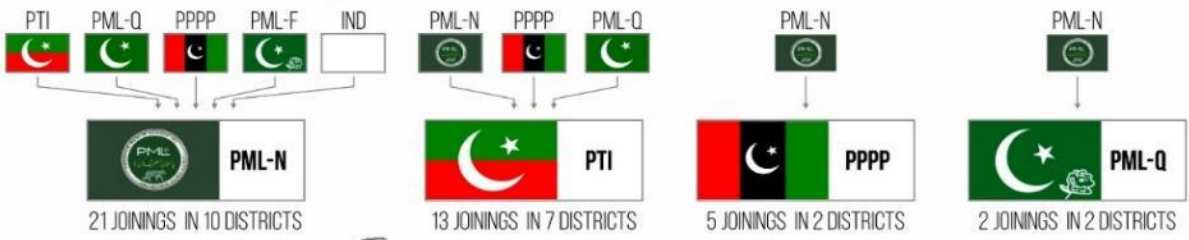
7.1 Party-Switching by Political Figures

In Punjab, 21 political figures belonging to 10 districts joined PML-N. These individuals were either formerly associated with PTI, PML, PPP, Pakistan Muslim League – Functional (PML-F) or contested previous elections as independent candidates. Similarly, 13 individuals/groups left PML-N, PPP or PML in seven districts to join PTI, five PML-N individuals/groups left the party to join PPPP, and two PML-N individuals/groups joined PML. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 21 individuals/groups left JUI-F, JI, PPP, PTI, Awami Jumhuri Ithehad Pakistan (AJIP) and Qaumi Watan Party (QWP) and joined ANP, while 14 groups left PPP, ANP, PML-N, JI, PkMAP and QWP and jointed PTI. Moreover, 13 groups joined PPP, seven joined JUI-F and six joined JI.

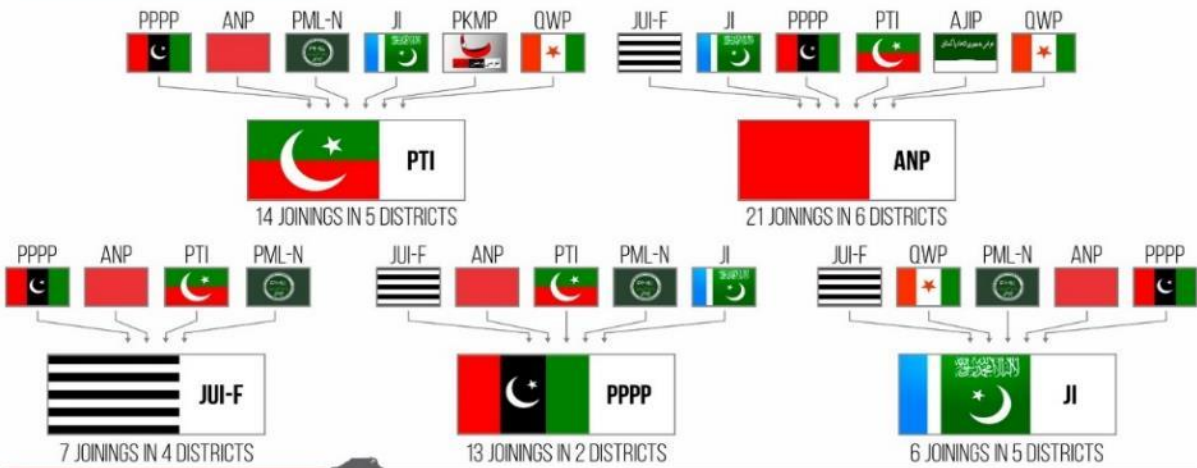
In Sindh, eight individuals/groups joined PPP, two joined PTI and one each joined PML and JI. In Balochistan, PML-N and JUI-F affiliates changed their loyalties. Figure-4 shows the swapped political loyalties and orientation of the individuals and groups.

FIGURE 4 REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF OBSERVED PARTY-SWITCHING

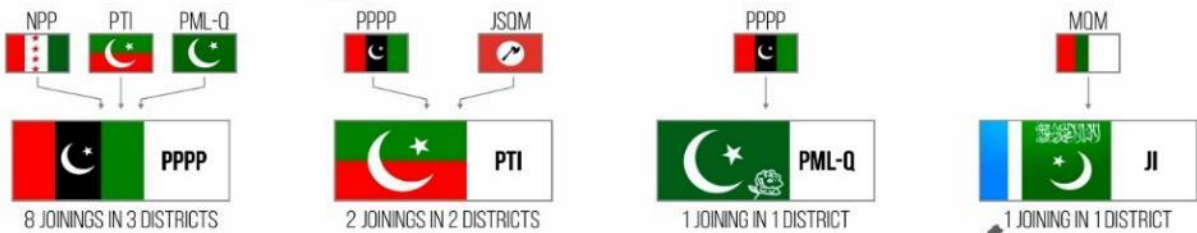
PUNJAB



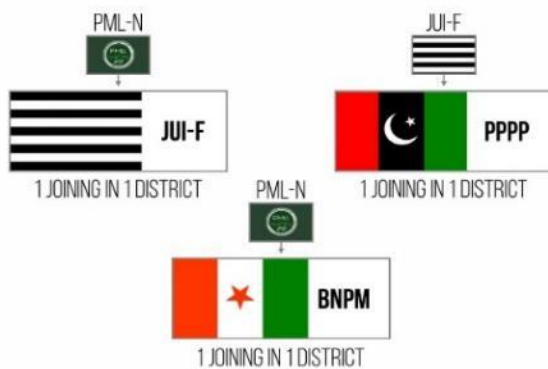
KP



SINDH



BALUCHISTAN







FATA



7.2 Alliances among Political Parties

The section presents district-level alliances formed between various political parties/groups. JI, JUI-F, Jamiat *Ahl-e-Hadith* and *Shia Ulema Council* formed electoral alliances in Khushab, Dera Ghazi Khan and Swat following the central leaders' decision to revive their alliance Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal. Moreover, Awami Raj Party allied with PML in Multan while Pakistan Awami Tehreek (PAT) announced their support for PTI in Lodhran. In Swabi, a multi-party alliance including ANP, PPPP, PML-N and JUI-F was forged against PTI, while a group namely *Swabi Qoumi Mahaz* also aligned with PML in the district. In Charsadda, JUI-F announced its support for QWP and PTI for JUI-S. In Panjgur, JUI-F announced support for National Party (NP), while ANP, Pakhtoonkhwa Milli Awami Party (PkMAP), JUI-F, PPPP, Balochistan National Party (BNP) and PTI forged *Harnai Bachao Tehreek*. Figure-5 illustrates the formations of electoral alliances among political parties in Punjab, KP and Balochistan.

FIGURE 5 DISTRICT-WISE ANALYSIS OF POLITICAL ALLIANCES

PUNJAB	
 Alliance	 Districts
JUI-F and JI district leaders meet to revive Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal	DG Khan, Khushab
PAT's Alliance with PTI	Lodhran
ARP's Alliance with PML-Q	Multan
KP	
 Alliance	 Districts
Swabi Qaumi Mahaz Alliance with PML-N	Swabi
Alliance among ANP, PPP, PML-N against PTI	Swabi
JUI-F's Alliance with QWP	Charsadda
PTI's Alliance JUI-S	Charsadda
JUI-F and JI district leaders meet to revive Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal	Swat

BALUCHISTAN



Alliance



Districts

NP's Alliance with JUI-F	Panjgur
Harnai Bachao Tehreek Alliance among ANP, PkMAP, JUI-F, PPPP, BNP and PTI	Harnai

7.3 Realigning of Ethnic, Tribal and Professional Groups (Syasi Dharry)

Besides cross party-switching by political figures and alliances among political parties, several ethnic, tribal and professional groups were also observed shifting their political support. In Mianwali, *Bachar clan* announced their support for *Niazi clan*, while the *Niazis* announced their electoral support for the *Rokhari clan*. Similarly, the *Gorchani tribe* declared their support to the *Leghari clan* in Rajanpur, while *Rehmani tribe* of Rahim Yar Khan joined JI.

In FATA's Khyber Agency, *Qadri* and *Afridi* clans announced electoral support for each other in GE-2018, while some of their factions joined PTI. Three regroupings were reported in Balochistan, where NP supporters have joined *Gazzai Marri's* clan in Kohlu, while *Umrani* clan of Nasirabad announced support for PPP. The *Jamali* clan announced their support for PPP-S in Jaffarabad. In Peshawar, *Chitrali biradari* and other independent groups joined PTI. *Marwat Qaumi Ittehad* of Lakki Marwat announced their electoral support for *Saifullah* clan. Figure-6 shows the regional distribution of regroupings of ethnic, tribal and professional groups.

FIGURE 6







REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF OBSERVED REALIGNMENTS OF ETHNIC, TRIBAL AND PROFESSIONAL GROUPS

PUNJAB






- PML-N supporters turn independent in Attock, Rahim Yar Khan and Muzaffargarh
- Rehmani Biradri announces support for JI in Rahim Yar Khan
- Gorchani group announces support for Leghari group in Rajanpur
- Bachar group supporters turn to Niazi group in Mianwali while Niazi group supporters shift to Rokhari group
- PPPP supporters turn independent in Muzaffargarh and Rahim Yar Khan

KP

-  ANP supporters turn independent in Torghar
-  Chitarli Biradri announces support for PTI in Peshawar
-  PML-N supporters turn independent in Abbottabad
-  PTI supporters turn independent in Abottabad
-  Independent groups join PTI in Peshawar
-  Marwat Quomi Ittehad announces support for Saifullah group in Lakki Marwat

BALUCHISTAN

-  NP supporters join Gazzain Marri camp in Kohlu
-  Umrani Biradri announces support for PPPP in Nasirabad
-  PPP-S supports Jamali group in Jaffarabad

FATA

-  Qadri group supporters turn to Afridi group in Khyber Agency
-  PTI supporters turn independent in Khyber Agency
-  Sections of Afridi and Qadri groups announce support for PTI in Khyber Agency
-  Sada-e-Haq Welfare Organization announces support for Alhaaj group in Khyber Agency

8. UNPRECEDENTED INCREASE IN WOMEN'S VOTER REGISTRATION

According to the electoral rolls' data published by the ECP in April 2018, there has been an unprecedented increase in the registration of women since the last amendment of the electoral rolls in October 2017. As many as 3.4 million women have been added after the ECP made efforts to create a conducive environment in favor of women's voter registration. The election administration had publicly emphasized the need for enhancing efforts for registering women as voters and worked with civil society organizations (CSOs) and political parties to reduce the gender disparity on electoral rolls ahead of GE 2018. The ECP's unparalleled 'Women NIC and Voter Registration Campaign Strategy' has significantly contributed to not only an increase in women NIC and voters' registration, but has also mobilized communities to continue even after the finalization of the electoral rolls.

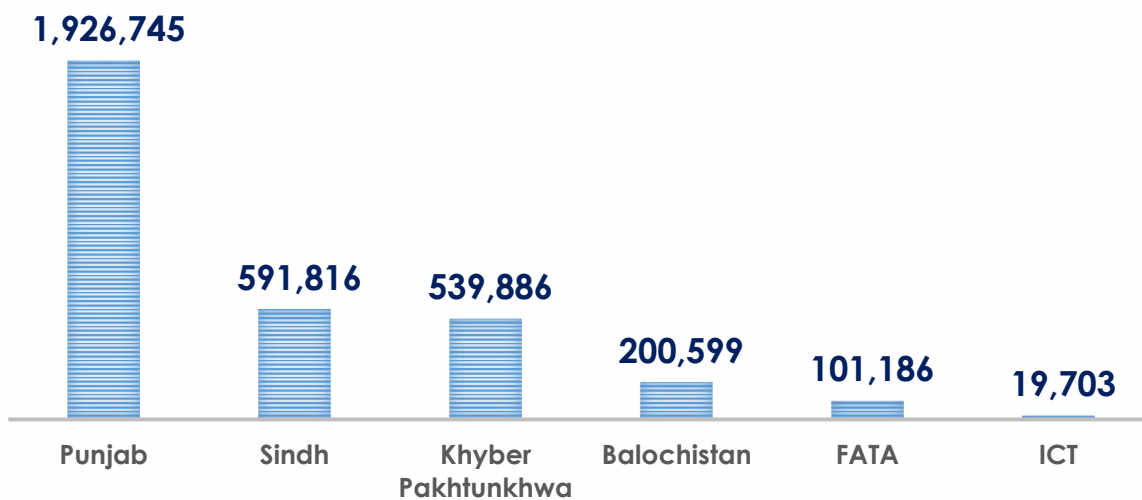
As part of its strategy and in view of the complexity of the issue, the ECP utilized the CSOs' efforts, including TDEA's, for identifying unregistered women, and subsequently facilitating them at NADRA registration centers or MRVs. The ECP also formed a specialized Gender and Disability Working Group, which was tasked to facilitate women and persons with disabilities (PWDs) in their registration as voters. District Voter Education Committees (DVECs) in each district, comprising ECP officials, representatives of political parties and CSOs, were in place to contribute towards

improving the participation of women and PWDs. All of these combined efforts has led to significant increase in women's acquisition of NICs.

Under the ECP's strategy, TDEA⁵ and its partner organizations aimed to facilitate the voter registration of 1.8 million unregistered women in 103 districts across Pakistan. The initiative has strengthened citizens' voice through sensitisation and education for increasing women's voter registration so that they could exercise their right to vote in GE 2018. TDEA's registration campaign has had a multiplier effect since women with NICs will not only be able to exercise their right to vote, but also be able to receive other benefits, including access to government's cash-transfer programmes, acquisition of land and opening of bank accounts. TDEA's campaign was launched in October 2017, and its results are evident from the increase of women on the electoral rolls. Figure-7 illustrate the regional distribution of increases seen in women voters' registrations between October 2017 and April 2018.

In comparison to other provinces, Punjab had the largest gender-gap in registered voters. After the revision of the electoral rolls in April, 2018, Punjab witnessed the largest number of women (1.9 million) added to the electoral rolls, followed by Sindh (0.59 million), KP (0.53 million), Balochistan, (0.2 million), FATA (0.10 million) and ICT (19,703).

FIGURE 7 REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF UNPRECEDENTED INCREASE IN WOMEN VOTERS' REGISTRATION



⁵ TDEA serves as the program and administrative secretariat for FAFEN.

ANNEXURE-1: OBSERVATION OF POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT

List of Political Parties Interviewed

Name of Political Party	Baloch istan	FATA	ICT	KP	Punjab	Sindh	Total
Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf	45	18	3	58	104	70	298
Pakistan People's Party	48	16	2	47	103	72	288
Pakistan Muslim League (N)	51	12	2	47	103	70	285
Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan	21	10	2	58	96	36	223
Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam (F)	70	12	1	63	27	31	204
Awami National Party	20	15		54	3	3	95
Tehreek-e-Labbaik Ya Rasool Allah	3			8	74		85
Pakistan Muslim League	9			2	57		68
Balochistan National Party	51	1					52
National Party	51						51
<i>Other Political Parties</i>	1	9	0	1	7	33	51
Pakistan Muslim League (F)						47	47
Muttahida Qaumi Movement					6	31	37
Pashtunkhwa Milli Awami Party	34						34
Qaumi Watan Party				29			29
Pak Sarzameen Party	3					18	21
Sindh United Party						19	19
Mohajir Qaumi Movement Pakistan						15	15
Balochistan National Party (Awami)	15						15
Pakistan Sunni Tehreek					3	9	12
Pakistan People's Party (Shaheed Bhutto)	1				2	6	9
Awami Workers Party					1	6	7
All Pakistan Muslim League			2	1	1	3	7
Pakistan Awami Tehreek					6		6

Name of Political Party	Baloch istan	FATA	ICT	KP	Punjab	Sindh	Total
Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaniat	1			1	1	2	5
Tabdeeli Pasand Party						3	3
Awami Muslim League Pakistan					3		3
Pakistan Muslim League (Sher-e-Bangal)						3	3
Hazara Democratic Party	3						3
Nizam-e-Mustafa Party					3		3
Pakistan Muslim League (Z)					3		3
Bahawalpur National Awami Party					3		3
Sunni Ittehad Council					3		3
Jamiat Ulama-e-Pakistan (Noorani)					3		3
National Peoples Party						3	3
Pakistan National Muslim League					2		2
Jamhoori Wattan Party	2						2
Pakistan Tehreek-e-Ijtihad (PTI)				1			1
Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam (S)				1			1
Jamote Qaumi Movement	1						1
Pakistan Awami Raj					1		1
Total	430	93	12	371	615	480	2,001



9.

FAFEN OBSERVATION METHODOLOGY – PRE-ELECTION LONG-TERM

In order to enhance citizens' understanding of and confidence in the political and electoral processes through election observation and oversight, FAFEN has deployed trained, non-partisan observers in 130 districts (including 7 Federally Administered Tribal Areas) across the country. The findings of this elections' roundup is based on observation of the pre-election long-term phase. The information and data is collected on comprehensive and standardised checklists, while the roundup also presents detailed analysis of official data on registered voters, the recent delimitation proposals and the ECP's notifications.



During the pre-election long term observation phase starting from January 2018, FAFEN will observe the enforcement of the new Elections' Act, 2017, local political environment, election preparations, posting and transfers of officials, role of state/government institutions, development schemes and the use of state's resources, incidents of violence and new constituencies delimitation. This observation is being carried out at the district level and it will culminate prior to the announcement of the election schedule, following which FAFEN aims to conduct observation in all the 272 National Assembly constituencies.

