



ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

CEC Gyanesh Kumar to assume Chairship of International IDEA

To Lead 35-Nation Forum - International IDEA in 2026

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- 1. The Chief Election Commissioner, Shri Gyanesh Kumar is all set to assume the Chairship of the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA) for the year 2026.**
- 2. The Chief Election Commissioner will take over the Chairship of IIDEA on December 03, 2025** in the meeting of the Council of Member States of International IDEA to be held in Stockholm, Sweden. As Chair, he will be presiding over all Council meetings during the year 2026.
- 3. International IDEA**, established in 1995, is an inter-governmental organisation committed to strengthening democratic institutions and processes across the world. With a current membership of 35 countries and the United States and Japan as Observers, the organisation promotes inclusive, resilient, and accountable democracies (List of Member Countries in Annexure).
- 4. The Chairship marks a significant milestone**, reflecting global recognition of the Election Commission of India as one of the world's most credible and innovative Election Management Bodies (EMBs). India, a founding member of IIDEA, has consistently contributed to the organisation's governance, democratic discourse and institutional initiatives.
- 5. As Chair, Sh. Gyanesh Kumar will leverage the country's unmatched experience of conducting the world's largest elections** to shape IIDEA's global agenda. The collaboration will strengthen knowledge-sharing, reinforce professional networks among EMBs, and support evidence-based global electoral reforms.
- 6. Being the world's largest electorate** of nearly a billion electors and with well laid down and documented transparent electoral processes, India will endeavour to share its best practices with the EMBs across the world during the year.
- 7. Joint programmes, workshops, and research collaborations** between ECI's training institute - **India International Institute of Democracy and Election Management (IIIDEM) and IIDEA** will further enhance global readiness to respond to challenges such as disinformation, electoral violence, and erosion of voter trust.

8. Since its inception, IIIDEM has been training election officials not only within the country but also across the world. Till date, IIIDEM has signed MoUs with 28 countries and has also trained 3169 officials from nearly 142 countries.
9. Under CEC's leadership, IIDEA and ECI will work closely to document and disseminate ECI's technological and administrative innovations and best practices internationally.

PK/GDH/RP

ANNEXURE

Member Countries of International IDEA

Sl. No.	Country	Sl. No.	Country
1	Australia	19	Luxembourg
2	Barbados	20	Mauritius
3	Belgium	21	Mexico
4	Benin	22	Mongolia
5	Botswana	23	Namibia
6	Brazil	24	Netherlands
7	Cabo Verde	25	Norway
8	Canada	26	Panama
9	Chile	27	Peru
10	Costa Rica	28	Philippines
11	Dominican Republic	29	Portugal
12	Estonia	30	South Africa
13	Finland	31	Spain
14	France	32	Sweden

15	Germany	33	Switzerland
16	Ghana	34	Tunisia
17	India	35	Uruguay
18	Indonesia		

Observer Countries

United States & Japan

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