

IICDEM concludes with the adoption of the Delhi Declaration 2026

प्रविष्टि तिथि: 23 JAN 2026 4:59PM by PIB Delhi

1. Election Commission of India's (ECI) 3-day conference **International Conference on Democracy and Election Management (IICDEM) 2026** concluded today at the Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi with the adoption of the Delhi Declaration 2026.
2. Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) of India, Shri Gyanesh Kumar, along with Election Commissioners (ECs) Dr. Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Dr. Vivek Joshi, Heads of 42 Election Management Bodies (EMBs), experts from over 70 national institutions and senior officers of the ECI & 36 Chief Electoral Officers (CEOs) of States/UTs were present at the closing session of IICDEM-2026.
3. At the closing session, CEC Shri Gyanesh Kumar read out the Delhi Declaration 2026, which was unanimously adopted by the EMBs. The EMBs resolved to work together on the five pillars of the declaration relating to **Purity of Electoral Rolls, Conduct of Elections, Research and Publications, Use of Technology and Training and Capacity Building**. The participants also resolved to review their progress periodically and proposed to meet on the 3rd, 4th and 5th of December 2026 at the India International Institute of Democracy and Election Management (IIIDEM), New Delhi. (Full text annexed)
4. The EMBs also resolved to bring out a co-curated Encyclopaedia of Democracies of the World, comprehensive reports on the seven themes which are being led by International IDEA and 36 themes led by IIIDEM; co-development of digital platforms, similar to ECINET; training and exchange of transparent practices through IIIDEM, to impart professionalism in the Conduct of Elections and preparation of Electoral Rolls.
5. In his keynote address, CEC Shri Gyanesh Kumar, said that the conference has ignited conversations regarding model international electoral standards. Referring to the over 40 bilateral meetings held during the conference, CEC Kumar said they have contributed to expansion of mutual cooperation and understanding of collective priorities and perspectives.
6. Speaking at the closing session, EC Dr. Sukhbir Singh Sandhu said that the openness, mutual respect, and willingness to learn from one another, reflect the maturity and professionalism of the global electoral community.
7. In his address, EC Dr. Vivek Joshi said that the launch of ECINET has specifically been the standpoint for Indian technological advancement and has brought together the importance accorded by ECI to technology, reinforcing the measured adoption ensuring that technology supports trust rather than replace it.
8. The 3-day Conference, the first and the largest of its kind, was flagged off with a grand Reception Ceremony and the Inaugural Session, which was attended by nearly 1,000 persons including International Delegates from 42 EMBs and Heads of Missions of 27 countries.
9. The EMB Leaders' Plenary brought together Heads of Delegations and Ambassadors/High Commissioners, for high-level exchanges on democracy and election Management.

10. Day-2 of IICDEM witnessed the launch of ECINET, ECI's one-stop digital platform for all election-related information and services.
11. During IICDEM, 36 thematic groups, led by CEOs of States/Uts, supported by leading academic institutions, national and international academic experts, contributed to in-depth deliberations on cross-cutting global electoral themes, model international electoral standards, and best practices and innovations in electoral processes.

PK/GDH/RP

India International Conference on Democracy and Election Management

Delhi Declaration 2026

Resolution

We all resolve to adopt the Five Pillars of the Delhi Declaration 2026 as follows:

Pillar I: Purity of Electoral Rolls

- Pure Electoral Rolls, containing names of all eligible electors as per law, are the foundation of any democracy.
- The Election Management Bodies (EMBs) should strive to provide Photo Identity Cards, to all electors, for easy and transparent conduct of elections.

Pillar II: Conduct of Elections

- Elections have to be participative and inclusive & involve all stakeholders at all levels.
- For the conduct of elections to be transparent, efficient, free and fair, it is inevitable for the EMBs to function as per the mandate laid down in their Constitution or in their respective laws.

Pillar III: Research and Publications

- The Conference resolved to bring out Encyclopaedia of Democracies of the World, which shall comprise an Atlas - a comprehensive compilation on how the electoral systems work in different countries and as approved by the respective EMBs.
- Elaborative Reports on the 7 Themes led by International IDEA.
- Reports on 36 Themes led by the India International Institute of Democracy & Election Management (IIIDEM) to be prepared comprehensively.

Pillar IV: Use of Technology

- EMBs would try and adopt latest technologies while ensuring the integrity of elections, as mandated by law, to facilitate the electors and proactively counter misinformation.
- Considering the request of EMBs, India is willing to share its experience of the digital platform ECINET, for co-development of a similar platform for any other EMB in accordance with their laws and in their language.

Pillar V: Training and Capacity Building

- Considering the interest shown by EMBs, India is willing to share its vast experience in the field of elections in all sectors, through training and exchange of its transparent practices.
- Further considering the interest shown by the EMBs, IIIDEM, the world's largest training institute for election & democracy, which has an experience of training more than 10,000 election staff from India and personnel from more than 100 countries since the past 15 years, is willing to offer its training facilities to all EMBs, to the best of its capabilities, to impart professionalism in the conduct of elections and preparation of Electoral Rolls.

Conclusion

We resolve to operationalize these Five Pillars through cooperation, innovation, and measurable actions, and to periodically review the progress before we plan to meet once a year to review this progress and the next dates of meetings are being proposed as 3rd, 4th and 5th of December 2026 at IIIDEM, New Delhi, India.

Adopted in New Delhi on 23rd January, 2026

