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Zonal Councils provide a structured mechanism for dialogue and discussion on issues affecting two or more States, or the Centre and the States together, and serve as a platform for enhancing mutual cooperation through this process

With the cooperation of all State Governments, Central Ministries and Departments, a total of 70 meetings of various Zonal Councils and their Standing Committees have been held since June 2014

Zonal Councils provide an excellent platform for resolving issues and disputes between the Centre and the member States/Union Territories, among the member States/Union Territories, and for making progress on matters concerning the region

These Councils also discuss broad issues of national importance, such as expediting the investigation of cases of rape against women and children, implementation of Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) for their speedy disposal, implementation of the Emergency Response Support System, etc

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah will chair the 28th meeting of the Western Zonal Council in Panaji, the capital of Goa, on Monday, September 7, 2026. The Western Zonal Council comprises the States of Goa, Gujarat and Maharashtra, and the Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu. Five Zonal Councils, including the Western Zonal Council, have been established under Sections 15 to 22 of the States Reorganisation Act, 1956.

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah is the Chairman of the Western Zonal Council, while the Chief Minister of Goa is its Vice-Chairman. From among the member States, the Chief Minister of one State serves as the Vice- Chairman of the Council on a rotational basis every year. The meeting is being organised by the Inter-State Council Secretariat, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, and is being hosted by the Government of Goa. The Zonal Council comprises the Chief Ministers of each State in the Western region and two senior Ministers from each State as members. Senior officers from the Government of India and the State Governments/Union Territory will also participate in the meeting of the Council.

The Zonal Council has also constituted a Standing Committee at the level of Chief Secretaries. The issues proposed by the States are first placed before the Standing Committee of the Zonal Council for discussion. After deliberation, the issues that remain unresolved are then placed before the meeting of the Zonal Council for consideration.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji has envisioned TEAM BHARAT for the country based on the principle of cooperative federalism, and the Zonal Councils are making an important contribution in this direction. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji has emphasised the need to harness the potential of cooperative and competitive federalism to achieve all-round development.

With the spirit that strong States make a strong nation, the Zonal Councils provide a structured mechanism for dialogue and discussion on issues affecting two or more States, or the Centre and the States together, and serve as a platform for enhancing mutual cooperation through this process.

The role of the Zonal Councils is advisory; however, over the past few years, these Councils have emerged as an important factor in fostering healthy bonds of mutual understanding and cooperation across various sectors.

With the cooperation of all State Governments, Central Ministries and Departments, a total of 70 meetings of various Zonal Councils and their Standing Committees have been held over the past 12 years (from June 2014 to date).

The Councils also discuss broad issues of national importance, including the expeditious investigation of cases of rape against women and children and the implementation of Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) for their speedy disposal; implementation of the Emergency Response Support System (ERSS-112); issues related to food safety standards; provision of brick-and-mortar banking facilities within a designated radius of every village; and issues relating to nutrition, education, health, power sector reforms, urban planning, strengthening the cooperative system, cybercrime and digital infrastructure, among others.

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