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**P R E S S   N O T E**

**ECI to Host India International Conference on Democracy and Election  
Management (IICDEM) 2026**

The Election Commission of India (ECI) will host the inaugural *India International Conference on Democracy and Election Management (IICDEM)–2026* from **21st to 23rd January, 2026** at **Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi**. The three-day international conference is being organised by the **India International Institute of Democracy and Election Management (IIIDEM)** under the aegis of the ECI.

IICDEM 2026 will be the **largest global conference of its kind hosted by India** in the field of democracy and election management. The conference will witness participation of nearly **100 international delegates** representing **Election Management Bodies (EMBs)** from across the world, along with representatives of international organisations, foreign missions in India, and eminent academic and practicing experts in the domain of elections.

The conference will advance the agenda articulated by the **Chief Election Commissioner of India, Shri Gyanesh Kumar**, following India's assumption of the **Chairship of the Council of Member States of International IDEA for the year 2026**. The deliberations will be anchored in the overarching theme **“Democracy for an inclusive, peaceful, resilient and sustainable world.”**

IICDEM 2026 aims to serve as a **global platform for international cooperation among EMBs**, facilitating a shared understanding of contemporary electoral challenges, exchange of best practices and innovations, and the co-creation of forward-looking solutions. The conference will also familiarise participants—representing a significant proportion of the global electorate—with **India's robust electoral framework, processes and technological innovations**, which have made Indian elections an exemplar among democracies.

The conference programme will comprise **general and plenary sessions**, including the Inaugural Session, EMB Leaders' Plenary, EMB Working Group Meetings, and the **launch of ECINet**, along with **thematic sessions on global electoral issues, model international electoral standards, and best practices and innovations in electoral processes**.

During the three-day event, the **Election Commission of India**, led by **Chief Election Commissioner Shri Gyanesh Kumar**, along with **Election Commissioners Dr.Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Dr.Vivek Joshi**, will hold **over 40 bilateral meetings** with heads of participating EMBs and other international delegates.

The conference will also see participation from leading academic institutions, including **4 IITs, 6 IIMs, 12 National Law Universities (NLUs) and Indian Institutes of Mass Communication (IIMCs)**. As many as **36 thematic groups**, led by Chief Electoral Officers of States and Union Territories and supported by national and international academic experts, will contribute to the deliberations.

IICDEM 2026 underscores India's continued commitment to strengthening democratic institutions globally and fostering collaborative approaches to resilient and inclusive election management.

Chief Electoral Officer, Goa