



India's Objectives as Chair of the Council of Member States of International IDEA 2026

India is privileged to assume the role of Chair of the Council of Member States of International IDEA for 2026. India will be represented by Chief Election Commissioner, Election Commission of India. This note outlines the overarching objectives and thematic priorities that will guide India's leadership during its tenure, adopting an inclusive, ambitious, and action-oriented approach in close partnership with all Member States, International IDEA and other Stakeholders.

Overarching Objectives

Showcase Democracy's Deliverables

Demonstrate—through action, research, convening and advocacy—how democracy delivers tangible benefits for peace, inclusion, resilience, and sustainable development, drawing on India's experience both as a modern constitutional democracy as well as timeless democratic values enshrined in its civilizational heritage.

Strengthen International IDEA's bond with Election Management Bodies

Leveraging unparalleled experience of Election Commission of India, India's Chairship will strive to strengthen International IDEA's bond with Election Management Bodies, (EMBs) deepen its strategic vision and accelerate implementation globally, especially in the Global South through cooperation and partnerships with all the Member States and Observers and other stakeholders.

Enhancing Global Knowledge Products

Working with International IDEA's global experts and Election Commission of India's experienced practitioners, India will encourage the Member States and Observers to contribute with their best practices and innovative solutions to produce a comprehensive body of knowledge products on various aspects of democracy and election management. The Chair will be supported by a joint co-operation agreement between International IDEA and India International Institute of Democracy and Election Management (IIDEM).

Strengthen International Partnerships to accelerate implementation

Amplify knowledge, tools and results produced by International IDEA including those during India's Chairship for lasting global benefit through international partnerships, training, capacity building and technical support under the aegis of International IDEA and dedicated IIDEM platform.

Chairship Theme

“Democracy for an inclusive, peaceful, resilient and sustainable world”

Thematic Pillars and Priorities

India's Chairship will address two major pillars:

Pillar 1: Reimagining Democracy for the Future

Democracy in 2050

- Democracy in the era of AI
- Democracy in the era of rising Global South

Democracy that delivers

- Democracy and peaceful co-existence amidst diversity
- Democracy and empowerment of marginalized sections of society
- Democracy and entrepreneurship, and enterprise development
- Democracy and focus on sustainability and climate action
- Democracy and accelerating SDGs

Pillar 2: Strong, Independent, & Professional EMBs

- AI & Elections/Digital Governance
- Risk Management and Electoral Resilience
- Training and Professional Development for EMBs
- Sustainable Finance for EMBs and Cost of Elections
- Voter Registration
- Election Technology
- Election Planning and Administration
- Elections and Media
- Voter Education
- Electoral Reforms & EMBs' Independence

Proposed Key Activities

- EMB Leaders Summits, Working Group Meetings of EMB professionals, Sub-group meetings of professionals and practitioners on various thematic pillars, priorities and key focus areas
- Expert workshops, policy dialogues, and regional consultations to foster peer learning and innovation
- Joint research and knowledge product development (policy briefs, comparative studies, training toolkits)
- Strategic advocacy and communications to amplify democracy's value worldwide, especially for Global South EMBs
- Institutional exchanges and capacity-building through IIIDEM and International IDEA collaborations
- Celebration and outreach activities to mark milestones and sustain momentum throughout and beyond the Chairship year

Implementation and Legacy

India's Chairship will operate through a joint governance and coordination framework, with close involvement of EMBs through EMB Leaders Summit, Working Group of EMB Professionals, Sub-Groups on key focus areas etc. A broad-based Co-operation framework has been signed between International IDEA and IIIDEM to support the Chairship and a structured post-Chairship transition will ensure that innovations, tools, and partnerships endure and expand through IIIDEM platforms and International IDEA's global workstreams.

For further information, queries and questions, **please contact**

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