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પરિપત્ર નં : ૩૩/૨૦૨૬

વિષય : ભારતના ચૂંટણી પંચ દ્વારા સોંપાયેલ થીમેટિક રીપોર્ટ કાર્યના અમલીકરણ માટે સંશોધન સહયોગીઓ અને વરિષ્ઠ નિષ્ણાત માટે દરખાસ્ત માટે સબ આમત્રણ

Chief Electoral Officer Gujarat State ની સુચના અનુસાર યુનિવર્સિટીના તમામ વિભાગો અને સંલગ્ન કોલેજના અધ્યાપકશ્રીઓ ને જણાવવાનું કે ભારતે વર્ષ ૨૦૨૬ માટે ઇન્ટરનેશનલ ઇન્સ્ટિટ્યૂટ ફોર ડેમોક્રેસી એન્ડ ઇલેક્ટોરલ આસિસ્ટન્સ (ઇન્ટરનેશનલ IDEA) એ લોકશાહી અને ચૂંટણી પ્રક્રિયાઓ સંબંધિત પસંદગીના વિષયોના ક્ષેત્રો પર વૈશ્વિક અહેવાલોની શ્રેણી પ્રકાશિત કરવાનો પ્રસ્તાવ મૂક્યો છે. સોપણીઓ સમયબદ્ધ અને વ્યાવસાયિક રીતે પૂર્ણ કરવા અને અહેવાલ શૈક્ષણિક કઠોરતા, વિશ્લેષણાત્મક ઊંડાણ અને વૈશ્વિક પરિપ્રેક્ષ્યના ઉચ્ચતમ ધોરણોને પ્રતિબિંબિત કરે તે સુનિશ્ચિત કરવા માટે, ચૂંટણી સંબંધિત કાર્યમાં અનુભવી ધરાવતી અગ્રણી યુનિવર્સિટીને સાંકળવાનો પંસ્તાવ છે. જે ધ્યાને લઈ યુનિવર્સિટીના તમામ વિભાગો અને સંલગ્ન કોલેજના અધ્યાપકશ્રીઓ ૦૩ (ત્રણ) સંશોધન સહયોગીઓ અને ઓછામાં ઓછા પાંચ (૦૫) નિષ્ણાત વરિષ્ઠ પ્રોફેસરોની સેવાઓ પૂરી પાડવાનું વિચારી શકે, જેમાં ઓછામાં ઓછા એક નિષ્ણાત ચૂંટણી સંબંધિત કાર્ય/પ્રોજેક્ટ પર કામ કરવાનો અનુભવ ધરાવે છે. એક વરિષ્ઠ પ્રોફેસર આ કાર્યાલય અને અન્ય વરિષ્ઠ પ્રોફેસરો અને સંશોધન સહયોગીઓ વચ્ચે નોડલ કડી તરીકે કાર્ય કરશે અને ગુણવત્તા ખાતરી માટે પણ જવાબદાર રહેશે. જેની તમામ વિગતો અને Chief Electoral Officer Gujarat State નો પત્ર આ સાથે સામેલ છે. જે ધ્યાને લેવા વિનંતી વધુમાં જે પણ વરિષ્ઠ પ્રોફેસર તેમાં ભાગ લેવા માંગતા હોય તેમણે IQAC Office નો સંપર્ક કરવો.

નં IQAC/૩૩/૨૦૨૬

તા. ૨૭/૦૪/૨૦૨૬

પ્રતિ

૧. યુનિવર્સિટી સંલગ્ન કોલેજોના આચાર્યશ્રી તરફ જાણ તથા ઘટતી કાર્યવાહી સારૂ

સવિનય નકલ રવાના જાણ સારૂ :

૧. કુલપતિશ્રીના અંગત સચિવશ્રી, હેમ ઉત્તર ગુજરાત યુનિવર્સિટી, પાટણ
૨. કુલસચિવશ્રીના અંગત સચિવશ્રી, હેમ ઉત્તર ગુજરાત યુનિવર્સિટી, પાટણ
૩. મહેકમ અધિકારીશ્રી, મહેકમ શાખા, હેમ ઉત્તર ગુજરાત યુનિવર્સિટી, પાટણ
૪. સંબંધિત ફાઈલે

Patel 28/04/2026
(ડી.કે.કે.પટેલ)
Director
IQAC Cell
Hemchandracharya North Gujarat
University, Patan-384265

**ELECTION
IMMEDIATE**

**OFFICE OF THE
CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER
GUJARAT STATE**

Phone : 079-23256731
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General Administration Department (Election Division)
Sardar Bhavan, Block No. 7, 2nd floor, Sachivalaya, Gandhinagar-382 010.

No. ELC/2025/80/CHH (Trg)

Dated 13th April 2026

To

Vice-Chancellor/Registrar,

- Gujarat University,
- ✓ Hemchandracharya North Gujarat University,
- Sardar Patel University,
- Bhavnagar University.

Sub: Invitation for Proposal for Research Associates and a Senior Expert for Implementation of Thematic Report work assigned by the Election Commission of India – reg.

Respected Sir,

With respect to the subject mentioned above, I am to state that, India has assumed the **Chairship of the Council of Member States of the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA)** for the year **2026**. In pursuance, the **Election Commission of India (ECI)** has proposed to publish a series of **global reports** on select thematic areas related to democratic and electoral processes.

In this context, the **Office of the Chief Electoral Officer, Gujarat** has been entrusted with the thematic area **“Transparency of Elections – Political Parties as Concurrent Auditors”**. This assignment entails the preparation of a **comprehensive global report** examining international experiences, comparative frameworks, and innovative practices on the subject.

In order to complete the said assignments in a time-bound and professional manner and to ensure that the report reflects the highest standards of **academic rigour, analytical depth, and global perspective**, it is proposed to associate a leading university with experience in election related work.

It is, therefore, requested that your esteemed University may kindly consider providing the services of **three (03) Research Associates along with minimum five (05) expert Senior Professors with at least one expert with experience of working on Election-related work/project**. One Senior Professor shall function as the nodal link between this office and other senior professors and the Research Associates and shall also be responsible for regular review and quality assurance of the work undertaken by the Research Associates.

The initial period of engagement shall be up to **July 2026**. However if necessary, the services may be required for a longer duration, depending upon the requirements of the

Election Commission of India. The Research Associates and the Senior Professors shall work under the overall administrative control and supervision of this office for the thematic work assigned by this office.

You are requested to furnish a comprehensive financial estimate covering the remuneration/honorarium, applicable taxes, and any other incidental charges for providing the aforesaid manpower for the period indicated above and all the expenses related to creation of the thematic report. The proposal should also include the names, designations, CVs, and contact details of the proposed Senior Professor and the three Research Associates, clearly indicating their areas of expertise relevant to election-related thematic research. The Research associate must have a qualification of Master's degree with at least 55% along with UGC Net OR PhD in Political Science, Public Policy, Public Administration or Law.

The proposal along with the financial estimate may kindly be submitted to the undersigned **at the earliest**, within **seven (7) days** from the date of receipt of this letter, in a sealed cover or through official email, so that the same can be processed expeditiously.

Thanking you,

Yours sincerely,



(Sandip Sagale)
Chief Electoral Officer,
Gujarat State

India's Chairship for Council of States of International IDEA 2026
Category 'C' deliverables: Global Best Practices & Innovations in Electoral Processes

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Section I – Introduction

1. About India's Chairship

- 1.1. The year 2026 marks a pivotal moment in global democratic governance as India assumes the Chairship of the Council of Member States of International IDEA. Led by the Election Commission of India (ECI) with institutional support from India International Institute of Democracy and Election Management (IIIDEM), the Chairship will be decisive, ambitious and action oriented.
- 1.2. The Chair will provide strategic intervention in a moment of democratic stress. Around the world, institutions are grappling with challenging issues like disinformation ecosystems, rising expectations from citizens, complex legal environments, and rapid digital and AI-driven transformations.
- 1.3. In this context, India's Chairship theme, **"Democracy for an Inclusive, Peaceful, Resilient, and Sustainable World"**, has two thematic pillars namely 'Reimagining Democracy for future' and 'Professional and Independent EMBs are essential for sustainable democracy'. India's Chairship accordingly positions electoral strengthening as a global public good essential to sustained peace and inclusive development.

2. About Global Best Practices and Innovations in Electoral Processes

- 2.1. Global Best Practices and Innovations in Electoral Processes contributed by EMB professionals and practitioners, will establish a global learning framework that captures how electoral institutions innovate, adapt, and evolve in response to real-world challenges.
- 2.2. It is a practitioner centred initiative of India's Chairship, which captures how EMBs across diverse systems have responded to real-world challenges, experimented with reforms, and institutionalized innovations that have strengthened electoral integrity, inclusion, transparency, efficiency, resilience, and public trust.
- 2.3. The resulting output will serve as a global knowledge asset to support EMB senior management, technical teams, policymakers, researchers, and practitioner communities. Every documented practice will also include conditions for successful adoption, institutional prerequisites, resource requirements, and contextual risks. The language will be clear, descriptive, operational, and grounded in real experiences.
- 2.4. It serves as a dynamic, future-ready resource—supporting peer exchange, inspiring experimentation, and helping EMBs navigate complex challenges such as technological disruption, misinformation, cybersecurity threats, climate risks, and

shifting voter expectations. It thus contributes meaningfully to strengthening electoral systems through shared global wisdom and practical knowledge.

- 2.5. By grounding the outcome in comparative evidence, practitioner insights, and structured analysis, this category transforms diverse international experiences into actionable knowledge that EMBs can apply as they refine their systems. The best practices are not presented as rigid models but as adaptable solutions

3. **Long term Institutional Strengthening**

The Global Best Practices and Innovations in Electoral Processes will also contribute to long-term institutional strengthening by enabling EMBs to learn from both successful reforms and documented failures, thereby reducing risks, improving preparedness, and encouraging responsible experimentation. The output is also aimed at long-term Institutional Strengthening and Systemic Resilience. The output contributes to institutional memory, maturing innovation pipelines, and building future-ready electoral governance ecosystems.

Section II – Methodology

1. Key Principles

The work to be carried out under Global Best Practices and Innovations recognize that Electoral practice is context-dependent and evolutionary—solutions emerge from culture, politics, law, technology, and institutional maturity. Best practice is not universal or prescriptive—it is indicative, instructive, and often adaptive. Innovation is iterative—maturing through experimentation, evaluation, and institutional learning.

2. Methodology

- 2.1. The outputs will be based on a combination of documentary analysis, comparative case studies, and stakeholder consultation, using both primary and secondary sources. Primary sources include original data, official statistics, internal guidelines, standard operating procedures, election reports, post-election reviews, and other operational documents generated directly by election management bodies (EMBs), governments, and international and regional organisations (including UN agencies), as well as inputs from structured questionnaires, expert interviews, roundtables, workshops, and practitioner consultations.
- 2.2. Secondary sources consist of analytical materials—such as comparative assessments and handbooks from International IDEA, IFES, and other reputable organizations, legislative and regulatory commentaries, academic articles and books, high-quality policy briefs and research reports, and media or fact-checking analyses—that interpret, evaluate, or aggregate primary evidence. Cases and practices will be identified through a robust screening framework that prioritizes geographic and institutional diversity, the availability of adequate documentation, and evidence of effectiveness, scalability, and transferability.
- 2.3. Evidence from various sources is systematically triangulated, cross-checked against EMB documents, observer reports, academic work, and stakeholder testimony, to strengthen reliability. Draft case descriptions will be shared back with the originating institutions and informants for factual verification and contextual clarification, where feasible. Throughout, the methodology is guided by ethical principles of informed consent for consultations, respect for confidentiality where requested, and sensitivity to national legal frameworks and political contexts, while recognising limitations arising from uneven data availability, language constraints, and the rapid evolution of digital information ecosystems.

3. Themes and topics for Global Best Practices and Innovations

Global Best Practices and Innovations will cover a wide range of electoral processes and democratic systems under the two thematic pillars of India's Chairship. The topics are flexible and the effort will be to look at best practices and innovations across the electoral cycle:

Independent and Professional EMBs are essential for Sustainable Democracy

- (i) Eligibility of Electors
- (ii) Ease of Voter Registration
- (iii) Ease of Political participation in Voter Registration
- (iv) Purity of Electoral Rolls
- (v) Ease of Access to the Voter Register
- (vi) Ease of Identification at the Ballot
- (vii) Technology-driven Voter Registration
- (viii) Grievance Redressal in voter registration
- (ix) Transparency of Elections - Political Parties as Concurrent Auditors
- (x) Regulation of Political Parties
- (xi) Model Code of Conduct for campaigns
- (xii) Maintaining Law and Order
- (xiii) Electronic Voting Machines
- (xiv) Postal Ballot System
- (xv) Polling Day Operations
- (xvi) Robustness of Counting Process
- (xvii) International Election Visitors Program
- (xviii) Integrated Technology Platforms
- (xix) Tackling misinformation and disinformation in elections
- (xx) Regulating media campaigns

Reimagine Democracy for Future

- (xxi) Democracy for peaceful co-existence amidst diversity
- (xxii) Democracy for the empowerment of marginalized sections of society
- (xxiii) Democracy for entrepreneurship and enterprise development
- (xxiv) Democracy for accelerating Sustainable Development Goals

4. Governance Architecture**4.1. ECI/ IIIDEM to lead the initiative**

The initiative of compiling Global Best Practices and Innovations in various electoral processes will be led by Chief Electoral Officers of ECI and supported by IIIDEM. It will

draw from India's unparalleled operational depth—18 Lok Sabha elections and more than 400 State/UT elections. This will ensure that they reflect solutions to real problems: staffing pressures, technology reliability, logistical complexity, accessibility requirements, political contestation, and dispute resolution. A CEO-led working structure ensures decisions remain grounded, practical, and implementation-oriented.

4.2. International IDEA

International IDEA will provide limited support in terms of data, information or access to similar reports produced by International IDEA.

4.3. Academic and Technical Partners

Universities and research institutions will be involved to provide analytical support, documentation assistance, and rapid evidence processing.

5. Operational Steps

5.1. Step 1 — Purpose & Scoping Framework

The Purpose & Scoping Framework will define the project's objectives and key user groups, including EMBs, researchers, and regional bodies. It will establish the thematic boundaries across global electoral functions and set clear selection parameters for best practice, proven innovation, and emerging practice.

5.2. Step 2 — Global Evidence Mapping & Literature Review

This step involves the systematic mapping of global comparative practice through the analysis of EMB reports, election observer mission findings, academic evaluations, and relevant datasets. The process will also identify key innovations, documented failures, adaptive responses, and emerging regional trajectories.

5.3. Step 3 — Case Identification & Screening

Develop a transparent screening matrix and select high-impact cases from across regions, system types, and institutional environments.

5.4. Step 4 — Stakeholder Engagement & Knowledge Extraction

This step involves conducting expert interviews, workshops, and multi-stakeholder consultations to gather diverse perspectives. Through these engagements, the process captures operational experiences, constraints, contextual nuances, and lessons learned from implementation.

5.5. Step 5 — Comparative Analysis & Thematic Synthesis

This step involves grouping findings into aligned thematic clusters (thematic review) and identifying the enabling conditions, barriers, and contextual contrasts that shape each outcome. Through this process, practices are classified into four categories, namely, **Legacy Good Practice, Validated Best Practice, Proven Innovation, and Emerging or Experimental Practice**, allowing for a structured understanding of patterns, strengths, and gaps across different contexts

5.6. Step 6 – Case Documentation & Knowledge Structuring

This step focuses on converting gathered evidence into structured case models following the sequence of *Problem → Intervention → Results → Lessons → Transferability Rating*. Throughout this process, cross-cutting lenses such as gender, disability, inclusion, and civic trust are systematically integrated to ensure comprehensive analysis. The documentation is refined iteratively, with accuracy validated by the original stakeholders to maintain fidelity, contextual relevance, and credibility.

5.7. Step 7 – Peer and Expert Review & Practitioner Validation

This phase involves submitting the draft compendium to electoral management bodies (EMBs), subject-matter experts, technologists, and regional institutions for comprehensive review. Feedback is then incorporated with careful consideration of legal frameworks, cultural dynamics, and technological realities. The process also includes addressing identified risks, ethical concerns, and feasibility issues to ensure the final output is robust, context-sensitive, and practically applicable.

5.8. Step 8 — Finalization & Packaging

This step focuses on harmonizing formatting and terminology across all documented cases to ensure clarity and consistency. It includes producing visual summaries, innovation scales, maps, and practical checklists that enhance usability and comprehension. The final outputs are then prepared in digital, accessible, and multilingual formats to support broad dissemination and inclusive access.

5.9. Step 9 — Dissemination, Learning & Continuous Updating

This step involves hosting regional exchanges, webinars, and practitioner forums for electoral management bodies (EMBs) to promote knowledge sharing and peer learning. It includes developing modular training curricula and implementation playbooks that support practical adoption of insights. To keep the compendium current, periodic updating cycles are established to incorporate emerging innovations

such as AI, cybersecurity advancements, and hybrid methods. A digital repository is also built to enable continuous learning and easy access to evolving practices.

Section III – Report Template

- 1. Executive Summary**
- 2. About the Report**
 - 2.1. Purpose and Scope of the Report
 - 2.2. Methodology
- 3. Electoral Misinformation and Disinformation: Concepts, Risks, and Threat Landscape**
 - 3.1. Purpose and Role of Information Integrity in Electoral Democracy
 - 3.2. Concepts and Typologies: Difference between Misinformation, Disinformation, Malinformation; Types of Electoral Misinformation/Disinformation
 - 3.3. Risks associated with Misinformation/Disinformation Across the Electoral Cycle: Pre-election, Election and Post-election
 - 3.4. Common Tactics Used by Disinformation Actors
- 4. International Norms and Institutional Responses**
 - 4.1. International Norms and Standards
 - 4.2. Legal and Regulatory Frameworks
 - 4.3. Institutional Roles and Coordination
 - 4.4. Oversight, Transparency, and Accountability
- 5. Regional Insights: Best Practices and Innovations***
 - 5.1. Managing Viral Election Rumours
 - 5.2. Platform Content Moderation During Elections
 - 5.3. Fact-Checking Integration with Election Authorities
 - 5.4. Handling Deepfakes with Synthetic Media
 - 5.5. Special Measures for Disadvantaged Groups

5.6. Misinformation on Election Procedures and Results

5.7. Rapid Response and Crisis Communication Mechanism

**This is an indicative list only*

6. Conclusion

7. References (sources referred)

- Organization of American States, Secretariat for Strengthening Democracy, Department of Electoral Cooperation and Observation (2021). *Electoral Good Practices Guide for Strengthening Electoral Processes*. Washington, DC: Organization of American States.

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- UNESCO Office Montevideo and Regional Bureau for Science in Latin America and the Caribbean (2022) *Counteracting electoral disinformation: practical guide for organizations and electoral bodies*. Montevideo: UNESCO. Available at: <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/> (Accessed: 8 December 2025).
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Guidance Note for Global Best Practices and Innovations in Electoral Processes

BP – 09 Transparency of Elections- Political Parties as Concurrent Auditors

1. About Global Best Practices and Innovations in Electoral Processes

- 1.1 Global Best Practices and Innovations in Electoral Processes contributed by EMB professionals and practitioners, will establish a global learning framework that captures how electoral institutions innovate, adapt, and evolve in response to real-world challenges.
- 1.2 It is a practitioner centered initiative of India's Chairship, which captures how EMBs across diverse systems have responded to real-world challenges, experimented with reforms, and institutionalized innovations that have strengthened electoral integrity, inclusion, transparency, efficiency, resilience, and public trust.
- 1.3 The resulting output will serve as a global knowledge asset to support EMB senior management, technical teams, policymakers, researchers, and practitioner communities. Every documented practice will also include conditions for successful adoption, institutional prerequisites, resource requirements, and contextual risks. The language will be clear, descriptive, operational, and grounded in real experiences.
- 1.4 It serves as a dynamic, future-ready resource—supporting peer exchange, inspiring experimentation, and helping EMBs navigate complex challenges such as technological disruption, misinformation, cybersecurity threats, climate risks, and shifting voter expectations. It thus contributes meaningfully to strengthening electoral systems through shared global wisdom and practical knowledge.
- 1.5 By grounding the outcome in comparative evidence, practitioner insights, and structured analysis, this category transforms diverse international experiences into actionable knowledge that EMBs can apply as they refine their systems. The best practices are not presented as rigid models but as adaptable solutions

Brief Writeup

Transparency in the electoral process is essential to public trust, and political parties play a critical role as concurrent auditors in ensuring that it is both meaningful and continuous. When parties are able to observe, verify, and engage with each stage of the process, they serve as an additional layer of accountability that reinforces credibility. Conversely, when access is restricted, information is inconsistent, or procedures are opaque, suspicion grows and confidence declines.

To function effectively in this role, political parties, election administrators, civil society groups, observers, and community stakeholders must work within a framework of clear rules, equal access, and consistent application. EMBs are expected to define what parties

may observe, what data they may obtain, and how they may raise concerns, while ensuring that these provisions apply equitably to all contestants.

Effective systems include accreditation procedures for party agents, structured access to key stages such as voter registration, polling, counting, and results tabulation, and standardized channels for submitting queries or objections. Comprehensive training for both election officials and party agents helps ensure that observation is constructive rather than disruptive.

The theme will examine and document current systems and practices for promoting transparency by encouraging political parties and their agents observe various electoral processes and integrate political parties as active, concurrent auditors. The theme accordingly focuses on practices that enhance transparency while preserving the efficiency and integrity of electoral operations

2. Methodology

- 2.1 The outputs will be based on a combination of documentary analysis, comparative case studies, and stakeholder consultation, using both primary and secondary sources. Primary sources include original data, official statistics, internal guidelines, standard operating procedures, election reports, post-election reviews, and other operational documents generated directly by election management bodies (EMBs), governments, and international and regional organisations (including UN agencies), as well as inputs from structured questionnaires, expert interviews, roundtables, workshops, and practitioner consultations.
- 2.2 Secondary sources consist of analytical materials—such as comparative assessments and handbooks from International IDEA, IFES, and other reputable organizations, legislative and regulatory commentaries, academic articles and books, high-quality policy briefs and research reports, and media or fact-checking analyses—that interpret, evaluate, or aggregate primary evidence. Cases and practices will be identified through a robust screening framework that prioritizes geographic and institutional diversity, the availability of adequate documentation, and evidence of effectiveness, scalability, and transferability.
- 2.3 Evidence from various sources is systematically triangulated, cross-checked against EMB documents, observer reports, academic work, and stakeholder testimony, to strengthen reliability. Draft case descriptions will be shared back with the originating institutions and informants for factual verification and contextual clarification, where feasible. Throughout, the methodology is guided by ethical principles of informed consent for consultations, respect for confidentiality where requested, and sensitivity to national legal frameworks and political contexts, while recognising limitations arising from uneven

data availability, language constraints, and the rapid evolution of digital information ecosystems.

3. Operational Steps

3.1 Step 1 — Purpose & Scoping Framework

The Purpose & Scoping Framework will define the project's specific objective: to evaluate the efficacy of political parties acting as "concurrent auditors" rather than passive observers. It will establish the thematic boundaries, distinguishing between statutory monitoring rights (e.g., presence at polling stations) and technical audit capabilities. This step defines the "Audit Ecosystem" identifying which stages of the election cycle (pre-poll, polling, counting) are open to concurrent scrutiny by political stakeholders.

3.2 Step 2 — Global Evidence Mapping & Literature Review

This step involves the systematic mapping of comparative legal frameworks and operational protocols that grant parties audit rights. The analysis will cover:

- EMB Regulations: Provisions for sharing real-time data with parties.
- Observer Reports: Findings on the effectiveness of party agents in detecting irregularities.
- Technical Papers: Academic evaluations of auditability in EVM/VVPAT systems and paper ballot processes.
- Gap Analysis: Identifying jurisdictions where parties lack the data or access required to perform a meaningful concurrent audit.

3.3 Step 3 — Case Identification & Screening

Develop a transparency screening matrix to select high-impact cases based on the "Audit Depth" available to parties. Selection parameters will include:

- High-Audit Environments: Jurisdictions with Parallel Vote Tabulation (PVT) or robust agent verification rights.
- Low-Trust/Low-Audit Environments: Contexts where parties are restricted from verifying core election data.
- Technological Context: Differentiating between paper-based audit trails and digital/cryptographic verification methods available to parties.

3.4 Step 4 — Stakeholder Engagement & Knowledge Extraction

This step involves conducting targeted interviews and workshops with two distinct groups to understand the "Auditor-Auditee" dynamic:

- The Auditors (Political Parties): Interviews with party IT heads, legal cells, and ground-level polling agents to understand their capacity to analyze data and the barriers they face in real-time verification.
- The Auditees (EMBs): Consultations with election officials to understand the operational constraints of facilitating concurrent audits (e.g., privacy concerns, speed of result declaration).

3.5 Step 5 — Comparative Analysis & Thematic Synthesis

This step involves grouping findings into thematic clusters regarding the "friction" between transparency and efficiency. Practices are classified into four categories based on the level of party agency:

- a) Passive Observation: Parties watch but cannot verify data (Legacy Practice).
- b) Procedural Audit: Parties verify physical seals and logs (Validated Best Practice).
- c) Data-Driven Concurrent Audit: Parties access real-time APIs or APIs for independent verification (Proven Innovation).
- d) Cryptographic/End-to-End Audit: Parties verify mathematical proofs of the count (Emerging/Experimental Practice).

3.6 Step 6 — Case Documentation & Knowledge Structuring

This step focuses on converting gathered evidence into structured case models following the sequence of: Information Asymmetry (Problem) → Audit Mechanism (Intervention) → Detection/Validation (Results) → Trust Impact (Lessons). Cross-cutting lenses such as resource inequality (can smaller parties afford to audit?) and technical literacy are systematically integrated to ensure the research addresses whether concurrent auditing is equitable or favours well-funded parties.

3.7 Step 7 — Peer and Expert Review & Practitioner Validation

This phase involves submitting the draft findings to a "Review Panel" consisting of constitutional experts, former Election Commissioners, and civil society watchdogs. The goal is to validate the feasibility of the proposed audit mechanisms. Feedback is incorporated to ensure that recommended audit practices do not disrupt the actual conduct of elections or violate voter secrecy laws.

3.8 Step 8 — Finalization & Packaging

This step focuses on harmonizing the terminology of "Concurrent Audit" to ensuring clarity between legal rights and technical tasks. Outputs will include "Audit Checklists" for political parties and "Transparency Roadmaps" for EMBs. Visual summaries will illustrate the flow of data from the EMB to the Political Party, highlighting critical verification nodes.

3.9 Step 9 — Dissemination, Learning & Continuous Updating

This step involves hosting forums specifically for political party representatives and civil society to build capacity on *how* to audit elections effectively. It includes developing implementation playbooks for "Election Watch" teams. A digital repository is built to track emerging audit tools, ensuring the methodology remains relevant as election technology evolves.

Output Template

1. Executive Summary

2. Introduction

2.1. Purpose and Scope of the Report

2.2. Methodology and Sources of International Standards

3. Foundations and Framework

3.1. Introduction 1.2 Conceptual and Theoretical Underpinnings

3.2. Methodology and Comparative Approach

4. Comparative Analysis of Key Domains

4.1 Legal and Institutional Frameworks for Party Involvement in Auditing

4.2 Mechanisms for Real-Time Monitoring and Concurrent Scrutiny

4.3 Technological Innovations Enabling Party-Led Transparency Tools

4.4 Case Studies: Successes and Challenges Across Regions

4.5 Inclusivity, Accountability, and Risk Mitigation in Party Auditing

5. Conclusion: Synthesis, Standards, and Policy Horizons

5.1. Synthesizing Comparative Insights: Towards International Electoral Standards

5.2. Policy Recommendations and Pathways for Global Adoption

6. References

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Thematic Priorities
of
India's Chairship of Council of Member States of International IDEA 2026

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17-12-2025

Introduction

- ❖ On 3rd December, 2025, India assumed the Chair of Council of Member States of International IDEA for the year 2026
- ❖ As communicated earlier, theme for the Chairship is '**Democracy for inclusive, peaceful, resilient and sustainable world**'
- ❖ Thematic Priorities of India's Chairship
 - Reimagining Democracy for Future and
 - Independent and Professional EMBs for Sustainable Democracy

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2

Thematic Priorities of India's Chairship

Category A	Category B	Category C
To be jointly implemented with International IDEA	To be led by IIIDEM and targeted support by International IDEA	Priorities to be largely led by IIIDEM/ ECI

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17-12-2025

Category A

Category A – Global Roadmaps, Policy Briefs, Knowledge Products and Tools

1	Reimagining Democracy for future
1.1	Democracy that delivers
1.2	Democracy in 2050
2	Independent and Professional EMBs for sustainable democracy
2.1	Artificial Intelligence and Elections
2.2	Risk Management and Electoral Resilience
2.3	Training and Capacity Building of EMBs
2.4	Sustainable Finance for EMBs and Cost of Elections

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Category B

Category B – Model International Electoral Standards	
1	Reimagining Democracy for Future
1.1	Laws and Rules Governing Electoral Democracies
2	Independent and Professional EMBs for Sustainable Democracy
2.1	Legal Framework of Election Management Body and Independence
2.2	Voter Registration and Voter Registers
2.3	Political Parties and Candidates
2.4	Democratic Electoral Campaigns
2.5	Campaign Finance and Expenditure
2.6	Balloting including Electronic Voting Machines, Postal Ballots
2.7	Counting and Tabulating Results
2.8	Electoral Observers
2.9	Election Technology
2.10	Elections, Media and Voter Education

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Category C

S No.	Topic
1.	Eligibility of Electors
2.	Ease of Voter Registration
3.	Ease of Political Participation in Voter Registration
4.	Purity of Electoral Rolls
5.	Ease of Access to the Voter Register
6.	Ease of Identification at the Ballot
7.	Technology-driven Voter Registration
8.	Grievance Redressal in Voter Registration
9.	Transparency of Elections- Political Parties as Concurrent Auditors
10.	Regulation of Political Parties
11.	Model Code of Conduct for campaigns
12.	Maintaining Law and Order

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Category C

S No.	Topic
13.	Electronic Voting Machines
14.	Postal Ballot System
15.	Polling Day Operation
16.	Robustness of Counting Process
17.	International Election Visitors Program
18.	Integrated Technology Platforms
19.	Tackling misinformation and disinformation in elections
20.	Regulating media campaigns
21.	Democracy for peaceful co-existence amidst diversity
22.	Democracy for the empowerment of marginalized sections of society
23.	Democracy for entrepreneurship and enterprise development
24.	Democracy for accelerating Sustainable Development Goals

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Key Outputs and Deliverables

6 Global Reports on cross cutting areas of Democracy and Election Management

10 Model International Electoral Standards on various thematic areas

36 Global Best Practices and Innovation reports on electoral processes

In addition, the outputs and deliverables will also include various other Policy Briefs, Research Papers, Case Studies, Reports containing deliberations and recommendations of various meetings.

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Category B 'Model International Electoral Standards'- Methodology

Step 1

- Purpose, Scoping Framework & Standards Development

Step 3

- Standards Component Identification & Screening

Step 2

- Global Evidence Mapping & Practitioner Experience Synthesis

Step 4

- Structured Stakeholder Engagement & Practitioner Consultation

Step 5

- Comparative Analysis & Thematic Synthesis

Step 6

- Drafting & Structuring the International Model Electoral Standards

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Category B 'Model International Electoral Standards'- Methodology

Step 7

- Peer Review & Practitioner Validation

Step 8

- Finalization, Packaging & Accessibility

Step 9

- Dissemination, Training & Continuous Updating

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Category B 'Model International Electoral Standards' - Output Template

Executive Summary	
Introduction	
International Electoral Frameworks on Voter Registration and Legal Frameworks	
Model Electoral Standards for Voter Registration	
Conclusion	
References	

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Example – Category B- Model Standards for Voter Registration and Voter Registers

The theme will examine various aspects such as:

- ❖ Does the registration process provide for accurate voter registers? Is the process itself transparent?
- ❖ Does the legal framework contain provisions for regular and timely updating of voter registers before an election?
- ❖ Are the requirements for voter registration stated in clear and unambiguous language?
- ❖ Does the law clearly identify what documents are necessary to register as a voter?
- ❖ Are the provisions for challenging a registration decision stated in clear and unambiguous language?
- ❖ Is the time period for challenging a registration decision clearly stated?
- ❖ Are voters protected from the wrongful disclosure of personal data?

By mapping these experiences across different administrative and legal environments, the theme will provide practitioners with comparative insights into what makes voter registration systems functional, inclusive, and resilient. It focuses on how clarity in procedures, transparency in implementation, and active engagement with the public contribute to dependable voter registers that support effective planning and equal access to the ballot. In doing so, the theme encourages deeper reflection on how voter registration systems can adapt to evolving contexts while sustaining the legitimacy and representativeness of elections.

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Category C 'Global Best Practices and Innovations' - Methodology

Step 1

- Purpose, Scoping Framework & Standards Development

Step 2

- Global Evidence Mapping & Practitioner Experience Synthesis

Step 3

- Case Identification & Screening

Step 4

- Stakeholder Engagement & Knowledge Extraction

Step 5

- Comparative Analysis & Thematic Synthesis

Step 6

- Case Documentation & Knowledge Structuring

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Category C 'Global Best Practices and Innovations' - Methodology

Step 7

- Peer Review & Practitioner Validation

Step 8

- Finalization, Packaging & Accessibility

Step 9

- Dissemination, Training & Continuous Updating

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Category C 'Global Best Practices and Innovations' - Output Template

Executive Summary

Electoral Misinformation and Disinformation: Concepts, Risks, and Threat Landscape

International Norms and Institutional Responses

Regional Insights: Best Practices and Innovations

Conclusion

References

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Thank you

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