



# INTERNATIONAL ACADEMIC CONFERENCE ON DEMOCRACY AND ELECTION MANAGEMENT

Call for Abstracts

18<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> June 2026





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Democracy and Election Management  
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# Content

1.	About IIIDEM.....	1
2.	About India's Chairship of International Idea .....	1
3.	About Thematic Priorities of India's Chairship.....	2
4.	About the International Academic Conference .....	4

# CALL FOR ABSTRACTS FOR INTERNATIONAL ACADEMIC CONFERENCE ON DEMOCRACY AND ELECTION MANAGEMENT

In the context of India's Chairship of the Council of Member States of International IDEA for 2026, the India International Institute of Democracy and Election Management (IIIDEM), Election Commission of India, proposes to convene a International Academic Conference on Democracy and Election Management on 18th-19th June 2026. The Conference is envisaged as a platform bringing together faculty and research scholars to engage in informed and evidence-based dialogue on contemporary issues in democratic governance and election management.

In this regard, IIIDEM invites abstracts on various aspects of democracy and election management, aligned with the thematic priorities of India's Chairship of International IDEA. The Conference seeks to encourage policy-relevant, comparative, and practitioner-oriented research that bridges theory and practice and contributes to knowledge-sharing and capacity-building efforts at national and international levels.

## 1. About IIIDEM

The Election Commission of India has established the India International Institute of Democracy and Election Management (IIIDEM) as a global resource centre in the field of democracy and election management. IIIDEM is also supporting ECI, which has assumed the Chairship of the Council of Member States of International IDEA for 2026.

## 2. About India's Chairship of International IDEA

India has assumed the Chairship of the Council of Member States of International IDEA for 2026, led by the Chief Election Commissioner of India, bringing a practitioner-led perspective to global democratic governance. Guided by the theme "Democracy for an inclusive, peaceful, resilient and sustainable world," rooted in Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, the Chairship reflects India's commitment to inclusive and sustainable development while sharing lessons from the world's largest democracy.

Supported by IIIDEM in close collaboration with International IDEA, the Chairship is anchored in two pillars—Reimagining Democracy for the Future and Strengthening Independent and Professional EMBs—with IIIDEM coordinating with International IDEA, ECI and Chief Electoral Officers, other Election Management Bodies for implementation of thematic priorities.

### 3. About Thematic Priorities of India's Chairship

The thematic priorities under India's Chairship are spread across three implementation categories:

- **Category A (GT):** Global Roadmaps, Policy Briefs, Knowledge Products and Tools
- **Category B (MS):** Model International Electoral Standards
- **Category C (BP):** Global Best Practices and Innovations in Electoral Processes

The thematic priorities have further been grouped as follows:

S.no.	Group	Thematic Priority
1	Promoting Democracy	GT1 - Democracy that Delivers GT2 - Democracy in 2050 BP21 - Democracy for Peaceful Co-existence amidst Diversity BP22 - Democracy for the Empowerment of Marginalized Sections of Society BP23 - Democracy for Entrepreneurship and Enterprise Development BP24 - Democracy for Accelerating Sustainable Development Goals
2	Legal Framework	MS1 - Laws and Rules Governing Electoral Democracies MS2 - Legal Framework of Election Management Body and Independence
3	Political Parties & Candidates	MS4 - Ballot Access for Political Parties and Candidates BP9 - Transparency of Elections – Political Parties as Concurrent Auditors BP10 - Regulation of Political Parties

4	Voter Registration	<p><b>MS3 - Voter Registration and Voter Registers</b></p> <p><b>BP1 - Eligibility of Electors</b></p> <p><b>BP2 - Purity of Electoral Rolls</b></p> <p><b>BP3 - Ease of Voter Registration</b></p> <p><b>BP4 - Ease of Access to the Voter Register</b></p> <p><b>BP6 - Ease of Political Participation in Voter Registration</b></p> <p><b>BP7 - Technology-driven Voter Registration</b></p> <p><b>BP8 - Grievance Redressal in Voter Registration</b></p>
5	Electoral Campaigns	<p><b>MS5 - Democratic Electoral Campaigns</b></p> <p><b>MS11 - Elections, Media, and Voter Education</b></p> <p><b>BP11 - Model Code of Conduct for Campaigns</b></p> <p><b>BP19 - Tackling Misinformation and Disinformation in Elections</b></p> <p><b>BP20 - Regulating Media Campaigns</b></p>
6	Balloting	<p><b>MS7 - Balloting, including Electronic Voting Machines, Postal Ballots / Ballot Systems</b></p> <p><b>BP5 - Ease of Identification at the Ballot</b></p> <p><b>BP13 - Electronic Voting Machines</b></p> <p><b>BP14 - Postal Ballot System</b></p> <p><b>BP15 - Polling Day Operations</b></p>
7	Counting & Results	<p><b>MS8 - Counting and Tabulating Results</b></p> <p><b>BP16 - Robustness of Counting Process</b></p>
8	Election Technology	<p><b>GT3 - Artificial Intelligence and Elections</b></p> <p><b>MS10 - Election Technology</b></p> <p><b>BP18 - Integrated Technology Platforms</b></p>
9	Election Observation	<p><b>MS9 - Electoral Observers</b></p> <p><b>BP17 - International Election Visitors Programme</b></p>
10	Electoral Planning & Risk	<p><b>GT4 - Risk Management and Electoral Resilience</b></p> <p><b>GT5 - Training and Capacity Building of EMBs</b></p> <p><b>BP12 - Maintaining Law and Order</b></p> <p><b>BP25 - Electoral Planning</b></p>

11	Electoral Finance	GT6 - Sustainable Finance for EMBs and Cost of Elections MS6 - Campaign Finance and Expenditure
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#### 4. About the Conference

The International Academic Conference on Democracy and Election Management serves as a forum with global relevance, where academic research meets operational excellence. While the study of democracy often resides in theoretical frameworks, the actual management of elections requires robust, scalable, and resilient practitioner-led solutions. This Conference aims to synchronize these two worlds. The Conference will be held on 18th-19th June 2026 at IIIDEM Campus in Sector 13, Dwarka, New Delhi.

To align with the global and comparative orientation of India's Chairship of International IDEA, submissions are expected to adopt a cross-country analytical perspective.

**Abstracts should clearly indicate the proposed comparative scope. Full papers must include a comparative analysis involving at least five other countries, examining legal frameworks, institutional arrangements, practices, innovations, or outcomes relevant to the selected thematic priority.** Submissions are not restricted to individual authors; joint submissions by multiple authors are also welcome.

Interested authors should submit an abstract of no more than 500 words via the official Google form at

<https://forms.gle/k2wpVpjTuWBRKZAm6>

by the deadline of 31st March, 2026. In case of multiple authors, one author must be clearly designated as the corresponding author for all official communication with IIIDEM.



Notifications regarding the acceptance of abstracts will be communicated by 15th April 2026. Following the acceptance of their abstract, authors will be required to submit a full paper by 15th May 2026, adhering to the specific guidelines provided by IIIDEM. All authors who successfully submit a full paper that meets the rigorous peer-review standards will be formally invited to present their research and findings at the International Academic Conference on Democracy and Election Management. Outstanding papers presented at the Conference may be recognized through the conferment of a Best Paper Award as decided by the Evaluation Committee constituted by IIIDEM. All papers presented at the Conference will be considered for inclusion in the official proceedings of the Conference.

### **Important Dates:**

- **Abstract Submission Deadline: 31st March 2026**
- **Notification of Acceptance (from IIIDEM): 15th April 2026**
- **Full Paper Submission: 15th May 2026**
- **Invitation to Conference (from IIIDEM): 20th May 2026**
- **Date of Conference: 18th-19th June 2026**

Please note that there is no registration fee for the Conference. Logistical details for presenters will be communicated with the invitation to the Conference. The Conference will also be open to participants interested in attending the sessions without presenting a paper. Details regarding registration, including a separate registration form, will be communicated at a later date.



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