

Election Commission-State Election Commissioners Conference

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Why in News?

Recently, the Election Commission of India convened a national roundtable conference with State Election Commissioners at Bharat Mandapam after a 27-year gap (last held in 1999).

- **Aim** - To ***foster synergy between the Election Commission of India and State Election Commissions*** in electoral processes and logistics within the legal framework.
- **Objectives** - Provide a platform for the exchange of ideas on electoral management.
- Strengthen cooperative federalism in election administration.
- **Key Highlights, 2026 - Focus Areas** -
 - Technology Sharing.
 - Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) and electoral rolls.
 - Strengthening electoral processes and operational coordination.
- **Technology** - ***ECINET digital platform*** aimed at streamlining electoral services.

ECINET (Election Commission Integrated Network) is a unified digital platform developed by the Election Commission of India to provide all electoral services on a single interface.

- Presentations highlighting robustness, transparency, and safeguards of EVMs.
- **Participants** - **Chaired by** - ***Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar.***
- **Attended by** - State Election Commissioners, Chief Electoral Officers, and legal and technical experts from all States and Union Territories.

Part XV of the Indian Constitution, titled "Elections," covers the legal framework for elections in India **through Articles 324 to 329.**

State Election Commissioners (SECs)

- SECs are independent, constitutional authorities distinct from the Election Commission of India (ECI) which manages state/central polls.
- They ensure electoral integrity for local governance.
- **Appointment** - Appointed by the Governor.
- **Term** - Typically serve a **5-year term** or until age 65.
- **Role** - Responsible for the "superintendence, direction, and control" of voter list preparation and conduct of elections for urban and rural local bodies.
- **Independence** - Cannot be removed from office except in a manner ***similar to a High Court judge.***
- **Authority** - SECs use voter lists prepared by the ECI for local body elections but are responsible for the delimitation of local constituencies.
- **Coordination** - ECI organizes conferences to align with SECs on electoral logistics and technology.

Reference

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