

Why this Conference

1. Indian Constitution was amended in 1992 through the 73rd & 74th amendments in order to provide the Local Self-Governments (LSGs) their rightful place in the process of Nation Building. It provides, amongst others for (i) Constitutional status to the LSGs and (ii) an Independent State Election Commission in each state for timely conduct of elections in a free, fair & transparent manner.
2. State Election Commission, Maharashtra (SECM), which was established in 1994, returns more than 250,000 local representatives every 5 years, in approximately 28,000 LSGs.
3. Though lot of efforts have been made in the past 25 years, some people still do not adequately recognize the role of LSGs in Nation Building and also do not treat State Election Commissions as Independent authorities at par with the Election Commission of India. Therefore, there is an urgent need to bring the LSGs & their elections to the center stage so that real democracy flourishes at grassroots level.
4. In order to overcome the above, SECM is hosting an International Conference of Election Commissioners to share & disseminate the good practices, with an aim:
 - i. To unpack & identify challenges around:
 - Ownership of Democracy ● Inclusiveness ● Menace of Social Media / Fake News etc., ● Misuse of Money Power etc. ● Role of Various Stakeholders
 - ii. To have common platform for sharing the experiences & good practices, and
 - iii. To develop a system for conducting research & new experiments.
5. This is probably the first attempt of its kind towards creating a 'Healthier Democracy through Better Elections' at local self-government level.

J. S. Saharia,

State Election Commissioner, Maharashtra

- kindly confirm your participation by 20th October 2018 Positively.
(Contact: Miss S. Aarolkar 996743857)



Silver Jubilee Celebration 2018

73rd & 74th Constitutional Amendments, 1992

International Conference

On

"Better Elections for Healthier Democracy"

(Local Self Governments)

25th And 26th October 2018

The Leela, Sahar, Andheri, Mumbai, India

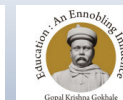
An Initiative Of

Institute of Democracy & Elections for Good Governance

A Wing of State Election Commission, Maharashtra



Knowledge Partners



Program Schedule

Day One, Thursday (25th October 2018)

Inaugural Function : 9.30 a.m. to 11.00 a.m.

Inauguration by : **Shri. Ch. Vidyasagar Rao**
Hon'ble Governor of Maharashtra

Guests of Honor : **Smt. Pankaja Munde**
Minister of Rural Development, Women and Child Welfare,
Government of Maharashtra

Shri Radhakrishna Wikhe-Patil
Leader of Opposition, Maharashtra Legislative Assembly

Session I : 11.15 a.m. to 1.15 p.m. : **Public Ownership of Democracy**

Session II : 2.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m. :

How to Check Misuse of Money Power

Session III : 4.15 p.m. to 6.15 p.m. : **Inclusiveness**

Cultural Program : 7.00 p.m. to 8.00 p.m.

Day Two, Friday (26th October 2018)

Session IV : 9.00 a.m. to 11.00 a.m. :

How to Control Menace of Social Media, Fake News etc.

Session V : 11.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. : **Role of Various Stakeholders**

Valedictory Function : 2.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.

Valedictory by : **Shri. Devendra Fadnavis**
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Maharashtra

Guests of Honor : **Shri. Sudhir Mungantiwar**
Minister of Finance & Planning, Government of Maharashtra

Shri. Dhananjay Munde
Leader of Opposition, Maharashtra Legislative Council

Key Speakers

International

- Mr. Gareth Wall (Research officer, CLGF- London)
- Mr. Erik Asplund (Program Officer, International IDEA -Stockholm)
- Mr. Milan Vaishnav, (Sr. Fellow, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace)
- Mr. Shujau Hussain (President, Local Community Initiative, , Maldives)
- Election Authorities : Bangladesh, Bhutan, Indonesia, Mauritius, Sri Lanka etc.

National

- Mr. Chhokar Jagdeep (Founder Member, ADR)
- Mr. Dash Prasana K. (IRS) (Principal Chief Commissioner Income Tax Dpt. MP)
- Mr. Dwadashiwar Suresh (Editor, 'Lokmat', leading Newspaper in Maharashtra)
- Mr. Jore Dharmendra (Political Editor, 'Mid-Day', a leading Newspaper in India)
- Mr. Kuber Girish (Editor, 'Loksatta', leading Newspaper in Maharashtra)
- Mrs. Malkani Indrani (Chairman, 'V Citizens Action Network'-V-CAN)
- Dr. Mathew George (Chairman, Institute of Social Sciences, Delhi)
- Mr. Mehta Nitai (Managing Trustee, 'Praja Foundation')
- Dr. Nile Mrudul (Professor, University of Mumbai, Dpt. Civics & Politics)
- Mr. Nirgudkar Uday (Group Editor, 'News18 Lokmat', leading News Channel.)
- Dr. Parchure Rajas (Officiating Director, GIPE & RBI Professor of Finance)
- Mr. Raghunandan T.R (Director & Founder Member, Avantika Foundation)
- Dr. Rajput Balsing (Superintendent of Police, Cyber, Maharashtra)
- Dr. Ranade Ajit (Sr. Economist & Political Analyst)
- Mr. Raskar Bhim (Director, RSCD)
- Mr. Rout Akshay Kumar (IIS) (OSD 'Swatch Bharat Mission')
- Mr. Sabade Rajeev (Sr. Journalist & Ex-member of Press Council Of India)
- Mr. Singh Brijesh (IPS) (Secretary, Info. & PR; Special IGP, Maharashtra Cyber)
- Mr. Vijayanand S.M (Former Secretary of Local Self Government)

Knowledge Partners:

- Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR)
- Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF)
- Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics (GIPE)
- University of Mumbai (Mumbai)
- Resource and Support Centre for Development (RSCD)
- International Institute of democracy and Electoral Assistance