

२५
YEARS



STATE ELECTION
COMMISSION
MAHARASHTRA



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बृहन्मुंबई महानगरपालिका सार्वत्रिक निवडणूक २०१७

मतदान : मंगळवार, दिनांक २९ फेब्रुवारी २०१७
मतदार राजा जागा हो, लोकशाहीचा धागा



1 km



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State Election Commission
Maharashtra



25 Years of State Election Commission, Maharashtra

Concept & Inspiration

Shri. J. S. Saharia

State Election Commissioner, Maharashtra

Guidance

Shri. Kiran Kurundkar

Secretary,
State Election Commission,
Maharashtra

Shri. Shekhar Channe

Former Secretary,
State Election Commission,
Maharashtra

Editor

Shri. Jagdish More

Public Relations Officer,
State Election Commission,
Maharashtra

Editorial Assistance

Shri. Balbir Singh Aulakh

Associate,
State Election Commission,
Maharashtra

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Foreword



Ch. Vidyasagar Rao

Governor,
Maharashtra

I am happy to know that the State Election Commission, Maharashtra (SECM) is publishing a Coffee Table Book, '25 Years of State Election Commission, Maharashtra' depicting the journey and achievements of SECs since their inception.

The Seventy Third and Seventy Fourth Amendments were made to the Indian Constitution in 1992, providing for the Constitutional Status to Local Self-Governments (LSGs) and an independent State Election Commission in each State. This was considered a great transformational step in the direction of inclusive decentralised Governance.

The SECM, which was established on 26th April, 1994, has done commendable work by providing a level playing field to all the candidates and political parties, conducting regular and timely elections in a free, fair and transparent manner.

I would like to congratulate SECM for undertaking various innovative measures such as use of Electronic Voting Machines, introduction of NOTA, introduction of marker pen, registration/deregistration of political parties, submission of software generated nomination papers and affidavits by candidates, public display of criminal record and assets of the candidates, research to understand dynamics of LSG elections, use of modern technology for effective implementation of Model Code of Conduct, filing of election expenses by candidates, etc.

I may mention that various stakeholders of democracy like government, media, political parties and candidates have to show greater sensitivity and respect towards LSGs, their elections and SECs, as expected by the Indian Constitution, in order to make the democracy more vibrant at the grassroots level.

I am sure the Coffee Table Book will be found useful by various stakeholders of democracy in the country. I am sure other Election Commissions will also follow some of these initiatives at their level as well.

I congratulate Shri. J.S. Saharia, State Election Commissioner, Maharashtra, and his entire team for compiling and publishing this Coffee Table Book.

Preface



J.S. Saharia
State Election
Commissioner,
Maharashtra

It is really creditable that the State Election Commissions established in various States following the historic 73rd and 74th Amendments to the Constitution (1992) have succeeded to a great extent in conducting elections to the Local Self Governments (LSGs) regularly and in a free, fair & transparent manner.

State Election Commission, Maharashtra has undertaken large number of innovative activities since its inception for making the elections to LSG better like:

- (i) Use of EVMs & Marker Pen etc.
- (ii) Registration & deregistration of Political Parties
- (iii) Workshops & Conferences – including:
 - National Conference on “25 years of 73rd & 74th Constitutional Amendments: Progress so far & Future Directions” on 2nd & 3rd November 2017
 - International Conference on “Better Elections for Healthier Democracy” on 25th & 26th October 2018
- (iv) Research on different topics & various publications
- (v) Collaborative arrangements with various stakeholders like Universities (Mumbai, Nagpur, Kolhapur & Zurich etc.), Research Institutes (Gokhale Institute of Politics & Economics, Pune, London School of Economics), NGOs (Association for Democratic Reforms, Resource and Support Centre for Development), etc.
- (vi) Establishment of “Institute of Democracy & Elections for Good Governance”
- (vii) “Democracy Awards” for recognising the exemplary work done by various stakeholders etc.

I am happy that SECM is publishing a Coffee Table Book depicting its journey since its inception. I am sure this will not only help the various stakeholders to understand the role of LSGs and their elections in the right perspective, but will also help in preserving, protecting & promoting democracy at the grassroot level.

I take this opportunity to thank all the officers & staff of SECM for so painstakingly compiling & editing this book.

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List of Abbreviations

BEL	Bharat Electronics Ltd.
ECI	Election Commission of India
ECIL	Electronics Corporation of India Ltd.
EVM	Electronic Voting Machine
LBs	Local Bodies
LSG	Local Self-Government
MCC	Model Code of Conduct
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NOTA	None of the Above
PRI	Panchayati Raj Institutes
PSU	Public Sector Unit
RO	Returning Officer
RLBs	Rural Local Bodies
SEC	State Election Commissions
SECM	State Election Commission, Maharashtra
UN	United Nations
ULBs	Urban Local Bodies
VVPAT	Voter Verification Paper Audit Trail

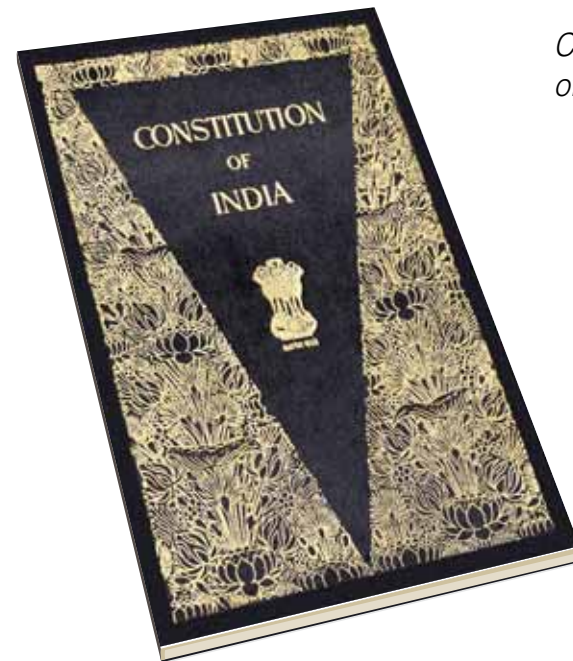
73rd & 74th Amendments to the Constitution of India (1992)

Free, fair and transparent elections are prerequisite for a healthy and vibrant democracy. There are two different Election Commissions in the country one for Parliament & State Assemblies and the other in each State / UT for Local Self Governments (LSGs).

- Election Commission of India was established on 25th January, 1950, one day prior to the adoption of Constitution of India for conducting elections to Parliament & State Legislatures besides that of Hon'ble President and Vice President of the Country.
- Elections to Panchayati Raj Institutions and Urban Local Bodies (hereinafter called as Local Self Governments (LSGs)) part of the 3rd tier of Governance, were supposed to be conducted by the respective State Governments only.
- Constitution of India was however amended in 1992 (through 73rd & 74th Amendments) when it was realised that the LSGs
“have not been able to acquire the status and dignity of viable and responsive people's bodies due to a number of reasons including absence of regular elections, prolonged supersession, insufficient representation of weaker sections like Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribes

and women, inadequate devolution of powers and lack of financial resources.”

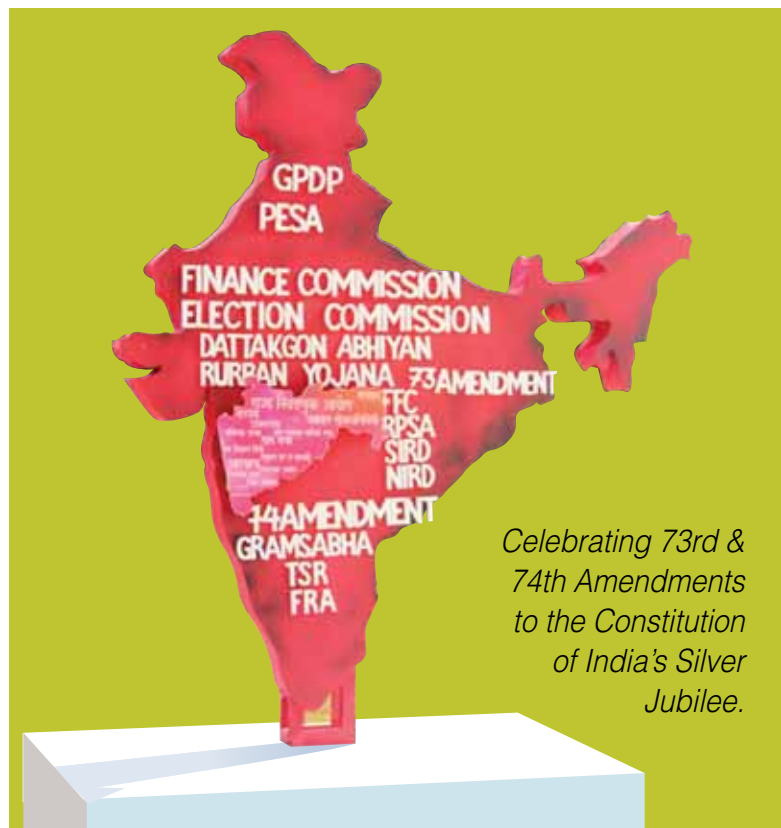
- Basic objective of the above Amendments is to provide LSGs & their elections the rightful place in the process of Nation building.



*Constitution
of India*

Salient features of the 73rd & 74th Amendments to the Constitution of India

(Part IX - Articles 243 to 243O and Part IX A - Articles 243 P to 243 ZG)



- Duration of LSGs – maximum 5 years and no longer
- Election before the expiry of term
- Reservation – women (minimum 33%)
- Weaker sections – SC, ST (as per population), BCC (27%)
- Independent State Election Commission at par with Election Commission of India
- State Finance Commission to review the financial position of the Panchayats and to make recommendations to the Governor.
- District Planning Committees (DPCs) should consolidate the plans prepared by the Panchayats and the Municipalities in the district and prepare a draft development plan for the district.
- XIth Schedule : assigning duties and responsibilities on 29 subjects to Rural LBs
- XIIth Schedule : assigning duties and responsibilities on 18 subjects to Urban LBs
- “Gramsabhas” and “Ward Committees” to exercise such power and perform such functions as that the State Legislature may by law provide

Landmark Judgements of Hon'ble Supreme Court

Articles 324, 243-K & 243-ZA of Constitution provide for the role & responsibilities of Election Commission of India and State Election Commissions, respectively. Hon'ble Supreme Court has elaborated the spirit behind the above provisions through their various judgements, specially the following:

- i) Kishansing Tomar Vs. Municipal Corporation of the City of Ahmedabad & Ors. in Civil Appeal 5756 of 2005 dated 19 October 2006.
 - SEC is a Constitutional Body
 - SEC enjoys the same status, powers and authority as that of ECI in the domain of LSGs Elections
 - Government shall abide by the directions of the SEC and shall provide staff, finance, etc., as per its assessment
 - SEC is free to approach the High Courts and thereafter the Supreme Court in Writ of Mandamus etc.
- ii) Mohinder Singh Gill & Anr. Vs. The Chief Election Commissioner, New Delhi in (Case No (AIR 1978 SC 851) dated 2nd December 1977.
 - Where the existing laws are absent and yet a situation has to be tackled, the CEC has not to fold his hands and pray to God for divine inspiration to enable him to exercise his functions and to perform his duties or to



Over the years, the Hon'ble Supreme Court has delivered various landmark judgements to make elections free, fair and transparent.

look to any external authority for the grant of powers to deal with the situation. He must lawfully exercise his power independently, in all matters relating to the conduct of elections, and see that the election process is completed properly in a free and fair manner.

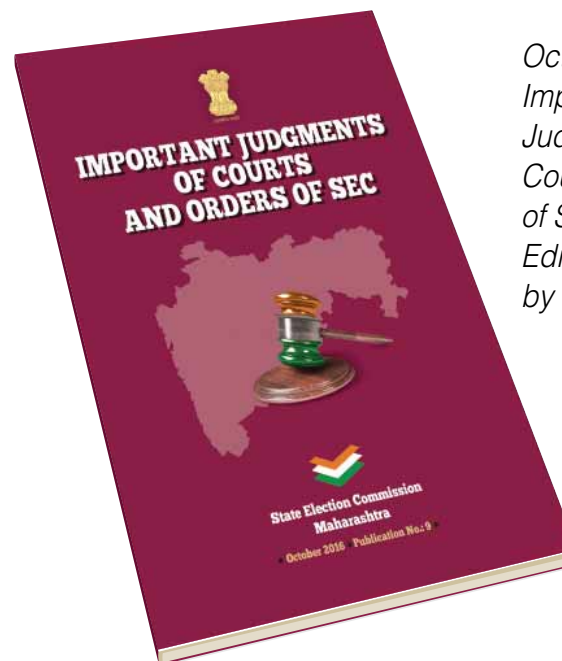
iii) A. C. Jose Vs. Sivan Pillai & Ors. (Civil Appeal No. 3839 of 1982 dated 5.3.1984

- Where there is no Parliamentary legislation or rule made- Commission is free to pass any orders in respect of the conduct of elections.
- When there is an Act and express Rules made thereunder- not open to the Commission to override the Act or the Rules, the powers of the Commission are meant to supplement rather than supplant the law.
- Where the Act or the Rules are silent,- Commission has no doubt plenary powers under Art. 324 to give any direction in respect of the conduct of election, and
- When the Commission has submitted to government for approval- not open to Commission to go ahead with implementation.

iv) Lok Prahari Vs. Union of India in W.P.No. 784 of 2015 dated 16th February 2018

- 'Undue Accretion of Assets of Legislators and their Associates is certainly a matter which should alarm the citizens and voters of any truly democratic society. Such phenomenon is a sure indicator of the beginning of a failing democracy. If left unattended it would inevitably

lead to the destruction of democracy and pave the way for the rule of mafia. Democracies with higher levels of energy have already taken note of the problems and addressed it. Unfortunately, in our country, neither the Parliament nor the Election Commission of India paid any attention to the problem so far'



*October 2016:
Important
Judgments of
Courts and Orders
of SEC (First
Edition) published
by SECM*

State Election Commission, Maharashtra

Elections to the LSGs are being conducted by an Independent SEC which was established on 26 April 1994 following the 73rd & 74th Amendments.

Maharashtra state has got nearly 28,780 Local Self Governments (LSGs) with more than 250,000 elected representatives as shown below:

Category	Type of Local Body	Total	Elected Members (Maximum)	Elected Members (Minimum)
Urban	Municipal Corporation	27	227 (Mumbai)	65 (Parbhani)
	Municipal Council	240	65 (Ichalkaranji)	17 (Alibag)
	Nagar Panchayat	126	17 Shirdi	17 (Zari Jamani)
Rural	Zilla Parishad	34	75 (Ahmednagar)	50 (Sindhudurg)
	Panchayat Samiti	351		Twice the number of Zilla Parishad seats in each Block. At least 4 seats in each Block
	Village Panchayats	28002	18	8
	Total	28780		



Local Bodies are governed by 5 different Acts.

Sr.No.	Name of the Act	Local Body
1	Mumbai Municipal Corporation Act, 1888	Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation, Mumbai
2	Maharashtra Municipal Corporation Act, 2008	Municipal Corporations other than Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation
3	Maharashtra Zilla Parishads and Panchayat Samitis Act, 1961	Zilla Parishads and Panchayat Samitis
4	Maharashtra Grampanchayat Act, 1958 (1959 चा मुंबई अधिनियम क्रमांक 3)	Gram Panchayats
5	Maharashtra Nagar Parishads, Nagar Panchayats and Industrial Township Act, 1965	Nagar Panchayats / Nagar Parishad



Urban and Rural Local Body elections in Maharashtra are conducted based on five different acts.



9th August 2011: Launch of State Election Commission, Maharashtra, logo at the hands of the then Hon'ble Governor of Maharashtra. In picture L-R: Shri. Dilip Band (Divisional Commissioner, Pune Division), Shri. Sanjay Chahande (Director General YASHADA), Smt. Neela Satyanarayan (State Election Commissioner, Maharashtra), Shri. K. Shaker Narayanan (Hon'ble Governor of Maharashtra) and Shri. Chand Goyal (Adtl. Chief Secretary, State Election Commission, Maharashtra)

Elections to LSGs vis-à-vis Parliament & Assembly

80 Million registered voters (approx. in Maharashtra) out of total population of 120 million elect more than 250,000 local representatives in various LSGs as compared to only 48 for Parliament and 288 for State Legislature every 5 years. Elections to LSGs are voluminous, complex and fiercely contested.

Comparison

Particulars	SEC, Maharashtra	ECI (CEO Maharashtra)
Conducts Election for	• More than 2.5 Lakh Representatives	• 48 M.P. • 288 M.L.A.
Number & Level of R.O.'s	• More than 20,000 • Deputy Collector to Clerk	• 48 for Parliament & 288 for State Legislature • Collector & Dy. Collector only
Stages of Election (time required)	• 3 Stages - Delimitation, Voter List & Actual Elections (6 months approx.)	• Actual Elections only (2 months)
Single / Multi Member Constituency	• Multi Member	• Single Member • separate Commission
Delimitation of Constituency	• Every 5 years	• Once in 30 years by a separate Commission
Number of Acts	• Five	• Single
Reservation for women	• 50%	• No reservation



Voters wait in line to cast their vote

State Election Commissioners, Maharashtra

There have been 5 State Election Commissioners since the inception of SECM on 26th April 1994. They are appointed from “amongst the persons who are holding or have held the post not lower than that of Principal Secretary to Government of Maharashtra” as per the State Election Commissioner (Qualification & Appointment) Act, 1994.

- **Shri. D.N.Chaudhary (26.04.1994 to 25.04.1999):**



First State Election Commissioner besides establishing the office with skeletal staff of only 6 officers & employees, laid down both the legal and administrative framework for conducting timely elections on the lines of ECI.

Orders issued by him are still being used as the basic source of authority.

- **Shri. Y.L.Rajwade (15.06.1999 to 14.06.2004):**



Shri Y. L. Rajwade established great linkages with various stakeholders including Government. He energized the State Election Commission and the mammoth field machinery for conducting the elections without fear & favour.

Multi-member ward elections to Municipal Corporations,

Municipal Councils and Nagar Parishads as well as direct election to the President of Municipal Councils and Nagar Parishads were successfully conducted under his leadership.

- **Shri. Nandlal (15.06.2004 to 14.06.2009):**



A very upright and visionary person, Shri. Nandlal disciplined not only the election machinery but also the political parties & candidates to a great extent. He introduced the concept of EVMs and the system of registration of political parties.

Both these initiatives laid the foundation for conducting purer & better elections with the changing times.

- **Smt. Neela Satyanarayana (06.07.2009 to 5.07.2014):**



Besides establishing the use of EVMs & the system of registration of political parties, Smt. Neela Satyanarayana introduced several other user friendly initiatives like use of marker pen, website, video conference, etc. She

was instrumental in introducing Internationally acclaimed “Krantī Jyoti” training programme for elected women representatives.

• **Shri. J. S. Saharia (From 05.09.2014):**



Building on the great foundations laid by the predecessors, Shri. J. S. Saharia, the first Chief Secretary to become the State Election Commissioner introduced several innovative measures as shown below :

i) Deregistration of Political Parties:

- No contesting candidate in 5 consecutive years, Non-submission of expenditure details within 6 months, Non-disclosure about work done against manifesto. Non-adherence to the discipline of SEC. etc.
- Deregistered 220 Political Parties for non-submission of annual I.T>Returns & audited statements of accounts.

ii) For Candidates :

- Online submission of Nomination papers & Affidavits
- Compulsory disclosure of source of income & contract details and 'Constituency Development Plan' in affidavit. Public display of declared criminal background and assets outside polling stations & main crossings of the city.

iii) Use of Technology :

- For ward formation, Preparation of booth-wise voter list.

- Mobile App: True voter – name search, identifying booth, filing of election expenses.
- Mobile App - CoP real time filing of complaints of violation of MCC.

iv) Youth Empowerment (for 1st year University students) :

- Inclusion of the following oath in Admission form:
"Will register my name as voter on attaining the age of 18 years"
- Compulsory module on 'Democracy, Elections & Good Governance'. and
- Exposure visit to the local bodies.

v) Others:

- Established 'Institute of Democracy & Elections for Good Governance'
- Signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF)
- Use of social media (Facebook, Twitter, blogs etc.)
- Research through reputed Institutes / NGOs -like Gokhale Institute of Politics & Economics, University of Mumbai, Association for Democratic Reforms etc.
- Use of Community Radio for increasing voter registration, turn-out and ethical voting practices
- Income Tax officers deployed



24th September 2015: Inauguration of the renovated office of the State Election Commission, Maharashtra, at the hands of Shri. Devendra Fadnavis, Chief Minister, Maharashtra, in the presence of Shri. J.S. Saharia, State Election Commissioner, Maharashtra and Dr. Pradeep Vyas, Secretary, State Election Commission, Maharashtra.

Secretary to SECM

15 serving IAS officers have worked as Secretary from 7th August 1996 till 17th December 2018
Secretary to SECM

Sr.No.	Name of the Secretary	Duration
1	Shri. B. R. Pokharkar, IAS	07.08.1996 to 01.04.1998
2	Shri. A. S. Dongare, IAS	12.04.1998 to 18.12.2000
3	Shri. B. G. Veer, IAS	18.12.2000 to 05.08.2002
4	Shri. Gorakh Megh IAS	29.08.2002 to 12.09.2003
5	Shri. Chand Goel, IAS, Principal Secretary	13.09.2003 to 20.08.2006
6	Shri. P. S. Meena, IAS	24.11.2006 to 23.01.2008
7	Shri. S. S. Dod, IAS, Principal Secretary	24.01.2008 to 26.12.2008
8	Shri. Upamanyu Chatterji, IAS, Principal Secretary	11.02.2009 to 26.03.2009
9	Shri. Sanjay Sawant, IAS	24.07.2009 to 28.10.2009
10	Shri. Chand Goel, IAS, Addl. Chief Secretary	15.04.2009 to 31.12.2012
11	Shri. Sunil Porwal, IAS	13.06.2013 to 09.02.2014
12	Shri. Madhukar Gaikwad, IAS	24.02.2014 to 29.01.2015
13	Dr. Pradeep Vyas, IAS	09.02.2015 to 27.05.2016
14	Shri. J. P. Gupta, IAS	28.05.2016 to 09.08.2016
15	Shri. Shekhar Channe, IAS	16.09.2016 to 17.12.2018
16	Shri. Kiran Kurundkar, IAS (Retd.)	17.12.2018 to till date



*Shri. Kiran Kurundkar, Secretary,
State Election Commission, Maharashtra*

- Short tenure and gap between two Secretaries has created hurdles in Building a strong SEC as per the expectations of the Constitution.
- Unwillingness of good serving officers to work as Secretary, SECM forced Government of Maharashtra to provide in the recruitment rules for both serving & Retired IAS officers. Government has accordingly posted Shri. K. V. Kurundkar (Retired super time scale IAS officer) having great domain knowledge of elections, as Secretary for a period of 3 years (extendable by 2 years) with all the facilities at the time of superannuation. Shri. Kurundkar accordingly joined w.e.f. 17.12.2018.
- Shri. Kiran Kurundkar retired as Secretary to Government of Maharashtra in Animal Husbandry, Dairy Development & Fisheries Department.

He had held many important positions in District Administration such as Municipal Commissioner, Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Parishad, District Collector as well as at State level such as Secretary, MHADA, Managing Director, Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation, Deputy Secretary to Government of Maharashtra, Joint Managing Director, MSRDC and most importantly had done a sound stint as Joint Chief Electoral Officer of Maharashtra State under the Election Commission of India between 2002 to 2006.

Staff of SECM

Though the sanctioned strength of SECM is 81, only 64 are working presently, (43 own employees, 13 on deputation & 08 on requisition.)

- State Election Commission does not have its own field staff for conducting elections. It uses the existing Government machinery like District Collectors, Municipal Commissioners, Commissioner of Police, Superintendent of Police etc. and the staff under their control.
- Officers primarily responsible for successful conduct of following elections:

Municipal Council, Nagar Panchayats, Zilla Parishads, Panchayat Samitis, Grampanchayats	District Collector
Municipal Corporation	Municipal Commissioner

- SEC uses the services of any and all officers / staff both under State & Central Governments as deem fit.

*Renovated office of State Election Commission, Maharashtra
(September 2015)*





May 2016 : Dr. Pradip Vyas, Secretary, State Election Commission, Maharashtra, conducting a training session of the Staff.

Model Code of Conduct (MCC)

It is a set of guidelines agreed upon by the various Political Parties for the conduct of candidates, political parties and Government etc. during the process of elections. It is neither an Act of Parliament nor any State Legislature. These guidelines were first enforced during the elections of Kerala Vidhan Sabha in 1960.

- Hon'ble High Court of Punjab & Haryana has provided judicial recognition to MCC vide its judgement in Civil Petition No. 270 of 1997 in Harbans Singh Jalal V/s. Union of India dated 27th May 1997
- MCC regulates the following broad subjects:
 - i) General Conduct
 - ii) Meetings
 - iii) Procession
 - iv) Polling Day
 - v) Polling Booth
 - vi) Observers
 - vii) Party in Power
 - viii) Guidelines on Election Manifestoes
- Principles behind MCC:
 - i) Peaceful and orderly conduct
 - ii) Equal opportunity
 - iii) Right of citizens to peace
 - iv) Decorum of campaign
 - v) Preventing corrupt practices and electoral offences

- vi) Preventing misuse of government machinery and position of power
 - vii) Role of Government
- Mandate of the Election Commission is to conduct free, fair



*29th December 2011:
Compendium of Model
Code of Conduct
published by SECM*



*14th October 2016: Revised
Compendium of Model
Code of Conduct published
by SECM*

& transparent elections and provide equal opportunity to all the candidates and political parties without any preferred treatment to anybody, especially the party in power. MCC, being a set of guidelines only, detailed orders are issued by the Election Commission from time to time. Besides this, SEC fills the “vacuous areas” using the plenary powers under Article 324 of the Constitution.

- MCC is generally enforced only in the area where the elections are held. However, looking at the small size, large numbers and sparseness of the GPs and periodicity of elections etc., SECM vide its order dated 6.09.2017 has expanded the area in which the Model Code of Conduct is implemented :
 - (i) Whole district when 50% or more GPs go for election in that district.
 - (ii) Whole taluka when 50% or more GPs go for election in that taluka .
 - (iii) all the villages sharing boundaries with the GPs going for polls
- MCC is generally enforced from the date of declaration of the actual programme covering a period of about 30 to 40 days on the lines of elections to Parliament & Assembly. However, looking at the 3 distinct phases of elections to LSGs (ward formation, bifurcation of Assembly Voter List and actual elections) as compared to only one phase

in Parliament and Assembly, SEC vide its order dated 31.07.2018 has given the following instructions :-

- (i) Respective Government departments (eg. GAD, Home, UDD, RDD, Revenue, etc.) & respective Controlling Officers, (eg. DGP, Divisional Commissioner, Collector, Municipal Commissioner, etc.) to take review of availability of Officers / Staff at division / district/ taluka level & appoint eligible Officers/Staff for elections once, and
 - (ii) Police, Excise & other respective departments to initiate all the preventive measures.
 - SECM uses the services of Central Government departments (like Income Tax, Railways, Airport Authority, Public Sector Banks, Coast Guard etc.) as and when required for checking the unauthorized movement of liquor, money, undesirable persons etc.
 - State Election Commission has started using the services of Income Tax / Sales Tax officers as Expenditure Observers for the Municipal Corporation elections since 2016.
- SECM vide its order dated 5th October 2016 has prohibited the use of discretionary funds by elected representatives 3 months prior to the date of expiry of the LSGs as against the earlier practice of ban from the date of declaration of actual election program In terms of H.C.Judgement Punjab & Hariyana, Shri. Harbanssingh Jalal, dated 27/05/1997.

Limits on expenditure by candidates (since 2016-17)

Municipal Councils / Nagar Panchayats

- Municipal Councils - Rs. 1.5 to Rs. 3.00 lakh
- Nagar Panchayats - Rs. 1.5 lakh
- President of Council - Rs. 5 to 10 lakh

Municipal Corporations

- Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai, and Municipal Corporation with Seats more than 150 - Rs. 10 lakh
- Other Municipal Corporation (with Seats from 65 to 150) - Rs. 5 to 8 lakh

Zilla Parishad

- Depending upon the number of Constituencies - Rs. 3 to 6 lakh



Panchayat Samiti

- Depending upon the number of Constituencies - Rs. 3 to 4 lakh

Gram Panchayat Member

- Depending upon the number of members (7-17) - Rs. 50,000 /-

Gram Panchayat Sarpanch

- Depending upon the number of members (7-17) - Rs. 50,000 to 1.75 lakh



- Submission of Expenditure details: All the candidates are required to submit the expenditure details both on daily basis and within 30 days from the conclusion of the election results. Failure to submit the expenditure details results in disqualification and / or barring of the candidate for certain period. (ZP 5 years, MC/MNC 3years) as per the amendments done by Government during 2008-2010.
- There is no limit on expenditure for political parties.
- State Election Commission vide its order dated 15.10.2016

has prescribed “time and manner” for both candidates and political parties to submit the details of the expenditure. Failure by the political parties to submit the expenditure details may result in :

- i) Suspension of registration
- ii) Charging of penalty per day for delay in submitting expenditure details
- iii) Legal action (including criminal offence)
- iv) Deregistration

Electronic Voting Machine (EVMs)

Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) is an electronic device for recording votes, developed in 1977 by Electronic Corporation of India Ltd. (ECIL), a Government of India Enterprise.

- It consists of 2 units – Control and Ballot – joined by a 5 meter cable. The Control Unit is placed with the Presiding Officer or a Polling Officer; while the Balloting Unit is placed inside the voting compartment. The Polling Officer in charge of the Control Unit, instead of issuing a ballot paper, releases a ballot by pressing ballot button on Control Unit. This enables the voter to cast his vote by pressing the blue button on the balloting unit against the candidate and the symbol of his choice.
- These EVMs which were used by the ECI in the 14th Lok Sabha elections were widely acclaimed since they not only reduced the complaints during the poll process, but also reduced the time in sealing of ballot boxes and counting of votes.
- State Election Commission, Maharashtra used these machines for the first time during the elections to the municipal councils of Wardha, Chandrapur and Kamthi in November 2004. Presently elections to all the LSGs are being conducted through 70,000 EVMs which were specially made by ECIL for SECM.
- “NOTA” button was introduced in the balloting unit following



SECM introduced EVMs in Local Body elections for the first-time during elections to Municipal Councils of Wardha, Chandrapur and Kamthi in November 2004.



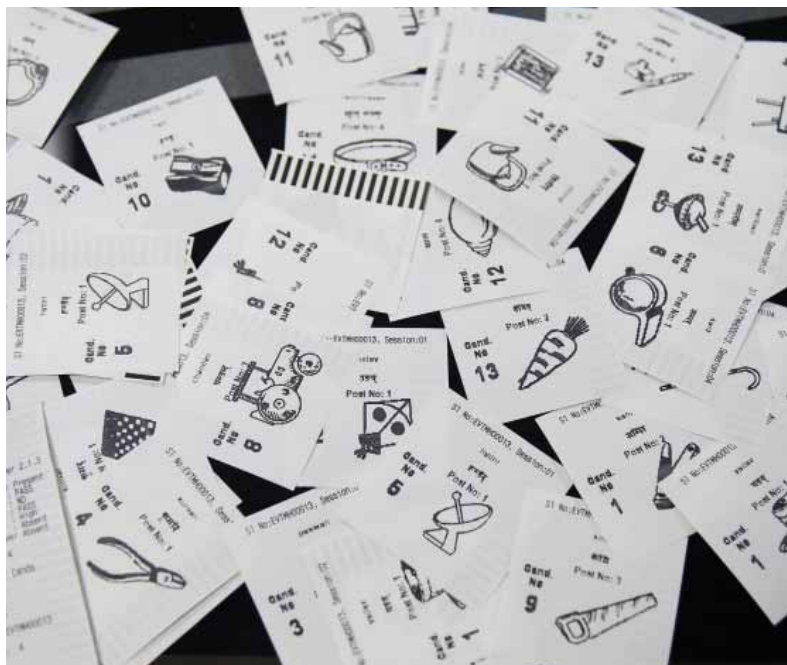
11th October 2017: In Maharashtra, VVPATs were first used in elections to Local Bodies on experimental basis in Ward No.2 of the Nanded-Waghala Municipal Corporation general election.

the judgement of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in Writ Petition No. 161 of 2004 Peoples Union for Civil Liberties & Others v/s. Union of India & Others dated 27.9.2013.

- Use of EVMs has eliminated the problems associated with the paper ballots like stamping of ballot paper by unauthorised persons, booth capturing, improper ballot marking, time consumed in sealing of ballot boxes, counting / recounting of votes etc. besides savings of large number of trees.
- Salient features of EVMs:
 - i) EVMs are stand-alone machines not connected to any kind of network like internet etc.
 - ii) The machine does not receive any signal from any source at any point of time.
 - iii) EVMs are handled in a random manner in the presence of the representatives of political parties during the entire electoral process like candidate setting, allotment to the polling stations, Storage in strong room before and after the polling, mock trial prior to the actual polling, on the polling day, etc.
- Looking at the demands of the various political parties, Hon'ble Supreme Court in its judgement in W.P.No.Civil Appeal No. 9093 of 2013 dated 8.10.2013 has directed the ECI to use VVPATs in all the elections to Parliament and State Assemblies in order to increase confidence of the voters.



First-level checking of EVMs by Election Officers, as part of election preparation.



Representation Paper Slip produced by the VVPAT.

- After detailed consultation with the representatives of the political parties, SECM reached to the following conclusions:
 - i) VVPATs is an additional electronic equipment, efficacy / truthfulness etc. of which can be questioned by anybody at any time just like EVMs
 - ii) Counting through VVPAT is both time consuming and cumbersome
 - iii) Use of VVPAT is expensive both for its procurement and storage before & after use.
 - iv) EVMs are tamper proof and hack free. There was no need for VVPATs.
- Manufacturer of EVMs i.e. Electronics Corporation of India Limited has given the following certificate dated 13.02.2019
- “It is certified that Electronics Corporation of India Limited (ECIL) has supplied a total number of 76,050 CUs and 76,250 BUs to State Election Commission, Maharashtra since 2012. These EVMs consisting of above CUs & BUs have been built with latest technology especially for Multi Post / Multi Vote elections for State Election Commission, Maharashtra. Further, these EVMs are stand-alone machines with no wireless / network connectivity and the inbuilt anti-tamper circuit makes them inoperative, if tampered with. It is further certified that the above EVMs are hack free and tamper resistant.”



21st March 2017: SECM organised a meeting of Political Parties to demonstrate the working of VVPAT

Voters Right & Citizens education

It is essential that a voter is adequately equipped with the correct and factual information about the contesting candidates in his or her ward. Accordingly, SECM has been continuously trying to make more & more information available to the voters.

- Hon'ble Supreme Court in its judgement in W.P.No. 536 of 2011 Public Interest Foundation & Ors. vs. Union of India & Anr. dated 25th September 2018 has concluded that, "..... complete information about the criminal antecedents of the candidates forms the bedrock of wise decision-making and informed choice by the citizenry. Be it clearly stated that informed choice is the cornerstone to have a pure and strong democracy."
- All the candidates in the elections to the various LSGs are required to submit following information through an affidavit at the time of filling the Nomination Paper :
 - a) Educational background
 - b) Assets & Liabilities of self, spouse and dependent members, and
 - c) Criminal background.

- Candidates are now required to submit following additional information in term of the judgment of Hon'ble Supreme Court in Writ Petition No. 784 of 2015, Lok Prahari Vs. Union of India dated 16.2.2018.
 - a) Source of income of self, spouse and dependent children
 - b) Details of contract, and
 - c) Social Media accounts
- Every candidate is also required to give his vision about the development of his constituency, known as "Constituency Development Plan" in 300-500 words. This is as per the wish of (Lt.) Dr. Abdul Kalam, the then Hon'ble President of India.

Display of Affidavit:

- Affidavits being displayed by SECM only on the notice board & website so far. However, summary of the affidavit is now required to be published in the following additional manner:
 - a) Paid advertisements in the local newspapers, and
 - b) outside the polling stations and at the main crossings.



Affidavits being displayed outside the polling stations from 13th December 2016.

Format in which summary if affidavits is published outside Polling Stations etc.

Sr. No.	Name of the candidate	Education Qualification	Total Value of moveable assets (candidate, spouse and dependents)	Total immovable assets (candidate, spouse and dependents)	Dues/ Liabilities	Criminal background of candidates	
						Pending number of cases in which the punishment can be 2 years or more of imprisonment	No. of cases in which convicted and sentenced to punishment of 1 years or more of imprisonment
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
2							
3							
4							
5							



The photograph shows a large table with multiple columns and rows, displaying the summary of affidavits of candidates. The table is organized into columns for various details, including the candidate's name, education, assets, liabilities, and criminal background. The data is presented in a structured manner, with rows corresponding to individual candidates and columns representing different categories of information.

Publication of the summary of the of affidavits of the Candidate through Flex Outside Polling Station, displaying the critical details of the Contesting Candidates

क्र.	नाम	पद	मूल्य	अंश	मूल्य	अंश	मूल्य	अंश	मूल्य	अंश
२३	सोनवणे सोनवणे विकास	पंच. एस. सी. पाल	६,५८,६८२/-	१,००,०००/-	६,५८,६८२/-	१,००,०००/-	६,५८,६८२/-	१,००,०००/-	६,५८,६८२/-	१,००,०००/-
२४	सोनवणे समता दिनीप	पंच. एस. सी. पाल	३,५५,०००/-	३,५५,०००/-	३,५५,०००/-	३,५५,०००/-	३,५५,०००/-	३,५५,०००/-	३,५५,०००/-	३,५५,०००/-
२५	पितांबर भोगूळ बापडाडे	पंच. एस. सी. पाल	२०,८९,५००/-	२०,८९,५००/-	२०,८९,५००/-	२०,८९,५००/-	२०,८९,५००/-	२०,८९,५००/-	२०,८९,५००/-	२०,८९,५००/-
२६	दोरकुंडे नवराध दिव्यनाथ	पंच. एस. सी. पाल	९,९०,०००/-	९,९०,०००/-	९,९०,०००/-	९,९०,०००/-	९,९०,०००/-	९,९०,०००/-	९,९०,०००/-	९,९०,०००/-
२७	सांगारे अमोल रमेश	पंच. एस. सी. पाल	९,९०,०००/-	९,९०,०००/-	९,९०,०००/-	९,९०,०००/-	९,९०,०००/-	९,९०,०००/-	९,९०,०००/-	९,९०,०००/-
२८	शाह सुमुख महेश	पंच. एस. सी. पाल	९,९०,०००/-	९,९०,०००/-	९,९०,०००/-	९,९०,०००/-	९,९०,०००/-	९,९०,०००/-	९,९०,०००/-	९,९०,०००/-
२९	सोनवणे अक्षय धनभुज	पंच. एस. सी. पाल	९,९०,०००/-	९,९०,०००/-	९,९०,०००/-	९,९०,०००/-	९,९०,०००/-	९,९०,०००/-	९,९०,०००/-	९,९०,०००/-
३०	बादल मिराबाई जयमल	पंच. एस. सी. पाल	९,९०,०००/-	९,९०,०००/-	९,९०,०००/-	९,९०,०००/-	९,९०,०००/-	९,९०,०००/-	९,९०,०००/-	९,९०,०००/-
३१	भंडार सिधु देविदास	पंच. एस. सी. पाल	९,९०,०००/-	९,९०,०००/-	९,९०,०००/-	९,९०,०००/-	९,९०,०००/-	९,९०,०००/-	९,९०,०००/-	९,९०,०००/-
३२	कमलबाई हिरामल पाटील	पंच. एस. सी. पाल	९,९०,०००/-	९,९०,०००/-	९,९०,०००/-	९,९०,०००/-	९,९०,०००/-	९,९०,०००/-	९,९०,०००/-	९,९०,०००/-
३३	शिंदे गणेशी जयम	पंच. एस. सी. पाल	९,९०,०००/-	९,९०,०००/-	९,९०,०००/-	९,९०,०००/-	९,९०,०००/-	९,९०,०००/-	९,९०,०००/-	९,९०,०००/-
३४	बाघ मोहिनी विनायक	पंच. एस. सी. पाल	९,९०,०००/-	९,९०,०००/-	९,९०,०००/-	९,९०,०००/-	९,९०,०००/-	९,९०,०००/-	९,९०,०००/-	९,९०,०००/-
३५	बादल मिराबाई जयमल	पंच. एस. सी. पाल	९,९०,०००/-	९,९०,०००/-	९,९०,०००/-	९,९०,०००/-	९,९०,०००/-	९,९०,०००/-	९,९०,०००/-	९,९०,०००/-
३६	गुणार रमेश जयम	पंच. एस. सी. पाल	९,९०,०००/-	९,९०,०००/-	९,९०,०००/-	९,९०,०००/-	९,९०,०००/-	९,९०,०००/-	९,९०,०००/-	९,९०,०००/-
३७	कादम योगेश राजम	पंच. एस. सी. पाल	९,९०,०००/-	९,९०,०००/-	९,९०,०००/-	९,९०,०००/-	९,९०,०००/-	९,९०,०००/-	९,९०,०००/-	९,९०,०००/-
३८	सायकाळे लीमेश सुपराज	पंच. एस. सी. पाल	९,९०,०००/-	९,९०,०००/-	९,९०,०००/-	९,९०,०००/-	९,९०,०००/-	९,९०,०००/-	९,९०,०००/-	९,९०,०००/-

1st August 2018: Display of summary of affidavits at important junctions in Sangli-Miraj-Kupwad Municipal Corporation and Jalgaon Municipal Corporation.

Teeth to NOTA

Hon'ble Supreme Court, in its judgment dated 27 September, 2013, in Writ Petition (C) No. 161 of 2004 (People's Union for Civil Liberties & Anr. Vs Union of India & Anr.), had directed the Commission to make necessary provision in the ballot papers/EVMs for "None of the Above (NOTA)" option so that the electors who do not wish to vote for any of the candidates can exercise their right not to vote without violation of the secrecy of their decision. In pursuance to the above decision of Hon. Supreme Court, SECM, issued order on 12 November 2013, introducing NOTA in EVMs for LBs elections.

Votes polled by NOTA were not being taken into account while declaring the results. SECM, however, has vide its order dated 6th November 2018, started treating NOTA as a fictional electoral candidate (for the elections to Urban LSGs) and hold repoll wherever NOTA gets highest votes.

...And Fresh Election

If in any election, all the contesting candidates individually receive lesser votes than the 'Fictional Electoral Candidate' i.e. NOTA, then none of the contesting candidates will be declared as elected and fresh election shall be held for that post. In case, a contesting candidate and the 'Fictional Electoral Candidate' i.e. NOTA receive equal valid votes; then the contesting candidate (not NOTA) shall be declared as

elected.

Fresh election will start from nomination stage itself. However, if in reelection, NOTA again gets highest votes, then reelection will not be taken for the second time and contesting candidate with highest votes (excluding NOTA) shall be declared as elected.



NOTA button on EVM

Ownership of democracy and election by public

Adoption of Universal Adult Franchise and voting age of 18 years are the major milestones in Indian Democracy for ensuring the ownership of both democracy & election by public at large.

Prior to this, certain selected groups of people were only entitled to participate in elections.

SECM has taken several major steps towards above through registration of new voters hassle free voting in a pleasant environment etc.

Registration of new voters

SECM uses the voter list prepared by ECI as existing on a declared “cut off date” in order to avoid confusion & duplication of work. SECM generally declares “cut-off date” well in advance. Special drive for voter registration is undertaken with the budget of concerned local body itself and help of various stakeholders like Universities, Corporate Houses, NGOs, Co.Op. Hsg. Societies, Banks etc.

Involvement of youth

All the Universities, ITIs, Polytechnics etc. where boys and girls around the age of 18 years study in the 1st year have been asked to –

- (i) revise the admission form with the following undertaking by each student



“Virtual Classrooms” facilities of Universities of Pune, Solapur, Amravati and Nagpur etc. were used to reach out to a huge crowd of young and first-time voters prior to the various LBs general elections in February 2017.

“I will register my name as voter on attaining the age of 18 years”

- (ii) Introduce compulsory module on “Democracy, Election and Good Governance” for all disciplines, and
- (iii) Compulsory visit of students to nearby LSG.

Virtual Classroom

Interaction with large number of students through the above facility in various universities especially Pune, Solapur, Amravati and Nagpur was extremely rewarding. Officials of SEC (including Hon'ble Commissioner, Shri.J.S.Saharia and Secretary, Shri. Shekhar Channe) replied to the various queries in the Q & A Session.

Community Radio

Universities played a pivotal role in spreading awareness about voter registration, voter turnout, ethical voting etc. through the Community Radios owned by various NGOs and Institutions. This programme which was organised with the help of local election authorities got very good response from public resulting in increased participation by various stakeholders.

Discounts by various organisations:

Various associations of hotel and restaurants, taxi operators and Cinema Halls etc. provided discounts on Polling Day.





- discount of 25 per cent on stay by Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation
- discount of 20 per cent by Matheran (Hill Station) Hotel Association
- discount of 20 per cent on stay and 50 per cent on food by Lonavala-Khandala Hotel Association
- Mahabaleshwar Hotel Association provided 20 per cent discount on stay and 15 per cent discount on food
- AAHAR provided discount of 10-20 per cent.

5th December 2016: SECM called a meeting at Savitribai Phule Pune University of Community Radio personnel, appealing them to create a mass-drive of voter awareness through their respective Radio Stations.



Greater participation and enthusiasm was seen amongst young voters during Local Body Elections

A married couple, cast their vote on the day of their marriage ceremony in Pimpri-Chinchwad Municipal Corporation.



Public Movement for Voter Awareness and Education by various NGOs, CSOs. etc.



Accessible, Innovative & Interactive Programmes

State Election Commission, Maharashtra has been experimenting with newer and innovative methods for educating and motivating voters

Use of Social Media

- Facebook Live, Q &A sessions and Posts
- Mahavoter Chat Bot- An Artificial Intelligence-based platform for directly communicating with Facebook Users to resolve questions or queries
- Volunteer Program in Mahavoter Chat Bot
- Twitter Blue Room Live Chat and Tweets



Use of Mobile Apps for Election Process : CoP, TrueVoter Chat Bot, FAQs:

CoP i.e. Citizens on Patrol, is an application for registering online complaints in an anonymous manner.



Missed Call Pledging, a large-scale campaign on National Voters Day 2017 (25th January) wherein 10 lakh voters pledged to 'I will vote' (in local body elections 2017)



19th January 2017: Launch of 'Voter Mitra' Mascot for General Elections at the hands of Shri. CH. Vidyasagar Rao, Hon'ble Governor of Maharashtra.

- Use of prominent public personalities, (including entrepreneurs, philanthropists, sports personnel, entertainment stars (Regional and National), popular YouTube channels, etc. to share video bytes encouraging voters to participate on Polling Day
- These video bytes were disseminated in general public, across the state, through advertisements in Cinema Halls, Television Channels, YouTube, etc.

Float during Republic Day Parade

Thought provoking Float designed & prepared by J.J.School of Arts on the occasion of 25 years of 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendment, participated in the Republic Day Parade at Shivaji Park, Dadar, Mumbai on 26th January 2017. The Float which was displayed at 17 different spots in Mumbai & Thane cities before general elections to Municipal Corporations was highly acclaimed. The Float was awarded 2nd Prize.

Model Polling Station

Efforts are made to make all the polling stations (which are larger in number than Parliament & Assembly) as model with basic facilities like drinking water, electricity, ventilation, ramp etc. Location and / or building of the polling station is suitably changed without sticking to that used in the previous



State Election Commission, Maharashtra, presented for the first-time a float on Republic Day 2017 in Mumbai. The float was displayed during Mumbai and Thane Municipal Corporation elections to create awareness amongst voters.



Street Play and Cultural Programmes with float on Republic Day 2017.



29th January 2017: Greater participation from corporate houses in voter awareness movement. Shri. Harsh Goenka visited the office of SECM.



31st January 2017: Greater participation from corporate houses in voter awareness movement. Shri. Anand Mahindra visited the office of SECM.



1st Feb. 2017: Greater participation from corporate houses in voter awareness movement. In this regard, Shri. Ratan Tata visited the office of SECM.

elections to Parliament, Assembly or LSGs.

Knowledge Partners:

SECM presently takes the help of following organizations / institutions as 'Knowledge Partners':

1. Gokhale Institute of Politics & Economics, Pune (GIPE)
2. Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR)
3. Resource & Support Centre for Development (RSCD)
4. Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF)
5. University of Mumbai

Co-operative Housing Societies:

Government has also put the responsibility on the Chairmen & Secretaries of the Co-operative Housing Societies in Maharashtra to take all necessary steps for new voter registration, updating of the voter list and motivating the voters for higher turnout. Taking advantage of this, SECM motivated

the Chairmen & Secretaries of the various housing societies through their federation to approach all the residents of their respective housing societies.

Corporate Houses:

SECM collaborated on various fronts with Corporate Houses such as TATA Group, Mahindra & Mahindra, etc. from February 2017 onwards to improve and enhance voter participation. Corporate Houses engaged their employees, through innovative programmes, associates, families etc. awards, certification, etc.

Banks:

Several banks appealed to their employees & customers to take part in the voter awareness drive and register themselves as voters. Banks also published posters, banners, etc. to encourage voter registration and participation in the elections.

Use of Modern Technology

SECM started using modern technology since 2011 by creating dedicated online website and uploading of affidavits of candidates in pdf format.

Major strides however were made from 2014 e.g.:

- (i) Filing of nomination papers and affidavits by 100% candidates.
- (ii) Delimitation of Constituency & formation of wards.
- (iii) Bifurcation of Assembly Voter List (prepared by ECI) into wards and polling stations.

Mobile Application:



- True Voter: an application for voters to identify their ward, polling station etc., candidates to submit their election expenditure details etc.



- Citizens on Patrol, an application for facilitating citizens to complain on a real-time basis about violation of MCC to concerned officer(s). The identity of the complainant remains undisclosed.



Updated website of State Election Commission, Maharashtra.



- FAQ is a dedicated application consisting of 2,200 Frequently Asked Questions about Local Body Elections. The application provides a detailed account of all questions and answers one may have in mind about the election process of LBs

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <https://localbodyvoterlist.maharashtra.gov.in/ObjectionOnClick/ApplyObjection>. The page header includes the State Election Commission of Maharashtra logo and the text 'LOCAL SELF GOVERNMENT VOTERLIST STATE ELECTION COMMISSION OF MAHARASHTRA'. The main content area is titled 'APPLY FOR OBJECTION' and features a search form. The form has two radio buttons for 'Name Wise' (selected) and 'ID Card Wise'. Below these are three dropdown menus for 'Select District', 'Select Assembly', and 'Select Local Body', each with a '-Please Select-' option. There are also text input fields for 'Select Local Body Name', 'First Name', 'Middle Name', and 'Last Name'. At the bottom of the form are 'Search' and 'Go To Back' buttons. The footer contains the copyright notice 'Copyright © 2014 Voterlist Bifurcation Department. All Rights Reserved' and the 'Mahaonline' logo.

December 2014: Filing of Nomination Papers & Affidavits by candidates through computer software began for Local Body election in Maharashtra.

Institute of Democracy & Elections for Good Governance

In order to address the following concerns regarding LSGs & their election State Election Commission, Maharashtra, established the 'Institute of Democracy & Elections for Good Governance (IDEGG)' in 2016:

- (i) Insensitiveness of various stakeholders towards the role of LSGs & SECs,
- (ii) Less than optimal devolution of functions, finances & functionaries
- (iii) Existence of very little knowledge relating to these elections
- (iv) Serious implementational issues i.e. (a) training of large number of Returning Officers (approx. 20,000 for LSGs as against 48 in Parliament and 288 Assembly in Maharashtra), (b) Implementation of Model Code of Conduct in dispersed Gram Panchayats etc.



1. National Conference on “25 years of 73rd & 74th Constitutional Amendments : Progress so far & Future Directions” on 2nd & 3rd November 2017

2. International Conference on “Better Elections for Healthier Democracy” on 25th & 26th October 2018 (attended by nearly 300 practitioners, academicians, researchers, NGOs etc. from 10 countries)

The above Workshops / Conferences were conducted with the active support of Hon'ble Governor, Chief Minister and other Government officers, besides the Knowledge Partners of SECM i.e. Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR), Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF), Resource & Support Centre for Development (RSCD), Gokhale Institute of Politics & Economics, Pune (GIPE) and University of Mumbai.

The Institute has undertaken the following major activities since 2016

- Signed MoU with Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF) in 2018
- Conducted Workshops / Conferences – 10 including :
 - Profile of all SECs in India
 - Important Judgements of Supreme Court and High Court

- Compilation of election watch Reports 2015-17 (by ADR)
 - Major Initiatives undertaken
4. Research on 20 different topics including –
- Electoral And Functional Dynamics of Zilla Parishads And Panchayat Samitis in Maharashtra (Gokhale Institute of Politics & Economics, Pune)
 - What kind of a candidate does the Urban Voter Want? A pre-Nomination Study in 16 Municipal Councils of Maharashtra (GIPE)
 - How Model is the Model Code of Conduct? A Pre-Poll Voter Survey in Municipal Councils in Maharashtra (GIPE)
- “Institute of Democracy & Elections for Good Governance” (IDEGG) has been registered as a society under Society Registration Act 1816 wide registration No.1373/2019, JBBSD Maharashtra State, Mumbai dated 23rd July, 2019 with Universities of Mumbai, Pune, Nagpur, Gokhale Institute of Politics & Economics (GIPE), Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR), Resource and Support Centre for Development (RSCD) as its founding members

Registration / Deregistration of Political Parties

Election Commission of India on fulfilment of certain conditions, registers various political parties and gives them recognition.

Total number of parties registered and recognized by ECI are as follows:

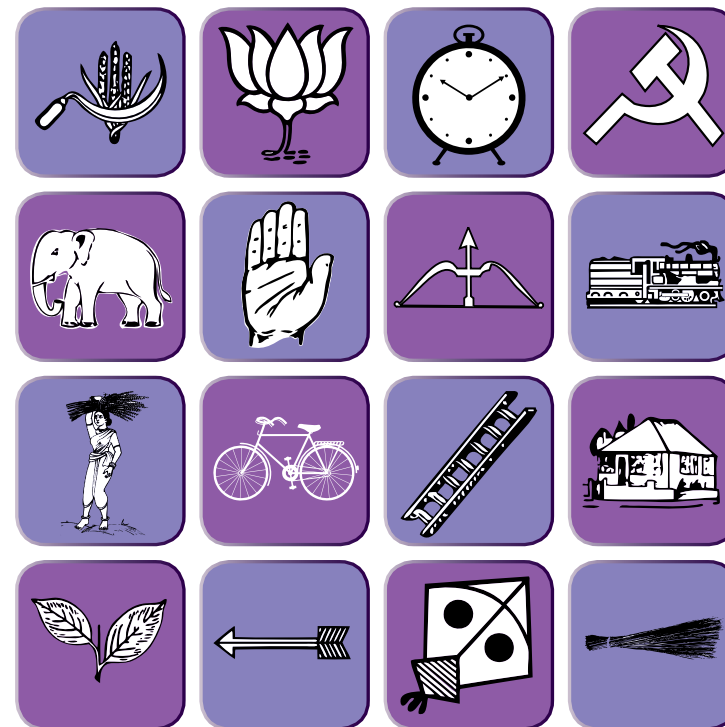
a) National Parties.....	7
b) State Parties.....	64
c) Registered Unrecognized Parties.....	2354

Realizing the importance of political parties in the elections to LSGs, SECM started the process of their registration since 2004

All elections to Municipal Corporations, Municipal Councils, Nagar Panchayats, Zilla Parishads and Panchayat Samitis in Maharashtra are conducted on political lines. (excluding Gram Panchayats)

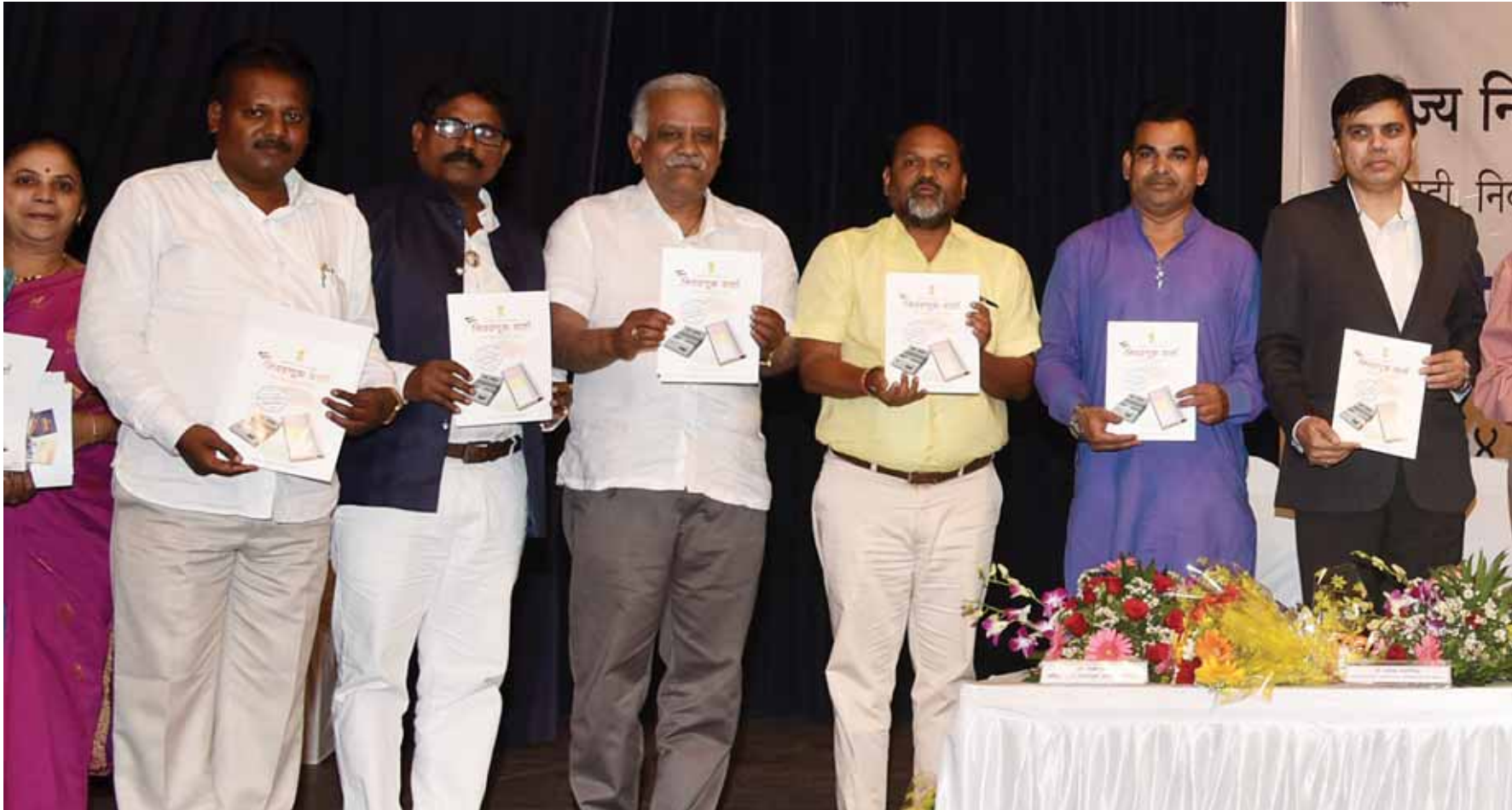
In order to encourage formation of political parties and their participation in the election to LSGs, SECM started the system of registration and preference in allotment of symbols by the following orders:

i) Registration of Political Parties & Allotment of Symbol



Symbols of recognised political parties registered with State Election Commission, Maharashtra.

- Order, 2004, (amended in 2009 & 2016)
- ii) Maharashtra Election Symbol (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 2009 amended in 2017



7th May 2018: SECM organised a workshop for political parties on the theme of "Better Elections for Healthier Democracy".



A special edition of SECM's biannual newsletter was also launched on the occasion.

Registration with SECM is required if a political party is desirous to have preference in the allotment of symbols etc. SECM does not give recognition to the political parties.

A political party recognized by ECI has to also register with SECM if they want the allotment of their reserved symbol for the LSG elections. A party recognized by ECI having a reserved symbol but not registered with SECM, may not get the reserved symbol for LSG elections.

Deregistration of Political Parties:

A political party can be deregistered when it fails to adhere to the discipline prescribed by SECM, e.g.:

- i) Failure to submit annual audit report and income tax return
- ii) Violation of Model Code of Conduct
- iii) Non-submission of LSG wise total expenditure details within 6 months (Order of October 2016)
- iv) When no contesting candidate is fielded in the LSGs for 5

continuous years (Order of July 2018)

- v) Nondisclosure to the public of the progress made in the implementation of the manifesto (Order of July 2018)

SECM deregistered 220 political parties (out of 357) in 2015/16 for non-submission of annual audit report and income tax return in spite of repeated reminders and notices.

Political parties registered with SECM (as on 1st August 2019)

i) Parties recognized by ECI-	
a) National	006
b) State Parties of Maharashtra	002
c) State Parties other than Maharashtra	008
ii) Other Parties registered with SEC	239
Total	258



SECM engages with Political Parties on a continuing basis to discuss various issues from time to time.

Research & Analysis

In its attempt to encourage research on local body elections SECM started to collaborate with various academic institutes, non-government organisations, election experts, etc. since 2016. As a result, SECM was able to get quantitative and qualitative reports with analysis of primary data on various issues and challenges across different elections since then.

Analysis of Affidavits of Contesting Candidates

- By Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR)
 - Analysis of affidavits filed across 23 Municipal Corporations, 210 Municipal Councils, 25 Zilla Parishads, 118 Panchayat Samitis and several Gram Panchayats
 - Analysis of 40,000 Contesting Candidates based on their criminal background (ordinary and serious cases), financial background (movable assets, immovable assets and liabilities) and other details (education, age and gender)
 - This analysis was published one-week prior to the Polling Day of respective LBs Elections

Research, Survey and Analysis of Electoral Process

- By Gokhale Institute of Politics & Economics (GIPE), Pune
 - GIPE conducted research on various topics: e.g. What type of candidate does the urban voter want? How

Model is the MCC? Assessment of Expenses in the Municipal Corporation Elections, Why people do not vote in Municipal Corporation Elections? etc.

- By University of Mumbai
 - Research was conducted to understand the motivation and strategies for contesting Municipal Elections (Corporation and Council), by studying motivational factors of candidates, difficulties candidates face while completing formalities of nomination form, strategies used for election campaigning and how candidates arrange for election funds

19th January 2017: Launch of report prepared by Gokhale Institute of Politics & Economics at the hands of Hon'ble Governor of Maharashtra. In picture L-R: Shri. Venugopal Reddy (Secretary to Hon'ble Governor of Maharashtra), Shri. Rajas Parchure (Director, GIPE), Shri. CH. Vidyasagar Rao, (Hon'ble Governor of Maharashtra), Smt. Manasi Phadke (Project Coordinator, GIPE) & Shri. J.S. Saharia (State Election Commissioner, Maharashtra)





Celebration of 25 Years of 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments

73rd and 74th Amendments to the Constitution (made in 1992), provided constitutional status to the LSGs, besides an independent State Election Commission for each state. Globally, this was acclaimed and considered a great transformational step in the direction of inclusive development.

In order to commemorate the silver jubilee of these historic amendment in 2017-19, various programmes and activities were conducted in the form of National / Regional Conference, Expert Workshops, Regional Workshops, Political Parties' Workshop, Open Essay Competition, etc.

State Election Commission, Maharashtra, organized an International Conference on 25 & 26 October 2018 in Mumbai on the theme of 'Better Elections for Healthier Democracy'.

There were 17 foreign delegates from various countries including, United States of America, United Kingdom, Sweden, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Indonesia, Maldives, Sri Lanka, etc. 32 delegates from across India, including various State Election Commissioners and ex-members of Election Commission of India.

The first of its kind Conference was inaugurated by Hon'ble Governor, Shri. CH. Vidyasagar Rao on 25th October. in the presence of Smt. Pankaja Munde, Rural Development, Women





& Child Development Minister, Government of Maharashtra and Shri. Radhakrishna Vikhe-Patil, Leader of Opposition, Maharashtra Legislative Assembly.

The Shri. Devendra Fadnavis, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Maharashtra, was present to close this historic Conference on 26th October. along with Shri. Sudhir Mungantiwar, Finance & Planning and Forests departments Minister, Government of Maharashtra and Shri. Dhananjay Munde, Leader of Opposition, Maharashtra Legislative Council for the Valedictory Session.

State Election Commission, Maharashtra, organized an International Conference on 25th & 26th October 2018 in Mumbai on the theme of 'Better Elections for Healthier Democracy'.



Standees were displayed, as part of SECM's continuous efforts towards dissemination of knowledge to create awareness during International Conference on 25th & 26th October 2018 in Mumbai on the theme of 'Better Elections for Healthier Democracy'.

Media, Communications and Publications

Media, being the 4th pillar of democracy, has a very important role in ensuring purity of elections. SECM accordingly interacts with the media regularly for making elections better.

Committee for scrutiny & Advertisement on Electronic Media

In pursuance to the “Code for political advertisements on electronic media in elections to Parliament and State Assemblies”, announced by Government of India and ECI as per the directions of the Hon’ble Supreme Court, SECM issued similar code for elections to LSGs in 2009.

Following committees become active during elections to LSGs in the State;

- (i) Under the Chairmanship of District Collectors for elections to Zilla Parishads, Panchayat Samities, Municipal Councils & Nagar Panchayats.
- (ii) Under the Chairmanship of Municipal Commissioners for elections to Municipal Corporations, and
- (iii) Under the Chairmanship of Secretary, SECM

These committees scrutinize and approve campaign material for electronic media at local and state level respectively.



For Paid News

As per the definition of Press Council of India, paid news is “any news or analysis appearing in any media (Print and Electronic) for a price in cash or kind as consideration”.

Publications

The SECM has been regularly publishing literature on various aspects of elections like process, new initiatives, etc., in order to reach out, interact and engage with different stakeholders;

- 1998 – Compendium of orders issued by it for conduct of elections
- Statistical Reports for the elections during 1994-2004, 2004-2009 and 2009-13, containing information like



Since January 2016, SECM started publishing biannual newsletter titled 'Niwadnukwarta'.



20th Feb 2017: Press Briefing one day prior to voting during General Elections to BMC, other Corporations & Z.P. at SECM office.

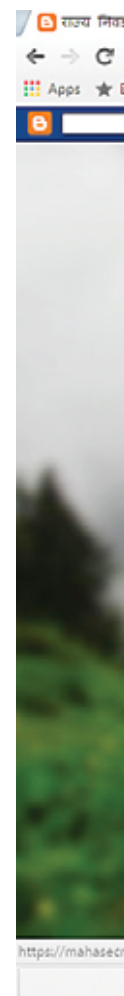
names of winning & 1st runner up candidate, political party wise position, votes shared, expiry date of LBs, voting percentage, date of last election etc.

- Election Newsletter semi-annually published - Jan-2016, Jul-2016, Jan-2017, Jul-2017, Jan-2018, Jul-2018 and Jan-2019
- Model Code of Conduct – A booklet for Government Officials and people representative.
- 'Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)' during elections of -
 - (i) Municipal Corporations
 - (ii) Municipal Council/ Nagar Panchayats
 - (iii) Zilha Parishad/ Panchayat Samiti

(iv) Gram Panchayat

- Major Initiatives October-2016 to February-2017
- Analysis - Municipal Corporations & Municipal Council General
- An informative booklet for Political parties and people's representatives (workshop of political parties)
- Profile of all SECs in India
- Profile of all Municipal Corporations in Maharashtra
- Profile of all Zilha Parishad in Maharashtra
- Indepeence of State Election Commissions in India
- Compilation of Proceedings: Conferences & Workshops 2017-2019

State Election Commission, Maharashtra, has a dedicated blog wherein information w.r.t. all major announcements and developments are updated in a timely manner.



https://mahasecnews.blogspot.in/2016/07/191.html

State Election Commission Election Commission M Inbox (18) - stateelec Create User Entry For How to Create Fillable महाराष्ट्र भारत Chief Electoral Office mahasecpro@gmail.com New Post Design Sign Out

राज्य निवडणूक आयोग, महाराष्ट्र, वृत्तसेवा

राज्य निवडणूक आयोगाच्या वृत्तसेवेच्या (प्रसिद्धिपत्रके) प्रयोजनासाठी हा ब्लॉग आहे

राज्य निवडणूक आयोग महाराष्ट्र

दृश्य संख्या 324

राज्य निवडणूक आयोग

mahasecnews

भारतीय राज्य पत्रके अनुच्छेद 243 के आणि 243 डीअप अन्वये राज्य निवडणूक आयोगची 26 एप्रिल 1994 रोजी स्थापना करण्यात आली आहे. राज्य निवडणूक आयोगावर महानगरपालिका, नगरपरिषदा, नगरपंचायती, जिल्हा परिषदा, पंचायत समित्या आणि ग्रामपंचायती या स्थानिक स्वराज्य संस्थांच्या निवडणुकांची जबाबदारी

WEDNESDAY, JULY 13, 2016

191 राजकीय पक्षांची नोंदणी रद्द

राज्य निवडणूक आयोगाकडून १९१ राजकीय पक्षांची नोंदणी रद्द -राज्य निवडणूक आयुक्त

मुंबई, दि. १३: नोंदीस वजावूनही आयकर विवरणपत्राची व लेखा परीक्षण लेखाची प्रत सादर न करणाऱ्या १९१ अमान्यताप्राप्त राजकीय पक्षांची नोंदणी राज्य निवडणूक आयोगाने रद्द केली आहे, अशी माहिती राज्य निवडणूक आयुक्त ज. स. सहारिया यांनी आज येथे दिली.

श्री. सहारिया यांनी सांगितले की, स्थानिक स्वराज्य संस्थांच्या निवडणुका निभंय, मुक्त व पारदर्शक वातावरणात पार पाडण्याला आयोगाचे सर्वोच्च प्राधान्य असते, त्याचबरोबर सर्व उमेदवारांना आणि राजकीय पक्षांना समान संधी उपलब्ध व्हावी; तसेच वादग्रस्तांचा वापर व आर्थिक बळाचा दुरुपयोग होऊ नये, या उद्देशाने 'राजकीय पक्ष नोंदणी आदेश, २००४ व २००९' आणि 'महाराष्ट्र निवडणूक चिन्ह (आरक्षण व वाटप) आदेश, २००९' नुसार राज्य निवडणूक आयोगाकडे राजकीय पक्षांची नोंदणी करण्यात येते. नोंदणी केलेल्या राजकीय पक्षास स्थानिक स्वराज्य संस्थांच्या निवडणुकांच्या बॅन्डी चिन्ह वाटपात प्राधान्य दिले जाते.

राज्य निवडणूक आयोगाकडे एकूण ३५९ राजकीय पक्षांची नोंदणी झाली आहे, त्यात १७ मान्यताप्राप्त राजकीय पक्षांचा समावेश असून उर्वरित सर्व ३४२ अमान्यताप्राप्त राजकीय पक्ष आहेत. या पक्षांना नोंदणी आदेशानुसार आयकर विवरणपत्र भरल्याची व लेखा परीक्षण लेखाची प्रत दरवर्षी आयोगाकडे सादर करणे बंधनकारक आहे; परंतु ही कागदपत्रे सादर न केल्यामुळे एकूण ३२६ राजकीय पक्षांना नोंदणी रद्द करण्यात आली आहे. यात १९१ राजकीय पक्षांची नोंदणी रद्द करण्यात आली आहे.

श्री. सहारिया यांनी म्हणले की, राज्य निवडणूक आयोगाच्या वृत्तसेवेच्या (प्रसिद्धिपत्रके) प्रयोजनासाठी हा ब्लॉग आहे.

श्री. ज. स. सहारिया, राज्य निवडणूक आयुक्त, महाराष्ट्र

राज्य निवडणूक आयोग, महाराष्ट्र
भारत निवडणूक आयोग
मुख्य निवडणूक अधिकारी महाराष्ट्र

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Democracy Awards

State Election Commissions established in various States following the historic 73rd and 74th Amendments to the Constitution have succeeded to a great extent in conducting regular elections to the LSGs in a free, fair and transparent manner. This is not a small achievement looking at the fragmented social structure, high level of illiteracy and poverty in the country.

It is however, ironic that various stakeholders still give secondary treatment to the LSGs and do not recognise the role played by various organisations & persons in these

elections, which are not only voluminous & complex but are also fiercely contested.

State Election Commission, Maharashtra, accordingly decided to recognise the efforts of various players periodically through “Democracy Awards”.

The first “Democracy Awards” were conferred upon 9 organisations and 5 individuals for their exemplary and inspiring contribution in the major elections of LSG`s held in 2016 & 2017, on 27th July 2019 in Mumbai, the details of which are as given below:

Democracy Award Winners

Category	Winner`s Name	Work Done
Increasing Citizens' Participation in Electoral Process (7)	a) Matheran Hotel Association	Tackling urban apathy
	b) Mumbai District Co-operative Housing Federation	
	Mahindra and Mahindra Group	Encouraging employees, associates & their families etc.
	Association for Democratic Reforms	Dissemination of Information about contesting candidates to make informed`
	University of Mumbai	Creating awareness amongst young entrants to universities and increasing

		their participation
	Resource and Support Centre for Development	Empowerment of Elected Women Representatives
	Sandeep Bhaskar Jadhav (Solapur)	Advertising with impact
Ensuring Elections Without Fear and Favour (3)	Dr. Abhinav Deshmukh –IPS (The then Superintendent of Police, District Gadchiroli)	Naxalite threat.
	Smt. Daya A. Doifode (Police Head Constable, Karad, District Satara)	Show of courage; not yielding to influence, pressure and threat
	Shri. Keshav Venkatrao Netke –SDO (As Returning Officer, Paithan Municipal Council, Aurangabad)	
Use Of Computers And Modern Technology (1)	Department of Information and Technology, Govt. of Maharashtra	Proactive initiatives for computerizing the election process.
Generation Of Knowledge Through Study And Live Research (1)	Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics	Proactive initiatives for Generation of Knowledge through Study And Live Research
Highest Voter Turnout (1)	Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai	Urban Local Bodies
Overall Performance In Conduct Of Elections (1)	Shri. Amgothu Sri Ranga Naik, IAS (Then Collector, District Gadchiroli)	Computerization, Smooth Conduct Of Elections & Highest Voter Turnout in the background of Naxalite threat



27th July 2019, First 'Democracy Awards': Shri. M. Venkaiah Naidu, Hon'ble Vice President of India, Shri. Devendra Fadnavis, Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Shri. J.S. Saharia, State Election Commissioner, Maharashtra, Shri. K. Kurundkar, Secretary,



SECM, with winners of the 1st Democracy Awards in Mumbai.

27th July 2019, First
'Democracy Awards's: Five
different Books released at
the hands of Shri. M. Venkaiah
Naidu, Hon'ble Vice President
of India in the presence of
Shri. Devendra Fadnavis,
Chief Minister of Maharashtra,
Shri. J.S. Saharia, State
Election Commissioner,
Maharashtra
Books Name: 'Independence
of State Election
Commissions in India',
'Compilation of Proceedings:
Conferences and Workshops
2017-2019', 'Re-Engineering
Grassroots Governance:
General Interventions',
'Analysis of Expenditure in
Municipal Corporations in
Maharashtra' and 'Analysis of
Expenditure in Zilla Parishads
in Maharashtra'





27th July 2019, First 'Democracy Awards': Shri. M. Venkaiah Naidu, Hon'ble Vice President of India, Shri. Devendra Fadnavis, Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Shri. J.S. Saharia, State Election Commissioner, Maharashtra (SECM), Shri. K. Kurundkar, Secretary, SECM, Shri. Avinash Sanas, Dy. Commissioner, SECM, with the Founding Members of Institute of Democracy & Elections for Good Governance (IDEGG) (L-R), Shri. Trilochan Shastri, Founder Trustee, ADR, Dr. Siddharthavinayaka P. Kane, Vice Chancellor, Rashtrasant Tukdoji Maharaj Nagpur University, Dr. Suhas Pednekar, Vice Chancellor, University of Mumbai, Dr. Devanand Shinde, Vice Chancellor, Shivaji University, Kolhapur, Dr. Ajit Ranade, Founder Trustee, ADR, Dr. Mrudul Nile, O.S.D., IDEGG, Dr. Rajas Parchure, Officiating Director, Gokhale Institute of Politics & Economics, in Mumbai.



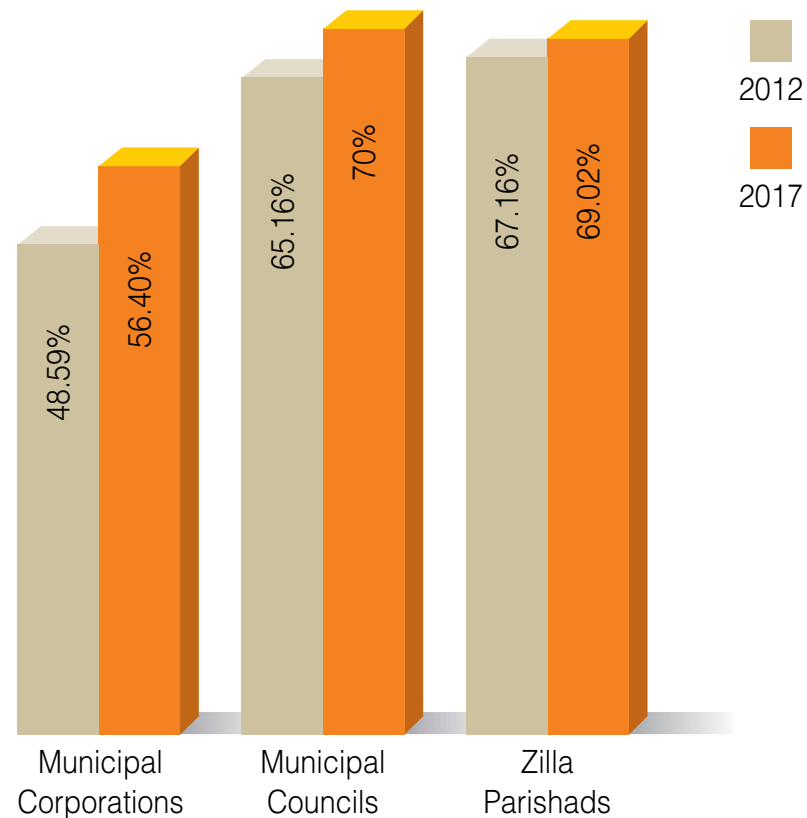
27th July 2019, First 'Democracy Awards': Shri. J.S. Saharia, State Election Commissioner, Maharashtra (SECM), Shri. K. Kurundkar, Seceretary, SECM, Shri. S. Channe, Transport Commissioner, with the staff of SECM in Mumbai.



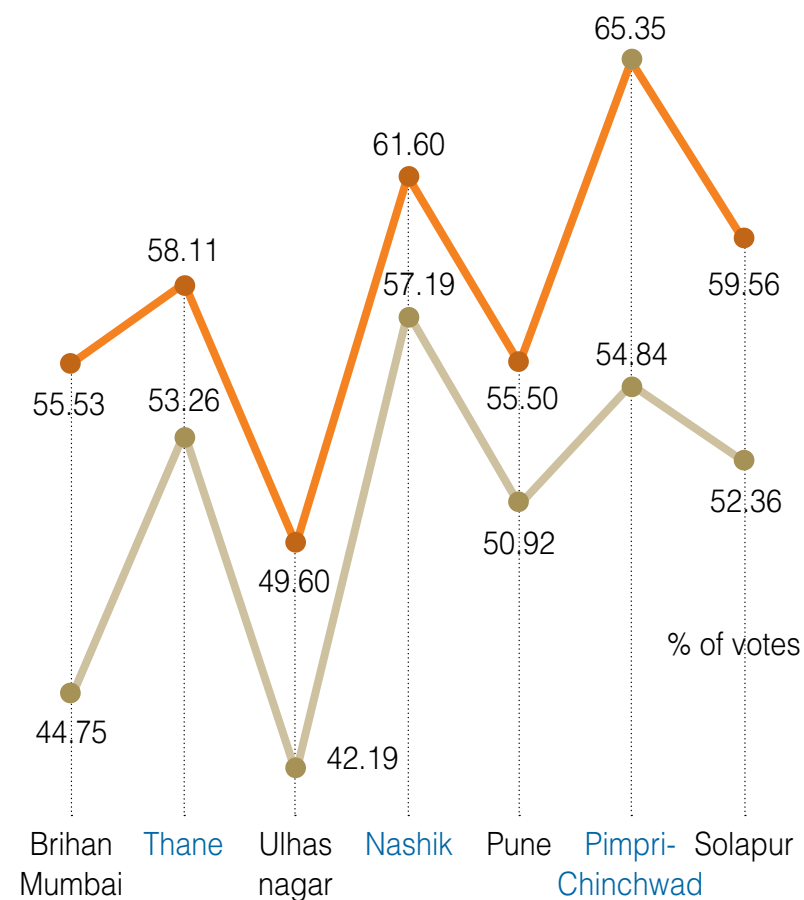
27th July 2019, First 'Democracy Awards': Hon'ble Vice President of India, Shri. M. Venkaiah Naidu, Shri. Devendra Fadnavis, Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Shri. J.S. Saharia, State Election Commissioner, Maharashtra, and Shri. K. Kurundkar, Secretary, SECM, with Elected Women Representatives from various Gram Panchayats across Maharashtra.

Achievement

Rise in Voting Percentage in Local Bodies



Rise in Voting Percentage in Municipal Corporation



Awards & Recognition

Exemplary work done by SECM since its inception in has been praised & recognised through Awards by various stakeholders from time to time.

Awards –

- **10 October 2012:** Honored with the award EDGE 2012 for Electoral Ward Mapping by Enterprises Driving Growth and Excellence through I.T.
- **27 February 2013:** Honored for Excellent Website by Marathi Vikas Sanstha and C-DAC
- **09 May 2013:** Honored for Electoral Ward Mapping with Legends by eMaharashtra
- **26 January 2017:** Honored for Excellent Float on Republic Day by Government of Maharashtra





26th September 2018: SECM signs MoU with Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF) for creation and sharing of knowledge and best practices in the domain of LSGs. In picture L-R: Smt. Anuya Kuwar (Regional Programme Officer, Asia, CLGF), Shri. Greg Munro (Secretary-General, CLGF), Shri. J.S. Saharia (State Election Commissioner, Maharashtra) and Shri. Aseem Gupta (Secretary, Rural Development Dept., Govt. of Maharashtra).



25th April 2016: SECM launched its first biannual newsletter at the hands of Shri. CH. Vidyasagar Rao, Hon'ble Governor of Maharashtra. Till date SECM has published seven editions of the newsletter. (L-R): Shri. Shirish Mohad, Asst. Chief Electoral Officer, Maharashtra, Shri. D.M. Kaned, Under Secretary, SECM, Dr. Pradip Vyas, Secretary, SECM, Shri. J.S. Saharia, Hon'ble State Election Commissioner, Maharashtra, Shri. B. Venugopal Reddy, Secretary, Hon'ble Governor of Maharashtra, Shri. Parimal Singh, Deputy Secretary, Hon'ble Governor of Maharashtra.



26th October 2016: Workshop organised by SECM for senior IAS, IPS, etc. officers to sensitise them about elections and its dynamics.



Hoardings at prominent locations on National Highways during Local Body Elections in the year 2017



An attempt was made through hotels & restaurants for citizens to realise about their responsibility to vote.



Red Carpet to Welcome Voters at various Polling Booths with wheelchair facilities for Differently-abled in General Elections in 2017.



Creation of 'Selfie Points' at Polling Booths for voters during Thane Municipal Corporation Elections 2017.



Kathewadi in Baramati Tahsil: A Polling Booth decorated in pink colour theme where every voter was welcomed with a rose.



A Polling with all female staff during the Aurangabad Z.P. elections in 2017



25th January 2017: Confederation of Indian Industry in association with Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai and University of Mumbai organised 'Mumbai Rise, Mumbai Vote' as part of voter participation and citizen responsibility during BMC Elections of 2017.



Creating awareness amongst voters through folk dance and performances by Vasudeva.



Stickers on Clean Up vehicles to appeal Voters to cast their vote.



Stickers on Gas Cylinders to appeal Voters to cast their vote.



2nd November 2017: Celebrating 25 Years of 73rd & 74th Amendments to the Constitution of India. SECM organised a two-day National Conference with University of Mumbai and Gokhale Institute of Politics & Economics; inauguration was done at the hands of Shri. CH. Vidyasagar Rao, Hon'ble Governor of Maharashtra in the presence of Smt. Pankaja Munde, Minister of Rural



Development Department, Government of Maharashtra. On the occasion, various publications regarding local bodies and its elections launched.





3rd November 2017: Shri. Devendra Fadnavis, Chief Minister of Maharashtra, at the valedictory session of the first National Conference organised by SECM University of Mumbai and Gokhale Institute of Politics & Economics, to celebrate 25 Years of 73rd & 74th Amendments to the Constitution of India. On the occasion, various publications regarding local bodies and its elections were launched.

9th February 2018: Governor's Conclave was held to mark the completion of first Democracy Fortnight. In picture L-R: Shri. Sumit Malik (Chief Secretary, Govt. of Maharashtra), Shri. Devendra Fadnavis (Chief Minister of Maharashtra), Shri. CH. Vidyasagar Rao, (Hon'ble Governor of Maharashtra), Shri. J.S. Saharia (State Election Commissioner, Maharashtra), Shri. Satish Mathur (DGP, Maharashtra)









6th July 2018: SECM along with University of Mumbai organised a one-day Expert Workshop on the theme of "Better Elections for Healthier Democracy". The workshop discussed issues regarding local body elections and saw participation of IAS, IPS, officers as well as personnel from academia and civil society.



25th October 2018: On the occasion of International Conference 2018, at the hands of Hon'ble Governor, two books were released: Profile Book of State Election Commissions in India (by SECM) and Comparative Analysis of Local Body Elections in Maharashtra (by ADR). Also present for the releasing of these books: Smt. Pankaja Munde, Minister of Rural Development, Women and Child Welfare, Shri. Radhakrishna Vikhe-Patil, Leader of the Opposition, Maharashtra Legislative Assembly, Shri. J.S. Saharia, State Election Commissioner, Maharashtra, Shri. Shekhar Channe, Secretary, State Election Commission, Maharashtra, Shri. Ajit Ranade, Founder Trustee, Association for Democratic Reforms



25th and 26th October 2018: At The Leela, Mumbai, Decorated Hall for International Conference 2018 on 'Better Elections for Healthier Democracy' organised by SECM.



26th October 2018, Mumbai: Shri. Devendra Fadnavis, Chief Minister of Maharashtra and Shri. Sudhir Mungantiwar, Minister of Finance & Planning and Forests, Government of Maharashtra, with the speakers at International Conference 2018 organised by SEC, Maharashtra.





26th October 2018: In Mumbai, on Friday, at the International Conference 2018 on 'Better Election for Healthier Democracy', Hon'ble Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Shri Devendra Fadnavis, Hon'ble Minister of Finance & Planning, Forests, Government of Maharashtra, Shri. Sudhir Mungantiwar, Hon'ble Leader of Opposition, Maharashtra Legislative Council, Shri. Dhananjay Munde, Hon'ble State Election Commissioner, Shri. J.S. Saharia and Hon'ble Secretary, State Election Commission, Shri. Shekhar Channe, released two books on 'Profiles of Z.P. in Maharashtra' and 'Profiles of Municipal Corporations' in Maharashtra.

26th October 2018, Mumbai (L-R): Shri. J.S. Saharia, State Election Commissioner Maharashtra, Shri. Sudhir Mungantiwar, Minister of Finance & Planning and Forests, Government of Maharashtra, Shri. Devendra Fadnavis, Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Shri. Dhananjay Munde, Leader of Opposition, Maharashtra Legislative Council, Shri. Shujau Hussain, President, Local Community Initiative, Maldives, Shri. Wawan Wiraatmaja, Commissioner of GEC Province, Indonesia, Shri. Pramono Ubaid Tanthowi, Commissioner of GEC RI, Indonesia, Wahyu Setiawan, Commissioner of GEC RI, Indonesia, Gareth Wall, Research Officer, Commonwealth Local Government Forum, U.K., Shri. K.J. Sampath Madhawa, Deputy Commissioner of Elections, Election Commission, Sri Lanka, Shri. Ugyen Chewang, Election Commissioner, Department of Elections, Bhutan, Shri. Thinley Gyamtsho, Chief Election Officer, Department of Elections, Bhutan, Shri. Mosharrof Hossain, Deputy Director, Election Commission Secretariat, Bangladesh and Shri. Md. Shahidur Rahman, Assistant Secretary, Election Commission Secretariat, Bangladesh, at the International Conference 2018 on "Better Elections for Healthier Democracy" organised by State Election Commission, Maharashtra, on October 25 & 26.







26th October 2018, Mumbai: Hon'ble Commissioners from different State Election Commissions in India at the International Conference 2018.



26th October 2018: Shri. Dhananjay Munde, Leader of Opposition, Maharashtra Legislative Council, Shri. Sudhir Mungantiwar, Minister of Finance & Planning and Forests, Government of Maharashtra, Shri. Devendra Fadnavis, Chief Minister of Maharashtra, curiously observing a unique Snakes & Ladders game themed on village panchayats prepared by RSCD, at the International Conference 2018 organised by SECM.



26th October 2018, Mumbai: Shri. Devendra Fadnavis felicitates Knowledge Partners of International Conference 2018. In picture (L-R): Shri. Gareth Wall, Research Officer, Commonwealth Local Government Forum, Smt. Anuya Kuwar, Regional Programme Officer, Asia, Commonwealth Local Government Forum, Shri. Ajit Ranade, Founder and Trustee, Association for Democratic Reforms, Shri. Erik Asplund, Programme Officer, Electoral Processes Programme, International IDEA. Shri. Mrudul Nile, Associate Professor, University of Mumbai, Shri. Bhim Raskar, Director, Resource and Support Centre for Development and Shri. Vishal Gaikwad, Gokhale Institute of Politics & Economics.



*26th October 2018:
Shri. Devendra Fadnavis, Chief
Minister of Maharashtra, Shri.
Sudhir Mungantiwar, Minister of
Finance & Planning and Forests,
Government of Maharashtra,
Shri. Dhananjay Munde, Leader
of Opposition, Maharashtra
Legislative Council, Shri.
J.S. Saharia, State Election
Commissioner, Maharashtra
and Shri. Shekhar Channe,
Secretary, State Election
Commission, Maharashtra, with
participants from the two-day
International Conference 2018
organised by State Election
Commission, Maharashtra.*









25th October 2018: On Day One of the International Conference 2018, students from the University of Mumbai and SNDT Women's University, Mumbai set the stage to provide for a captivating overview of the vast cultural diversity that exists across India, through dance and musical acts.



Cultural Performances at the International Conference 2018 organised by SECM on 25th & 26th October.





1st July 2015: Frequently Asked Questions books on Urban and Rural Local Body Elections launched in Marathi at the hands of Shri. Ch. Vidyasagar Rao, Governor of Maharashtra, in the presence of Shri. J.S. Saharia, State Election Commissioner, Maharashtra.

1st July 2015: Frequently Asked Questions books on Urban and Rural Local Body Elections launched in Marathi at the hands of Shri. Ch. Vidyasagar Rao, Governor of Maharashtra, in the presence of Shri. J.S. Saharia, State Election Commissioner, Maharashtra, along with members of the FAQ Committee under the chairmanship of Shri. Shrikar Pardeshi, Dy. Secretary, Prime Minister Secretariat (I.G.R. & Controller of Stamps). Also present were Principal Secretary, Rural Development Department, Shri. V Giriraj, Secretary, State Election Commission, Maharashtra, Dr Pradip Vyas, officials of the State Election Commission, Maharashtra, etc.







3rd November 2016: A special issue of Lokarajya on local body elections was released at the hands of Shri. J.S. Saharia, State Election Commissioner, Maharashtra, in the presence of Shri. Shekhar Channe, Secretary, State Election Commission, Maharashtra, Shri. Brijesh Singh, Secretary & Director General, Information & Public Relations, Government of Maharashtra, Shri. Devandra Bhujbal, Director, DGIPR, Shri. Ajay Ambekar, Director, DGIPR, Shri. Jagdish More, PRO, State Election Commission, Maharashtra, etc.



5th February, 2019: Shri Kiran Kurundkar, secretary, SECM addressing to teachers and students in the presence of Dr. Mrunalini Phadnavis, Vice Chancellor, Punyashlok Ahilyabai Holkar Solapur University, Shri Avinash Dhakne, Municipal Commissioner, Solapur, Dr. Ravindra Chincholkar, HoD, Department of Communication & Journalism, Punyashlok Ahilyabai Holkar Solapur University, in a workshop organized by Punyashlok Ahilyabai Holkar Solapur University on the occasion of Democracy Fortnight.



1st February 2018: Consulate General meeting in Mumbai for creating National and International linkages for Local Body



Elections.



7th March 2018: Meeting of various State Election Commissioners at Sahyadri State Guest House, Mumbai, on the theme of issues and challenges related to local body elections.



Lighting of Lamp: (L-R) Shri. Varesh Sinha, State Election Commissioner, Gujarat, Shri. J.S. Saharia, State Election Commissioner, Maharashtra and Shri. S.K. Shrivastava, State Election Commissioner, NCT of Delhi & UT Chandigarh, inaugurates the National Workshop of Senior Officers of SECs on "Expectations of Constitution & Role of SEC" on 26th, 27th & 28th March 2019 at Lonavala, Pune, Maharashtra.



(L-R) Shri. Bhim Raskar, Director, Resource and Support Centre for Development, Shri. Rajaram Zende, Joint-Secretary, State Election Commission, Maharashtra, Shri. N. Jayasimha Reddy, Jt. Secretary, State Election Commission, Telangana, Shri. M. Ashok Kumar, Secretary, State Election Commission, Telangana, Shri Girish Pandey, Dy. Secretary, NCT of Delhi & UT Chandigarh, Shri. S.P. Meena, Secretary, Election Commission for UTs, Shri. Sunil Prasad, Secretary, State Election Commission, Uttar Pradesh, Shri. Rajesh Kumar Yadav, Under-Secretary, State Election Commission, Madhya Pradesh, Shri. Azad Hind Panigrahi, Dy. Secretary, State Election Commission, Odisha, Shri. Surjeet Singh Rathore, Secretary, State Election Commission, Himachal Pradesh, Shri. Pranay Verma, Section Officer, State Election Commission, Chattisgarh, Shri. Alok Kumar Shrivastava, Under-Secretary, State Election Commission, Chattisgarh, Smt. Bharti. D., Secretary, State Election Commission, Karnataka, Smt. Ranjitha M. P., Under-Secretary, State Election Commission, Karnataka, Dr. Mrudul Nile, Professor, Dept. of Civics & Politics, University of Mumbai, Smt. Sunita Tripathi, Secretary, State Election Commission, Madhya Pradesh, Shri. Kiran V. Kurundkar, Secretary, State Election Commission, Maharashtra, Shri. S.K. Shrivastava, State Election Commissioner, NCT of Delhi & UT Chandigarh, Shri. J.S. Saharia, State Election Commissioner, Maharashtra, Dr. Dalip Singh, Commissioner, State Election Commission, Haryana, Shri. Udaya Narayan Das, Secretary, State Election Commission, Odisha, Shri. Vedprakash Sharma, Additional Commissioner, State Election Commission, Uttar Pradesh and Shri. Mahesh Joshi, Secretary, State Election Commission, Gujarat, during the National Workshop of Senior Officers of SECs on “Expectations of Constitution – Role of SEC”, organised from 26 to 28 March 2019 at Lonavala, Pune, Maharashtra, by State Election Commission, Maharashtra.



31st July 2019, Raj Bhavan: Shri. Ch. Vidyasagar Rao with Shri. J.S. Saharia, State Election Commissioner, Maharashtra and (L-R) Shri. Jagdish More, Info. & Public Relations Officer, SECM, Shri. Mrudul Nile, Officer on Special Duty, Institute of Democracy & Elections for Good Governance (IDEGG), Shri. Avinash Sanas, Dy. Commissioner, SECM, Shri. K. Kurundkar, Seceretary, SECM, Shri. B Venugopal Reddy, Principal Secretary to the Governor, Smt. Manisha Mohite, Tahsildar, SECM, Shri. Atul Save, Tahsildar, SECM, Shri. Atul Jadhav, Section Officer, SECM. The visit was marked with the celebration of First 'Democracy Awards' organised by SECM in Mumbai on 27 July 2019.

Team SECM

Mr. J. S. Saharia,
State Election
Commissioner

Mr. Kiran Kurundkar,
Secretary

Dr. Mrudul Nile,
Officer on Special Duty
Mr. Rajaram Zende,
Joint Secretary

Mr. Avinash Sanas,
Deputy Commissioner

Mrs. Aarti Sarwade,
Asst. Commissioner

Mr. Atul Jadhav,
Desk Officer

Mrs. Manisha Mohite,
Tahsildar

Mr. Atul Save,
Tahsildar

Mr. Jagdish More,
PRO

Mr. Sanjay Sawant,
Desk Officer

Mrs. R. D. Bele,
Desk Officer

Mrs. Suman Arolkar,
Desk Officer

Mrs. Pranali Ghonge,
Asst. Commissioner

Mr. Vaibhav Saple,
Assistant B.D.O.

Mr. Girish Kulkarni,
Naib Tahsildar

Mr. Suresh Gurav,
Sr. Personal Asst.

Mrs. R. Kapileshwar,
Personal Assistant

Mr. Anil Parab,
Personal Assistant

Mr. Nandlal Kuche,
Steno (H.G.)

Mrs. A. A. Bhoraokar,
Steno (L.G.)

Mrs. Sneha Mahale,

Steno (L.G.)

Mr. Vinod Chavhan,
Steno (L.G.)

Mr. Ajit Utekar,
Steno (L.G.)

Mr. Pradeep Parab,
Assistant

Mr. S. S. Varade,
Assistant

Mrs. Priya Sawant,
Assistant

Mr. Mr. K. K. Sulane,
Assistant

Mr. Sameer Rane,
Assistant

Mrs. Sayli Sawant,
Assistant

Mrs. Jyoti Pandit,
Assistant

Mrs. S. Tendulkar,
Assistant

Mr. Arjun Gijaye,
Assistant

Mr. D. Visawale,
Deputy Accountant
Mrs. T. P. Hanamshet,
Librarian
Mrs. Bharti Patil,
Computer Operator

Mrs. Janhvi Sawant
Mr. Puransing Rathod

Mrs. Shital Chavan
Mrs. Jyoti Patil

Mr. Sandesh Vaidya
Mr. Santosh Chavan

Mrs. Gautami Sawant
Mr. S. A. Gandapwar

Mrs. S. V. Ghorpade
Mr. Sachin Goud

Mrs. Vidya Kapase
Mrs. Jyoti Harsora

Mr. Sachin Pancharas
Mr. Praveen Karande

Mr. Jitendra Pagare
Mrs. Swati Sawant

Mr. Deepak Thube
Mr. S. T. Gawade
Mr. R. D. Gadakh
Mr. Baburao Gore
Mr. Anil Thombre
Mr. Sunil Sawant
Mr. Sandesh Jadhav
Mr. Anil Jankar
Mrs. Sunanda Shengal
Mr. Sanjay Jagtap
Mr. Ramakant Gulekar
Mr. Mohan Fase
Mrs. Priyanka Gosavi
Mr. Namdev Dhope
Mr. A. D. More

Special Thanks

Shri. D. M. Kaned,
former Deputy
Secretary, SECM
Shri. N. G. Wagle,
Former Under
Secretary, SECM



Milestones

- 26 April 1994 : Establishment of SECM
- 7 February 1995 : First order on MCC
- 29 January 1996 : Use of Assembly Voter List Instead of Separate Voter List for LBs
- 29 January 1997 : Additional order on MCC for Local Body Elections
- 21 October 1997 : Mandated Submission of Affidavits to R.O. for LBs Elections
- 20 November 2004 : Began Political Party Registration with SECM
- 28 November 2004 : Use of EVMs for the first-time in Local Body Elections
- 15 March 2005 : Nationalist Janata Party became the first Political Party to be registered with SECM
- 28 March 2005 : First National Party Bharatiya Communist Party was registered with SECM
- 8 January 2010 : Beginning of Krantijyoti programme
- 27 March 2010 : Began use of marker pen instead of traditional bottle ink for identification mark
- 9 August 2011 : Inauguration of SECM Logo
- 12 November 2013 : Introduction of NOTA in Local Body Elections
- 23 December 2014 : Website prepared to fill nomination by candidates online
- 2 February 2015 : Use of Google Cadastral Map for Ward Formation of LBs
- 4 June 2015 : Order issued to Political Parties for submission of pending documents
- 1 July 2015 : Published four books on FAQs
- 24 September 2015 : Inauguration of renovated SECM office
- 25 April 2016 : First biannual newsletter published
- 22 September 2016 : Publication of the first Research Report
- 27 November 2016 : Use of True Voter mobile application during elections
- 14 December 2016 : Display of flex outside polling station containing information regarding education, criminal and financial background of the contesting candidate
- 19 January 2017 : Use of Voter Awareness Chat Bot





- 19 January 2017 : Launch of Citizen on Patrol application at the hands of Hon. Governor of Maharashtra
- 26 January 2017 : Use of Float for the 1st time for creating awareness on Republic Day 2017 in Mumbai
- 11 October 2017 : Use of VVPAT on experimental basis in elections to Nanded-Waghala Municipal Corporation
- 2 & 3 November 2017 : National Conference Celebrating 25 Years of 73rd & 74th Constitutional Amendments in Mumbai
- 6 January 2018 : Celebrated Democracy Fortnight for the first-time from 26 January – 10 February 2018
- 5 – 22 January 2018 : Regional Conferences on the lines of National Conference held in November 2017
- 9 February 2018 : Governor's Conclave was held to mark the completion of first Democracy Fortnight
- 6 July 2018 : Expert Workshop held in Mumbai
- 26 July 2018 : Political party is subject to deregistration if it fails to field at least one contesting candidate for a continuous period of five years
- 26 July 2018 : If the progress report regarding fulfilling the promises made in manifesto is not published, then the political party is subject to deregistration, as per order by SECM
- 13 August 2018 : Mandated to declare details of source of income, contract with government and semi-government institutions and brief information of details declared in affidavit from last contested election by candidate
- 25 & 26 October 2018 : International Conference on 'Better Elections for Healthier Democracy' organised by SECM in Mumbai
- 26 September 2018 : Signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF)
- 6 November 2018 : Established IDEGG as a Knowledge Wing of SECM through an order of SECM
- 23 July 2019 : IDEGG registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860
- 27 July 2019 : First 'Democracy Awards' conferred upon 9 orgs. & 5 individuals for their initiatives undertaken from 2017-2019 during Local Body elections in Maharashtra.









State Election Commission

First Floor, New Administrative Building, Hutatma Rajguru Chowk,
Madam Cama Road, Mumbai-32.

E-mail- sec.mh@gov.in

Website- <https://mahasec.maharashtra.gov.in>