

## SEC Uttarakhand Participates in Historic National Round Table Conference of the Election Commission of India (ECI) and State Election Commissioners (SECs) at New Delhi;

**New Delhi | February 24, 2026**

The State Election Commission (SEC) of Uttarakhand participated in the landmark National Round Table Conference of the Election Commission of India (ECI) and State Election Commissioners (SECs) held on 24 February, 2026 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. This historic meeting, convened after a gap of 27 years, was chaired by the Hon'ble Chief Election Commissioner of India, Shri Gyanesh Kumar, alongside Hon'ble Election Commissioners Dr. Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Dr. Vivek Joshi.

### **"National Declaration 2026"**

In a significant move towards cooperative federalism in electoral management, capacity building and resource sharing the declaration outlines a roadmap for:

- **Electoral Rolls:** Recognizing rolls as the "bedrock of democracy."
- **Institutional Synergy:** Working toward mutually acceptable frameworks for sharing technology (ECINET), EVMs, and the world-class training infrastructure at IIIDEM.
- **Legal Harmonization:** Synergising laws relating to Panchayat and Municipal elections with those of Parliament and State Legislatures elections to ensure logistical ease and consistency.

### **Key Note Address by SEC Uttarakhand on Important Issues:**

During the conference, Hon'ble State Election Commissioner of Uttarakhand Sh. Sushil Kumar delivered a keynote address detailing overview of recent local body elections in Uttarakhand and raised important points regarding ECINET, Electoral Roll, sharing of training infrastructure.

- **Addressing the Issue of Database Request 60 Days in Advance:** SEC Uttarakhand highlighted the logistical and legal constraints where the SEC is currently required to request the Assembly roll database 60 days in advance. This time-lag presents challenges for timely completion of the work of updation of SEC roll as per the updates, in the interim, in assembly roll.
- **API-Based Digital Handshake:** The Commission advocated for a "Digital Handshake" mechanism—an API-based integration between ECI and SEC databases. This would ensure Digital Dynamism, allowing the local body rolls to reflect real-time updates from the Assembly rolls.
- **Recent Local Body Elections:** The Commission shared data from the Urban Local Bodies Elections (2024-25) and the Panchayat Elections (July 2025), which saw a voter turnout of 69.16% across 12 hilly districts.
- **Hilly Terrain & Disaster Management:** SEC Uttarakhand emphasized use of specialized Disaster Contingency Plan, for elections in each district in cohesion with District Disaster Mitigation and Disaster Management Plan of DDMA, including the deployment of disaster response personnel for high-altitude and remote booths.

## **The Way Forward**

The conference concluded with a resolution to hold this National Round Table annually. All suggestions provided by SEC Uttarakhand will be reviewed by a joint team of legal and technical officers from the ECI. A state-specific roadmap is expected to be finalized within the next three months.