



# Forum of the Election Management Bodies of South Asia (FEMBoSA)

## Why in News

Recently, the [Election Commission of India](#) inaugurated the **11<sup>th</sup> Annual meeting of the Forum of the Election Management Bodies of South Asia (FEMBoSA)** for the year 2021.

## Key Points

### ▪ About the Meeting:

- **Hosted By:** Election Commission of Bhutan.
- **Chairmanship:** The **Election Commission of India handed over the chairmanship of FEMBoSA role to the Election Commission of Bhutan for 2021-22.**
- **Thimphu Resolution:** A resolution was unanimously adopted by the FEMBoSA members **to extend the tenure of chairmanship to two years** during the current pandemic situation.
  - Before this, the tenure of the chairmanship was one year.
- **Theme of Meeting:** 'Use of Technology in Elections'.
- **Digitization of Election:** The technology is extensively used to make elections more **participative, accessible and transparent.**
  - It has become more important during the [Covid 19](#) situation as it is helping in minimizing person-to-person contact.

### ▪ About FEMBoSA:

- **Establishment:**
  - The forum was established at the **3<sup>rd</sup> Conference of Heads of Election Management Bodies (EMBs) of [SAARC \(South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation\) Countries in 2012.](#)**
    - **SAARC comprises eight member States:** Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.
- **Aim:**
  - To increase mutual cooperation in respect to the common interests of the SAARC's EMBs.
- **Significance:**
  - FEMBoSA represents **a very large part of the democratic world** and it is an active regional cooperation association of EMBs.
  - Its logo with golden pearls **stands for the eternal values of transparency, impartiality, democracy and cooperation.**

## Election Commission of India (ECI)

- The **ECI** is an **autonomous constitutional authority responsible for administering Union and State election processes in India.**
- The body administers elections to the **Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, and State Legislative Assemblies in India**, and the **offices of the President and Vice President** in the country.
- The Election Commission was established in accordance with the **Constitution on 25<sup>th</sup> January 1950.**
- **Constitutional Provisions:**
  - Part XV of the Indian constitution deals with elections, and establishes a commission for these matters.
  - **Article 324 to 329 of the constitution** deals with powers, function, tenure, eligibility, etc of the commission and the members.
    - Article 324 provides for **appointment of a Election commission** to superintend, direct and control the elections.
- **Structure :**
  - Originally the commission had only one election commissioner but after the **Election Commissioner Amendment Act 1989**, it has been made a multi-member body.
  - The commission presently consists of one **Chief Election Commissioner (CEC)** and two **Election Commissioners (ECs)**.
  - The secretariat of the **commission is located in New Delhi.**

**Source: PIB**

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