

Visit of delegation led by Chief Electoral Officer, Maharashtra to Colombia as International Observer for Election to the Congress of the Republic 2026.

**Government of Maharashtra
General Administrative Department,
Government Resolution No.SVEEP-2026/C.R.10/26/Election-5.**

Hutatma Rajguru chowk, Madam Cama Marg,
Mantralaya, Mumbai 400032.

Date: - 25th February, 2026

- Read:** 1. Election Commission of India letter No.F.NO.590/IIIDEM/ Comparative Study/ CIT/2025, dtd.17th June 2025.
2. Office Memorandum, Ministry of External Affairs, Parliament and Coordination Division, New Delhi dtd.4th Feb. 2026.
3. Letter from Presidente, Consejo Nacional Electoral, Colombia dtd.9th Feb.2026.
4. Letter from IIIDEM No.590/IIIDEM/CIT/CEO's Visits/Trg.-II/2025, dtd.10th Feb. 2026.

PREAMBLE:-

Under the Election Commission of India (ECI)'s Global Engagement for Electoral Excellence (GEEE) initiative, a comprehensive exercise has been undertaken to examine international best practices in electoral management and to disseminate India's institutional experience and expertise at the global level. In furtherance of this initiative, specific countries have been identified and allocated to the respective Chief Electoral Officers (CEOs) of the State for focused engagement. The State of Maharashtra has been assigned the Republic of Colombia for this purpose.

Accordingly, as directed by the Commission, a five-member delegation, led by the Chief Electoral Officer, Maharashtra, shall undertake an official visit to the Republic of Colombia from 6 to 10 March 2026 to advance the objectives of the said initiative. As part of this initiative and as elections for the Colombian Congress are scheduled on 8th March, 2026, Presidente, Consejo Nacional Electoral, Colombia vide his letter has invited of 5 member delegation headed by Mr S. Chockalingam, Chief Electoral Officer, Maharashtra as International Observers in the International Observation Mission for the elections to the Congress of the Republic. Indian International Institute of Democracy and Election Management has obtained required clearance for the visit from Ministry of External Affairs and approval from Election Commission of India and has communicated to this office vide their letter dated 10th Feb.2026.

Resolution:-

Taking into consideration the clearance from Ministry of External Affairs and approval from Election Commission of India, the Government of Maharashtra hereby gives approval to send Five member delegation headed by Chief Electoral Officer, Maharashtra to Colombia from 06 March, 2026 to 10 March, 2026. Members of the delegation are as follows:-

No.	Name	Designation
1	Mr. Chockalingam Sethuraman	Chief Electoral Officer & Principal Secretary, Maharashtra
2	Mr. Ashirwad Kumar	District Election Officer & Collector, Solapur
3	Mr. Parkar Manohar Ramchandra	Joint Chief Electoral Officer & Deputy Secretary, Maharashtra
4	Mr. Mahajan Priyesh Lakhuchand	Electoral Registration Officer, 59-Ramtek Assembly Constituency and Sub-divisional Officer, Ramtek, Nagpur
5	Mr. Shirke Sagar Ashok	Booth Level Officer (Talathi-Ozar), Niphad, Nashik

2. The Terms and Conditions for participation of delegates are as follows:-
 - a. The entire period of the visit (period between departure from India to Colombia and vice-versa) shall be treated as a period of duty.
 - b. The members will be entitled to draw full pay and allowances as they would have drawn had they remained on duty in India.
 - c. The members shall be entitled to T.A./D.A. for the entire duration of the visit to the said event in Colombia as per Government rules.
 - d. They shall also be entitled to claim incidental expenditure to cover local costs such as passport fees, medical certificates, and travel expenses, including applicable charges by the Airports Authority.
 - e. The entire expenditure for the said programme will be borne under Election Commission of India and State Government of Maharashtra under budget- head “2015-Elections-102-Election Officer (00) (01)-13-Office Expenditure (20150012.”
3. The delegation is requested to observe the following guidelines to the maximum extent possible:
 - a. To keep the Indian Mission/Post informed of the programme and the outcome of the visit.
 - b. Adequate funds should be carried by the delegation for meeting expenditure considering contingency, report or data related expenses, etc.
4. This Government Resolution is available at the website www.maharashtra.gov.in Reference number for this is 202602251418190407. This order has been signed digitally

By order and in the name of the Governor of Maharashtra,

(Manohar Parkar)
Deputy Secretary and Joint Chief Electoral Officer

To,

- 1) Director General, IIIDEM, New Delhi
- 2) Senior Deputy Election Commissioner, ECI, New Delhi
- 3) Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, New Delhi.
- 4) Additional Chief Secretary, General Administration Department, Mantralaya Mumbai.
- 5) Principal Secretary, ECI, New Delhi
- 6) Sr. Personal Assistant to Hon. Chief Secretary, Government of Maharashtra, Mantralaya, Mumbai
- 7) Accountant General, Maharashtra-I (A&E), Mumbai.
- 8) The Pay and Account Officer, Mumbai.

Copy for Information,

- 1) P.A. to CEO, CEO Office, Mantralaya, Mumbai.
- 2) P.A to Joint CEO, Mumbai, Mantralaya, Mumbai
- 3) District Election Officer and Collector, Solapur, Nagpur and Nashik
- 4) Finance Department (Desk EXP-4), Mantralaya, Mumbai.
- 5) The General Administration Department (Desk-11), Mantralaya Mumbai.
- 6) Select file (Election -5).
- 7) To all concerned