

ECI signs pact with UNDP on poll management

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 11

The Election Commission of India (ECI) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) today signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for cooperation in election management, particularly for supporting elections and democratic process in other countries.

The memorandum was signed by Akshay Rout, Director General, ECI, and Lise Grande, Resident Representative, UNDP, and UN Resident Coordinator, in the presence of Chief Election Commissioner of India VS Sampath, Election Commissioners H S Brahma and Dr Nasim Zaidi and UN Under Secretary-General and UNDP Associate Administrator Rebeca Grynspan.

Sampath said transparency and strict enforcement had been the strength of the ECI, which had lent credibility to elections held in India.

SHARING EXPERTISE

- ECI, UNDP working on election management to benefit other countries
- India International Institute of Democracy and Election Management offers courses for international election practitioners
- ECI has signed pacts with 14 countries for sharing electoral practices and extending electoral assistance

He underlined the commitment of the commission to extend support to the electoral process wherever required.

Grynspan, who led the eight-member UNDP delegation, lauded the independent structure of the election commission, which, she said, was a source of stability.

She thanked the commission for making its resources available to all democratic nations through the outreach of the UNDP.