

NAME OF THE NEWSPAPER

HINDUSTAN TIMES

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Govt prepared for Opposition role in CEC appointment

TOWARDS TRANSPARENCY

- Currently, the chief election commissioner and other commissioners are appointed by the govt
- Oppn wants broad-based panel, which will include its representatives and the CJI to appoint CEC, election commissioners
- Govt will include the demand in agenda for all-party meet on poll reforms
- Govt plans to point out to Oppn that the current procedure has been in place for nearly two decades

"A well laid-out procedure for appointment of the CEC and other election commissioners is being followed, as was done by all previous regimes, including the NDA," the official said.

"This procedure has withstood the test of time and legal scrutiny, including landmark judgments from the Supreme Court," the official added.

The Prime Minister's Office has directed the law ministry to expedite all ongoing consultations on electoral reforms, including an all-party meeting.

After Advani, CPI leader Gurudas Dasgupta shot off a letter to the PM, demanding a change in the appointment procedure to free it from governmental control.