India re-elected to the ITU Council for 2027–2030

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News

India was re-elected to the Council of the International Telecommunication Union for 2027–2030 in an election held on 16 November 2026 at the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-26) in Doha, Qatar. According to ITU's published results, India polled 151 votes, the third-highest among the 15 countries contesting 13 seats in Region E (Asia and Australasia). India's Permanent Mission to the UN in Geneva said the renewed mandate 'reflects the trust and confidence of the international community'. Region E holds 13 of the Council's 48 seats. At the same conference, on 12 November, ITU Secretary-General Doreen Bogdan-Martin (USA) was re-elected for a second term with 164 of 173 votes. PP-26 runs in Doha until 27 November (Doha Exhibition and Convention Center). In May 2026 the ITU Council approved India's invitation to host the 2030 Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-30) and referred it to PP-26 for formal acceptance.

Key facts for the exam

Point	Details
News	India re-elected to ITU Council (2027–2030)
Election	16 Nov 2026 – PP-26, Doha, Qatar
Votes	151 – 3rd highest in Region E (ITU results)
Council	48 members; Region E (Asia & Australasia) 13 seats

Point	Details
Secretary-General	Doreen Bogdan-Martin – 2nd term (164/173)
ITU	17 May 1865, Paris – 'International Telegraph Union'; UN specialised agency since 1949; HQ Geneva
Sectors	ITU-R (radio), ITU-T (standards), ITU-D (development)
Hosted by India	WTSA-24, New Delhi (Oct 2024)

Background

- History: the ITU was founded in Paris on 17 May 1865 as the International Telegraph Union; the 1932 Madrid conference adopted its present name (in force from 1934), and it became a UN specialised agency in 1949. It is the oldest UN specialised agency and is headquartered in Geneva. Its founding day, 17 May, is observed as World Telecommunication and Information Society Day. India has been an ITU member since 1869.
- Structure: the Plenipotentiary Conference, held every four years, is the ITU's supreme body; it elects Council members, the Secretary-General, the Deputy Secretary-General, the three Bureau Directors and Radio Regulations Board members. The Council governs the ITU between conferences. Its three sectors: ITU-R manages the radio-frequency spectrum and satellite orbits; ITU-T sets telecom standards; ITU-D handles development.
- India's role: in October 2024 New Delhi's Bharat Mandapam hosted the ITU World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA-24) – the first time it was held in the Asia-Pacific. The ITU's Area Office and Innovation Centre for South Asia opened in New Delhi in March 2023. India launched 5G services in 2022.

Tamil Nadu link: India's '5Gi' radio technology – developed by IIT Madras, its Centre of Excellence in Wireless Technology (CEWiT) and IIT Hyderabad around the 'Low Mobility Large Cell' (LMLC) rural-coverage requirement – was taken through the ITU's IMT-2020 (5G) process in 2020 by India's standards body TSDSI. The Chennai–Sriperumbudur belt is a major hub for telecom and electronics manufacturing.

Frequently asked questions

What is this news about?

India was re-elected to the Council of the International Telecommunication Union for 2027–2030 in an election held on 16 November 2026 at the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-26) in Doha, Qatar.

What are the key facts to remember for the exam?

News: India re-elected to ITU Council (2027–2030); Election: 16 Nov 2026 – PP-26, Doha, Qatar; Votes: 151 – 3rd highest in Region E (ITU results); Council: 48 members; Region E (Asia & Australasia) 13 seats.

What is the background to this news?

History: the ITU was founded in Paris on 17 May 1865 as the International Telegraph Union; the 1932 Madrid conference adopted its present name (in force from 1934), and it became a UN specialised agency in 1949.

Practice questions (with answers)

1. The ITU, the oldest UN specialised agency, was founded in 1865 as the International Telegraph Union in which city?

A) Geneva

B) Bern

C) Paris

D) Vienna

Answer: C – Explanation: Paris. Its HQ is now Geneva; its present name was adopted in 1932 and became a UN agency in 1949.

2. Which ITU sector manages the radio-frequency spectrum and satellite orbits?

A) ITU-T

B) ITU-R

C) ITU-D

D) ITU Council

Answer: B – Explanation: ITU-R (Radiocommunication). ITU-T sets standards, ITU-D handles development; the Council is the governing body.

3. Who was re-elected ITU Secretary-General at the 2026 Plenipotentiary Conference in Doha?

A) Houlin Zhao

B) Doreen Bogdan-Martin

C) Seizo Onoe

D) Tomas Lamanauskas

Answer: B – Explanation: Doreen Bogdan-Martin (USA) – 164 of 173 votes; ITU's first woman Secretary-General. Houlin Zhao preceded her.

4. In which Indian city was the ITU's World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA) held in 2024?

A) New Delhi

B) Bengaluru

C) Mumbai

D) Hyderabad

Answer: A – Explanation: New Delhi (Bharat Mandapam, Oct 2024) – the first WTSA held in the Asia-Pacific region.

5. World Telecommunication and Information Society Day, marking the ITU's founding, falls on which date?

A) 17 May

B) 3 May

C) 23 March

D) 10 December

Answer: A – Explanation: 17 May (1865). 3 May is Press Freedom Day, 23 March World Meteorological Day, 10 Dec Human Rights Day.

Sources: IANS – ianslive.in/india-re-elected-to-itu-council-at-plenipotentiary-conference-in-doha--20261116213107; tele.net – tele.net.in/national-news/india-re-elected-to-itu-council-at-plenipotentiary-conference-2026-12816010; ITU – pp.itu.int/2026/en/elections/elections-results/ (Council Region E: India 151 votes, 3rd of 15); ITU – itu.int/en/mediacentre/Pages/PR-2026-11-12-SG-Election.aspx (164 of 173 votes); ITU – itu.int/en/history; ITU – itu.int/en/mediacentre/backgrounders/Pages/election-process.aspx; TSDSI – tsdsi.in; ITU – PP-26 Document 49, itu.int/md/S26-PP-C-0049 (India's invitation for PP-30). © Shanmugam IAS Academy.