PCSMANTRA.COM

India Re-elected to the ITU Council: The 2027-2030 Term and Institutional Roles

News: 16 November 2026 | Study date: 18 November 2026 Prelims: international institutions, the ITU Council and the Radio Regulations Board



Original symbolic illustration: pcsmantra.com

Why in the news?

Member States elected the ITU Council and Radio Regulations Board on 16 November at the Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-26) in Doha, Qatar. ITU's official list includes India in Region E, Asia and Australasia, for the 2027-2030 Council term. Its historical record also lists India for 2023-2026, establishing the continuity behind the term "re-elected".

What is ITU?

The International Telecommunication Union is the United Nations agency for digital technologies. Established in 1865, it coordinates global use of radio spectrum and satellite orbits, develops international technical standards and supports wider connectivity. Election to a governing body does not give a country unilateral control over the world's spectrum.

What does the Council do?

The Council is ITU's governing body between Plenipotentiary Conferences. It oversees activities, policies and strategies, manages work on topics assigned by the Conference or Council, and prepares draft strategic and financial plans for the next Conference. Separate the frequency of meetings from elections: ITU's historical record says the Council meets annually during a term, not that every member is elected afresh each year.

Regional distribution of seats

The 48 seats for 2027-2030 are distributed across five regions: the Americas 9; Western Europe 8; Eastern Europe and Northern Asia 5; Africa 13; and Asia and Australasia 13. India belongs to Region E. Other elected countries in that region include Australia, China, Indonesia, Japan, the Republic of Korea and Qatar.

Council versus Radio Regulations Board

The Council handles organisational governance, strategy and financial planning. The 12-member Radio Regulations Board approves Rules of Procedure for applying the Radio Regulations, considers appeals in disputes and advises world and regional radiocommunication conferences. A Council seat for India does not automatically mean election of an Indian member to the Board.

Exam focus

Distinguish the Union, its Council and the Board. Remember the 2027-2030 term, Region E and the Council's inter-conference governing role. Re-election provides continuity in governance discussions; it does not automatically approve a particular technology, domestic service or technical standard.

Prelims Practice Questions

Question 1

Consider the following statements about the ITU Council:

Statement 1: It is the governing body between Plenipotentiary Conferences.

Statement 2: There are 48 elected Member States for 2027-2030.

Statement 3: Every member is elected afresh each year.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

▼ **Answer and Explanation**

Correct answer: (a)

Statement 1 is correct: ITU describes the Council as its governing body between Conferences.

Statement 2 is correct: The five regions together have 48 seats.

Statement 3 is incorrect: 2027-2030 is a term; annual meetings do not mean annual re-election.

Question 2

In the ITU Council election for 2027-2030, India is included in which regional group?

(a) Western Europe

(b) Africa

(c) Asia and Australasia

(d) Eastern Europe and Northern Asia

▼ **Answer and Explanation**

Correct answer: (c)

India is in Region E, Asia and Australasia, which has 13 seats.

Question 3

Consider the following pairs:

1. ITU Council: Oversight of organisational governance, strategy and financial plans

2. Radio Regulations Board: Approval of Rules of Procedure for applying the Radio Regulations

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

▼ **Answer and Explanation**

PCSMANTRA.COM

Correct answer: (c)

Pair 1 is correct: The Council deals with governance and organisational planning.

Pair 2 is correct: The Board approves procedural rules for applying the Radio Regulations.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Which region includes India?

Region E: Asia and Australasia.

What is the new Council term?

2027-2030.

Are the Council and Radio Regulations Board the same?

No. The Council deals with governance; the 12-member Board has specific functions relating to application of the Radio Regulations.

Do annual Council meetings mean annual membership elections?

No. Meeting frequency and the elected term are different matters.

Sources

- https://www.itu.int/en/mediacentre/Pages/PR-2026-11-16-RRB-Council-Election.aspx
- https://www.itu.int/en/history/Pages/councilterms.aspx

PCSMANTRA.COM