

Electing judges not feasible in India: Justice Chandrachud

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Mumbai : Bombay High Court Justice D Y Chandrachud on Saturday said electing judges would not be a feasible idea in India.

Justice Chandrachud was reacting to a suggestion by the director of Rajiv Gandhi Institute for Contemporary Studies G Mohan Gopal that several states in the US had a system of electing judges. Gopal, speaking at a seminar on 'Federalism, The Indian Experience' had given the view while stressing the need for judges to be accountable to people.

Addressing the seminar, Justice Chandrachud said the idea is not feasible in India. "I do not think a judge should have an electorate. The only constituency of judges is the Constitution of India," he said.

Referring to the inter-state council set up by the Union government-the council had last month referred its zonal meet-former home secretary G K Pillai said, "The inter-state council seems to have gone into hibernation. It has met only once in five years. Unfortunately, the Prime Minister is perhaps not finding time to convene a meeting."

Pillai also said, "The police, and law and order issues have been in the domain of state governments. However, we now have to deal with terrorism, inter-state crimes and cyber crime. This is still a grey area. Recently, some state governments had objected to the setting up of the National Counter Terrorism Centre (NCTC) saying it would interfere with their handling of law and order."