

Election Commission of India

Nirvachan sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001

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PRESS NOTE

IIIDEM organizes 12-day training programme on 'Capacity Development for Election Management' for ITEC countries, in association with MEA

The India International Institute for Democracy and Election Management (IIIDEM) is conducting a training programme on 'Capacity Development for Election Management' under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Government of India. The programme is being held from 5th to 16th March, 2018. As many as 29 senior and mid-level officials from EMBs of 21 ITEC countries are participating in the programme.



Participants from 21 ITEC countries at the training programme

Inaugurating the programme, Deputy Election Commissioner Mr. Sudeep Jain welcomed the participants. With each country bringing its best practices to the table, Mr. Jain hoped for an enriching experience which would help in improving our election management systems. Talking about IIIDEM, Mr. Jain said that the institute has till date conducted 37

international programme with participants from 85 countries forming its alumni. He urged the participants to make use of the opportunity and maintain continuous interaction with each other even after the conclusion of the programme.

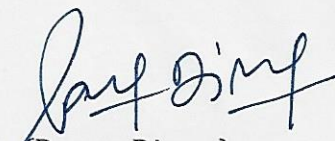
In the words of Hillary Clinton, Mr. Jain said, conduct of Indian elections is the global gold standard. "However, I feel we are yet to perfect ourselves. At every election we conduct, whether national or local, we witness new challenges and experiences. This leads us to further improve our processes and practices to ensure free, fair and credible elections. Even in the recently held elections to three poll-going states, we faced several new challenges to which we had to respond quickly and effectively."

Mr. S K Dudeja, Deputy Secretary (DPA-II), MEA, said that the Development Partnership Administration (DPA) was set up in the Ministry of External Affairs in January 2012. It aims to streamline and improve delivery of the various elements of India's development assistance. He told the participants that DPA-II is the nodal division at MEA for all capacity building programmes including the ITEC. Mr. Dudeja added that the ITEC Programme is essentially bilateral in nature. However, in recent years, ITEC resources have also been used for cooperation programmes conceived in regional and inter-regional context.

Senior Advisor at IIIDEM Dr. Bhagbanprakash said that the programme has been designed with care to ensure that it addresses the key dimensions in any election management process. These dimensions pertain to the structure and functioning of an Election Commission, its autonomy and transparency, and professionalism of electoral services. Dr. Bhagbanprakash asked the participants to share their country practices so that they not only benefit from the programme but also from one another.

Electoral Expert at IIIDEM, Dr. Noor Mohammad told the participants that the training programme comprises of a basic course on electoral process. He pointed out that often errors witnessed in conduct of elections are observed at the field level. Therefore, training of election staff becomes extremely important, especially when technology is now being used in various stages of election management. Dr. Mohammad briefed the participants on the scheduled subjects of study and discussion in the 12-day training programme.

Addressing the gathering, Mr. Vivek Khare, Director (Training), ECI, said that the training programme covers the entire cycle of electoral process and gives a glimpse of the Indian culture. He thanked the MEA for providing IIIDEM the opportunity to hold its sixth training programme in the ITEC series. He looked forward to a greater participation at the programme for a wider learning experience.


(Pawan Diwan)
Under Secretary