

# **Election Commission of India**

**Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001**

No.ECI/PN/49/2017

Date: 19<sup>th</sup> June, 2017

## **Press Note**

**Subject: Five-Day International Training on ‘Voter Education’ for FEMBoSA organized by IIIDEM, in Collaboration with MCSC, United Kingdom**

India International Institute of Democracy and Election Management (IIIDEM), in collaboration with the Malaysian Commonwealth Studies Centre (MCSC), Cambridge University, United Kingdom, is conducting a five-day Capacity Building Training on ‘Voter Education’ for delegated officers of the Forum of the Election Management Bodies of South Asia (FEMBoSA). The Capacity Building Training commenced on June 19, 2017 and will go on till June 23, 2017.

The training was inaugurated on Monday morning at the Election Commission of India headquarter by Chief Election Commissioner of India Dr. Nasim Zaidi and Election Commissioner Mr. O.P. Rawat.

Dr. Nasim Zaidi, Hon’ble Chief Election Commissioner, talked about the significance of electoral training to ensure the conduct of free, fair and transparent elections. Dr. Zaidi said it is crucial for all EMBs to take specific and targeted steps towards addressing electoral malpractices that occur in electoral processes. He also talked about the pivotal voter awareness programmes which ECI has undertaken time and again and that leads to an enhanced voter turnout which all EMBs should inculcate as well.

Election Commissioner Mr. O.P. Rawat talked about how a successful Voter Education system must ensure that all voters of an EMB are prepared for active participation within their electoral processes.



*Election Commission of India officials with FEMBoSA participants*

Deputy Election Commissioner Mr. Umesh Sinha explained the necessity to truly inculcate the principle of universal suffrage alongside that of universal education. He explained various initiatives undertaken by the Systematic Voters’ Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) section of the ECI to educate voters starting at the grassroots level.

Director General Mr. Sudeep Jain welcomed the participants. Mr. Jain talked about how this training would enable each respective Election Management Body (EMB) to be able to learn from the other and adapt best country practices with regard to conducive voter education outcomes.

Mr. Karamjit Singh, MCSC Trustee and Former Election Commissioner of the United Kingdom, talked about the significance of voter education practices which needs to be integrated into awareness campaigns with the public from the very basic or even scholastic level.

15 Election officials of Federation of Election Management Bodies of South Asia (Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Maldives and India) are participating in a week long training programme on Voter Education.

**(S. K. Das)**  
**Under Secretary**