

Election Commission of India

Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001

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Joint Press Release by India International Institute of Democracy & Electoral Management (IIIDEM)
& International IDEA (Institute for Democracy & Electoral Assistance)

REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE USE OF MONEY IN POLITICS AND ITS EFFECTS ON PEOPLE'S REPRESENTATION

New Delhi, India, 15 - 16 December 2015

The two day regional conference on "The use of money in politics and its effects on people's representation" jointly held with the Election Commission of India, International IDEA & India International Institute of Democracy and Election Management (IIIDEM) on 15th and 16th December 2015 in New Delhi concluded today. The conference had been jointly inaugurated yesterday by **Dr. Nasim Zaidi, Chief Election Commissioner of India** and **Mr. Yves Leterme, Secretary General of International IDEA, who is also the former Prime Minister of Belgium**. The Conference was also attended by Mr. A.K. Joti and Mr. O.P. Rawat, Election Commissioners of India.



Dr. Nasim Zaidi, Chief Election Commission, Sh. A. K. Joti & Sh. O. P. Rawat Election Commissioners with Ms. Leena Rikkila Tamang, Regional Director of International IDEA, Dr. S. Y. Quraishi, Former Chief Election Commissioner and Sh. Sudeep Jain, DG during the Regional Conference on the Use of Money in Politics and its Effects on People's Representation in New Delhi.

The Secretary General of International IDEA Mr. Yves Leterme, former Prime Minister of Belgium, opened the doors for discussion in his welcome speech by laying serious concerns; he quoted *"The question of money's negative influence over politics is as pressing as ever. Why? Because it threatens the very foundations of democracies. Money seeps into the political process on many levels, tainting everything from party financing to campaign donations and candidate expenses. Problems include, amongst others, incumbents abusing state funds; criminal money influencing decision-makers; and small groups of*

