

India International Institute of Democracy and Election Management

Election Commission of India



Capacity Development Programme on 'Basic Course on Election Management'





Programme Objective

The programme aims to build a comprehensive understanding among participants on:

- The role of elections in a democratic setup.
- Core values and principles underpinning good electoral management and processes.
- Different types and levels of laws, regulations, and agreements that govern elections.
- The role and functions of Election Management Bodies (EMBs).
- Models of EMBs across the world.
- The concept of the electoral cycle and the range of electoral activities.
- Election security and emerging dimensions of cyber security in elections.

Target Group

Middle-level election Officers from EMBs of ITEC partner countries.

Duration

12 days (including field study visit(s) in India).

Medium of Instruction

English (participants are expected to have a working knowledge of English).

Course Content

1. Emerging Challenges in Electoral Management

- Ensuring efficient, fair, and credible elections in diverse contexts.
- Challenges in delimitation of constituencies and polling areas.
- Managing voter inclusion and participation.
- Addressing misinformation, disinformation, and technology misuse.
- Strengthening institutional trust in EMBs.

2. Voter Registration

- Systems of voter registration: periodic, continuous, and automatic.
- Legal and procedural exclusions and how to address them.
- Role of technology: biometrics, GIS mapping, and online systems.
- India's Electoral Roll Management System (ERMS) – case study.
- Statistical tools for improving electoral roll quality and inclusiveness.



3. Voter Education

- Principles of effective voter education campaigns.
- Designing strategies for different groups (youth, women, persons with disabilities, minorities, migrants, etc.).
- Leveraging new media and ICT tools for outreach.
- Mobile applications, social media campaigns, and innovations.
- Case studies of voter education practices from India and other EMBs.

4. Election Planning

- Strategic vs. operational planning in elections.
- Electoral risk assessment and mitigation strategies.
- Preparation of election schedules, logistics, and resource allocation.
- Material management and technology-driven planning.
- Use of data analytics and crowdsourcing in electoral planning.

5. Election Campaigns

- Role of the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) in ensuring a level playing field.
- Compliance mechanisms and monitoring strategies.
- Use of media monitoring and videography for transparency.
- Preventive actions against electoral malpractices.

6. Election Expenditure Monitoring

- Tracking political finance: candidate and party spending.
- Mechanisms for expenditure monitoring by the ECI.
- Paid news, surrogate advertisements, and the role of Media Certification & Monitoring Committees (MCMC).
- International best practices in campaign finance regulation.

7. Election Observation

- Role and importance of domestic and international election observation.
- Framework of observation in India.
- ECI's Observer System and Observer's Portal.
- Ensuring credibility, transparency, and integrity through observation.



8. Conduct of Poll

- Deployment and training of polling staff.
- Logistics for dispatch and return of polling parties.
- Monitoring and management of polling day activities.
- Safe custody and transportation of election materials.
- Accessibility measures for inclusive polling.

9. Result Management System

- Counting procedures and safeguards.
- Use of technology for secure results transmission.
- Protocols for timely and transparent declaration of results.
- Case study: India's Result Management System (RMS).

10. Electoral Technologies

- Evolution and application of voting technologies (DRE Voting Machines, Optical Scan, etc.).
- India's suite of electoral tools: Samadhan (grievance redressal), Suvidha (permissions), and Sugam (logistics).
- Use of webcasting, GPS tracking, and real-time reporting systems.
- Technologies for facilitating participation of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs).
- Cybersecurity protocols and response mechanisms.

Field Study Component

Participants will undertake study visits to electoral offices, polling stations, and relevant institutions in India to gain practical exposure and first-hand experience of India's electoral practices.



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