

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA
Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110 001

No.491/Media/5/2011

Dated 24th January, 2011

PRESS RELEASE

**ECI to set up Indian Institute of Democracy and Election Management
Futuristic Training and Resource centre for national and global needs
India described as Global Guru in New Delhi conference on Best Electoral Practices**

The Election Commission of India is to set up an Institute in the national capital to impart training on electoral practices to meet domestic and international requirements. The name of the Institute will be the Indian Institute of Democracy and Election Management, IIDEM. This was announced in New Delhi today by Dr. S.Y. Quraishi, Chief Election Commissioner of India, while speaking at an International conference on 'Best Electoral Practices' organized by the Commission as part of its Diamond Jubilee celebrations. He said, the Institute will be available for use in next few months. Over 30 heads of Election Management Bodies from across the world and representatives from international Election watch groups participated in the conference besides Indian dignitaries, electoral officials and civil society organizations. The conference was held on the eve of the Election Commission's diamond jubilee valedictory ceremony and the lunch of the National Voters Day tomorrow.

Dr. S.Y. Quraishi outlined the importance of voters' education in ensuring fullest electoral participation, especially of the youth and referred to the benefits of the Commission's voters' participation programmes undertaken in Jharkhand and Bihar. He also underlined the dangers of money power in elections and gave an account of ECI's current initiatives to fight it. He said that the sharing of ideas and experiences will strengthen global election system and in

turn global democracy. Election Commissioners of India Shri V S Sampath and Shri H S Brahma also addressed participants.

Commending ECI's role in guiding electoral practices, several delegates referred to India as a "Global Guru" of election management. All SAARC countries, several countries from Africa, North and South America and Europe took part in the conference. The electoral bodies exchanged their experience and expertise in areas of voters education, involvement of youth, engagement of civil society, role of media, tackling money power, use of technology, independence of commissions and other related matters.

On the sidelines of the conference, visiting delegations took interest to see demonstration of the Indian EVM. Several countries requested for a lead role for Election Commission of India in fostering best electoral practices at global level.



(TAPAS KUMAR)

PRINCIPAL SECRETARY