



## **OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER**

OLD ST. STEPHEN'S COLLEGE BUILDING, KASHMERE GATE, DELHI-110006

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### **PRESS RELEASE**

As part of the ongoing program of the Election Commission of India (ECI) to dispel misconceptions about EVMs by creating awareness amongst the opinion makers, the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), Delhi on 27.02.2019, organized a Workshop for all civil servants and senior police officers of the Government of NCT of Delhi at Delhi Secretariat. About 200 officers attended. Sh. Vijay Dev, Chief Secretary, Delhi was the Chief Guest at the Workshop.

The presentation on EVM/VVPAT was made by Professor D.T. Shahani, Professor Emeritus, IIT Delhi, Chairman of Technical Expert Committee of the ECI. He explained the technological features, administrative protocols and transparency aspects laid down by the ECI for handling EVM/VVPAT. He stated that it is impossible to hack EVMs or tamper with them because these all stand alone machines with one time programmable (OTP) chip and without any internet / wifi / radio connectivity. At every stage, political parties and candidates are involved.

The VVPATs have enabled the voters to verify their vote through the printed paper slip at the time of casting their vote.

He also stated that EVMs in India are manufactured by highly secure PSUs and the software is developed entirely in-house. He also answered questions of the participants at the end of the presentation.

The CEO, while speaking on the occasion appealed to the participants to spread the message that every Voter Identity Card holder must verify his name in the voter list by calling at Voter Helpline 1950 or at [www.nvsp.in](http://www.nvsp.in) or by sending SMS to 7738299899. Every un-enrolled voter and left out voter in Delhi must enroll by submitting Form-6 either online or offline. He informed the participants about the new mobile apps developed by the ECI, particularly Voter Helpline App, PwD App and cVIGIL App. The cVIGIL App can be used by citizens to upload live pictures or videos of any violations of Model Code of Conduct during the election process. He stated that in the recently concluded assembly elections in five States cVIGIL was extensively used and about 70 per cent of the violations reported were found correct. It empowers the citizens to hold political parties and candidates accountable for ethical electoral practices. The CEO also mentioned that the theme of the ensuing Lok Sabha Election is 'Accessible Election' making it imperative for the election machinery to remove all barriers and ensure the persons with disability are able to vote without inconvenience.

The Chief Secretary, while speaking on the occasion, emphatically stated that there is no room for any doubt about EVMs. He spoke at length on the concept of ethical voting and informed the participants about various initiatives taken by ECI for strengthening ethical election. He exhorted officers to maintain utmost political neutrality during the election process.

The Chief Secretary also called for keen and close observation of the election campaign to detect any malpractices. He emphasized that ethical voting depends upon informed voting and every voter should make use of the information put in the public domain and then assess the candidates before making his decision.

On the sideline of the Workshop, counters were set up to enable all the officers and employees of Delhi Secretariat to verify their names in the Electoral Roll, enroll in the voter list and to use EVM/VVPAT machines to gain firsthand experience by casting votes in mock poll.

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