

**PRESS RELEASE**

The Election Commission of India has been conducting training and orientation programmes on EVM/VVPAT counting as well as counting of postal ballots for District Election Officers/Returning Officers across the country. As part of this initiative, the training and orientation programme for the States of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Gujarat and the Union Territories of Puducherry and Lakshadweep was held at Chennai on 15.5.2019.

Shri Umesh Sinha, Senior Deputy Election Commissioner, along with Dr. Sandeep Saxena, Senior Deputy Election Commissioner, Shri Nikhil Kumar, Director, Shri Dilip Sharma, Director General (Expenditure) Election Commission of India, while imparting the training released a booklet on "Instructions relating to counting process".

The participants were imparted detailed training on the procedure to be followed while counting of votes from EVMs, the procedure for counting of VVPAT slips. Postal Ballot counting was also explained.

Training was also imparted on counting of ETBPS (Electronically Transmitted Post Ballot System) using QR codes. This was followed by a doubt clearing session.

In this training, Shri Satyabrata Sahoo, IAS, Chief Electoral Officer, Tamil Nadu, Shri Teeka Ram Meena, IAS, Chief Electoral Officer, Kerala and District Election Officers/Returning Officers and other officers from Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Gujarat, Puducherry and Lakshadweep participated in the programme.

After the training, the participants visited the model counting centre set up at Anna University Campus.

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