ECI upgrades mechanism for Index Cards on Electoral Data

Prelims: Science and technology | Current events of national and international importance

Why in news?

Recently, the Election Commission of India (ECI) announced that it had upgraded the mechanism for generating Index Cards, making it more technology-driven.

- **Index Cards – They** are **non-statutory formats** used after elections to compile **detailed statistical data** at the constituency level.
- These cards serve as a foundation for analytical reports about elections and are useful for researchers, policy analysts, and academics.
- Using the data from these cards, the ECI generates statistical reports for Lok Sabha (Parliamentary) and State Assembly elections, which includes,

Elector and Polling Information

- Details about electors broken down by state, parliamentary and assembly constituencies.
- Number and location of polling stations.
- Voter turnout percentages.
- Gender-wise participation, highlighting trends in women's voting.

Candidate and Party Performance

- Total votes polled and counted
- Vote share of each candidate and political party
- Performance analysis of-
    - National parties
    - State parties
    - Registered Unrecognised Political Parties (RUPPs)
- Details on winning candidates, including margins and voter base
- Summary and constituency-wise results for analytical purposes

Traditional method of Index card generation	Upgraded method of Index card generation

• The older system relied on **manual data entry**. • Data was first written on physical cards at each constituency. • These were later entered into an online system. • This process had several drawbacks- - It was **slow** and required **multiple steps**. - It often led to **delays in the release of reports**. - There was a risk of **errors** during transcription.	• The ECI has now introduced a **technology-based system** to automate the Index Card process. • **Automation and data integration** allow- - **Faster** and more **accurate reporting.** - **Reduced manual intervention**, minimizing errors. - **Quicker data dissemination** to the public and researchers.

- **Significance** – ECI aims to make electoral data more **transparent, accessible, and research-friendly**.
- A **real-time voter turnout dashboard** and it is planned to roll out before the Bihar elections.

Reference

The Hindu| ECI upgrades mechanism for Index Cards on electoral data

