

## 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**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The older system relied on <b>manual data entry</b>.</li> <li>• Data was first written on physical cards at each constituency.</li> <li>• These were later entered into an online system.</li> <li>• This process had several drawbacks- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- It was <b>slow</b> and required <b>multiple steps</b>.</li> <li>- It often led to <b>delays in the release of reports</b>.</li> <li>- There was a risk of <b>errors</b> during transcription.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The ECI has now introduced a <b>technology-based system</b> to automate the Index Card process.</li> <li>• <b>Automation and data integration</b> allow- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Faster</b> and more <b>accurate reporting</b>.</li> <li>- <b>Reduced manual intervention</b>, minimizing errors.</li> <li>- <b>Quicker data dissemination</b> to the public and researchers.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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- **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](#)

