

In what way EC can ensure trust worthiness in elections in India? Discuss in EVM controversy

The constitution has empowered the Election Commission of India under Article 329 to conduct elections. The arena of elections have seen major changes with respect to time.

Supreme court's take

The apex court while hearing pleas against the authenticity of electronic voting machines gave directives such as

- Sealing of the symbol localing unit for 45 days after the election results

- Burst memory semi controller in 5% of EVMs to be examined by experts on request of losing

candidate.

However, the supreme court rejected the return to paper ballots and upheld the non-tamperability of the electronic voting machines.

Improve trustworthiness

The Election Commission has taken steps to improve the trustworthiness such as the introduction of electronic voting machines, voter verifiable paper audit trails, ETPS - Electronically transferable postal ballot systems.

* measures such as adding bar codes to the vppat slips can ease the counting ~~of~~ and verification of electronic voting machine and vppat.

* The conduct of election rules can be suitably amended to enable remote voting, as migrants find difficulty in travelling to cast their votes.

* Still there is no cap on political parties spending on elections despite recommendation from Law Commission. Cap on parties can greatly improve the trustworthiness in Elections.

Elections are the means to choose the leaders to make laws. The Election Commission has seen myriad of technical, legal evolutions. The ~~new~~ latest supreme court directive can give great impetus to the commission in bringing required changes.