

1. Poll Panel Working on Remote Voting System

Prelims Syllabus: Polity and Governance - Election & Electoral Reforms

Mains Syllabus: GS-II Salient features of the Representation of People's Act.

Why in News?

- The Election Commission of India has joined hands with Indian Institute of Technology-Madras (IIT-M) to prepare an model of Aadhaar-linked electronic voting system.
- This new system will enable electors to cast their votes from any part of the country or even from abroad — irrespective of where they are registered to vote in the country.

About the New electronic voting system:

- **Characteristics of the new technology**
 - ✓ A system for **two-way remote voting** in controlled environment using blockchain technology.
- If the technology is approved, will it be implemented automatically?
 - ✓ If the project is given the go-ahead by the EC, election laws will have to be changed.
- Has EC used this kind of voting before?
 - ✓ The ECI had used a one-way electronic system for service electors for the first time in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections.

What is One Way and Two Way Polling?

- **One Way Polling:**
 - ✓ One-way transmission for service voters involves sending a blank postal ballot electronically to the voter. The ballot paper is downloaded, ballot cast and then sent via normal postal service to the returning officer for counting.
- **Two Way Polling:**
 - Two-way electronic transmission of vote envisages that a registered voter from any location in India, once his identity is well authenticated will be able to cast his vote electronically through a secure encrypted system and the same will reach the designated returning officer for counting.

Significance of the New System:

- The new system enables migrants to vote from their place of residency, which saves them the time of travelling to their registered constituency and financial costs encountered.
- This model will help in increased turnout for voting, which reflects true representation of the Elected Candidate.